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A HISTORY OF RED LAKE COUNTY

Red Lake County, Minnesota

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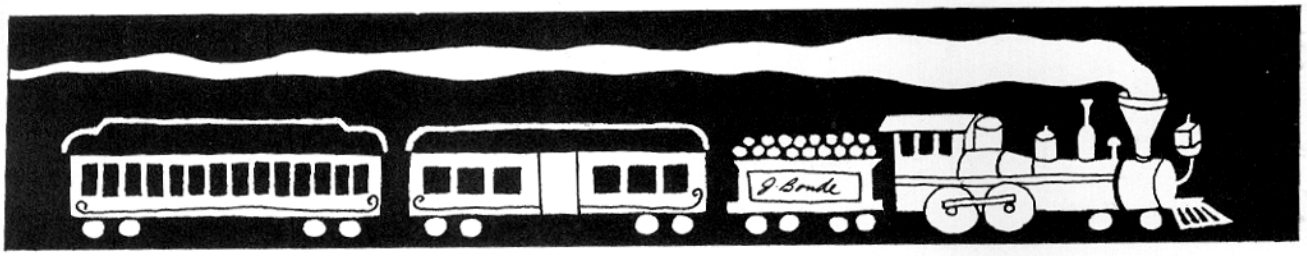


FOREWORD

"The faintest ink is more valuable than the brightest memory" so says an old Chinese proverb. Publication of this book was the project that evolved from the Red Lake County Bi-Centennial Committee with the sponsorship of the Red Lake County Historical Society.

Our goal has been to record the history of the people through biographical sketches of old settlers, their identity with the growth and development of this area, reminiscences of personal history and pioneer life and other interesting and valuable matter which should be preserved for posterity.

No doubt, some of our history has already been lost, for so it happens when old timers pass from the scene, records are lost and memories dim. This compendium embraces an account of early settlement, organization and history of the growth and development of the thirteen townships and municipalities and their people.

You who are sketched in these columns, for whatever mistakes have eluded us, we ask your forgiveness. For whatever merit there is throughout these pages we thank every individual and every organization that contributed one line or one idea to the making of this volume.

Anne Healy
Sherry Kankel
co-editors



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page and Copyright 1
Foreword 2
Table of Contents 3
Ox Cart Story 4
The French-Canadian Presence in the Northwest and the very Early Beginnings of Red Lake Falls and Red Lake County — V. Benoit 5
Old Crossing Treaty 8
Cession 8
Red Lake County — Boughton Jr. 1941 9
Red Lake County Separates from Polk 10
Red Lake County Battle for County Seat 13
County Division Poem 13
The Civilization of an Empire 14
Pierre Bottineau 15
Logging on the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers 16
County Government, Institutions, Services and Organizations 18
Browns Creek 30
Emardville 34
Plummer 40
Equality 52
Garnes 58
Gervais 66
Lake Pleasant 70
Lambert 74
Oklee 78
Louisville 90
Poplar River 96
Brooks 98
Red Lake Falls Township 104
Red Lake Falls 108
River Township 138
Terrebonne Township 140
Wylie Township 146
Family histories (alphabetically) 152
Acknowledgement 374

THE FAINTEST INK IS MORE VALUABLE THAN THE BRIGHTEST MEMORY

Ancient Chinese Proverb

RED RIVER CARTS

Minnesota's first highway system was formed more than 100 years ago. Upon it traveled the noisy, primitive, ungainly — yet extremely practical — Red River Carts.

Nothing approaching these strange vehicles was ever used elsewhere in the United States. Yet, they played a vital role in the development of frontier towns, providing overland transportation of goods between the Red River Valley, St. Paul and Canada.

Use of this type of transportation originally resulted from the demand for pemmican (dried buffalo meat) by the North West Company, which used the carts to carry the products of the hunt to central points.

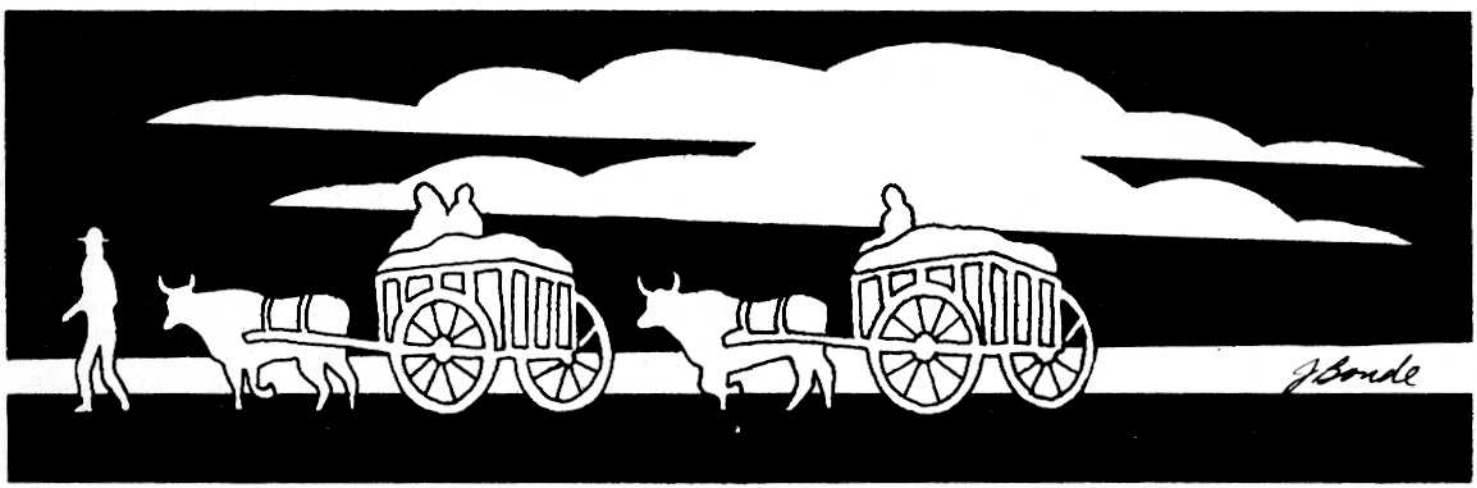
Later, the carts were used to transport the field harvests to the homesteads along the Red River, and eventually proved to be the most efficient means of delivering produce to St. Paul and the Canadian northwest.

The carts, usually drawn by one stolid ox, could carry up to a half-ton of goods and cover about twenty miles a day. Built entirely of wood, they were easily repaired on the trail, and were very inexpensive to make.

In the heyday of their operation, the Red River oxcarts often traveled in caravans of fifty or more, making a noise that, according to Charles Mair in 1868, "could be heard six miles away."

The awful creaking which characterized the carts was probably due to the fact that the wooden wheels and axles were not lubricated to avoid the accumulation of abrasive dust and dirt.

With the advent of steamboat traffic on the Red River and the building of railroads throughout Minnesota, the decline of the oxcarts came rapidly. Today, only six original vehicles exist, one at the Minnesota Historical Society.



THE FRENCH-CANADIAN PRESENCE IN THE NORTHWEST AND THE VERY EARLY BEGINNINGS OF RED LAKE FALLS AND RED LAKE COUNTY

by Virgil Benoit

The pages that follow are meant to illustrate that the large number of French Canadians who settled in the vicinity of Red Lake Falls in Red Lake County in the 1870s and 1880s was not an accident of history. From the time of the arrival of the first explorers in northern Minnesota to the settlement of Red Lake Falls led by Pierre Bottineau in 1876 it is apparent that a steady contact was maintained by the French Canadians with the area for over two hundred years. It is the nature of this contact which offers the basis for the present study. Relying on documents that have been left to us from earlier times, the following pages attempt to shed light on the motivations for early travel in northern Minnesota, the types of persons who ventured such travel, their relationships with one another, the people they met and whose lives they affected, and the country they discovered and developed.

For the sake of convenience I have incorporated references to documents into the text but always in an abbreviated form. The complete reference can always be found by referring to the bibliography at the end of this article.

The individual motives of the first French explorers in northern Minnesota are complex, but basically dual in nature. First of all, legend had it among the French that there was an inland passage to the great "Western Sea". Since the French had taken possession of the land along the Saint Lawrence, it was only natural to seek the passage to the West along the Great Lakes. Secondly, the West was rich in fur bearing animals, the pelts of which could easily pay for the high costs of exploration. The individual motivations of the early explorers apparently ranged from the get-rich-quick type who sought only pelts to the purest idealists who were pushed on solely by the quest for adventure.

The first French explorers who came possibly as far as Minnesota were Pierre d'Esprit, sieur de Radisson and Médard Chouart, sieur de Groseilliers. These men, whose adventures during the mid-seventeenth century had acquainted them with the West as well as with aspects of the fur trade at Montreal disagreeable to them, joined the British controlled Hudson's Bay Company in 1667. The historian of this English fur company, which would rival for monopoly of the fur trade of the West and North until 1870, wrote that these early adventurers "brought both the knowledge and enthusiasm of the Canadian *coureur de bois*, the wood-runner at home with the Indian and content to winter in the woods, and some fixed and pertinent geographical notions of their own, to London." These earliest Canadian explorers are typical of those who came to Minnesota over the next two hundred years. (Blegen, 36-37; Rich, 1:23 (quote))

It was in the 1670s and 1680s that Minnesota came under control of the French for numerous explorers were quickly inspired by the mood prevalent in freshly organized New France. Louis Jolliet explored the head waters of the Mississippi and mapped the area. Daniel Greysolon, sieur du Luth traveled in the area of present day Duluth and to the southwest where another group of Canadians led by Father Louis Hennepin was exploring central Minnesota. "One of the dramatic episodes of western history is the meeting of the two French groups in the heart of the Minnesota country, at a Sioux village on the shores of Mille Lacs." In 1688 Jacques de Noyen journeyed from Quebec west to Rainy Lake and in the spring of 1689 went as far as Lake of the Woods. He was followed in 1717 by Zacherie Robutal de la Nouë who went in search of the Western Sea. (Blegen, 45-63; 46 (quote); Burpee, *Journals* . . ., 6-7)

In 1718 a trading post was established at Rainy Lake while other posts were being set up along the Mississippi. Between 1731 and 1748 Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, sieur de la Vérendrye and his men established nine posts extending from the Grand Portage to the Forts of the Saskatchewan. But in all of this activity la Vérendrye felt no nearer to the "Sea of the West" and so he turned the direction of his explorations toward the south, going at least as far as the present city of Pierre, S. Dakota. La Vérendrye died in Montreal in 1749 without having discovered the "Sea of the West". History has, however, honored him as a major figure for his contribution to the development of the Northwest. (Rich, 1:516-518; Henry, XXVI-XXVII; Burpee, *Pathfinders* . . ., 89)

The eighteenth century witnessed not only the intensification of the fur trade and exploration, but the great conflict between the English and the French. In the East the clash was to be most abrupt and final. By 1760 the English had conquered Canada. But the call of the west for French Canadians was not silenced. Adventure and risk associated with the peoples and wilds of the west had now run for over three generations in the hearts and minds of the French Canadians. The fall of New France did not mean the end of those Canadians who lived by means of the canoe, the trap and the gun for the lure of the west had not died; in fact, in many ways it was now greater than ever.

One Canadian who did not abandon the west at the time of the Conquest in 1760 was Jean-Baptiste Cadotte. He had been in the vicinity of Sault Ste. Marie since 1751 and it is there that the English fur trader Alexander Henry found him and his family on May 19, 1762. Henry who wanted to establish himself in the fur trade requested that Cadotte, who knew the Indians extremely well, became his partner for "M. Cadotte enjoyed a powerful influence over their conduct. They considered M. Cadotte as their chief; and he was not only my friend, but a friend to the English. It was by him that the Chipeways *[sic]* of Lake Superior were prevented from joining Pontiac." Cadotte's "powerful influence" stemmed in no small way from the fact that like so many of his compatriotes he lived among the Indians and had married one of them. "His Ojibway wife appears to have been a woman of great energy and force of character, as she is noted to this day for the influence she held over her relations — the principal chiefs of the tribe; and the hardy, fearless manner, in which, accompanied only by Canadian 'Coureurs du bois' to propel her canoes, she made long journeys to distant villages of her people to further the interests of her husband." (Tobola, 14, Henry, 149 (first quote); Tobola, 16 (second quote))

Through the Cadotte and Henry partnership, trade with the Indians was developed toward the west. "By 1766 Alexander Henry and his partner Cadotte brought down from Fond du Lac fifteen hundred pounds of beaver in addition to otter and marten, and in the next year over a hundred canoes came to Michilimackinac from the north-west . . ." Since the English had taken over the administration of Canada the arrangement between Henry and Cadotte was a kind of "new" model for trade and exploration "with an Englishman organizing and financing, and to some extent hiring, to some extent sharing, the skill and knowledge of the French *voyageurs*." (Rich, 2:11 (first quote); 27 (second quote))

On a trading venture in 1775 to Lake of the Woods, Henry met with a village of Indians. He describes the nature of his relations with them: "From this village, we received ceremonious presents. The mode with the Indians is, first to collect all the provisions they can spare, and place them in a heap; after which they send for the trader, and address him in a formal speech. They tell him, that the Indians are happy in seeing him return to their country; that they have been long in expectation of his arrival; that their wives have deprived themselves of their provisions, in order to afford him a supply; that they are in great want, being destitute of every thing, and particularly of ammunition and clothing . . ." As the white traders moved into northern Minnesota, the Chippewa became dependent on them and frequently moved with them. The Indian population of northern Minnesota was not high. Perhaps as few as 1,000 Chippewas were living along the Red River around 1795. Yet, the demands of the fur trade were in such excess that by this same period the supply of fur bearing animals was all but depleted in the Rainy River area. In 1798 the geographer David Thompson described the situation of the Indians in Northeastern Minnesota. "By the extent of their hunting grounds each family of seven souls, has 150 to 180 square miles of hunting ground, and yet (they) have very little provisions to spare; this alone is sufficient to show the ground does not abound in wild animals. The Beaver has become a very scarce animal . . ." It is therefore apparent that by the end of the eighteenth century the northwestern economy based mainly on fur trade was showing signs of weakening. But before



the country would begin to open up to permanent occupancy, the fur companies were to make one last great stand in northern Minnesota. (Henry, 241-242 (first quote), Hickerson, 303, 297; Tyrell, 249 (second quote))

In 1789 the Hudson's Bay Company proposed a "series of posts radiating out from Osnaburgh southwards — at Sturgeon Lake, Red Lake, Portage de l'Isle and Rainy Lake . . ." The establishment of a post at Red Lake meant that trade would also develop along the Red Lake and Red Rivers since they formed the water way to Pembina and the posts of the north. Moreover, the area of the Red Lake River which extended into the regions where buffalo grazed was highly strategic in the development of the fur trade. In establishing posts along this route the Hudson's Bay Company was securing for itself the pemmican, or dried buffalo meat, so necessary for its traders. "Though the fish and the wild rice of the Rainy Lake Department were invaluable, and any rival who diverted Indians there from providing such food for the brigades was accepted as a menace out of all proportion to the furs which he might trade, yet it was pemmican from the Red River Department which was essential for the Northwest brigades. Without it the canoes would be forced to 'hunt their way' inland, and an extra season would be needed to reach the North Saskatchewan or any land beyond." Thus the Red Lake River posts were meant to be a strategic hold against the traders of competitive fur companies, who, like the traders of the Hudson's Bay Company sought to secure their trade in the far northwest. By 1826 there were as many as seventeen trading posts in the upper Mississippi country. (Rich, 2:128 (first quote); 180 (second quote); 518-519)

"To Jean Baptiste Cadotte Jr. *[sic]* is given the credit for completely opening to the fur traders the region about the upper Mississippi." Jean Baptiste had followed in the footsteps of his father, the great fur trader and partner of Alexander Henry. Jean Baptiste Cadotte, Jr. spent the winter of 1797-8 at the strategic forks of the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers, or at the present site of the town of Red Lake Falls. "Mr. Cadotte in the employ of the Northwest Company, probably spent the winter of 1794-5 at Red Lake and the next year at Red Cedar or Cass Lake, while the season following, 1796-7 was passed at Red Lake once more. . . . He was in charge the next winter of the trading house of the Northwest Company located on the Red Lake River on the present site of the town of Red Lake Falls." On March 25, 1798 the geographer and surveyor David Thompson, who like Cadotte was in the employ of the Northwest Company, visited Cadotte's house at the fork of the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers. About his visit Thompson wrote: "Mr. Baptiste Cadotte was about thirty-five years of age. He was the son of a french gentleman by a native woman, and married to a very handsome native woman, also the daughter of a Frenchman: He had been well educated in Lower Canada, and spoke fluently his native Language, with Latin, French and English. I had long wished to meet a well educated native, from whom I could derive sound information for I was well aware that neither myself, nor any other Person I had met with, who was not a Native, were sufficiently masters of the Indian Languages. As the season was advancing to break up the Rivers, and thaw the Snow from off the ground, I enquired if he would advise me to proceed any farther with Dogs and Sleds: he said the season was too far advanced, and my further advance must be in Canoes . . ." (Tobola, 44 (first quote); 45 (second quote); Tyrell, 251; 252 (third quote — Spelling and punctuation have been reproduced here as in the original text as edited by Tyrell.))

Because of the severity of the spring thaw and rain which accompanied it, Thompson returned to Cadotte's house March 31 at which time he spoke with the Chippewa chief of the Red Lake Indians and observed some Indian dances. Thompson concludes about the area: "The course of this River is from the south westward until it is lost in the Plains, the groves are at a considerable distance from each other, by no means sufficient for the regular Farmer, but may become a fine pastoral country, but without a Market, other than the inhabitants of the Red River." Thompson left Cadotte's house on April 9 with his crew of three French Canadians and the wife of one of the men, a native woman. They took the Clearwater River since they were travelling in a birch canoe and the Red Lake River still had ice on it from the Lake. (Tyrell, 265 (quote); 266)

The first settlers in the far north were brought in by Lord Selkirk and founded Selkirk Colony, or Red River Settlement, in 1812. They were mainly Scotts direct from Europe, but some French Canadians did settle among them. By the 1820s this mixed population numbered about 1,500 souls. The territory they were originally granted ran from the shores of Lake Winnipeg on the north to the present site of Grand Forks on the south. The boundaries to the east and west were less determined. (Ross, 20; 78; 10)

The arrival of the settlers of the Red River Colony introduced a new way of life to the northwest. In cultivating the land, they were very different from the nomadic-like Indians, French and mixed bloods, who had been the sole possessors of this vast territory for centuries. A new type of pioneer who would settle on and cultivate the land had just arrived and for a while he was not very successful, but history was soon to favor him. In writing of the Europeans, who had come to Red River to settle, and of the Indians and French native to the area, the Red River historian Alexander Ross remarked: "We have to notice a marked difference between the Europeans and the French. In the spring of the year, when the former are busy, late and early, getting their seed into the ground, the Canadian is often stuck up in the end of his canoe fishing gold-eyes, and the half-breed as often sauntering about idle with his gun in his hand." Ross, however, viewed more favorably the French Canadian who showed signs of settling and, thus, resembled more the newly arrived Europeans of which Ross himself was a member:

> The Canadian of any standing is tidy in his dwelling: the floor is kept

clean; the bed neatly made up, and generally set off with curtains and coverlet; the little cupboard, if there is nothing in it, is still orderly and clean; in short, everything else just as it ought to be. On the contrary, the half-breeds, generally speaking, exhibit more of the discomforts that attend a mere encampment in their dwellings. When anything is wanted, everything in the domicile has to be turned topsy turvy to find it, and the inmates sleep as contented on the floor as in a bed — a sort of pastoral life, reminding us of primeval times. Among this class, the buffalo robe is more frequently to be seen than the blanket in their dwellings. The better sort, however, have their houses divided into two rooms; but they are all bare of furniture, and ornament never enters, except occasionally a small picture of the Virgin Mary, or a favorite apostle, hung to the wall in a little round frame."

Like history, the nineteenth century historian of Red River favored the settler. Adventurers would still pass through, but they too were changing and rather than rally the Indians to a trading post they now were beginning to suggest settlement of this land. (Ross, 194 (first quote); 195 (second quote))

Another settlement in the northwest that was growing in the early nineteenth century was located at Prairie du Chien. Until the 1840s when St. Paul became a growing center the Prairie du Chien settlement was considered the closest to Red River Colony. In 1820 a group from Red River Colony travelled to Prairie du Chien where they bought seed-wheat since their crops had been destroyed the two previous years by grasshoppers. This friendly gesture by the Prairie du Chien Colony toward the more unfortunate northern settlement certainly contributed to the development of the north. But a policy much more hostile in intent by certain members of the Prairie du Chien Colony toward the Red River Colony encouraged settlement in the north even more. (Tassé, 1:169, Blegen, 156; Ross, 50-51)

One of the ambitions of Lord Selkirk was to protect trading interests of the Hudson's Bay Company. On the other hand, Prairie du Chien was the center from which a great deal of competitive fur trading was being carried out against Hudson's Bay. One man from Prairie du Chien who joined the ranks of the competitors of the Hudson's Bay Company was Joseph Rolette. His father Joseph had settled in Prairie du Chien where the younger Joseph was born about 1820. It was the younger Joseph Rolette who, in joining forces with Norman W. Kittson in the 1840s, brought northwestern Minnesota into the realm of growing St. Paul and away from the orbit of the British controlled Hudson's Bay Company. ". . . In 1843 he began the 'Cartline' to fetch American goods from St. Paul to Pembina. Within ten years almost two hundred Red River carts were regularly engaged in the five-or six-weeks' journey on the 'Cartline', the annual value of the furs carried to the States had risen to about twenty thousand dollars, the American Fur Company established its headquarters at St. Paul in 1849, and several other companies rose to share in the promising trade." (Ross, 17-18; Blegen, 70-81; Tassé, 2:33; Rich, 2:159 (quote))

Joseph Rolette not only diverted trade from the Selkirk Colony toward St. Paul, but he also brought northwestern Minnesota to the attention of many future settlers. Some of the surnames of persons living at Prairie du Chien in the 1820s which appear later among the settlers of northwestern Minnesota are: Gauthier, Mercier, Ménard, Hébert, Larivière, Prévost, Laframboise, Rivard, Gendron, Roy and Dionne. But persons like Rolette also traveled a great deal and spoke with parties interested in settlement from Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, the Dakotas and points east. The Rolettes were a very well known family who had traveled to New York and been cordially received by the great fur merchant John Jacob Astor. People moved about, and paths crossed in more ways than history has recorded. Father Joseph Cretin who became the first Bishop of the see of St. Paul had been at the Prairie du Chien settlement, and the Reverend Lucian Galtier who built the chapel of St. Paul in 1841 from which the city took its name died at Prairie du Chien. In 1839 Bishop Loras from Iowa Territory accompanied by one of his priests visited a settlement at the junction of the Minnesota and the Mississippi. "They spent about two weeks in the community, and from their records we know that they counted no fewer than 185 Catholics, nearly all of whom spoke either French or Sioux." (Tassé, 1:173, 206; Blegen, 154-155, 155 (quote))

It is apparent, therefore, that from the early nineteenth century communication was developing and settlements were being created from southeastern Minnesota to the northwestern corner of the State where Pembina marked the border on the north. The Rolette and Kittson enterprise between Pembina and St. Paul which continued until the late 1860s brings us to the period of intense settlement in Red Lake County. Some of the first persons closely associated with the settlement of Red Lake County were of the large family of French Canadians and mixed bloods who were so very familiar to the entire northwest. (Holcombe, 46-49)

Some of the early settlers to come to St. Paul whose surnames appear later in Red Lake County are: Bottineau, Gervais, Labissonnière, Cloutier, Pepin, Desmarais, Bazile, Laroche, Benoit, and Fournier. Pierre Bottineau, born in Red River Settlement and trained as a scout, guide and fur trader certainly viewed the junction of the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers where he founded Red Lake Falls as an advantageous site for a town. He was very influential in bringing settlers to Red Lake County. An early settler of this area recalled: "Pierre Bottineau and his son, John B., brought in a large number of French Canadians from Ramsey and Hennepin Counties, Minnesota, and also quite a number from the East, locating them along Red Lake River from Louisville to Red Lake Falls, and along Clearwater River from Red Lake Falls to Lambert." The year was 1877 and already many factors pointed to a rapid settlement of the area. In 1863 a treaty with the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Chippewa Indians at the Old Crossing of the Red Lake River had opened some three million acres of land to eventual settlement. The railroad had reached Fisher's Landing in 1875. Furthermore, since the 1850s "Every effort was made to reach the minds of easterners and immigrants with Minnesota propaganda." (Tassé, 2:14-15; Holcombe, 72 (first quote); Blegen, 181 (second quote))

Pamphlets and advertisements describing Minnesota were circulated in the United States as well as abroad. In 1883 a group of French Canadians wrote and published at Crookston a twenty-two-page pamphlet entitled *Description de la Colonie Canadienne du Comté de Polk, par un comité de Canadiens-français.* The pamphlet not only described Polk County but also listed twenty Canadians who were prepared to furnish information to their compatriots wishing to settle around Crookston, Carmen, Fisher, Gentilly, Red Lake Falls, Terrebonne, Emardville, Lambert, Lafontaine, Rivière Voleuse (Thief River), Louisville, Riviere Noire (Black River), and Lac aux Erables (Maple Lake). The names of those from Red Lake Falls who offered to help their compatriots were Isaie Gervais and George Labissonnière; Terrebonne, Roch Lizée; Emardville, Pierre Emard; Lambert, Patrice Lemay; Louisville, L. Hout, and Rivière Noire, D. Bray.

In 1879 the Reverend Pierre Beaugrand Champagne arrived in Red Lake Falls to serve his compatriots. Father Champagne had been ordained in 1867 by Mgr. Louis-François Laflèche, bishop of Trois-Rivières, Quebec who had himself been a missionary in Red River Colony from 1844 to 1856. Until a church could be built the Reverend Champagne said mass in the home of Isaie Gervais. (*Fêtes jubilaires . . ., Esquisse . . .*, 58)

As in the case of so many adventurers and pioneers who had preceded him, the West for the Reverend Champagne seems to have held in its mystery and people a public and personal challenge. A challenge as complex and sacred as the motivation of the earlier adventures, and one to which he and they always remained faithful.

Since the beginning of Red Lake Falls in 1876 many people have joined the town and the surrounding community. It is their story that is told in the following pages. My desire has only been to shed light on the nature of the very early beginnings of several communites of French-Canadian origin in northwestern Minnesota and, in particular, in Red Lake County.

*

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THE OLD CROSSING TREATY

John Saugstad

Seventy years ago, while the United States of America was engaged in a bloody civil war in which many Indian tribes were involved, an invitation was sent out from Washington to the Red Lake and the Pembina bands of the Chippewa Indians to assemble at the Old Crossing for a Pow-Wow where a treaty could be agreed upon whereby the said Indians would cede to the United States nearly all of that vast tract of land known as the Red River Valley of the North.

This message was passed on to the two respective bands by the United States agents, the Indian chiefs and headmen together with a command from the Chiefs to assemble at the Old Crossing of the Red Lake River during the middle part of September, 1863.

At about the middle part of September, the Red Lake bands of the Chippewa Indians assembled at the designated crossing and there pitched their wigwams. With them came U.S. Agent Morrill. To this same place came the official party with Alexander Ramsey, representing the U.S. Government, escorted by a small detachment of U.S. soldiers and pitched their tents on the 21st day of September. On the 23rd day of September the Pembina band of Indians arrived and the first session of the treaty council was held that day.

The two Indian bands were encamped on a beautiful, grassy lowland near the Red Lake River, and only a short distance from the ford or "Old Crossing." The white men were encamped on a small hillock between the two Indian bands.

For about two weeks and until October second the chiefs and headmen bargained and discussed the terms of the treaty, always seeking better terms and conditions for their respective bands. On October first all the chiefs had agreed to the terms of the treaty except Chief May-dwa-gun-on-ind, of the Red Lake bands, who steadily opposed the terms and when the chiefs left the council on the evening of October 1st "all hope of effecting a treaty with the Red Lake Indians seemed to be at an end". The following day, however, the council assembled again without May-dwa-gun-on-ind, and after some further discussion lasting about three and one-half hours, Red Lake Chief, Mons-o-Mo (Moosedung) "touched the pen". Five other chiefs, eight warriors and one head warrior followed him in signing and the treaty was completed by the signing of the commissioners, Alexander Ramsey and A. C. Morrill and witnesses. This was October 2nd, 1863.

On October 3rd the treaty goods, presents, flags, and provisions were distributed, and "on the fourteenth day from our arrival at the treaty grounds the expedition started on its return home".

Thus the Red Lake and Pembina bands of the Chippewa Indians ceded to the United States of America that most wonderful and fertile tract of land that has become known as the "bread and butter basket" of the nation, making it possible for thousands of families to acquire homes and happiness.

The ceded area, shown in an outline sketch to the right on this page, is approximately 180 miles long, north and south, and approximately 127 miles wide east and west at the extreme length and width, containing approximately 11,000,000 acres according to Alexander Ramsey's estimate Ramsey's estimate and report. For this tract the United States paid $510,000.00.

The wording and terms of the treaty make interesting reading for anyone who likes history. A photographic copy of the treaty is now in the files of the Polk County Historical Society. Article One of the treaty reads as follows: "The peace and friendship now existing between the United States and Red Lake and Pembina bands of the Chippewa Indians shall be perpetual".

Thus the "Old Crossing" of the Red Lake River, where thousands of ox carts have passed in the years gone by, and the making and signing of the Old Crossing Treaty has gone into history as one of the outstanding historical places and events of Northwestern Minnesota and northeastern Dakota, and the second day of October, 1863, has become and will remain an outstanding historical date for the states of Minnesota and North Dakota.

THE CESSION

The land ceded to the United States by the terms of this treaty is shown in the accompanying map. As far back as records are available the Red River Valley was famous as a hunting ground for various Indian tribes. Vast herds of buffalo ranged over the wide expanse of the prairie feeding on the luxuriant growth of prairie grasses and drinking the cold, clear water of the numerous tributaries of the Red River of the North.

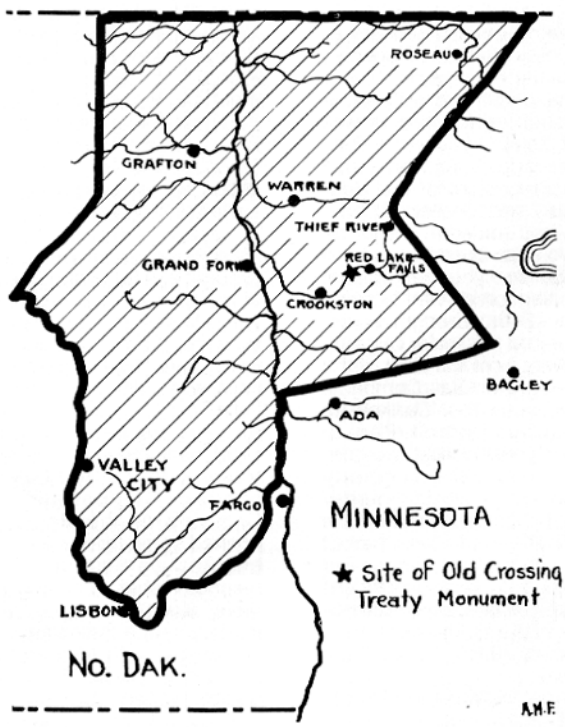
On the outskirts of this valley along its northeastern confines as early as 1732, the year in which George Washington was born, French traders and missionaries established Fort St. Charles on the shores of Lake of the Woods. In 1763 La Verendrye crossed this fertile valley near the location of the proposed monument, on a journey to the present location of Minot, N. Dak. In 1798, David Thompson, an English explorer, passed through the Red River Valley during the early winter and wrote entertainingly about Christmas Eve festivities in his camp among the Indians.

The first settlers migrated south from Fort Garry, now called Winnipeg, in 1812. They were a part of the Lord Selkirk colonization party and made their homes at almost the exact spot where the forty-ninth parallel of latitude crosses the Red River.

In 1823, President Monroe issued orders to Maj. Stephen H. Long to explore this valley. Splendidly equipped and having in his party noted scientists and surveyors, Major Long secured authentic information, which later was issued in book form. The historian of the party wrote glowingly of the fertile soil, the agreeable climate and the abundance of game and fish. In fertility of the soil he likened it to the valley of the Nile and prophesied that it would produce food to feed hungry millions when opened for white settlement.

In 1846, James J. Hill became interested in getting to market the pelts of fur and other products which the fur traders and the Indians offered for sale. A few years later in this same Red River Valley, Mr. Hill and Mr. Donald Smith met and joined their activities in the first transportation "merger" on record in the Northwest. Oxcarts were the means of transportation. Heavy rumbling, creaky carts, with ungreased wooden axles, crept along the Indian trails from Fort Garry to St. Paul. They could be heard for miles.

It was early decided that no permanent settlement would be made in this area by the whiteman until the white man and the red man could come to terms and agree on some plan which would leave the Indians in free and undisputed possession of the portion of this great area that they desired and to open the remainder for settlement and development.



Area Ceded to United States by Terms of Old Crossing Treaty

RED LAKE COUNTY

Acknowledgement

The contributions made by the Charles E. Boughtons (both Senior and Junior) are acknowledged with gratitude.

Because of their talents as writers, much of the history of Red Lake Falls and Red Lake County has been set down for posterity in words that are clear, concise, eloquent, and often delightfully humorous. Herewith, the stories are published as written, some seventy-five years ago.

Red Lake County, tho not one of the greatest in the State, either in square miles, or population, has had an eventful and interesting existence. Born in strife through a long county division fight with the parent county of Polk, it has since lived through a county seat fight lasting five years, and a later county division fight which left it full of fighting determination, but somewhat reduced in territory.

Prior to its organization, the territory now comprising Red Lake was a part of its present neighbor, Polk County. Polk, organized about 1858, originally spread over 7,000 square miles of the Red River and adjacent valleys, but the legislature chipped off pieces here and there to form other counties, until in 1882, Polk was left with the territory now contained in Polk, Red Lake and Pennington Counties — still 3,160 miles, equalling the States of Delaware and Rhode Island.

In the latter part of the '80's the good people of Red Lake Falls, ambitious to have their village become a county seat, organized a committee to effect that purpose through the creation of a new county of Red Lake, proposed to be carved out of the central portion of Polk County. This was strenuously opposed by the citizens of Crookston, county seat of Polk, and a series of battles ensued in legislature, courts and elections, lasting ten years, finally terminating with the general election of 1896, at which time not merely one, but five propositions to create new counties out of Polk County, were submitted to the voters, and as if this were not enough to create confusion, these proposed new counties over-lapped each other, and each voter could vote only for or against one county.

At the election, three of the new counties — Red Lake, Mills and Columbia, each received a majority of the votes for its creation. But the territory of these three counties overlapped, and each provided for a different county seat, and different county commissioners. They were all winners, but which one was the real winner?

The puzzle was solved by Governor Clough, who refused to issue a proclamation recognizing Mills and Columbia Counties, and instead, on Christmas Eve, 1896, did issue his proclamation declaring Red Lake County as a duly organized and existing county seat of the State. His decision was subsequently upheld by the courts. And to the good people of Red Lake were given the unique and exclusive distinction of having received their county as a Christmas present.

At the time of its organization, two railroads traversed the county — the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern. A few years later the Soo Line built in from south and east, cutting through the east end of the county, and establishing a division point at Thief River Falls, which caused that ambitious city to more than double its population, and inspired its inhabitants with the desire for a county seat of their very own. A petition was circulated and liberally signed, asking the calling of an election to change the county seat from Red Lake Falls to Thief River Falls. A hot fight ensued which lasted five years, and although Thief River Falls had the greater support, and undoubtedly the most voters, Red Lake Falls had the greater fighting experience attained through its previous battling, and managed to stall off an election, until finally just before it was to be submitted to a vote, the county seat petition itself, mysteriously disappeared from the files, and has never since been heard of. Then the Supreme Court decided it was lost and could not be acted on.

Discouraged with their failure to move the county seat, the partisans of Thief River Falls decided to take their town out of Red Lake County, and to that end instituted proceedings to divide Red Lake County, leaving the southern half with Red Lake Falls, and organizing the north half as Pennington County, with Thief River Falls as its county seat. After a long and bitter fight, this plan succeeded, and in 1910, Red Lake was cut in two and attained its present size and proportions.

Located in the heart of the famous Red River Valley the County has fertile soil, level prairie lands varied with wooden streams. Two principal rivers cross it, the Red Lake River, flowing down from the great Red Lakes to its junction with the Red River of the North, and the Clearwater River which joins the other at Red Lake Falls. Both streams are well stocked with fish; and in past years deer, prairie chickens, grouse and pheasants were plentiful in woods and prairies.

When the Soo Line built into the County about 1905, two more villages were established on its course; Oklee in the eastern end, and Plummer, near the center. Both are growing, thriving communities, surrounded by fertile lands and enterprising farmers.

Oklee was named after O. K. Lee, a townsite promoter who donated his name. Prominent among its pioneer citizens who have helped build up the town are A. P. Toupin, Dr. W. B. Torgerson, Melby Brothers, Peter Bergeron, Emil R. Sandeen, Frank Cyr, and J. O. Melby who has served many terms in the State Legislature. It is interesting to note that members of two families who occupied nearby farms, Pat Short, and one of the Sall brothers, joined the great "Gold Rush," in Alaska in 1898, endured its hardships, and made lucky strikes. The gold they dug from the frozen earth, was subsequently brought back to help build up Red Lake County, but young Sall died in Alaska.

Plummer, located on the Soo Line, and on Trunk Highway 59, is also traversed by the Clearwater River. Indeed it received its name from Plummer Dam, a dam built many years ago on the river, by a man named Plummer, who has since disappeared, leaving only his namesake dam, and that too, has now disintegrated.

The village, built at the junction of the eastbound and southbound Soo Lines, is enterprising and up-to-date. Prominent among its pioneers are J. W. Pahlen, E. B. Langer, Alcide Morrissette, H. J. Enderle, O. T. Langlie, S. J. Rice, P. E. Schoenauer, Andrew Gunderson and James Ford.

The territory now within the county lines was originally settled in the '60's and '70's, mostly by French Canadians from eastern Ontario. Following the old Pembina Trail, then practically the only line of communication between the fur buyers of St. Paul and the trappers of the Hudson Bay county in Canada, these hardy pioneers, with their families and scant household goods loaded on creaking slow moving wooden wheeled Red River Carts, generally drawn by oxen, wended their way through hostile Indian country to the free lands of the great northwest. No hardship was too great for them to endure. Dropping off the trail here and there as they found land suitable to their needs, many of them settled in what is now Red Lake County, and took up Government Homesteads. Some of these parties were guided to this locality by Pierre Bottineau, a famous scout of French and Indian blood, well known over the whole northwest territory. He had been the original owner of Nicollet Island, in the Mississippi River at Minneapolis, (now worth a king's ransom) but he loved the wild life and the open trail too well to settle down there, tho it is told of him that in his palmy days of scouting he frequently lit his pipe with ten dollar bills. Many times he followed the Pembina trails into Canada, but when old age slowed his activities he settled with his family at Red Lake Falls, and became, and remained, until his death there, one of its most honored citizens.

The west end of the county was originally settled largely by French Canadians, and the east end by both Scandinavians and French, but as the county developed, other nationalities came in, and many of the old settlers moved further west, where more primitive conditions appealed to these natural pioneers, so that at the present time, the French, German, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, English and plain American nationalities are well represented.

Noted early settlers in the territory of Red Lake County, who contributed bountifully to its future, were Carl Kretzschmar, Otto Kankel and Ernest Buse, who built the first mills on the rivers, and laid out the townsites; Father Champagne whose clerical-business mind, not only built up the Church, but was actively engaged in planning the townsite; Pierre Bottineau, the scout mentioned elsewhere herein; Pierre Emard, who came here with earliest settlers, bringing his family and nothing else, settled down in a wilderness of brush and timber, and with only his hands and determination, turned it into a beautiful homestead; Dr. I. Lemieux, pioneer doctor in a wilderness without roads or means of transportation, who for fifty years administered aid to his people, through rain, shine or deep snow, under conditions which would appall the modern practitioner. And many others, faithfully in their way and day, who did their bit, and yet whose names are now forgotten, and whose praises are unsung.

Charles E. Boughton, Jr. 1941

RED LAKE COUNTY SEPARATES FROM POLK

Red Lake County, the mecca of home seekers, the brightest star in that terrestrial milky way known as the Red River Valley, though the youngest county in the state in point of years, is old in its battle, not for existence, but for their right to exist.

On Christmas Eve, 1896, Governor Clough, assuming for the moment, the part of a beneficient Santa Claus, issued his proclamation declaring Red Lake a duly established and existing county of the State of Minnesota, and thereby conferred upon its citizens the most material and lasting benefits they had received for many a long year.

But this result was not attained until after a long, hard struggle, which did not end even with the victory gained, and the final culmination of which reflects credit upon the little circle of men who bore the brunt of it; who spent their time, money and ability, year after year, in a seemingly vain endeavor to plant Red Lake county upon the face of the map, and to whom defeat had become so common that when victory came they were scarcely able to realize the astounding fact that they had at last won out.

Prior to its organization the territory now comprising Red Lake was a part of its present neighbor, Polk County. Polk was created away back in 1858, and in its early days sprawled its great mass like an enormous jelly fish over nearly the whole northwestern corner of Minnesota, including all the present counties of Polk, Norman, and Red Lake, over half of Beltrami, and parts of Clay, Becker, and Hubbard. Its area was over 7,000 square miles. The states of Connecticut and Delaware and the District of Columbia, capital and all, might have been placed within its limits and room left for an army to march around the borders. It could have included fourteen of the old-world kingdoms of Europe without squeezing, with a dukedom or two thrown in to fill the cracks. Gradually the legislature chipped off a slice here and a slice there until in 1882 Polk was left with the territory now comprising Polk and Red Lake counties. It was still large and unwieldy, the fourth county in the state in size, containing 3160 square miles, larger than the states of Delaware, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia combined. Crookston, its county seat, drew all the strength of the county to itself, with but poor returns on its part. The outlying towns and farming districts were scarcely recognized except for the payment of taxes. The county officers were strangers to the remote townships whose money they handled. Political corruption thrived and a "ring" at Crookston held perpetual lease of the county offices and grew fat on the revenues paid in by the outsiders. All the outlying towns, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Fertile, Fosston, McIntosh and East Grand Forks were kept down and their growth stunted by the persistently successful efforts of Crookston to centralize in herself all the business, power and "booty." As Crookston waxed rich, the other towns waxed poor, and the farmers surrounding them, deprived of a proper market for their products, unless they hauled them to Crookston, twenty, thirty, forty and fifty miles distant, suffered accordingly and lost their farms on mortgages. Red Lake Falls was the first to awaken to the existence of the situation.

She had men of energy whose business interests coincided with their wishes, that Red Lake Falls and the county adjacent to it should prosper. In the winter of 1886-87 Ernest Buse, W. A. Schreiter, F. E. Hunt, Chas. Langevin, J. T. Knight, H. J. Kaufer, Zaiser Bros., and a few others initiated a movement to form the eastern part of Polk into a new county, with Red Lake Falls as the county seat. A bill was to be put through the legislature, and funds were raised, and Ernest Buse and J. T. Knight spent the winter in St. Paul lobbying in the interests of county division. The bill was introduced, favorably reported by the senate committee, and the world began to look brighter in the future Red Lake County. But Crookston appeared in the field with a lobbying committee, and more money and more influence than Red Lake Falls could command. Lumber and railroad interests were drawn into the fight in favor of Polk. The local members of the legislature favored Crookston. Red Lake stock went down out of sight, and when the battle ended the county division bill was buried beneath one hundred and sixty others that failed to pass. Thus ended the first chapter.

In 1890 a few of the businessmen of Red Lake Falls, notably J. T. Knight, L. A. Kaufer and J. A. Duffy, resurrected the county division corpse, aided by Jos. I. Wyer, Theo Garceau, F. E. Hunt, W. A. Schreiter, Joseph Smith and others. New life was injected into the enterprise. It was decided that Polk County was several times too large, anyway. Red Lake Falls would call to her aid other towns which had experienced the "frozen heart," and instead of being delivered of one unruly child, Polk should have triplets. Fosston, East Grand Forks and Red Lake Falls should each be the county seat of a new county, and by combining their strength and money would defeat the Crookston schemers. A mass meeting was called of all outside towns, to be held at Red Lake Falls, to which only Fosston and East Grand Forks responded. Committees were appointed and the outcome was that Joseph Smith was sent to St. Paul to have drafted and introduced in the legislature, a bill to submit to a vote of the people the question of dividing Polk into four counties. But Crookston was on the alert and through her senator, E. E. Lommen, and other influences at her command so discouraged the divisionists that the bill still peacefully slumbers in a pigeon hole at St. Paul, having never seen the light of day. Fosston's enthusiasm too, died away, and about this time the constitution of Minnesota was so amended as to do away with all special legislation. The mercurial hopes of the Red Lakers dropped to forty-two below zero and froze up. But a characteristic of Red Lake Falls' citizens has ever been stick-to-it-iveness and a faculty of not knowing when they're beaten.

With the meeting of the legislature of '92 and '93 the old war horses of former battles bobbed up serenely and "got into the game." Meetings were held in Red Lake Falls, committees appointed, the aid and funds of the village council invoked and pledged, and J. T. Knight was sent to St. Paul to have drafted and passed, if possible, a bill providing a mode of procedure for dividing any county in the state. Mr. Knight devoted his energies to the matter and spent the winter in St. Paul in its interests. The bill was drafted by a constitutional lawyer, introduced, and though Crookston lobbied hard against it, after many delays and references to committees, it passed and became a law. McIntosh having been taken into the division plan in place of Fosston gave some aid in this fight. The home committee in charge of division matters at this time was composed of L. A. Kaufer, J. A. Duffy, Fred Gesswein and J. T. Knight. The new law required a petition for each proposed new county signed by fifteen percent of the voters of the old county to be filed with the secretary of state. The governor, secretary of state and state auditor constituted a board to pass on the petition and if found conformable to the law, the governor was to issue his proclamation submitting the question to a vote. In July, 1893, three petitions were circulated in Polk County, one calling for the formation of Red Lake County, with the county seat at Red Lake Falls; one for Nash County with the county seat at East Grand Forks; and one for Columbia County, with the county seat at McIntosh. The requisite number of signatures to each petition was quickly obtained, and though Crookston again interfered by invoking the aids of the courts to prevent the issuing of the governor's proclamation, fortune favored the right, and the three new counties were ordered to be voted on.

The subtle minds of Crookston again set to work and evolved a curious scheme. They induced the people of Fosston to petition for the formation of Nelson County, to overlap the territory of both Columbia and Red Lake, with Fosston as the county seat. This picture was largely signed in Crookston, and the support of the voters of that city and vicinity pledged to carry the Nelson County proposition, provided that the Nelson County people would help down all the others. All were to be submitted to a vote at the 1894 general election. A hot campaign ensued. Plotting, planning, lying, selling, promises easily made and more easily broken, town against town, neighbor against neighbor. Laughable incidents occurred. One prominent farmer agreed, for a consideration to deliver the vote of his entire town, and when the ballots were counted he had not even controlled his own vote. Everyone in the town had voted on the other side. The old Red Lake Falls committee had secured reinforcements of new men, among them J. D. Marshall, Dr. N. M. Watson, Theo Garceau, A. P. Toupin, C. N. Bourdon, J. M. Bray, Wm. Findeisen, Mike Jeffers, A. D. Berry, J. B. Hebert, Swan Anderson, and the writer took more or less active parts in the campaign. Political issues were lost sight of and the only influences brought to bear on voters was for or against county division. Election day dawned, cold and bitter, snow falling to the depth of two feet. Red Lake Falls, like the hub of a great wheel, sent spokes (no pun intended) out in every direction, men to every polling place, to influence votes.

We lost, Crookston won. Every proposition went down to defeat, Fosston and East Grand Forks defeating the others and Crookston playing traitor to Fosston.

Hope long deferred maketh the heart sick.

County division was again a corpse. As if to drive another nail in the coffin, at the next meeting of the legislature, Crookston,

with but faint opposition on our part, caused the division law to be so amended that a voter might vote for or against only one proposition, no matter how many were in the field. With this amendment the Crookstonites considered their armor complete and invulnerable, and lo, there was great rejoicing in their camp, for they thought the county division question was settled forever. But this very amendment proved their undoing and they fell in the pit they themselves dug.

The ghost of Red Lake County wouldn't stay dead, but persisted in coming to life and clothing itself in another attempt to beat the master minds of Crookston city down the river — and fate.

As the general election of 1896 drew near, the battle-scarred veterans of former county division fights, not a doubter or laggard among them, gathered together at the center of gravity, Red Lake Falls, and decided to make another attempt to throw off the tyrant's yoke. It was determined that since old Polk would have neither triplets nor quadruplets, we'd go her one better, and try for quintuplets; Red Lake, with the county seat at Red Lake Falls; Hill, with the county seat at East Grand Forks; Garfield, with the county seat at Fertile; Nelson, with county seat at Fosston, and leave Crookston with just enough of old Polk to make a pleasant driveway around the city limits, so that her citizens might drive out evenings and gaze over the lines at the prosperity which was not of their making. Indeed, it was proposed that we should all turn in first and move the county seat from Crookston to Fisher and divide afterwards, but we lacked the time, so that part of the plan did not materialize. Petitions for the four new counties were rapidly circulated and signed. It was feared that as the law now stood only one proposition could be voted on at any election, so a friendly suit was brought to determine this. The supreme court decided that any number of propositions could be submitted to the people, but each voter could vote for or against only one.

Then the subtle Crookstonites evolved a plan that was indeed a credit to them. They inoculated Thief River Falls with the county seat germ, induced its citizens to circulate a petition for the formation of Mills County, with county seat at Thief River Falls, and then with soft words and endearing promises led McIntosh to circulate a petition for the formation of Columbia County. Now Mills County was to overlap the proposed territory of both Red Lake and Hill, and Columbia was to overlap Red Lake, Nelson and Gargield, so if all carried, there would be several counties piled one on top of the other, and the idea was that the courts would declare all illegal, and Polk, one and indivisible. And this very thing nearly happened. Again the struggle was on. Votes were at a premium. The fact that a man could vote only for or against one county made his vote all the more valuable. Workers were sent from every town to corral the farmer vote. Canvassers from Crookston met canvassers from Red Lake Falls at country homes and wrangled over a vote as dogs over a bone. Committees met every night and discussed the situation. Lots of voters in every town were procured and that particular man was sent to each voter who would be most likely to influence him. Speakers were hired and school house meetings held. The committee of each proposed county was suspicious of the committee of every other county. Amateur secret service men were sent out to learn the intentions of "our friends, the enemy." The writer was sent incognito to McIntosh and Fosston and was present at committee meetings in each town learning the secret intention of the committees as to the disposition of the votes at their command, without being otherwise known than as an innocent commercial traveler.

As before, politics was lost sight of. The question of the hour was, "What's the prospect for county division?" Some men gave all their time to the work and accomplished a great deal. Others gave all their time and accomplished very little. One man was sent into an unknown territory to canvass votes. He spent several days and announced on his return that the voters there were unanimous for Red Lake. On election day they voted ten to one against Red Lake. New men joined in the battle. All the old fighters were there, and we added to our list many new names, notably Hon. Marcus Johnson, a power in himself, and worth a dozen ordinary men.

The work continued to the closing of the polls election day. Teams were hired to bring voters to the polls. Placards and bills (in violation of election laws) were displayed in every polling place and even hung in the secret booths. Men were detailed to help unlettered voters mark their ballots. These tactics were resorted to by all the opposing parties, so none had cause to complain.

When the votes were counted Red Lake, Mills and Columbia had carried by a majority; Nelson had lost; Garfield was in doubt. Red Lake had received votes as follows: for 922, against 449; Mills, for 334, against 56; Columbia, for 575, against 107; Garfield, for 603, against 608. Here was a situation Crookston had anticipated. Red Lake had carried; but Mills and Columbia also carried, covered its territory. Who was to say which was the right county, since the three were piled upon each other? We had won, and yet lost. It was like eating the Dead Sea apple which looks beautiful to the eye but crumbles to ashes at the touch. But the man of the hour was at hand, and here, more than ever before, we recognized the value of a "pull." Hon. Marcus Johnson by his great political influence at St. Paul induced Governor Clough to issue his proclamation declaring Red Lake a duly created county, and the governor further refused to issue any proclamation for Mills or Columbia.

It should have been stated before that in the proposition to create Red Lake County submitted to a vote, five good men and true had been named as its first board of commissioners, as follows: Samual Gibeau, of Lambert; Wm. C. L. Demann, of Lake Pleasant; K. M. Hansen, of Thief River Falls; O. J. Johnson, of Wyandotte; and Swan Anderson, of Black River.

The governor's proclamation was issued the day before Christmas, 1896, and was kept secret from newspaper reporters or Crookston agents who were then in St. Paul, as it was feared that injunction proceedings would be brought to prevent the organization of our Board of Commissioners. Secretly and swiftly it was brought to Red Lake Falls by Mr. O. J. Johnson, arriving Christmas Day. A terrific blizzard was blowing, piling the snow drifts eight feet high, but teams were sent to the five quarters of the county to bring in the county commissioners. It was resolved to organize as soon as possible after midnight. As the night wore on the belated commissioners struggled in through the storm, the last one arriving about three o'clock in the morning, and all through the dark hours a wearied, anxious group of men, the leaders of the division movement, sat in the union club rooms and worried lest at the last moment a writ of injunction might arrive from Crookston.

At 3:00 a.m., December 26, the commissioners took their oaths of office and before daylight Frank E. Hunt drove to Crookston to file in the office of the Clerk of Court certified copies of the governor's proclamation with the commissioners' oaths of office endorsed upon the back. Crookston awoke to its first realization that a new county had been born.

At last we had won. Our victory was complete. It is safe to assert that no happier lot of people ever celebrated the holidays than the worthy citizens of Red Lake Falls that Christmas week in 1896. Our county board met, appointed a full set of officers and Red Lake County became a reality.

But it was not in the nature of our opponents to give up even then. They laid all information before the attorney general and caused an action of quo warranto to be brought in his name, on behalf of the state, against our board of commissioners, to determine the legality of Red Lake County. Eminent counsel was employed on both sides. The supreme court decided that of all the counties voted upon Red Lake alone was legal because it had received both a majority of the votes cast on that proposition and a plurality over its competitors, Mills and Columbia. Thus ended the fight, and though there have since been other matters of dispute between Polk and Red Lake, the question of our organization has never been further disputed.

To the men who planned and directed the execution on both sides of this long continued fight, great credit is due. Yet republics, even in miniature, are proverbially ungrateful, and many who did their utmost for their respective sides, both in Crookston and Red Lake Falls, have scarcely received thanks for the work.

Since the formation of our county, Red Lake and her citizens have gotten rapidly ahead. Every city and village in the county has doubled or trebled in wealth and population. Farm lands have increased in value, jumping from $4 and $5 per acre to $18 and $25 per acre. Farmers have paid off their mortgages. Rates of interest have dropped from twenty percent to six. Great saw mills have been built to employ laboring men. Industrial improvements have been made. Drainage ditches are being dug. We have our own representatives in the legislature. Foreign capital has been attracted to our county. Farmers are leaving their old settled communities in Iowa and flocking to our new and fertile lands. We are no longer a distant suburb of Crookston. We are free and independent. Red Lake County has become a bright and shining mark upon the map, and the visions of prosperity which seemed but dreams to the rebels of 1886 have become a glorified reality to the patriots of 1901.

Charles Boughton, Sr.

OUTLINE COUNTY MAP

Showing the boundaries of Red Lake County as a whole, and also showing the boundaries of the new County of Pennington as submitted to the voters at the November Election, 1910;-North of the Red line to be known as Pennington, County, South of it Red Lake County.

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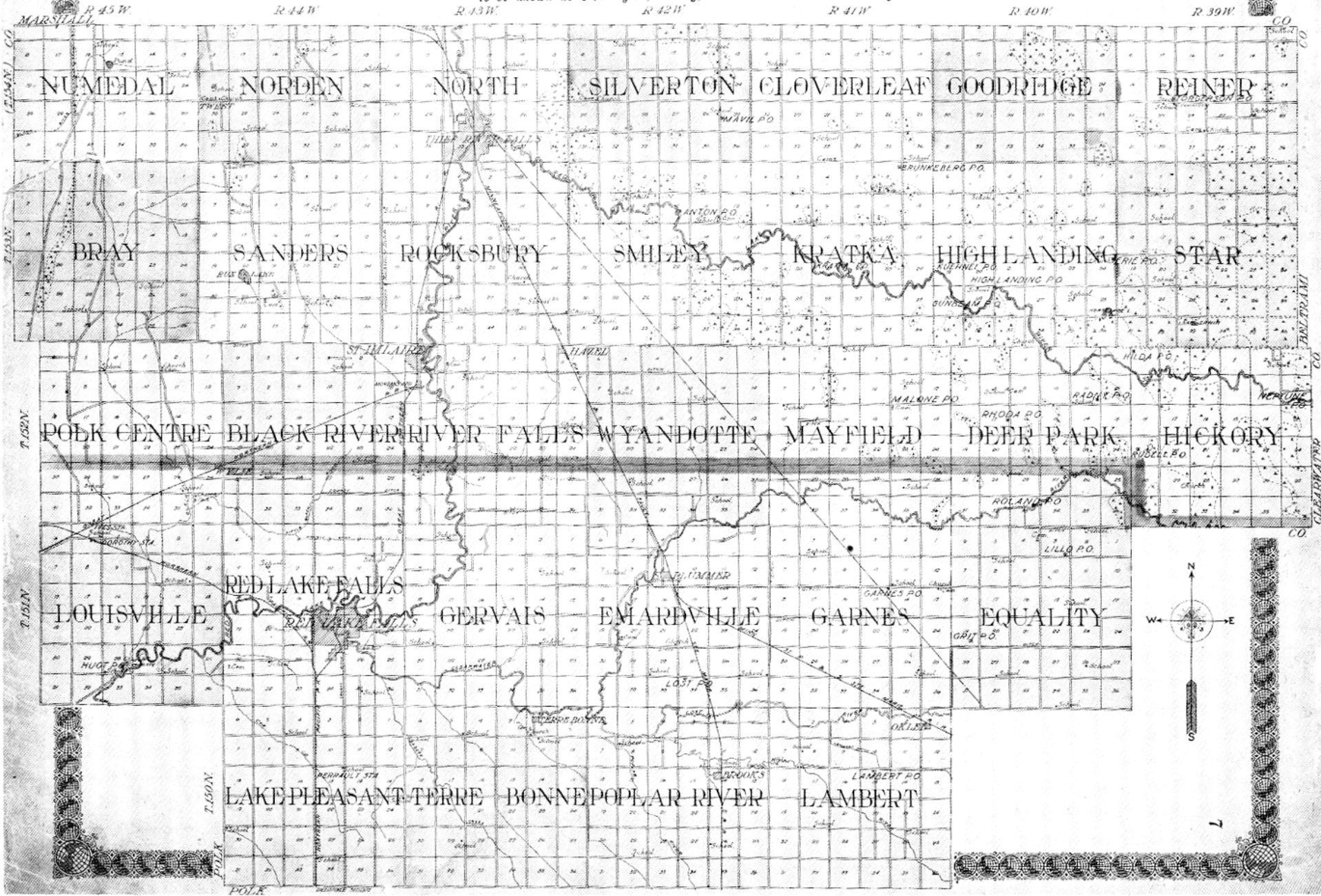
Scale ⅔ of 1 inch = 1 mile



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RED LAKE COUNTY BATTLE FOR COUNTY SEAT

Now it came to pass in the latter part of the nineteenth century that the county of Polk in the broad state of Minnesota, was thought by some of its worthy inhabitants to be too large; and those especially who dwelt in the city of Red Lake Falls, nestling prettily among the hills between the bend of its two rivers, determined that they should have a county of their own, carved out of the northeastern part of the parent county, and of which their city should be the county seat.

Then there was a great hurrying to and fro, and meetings of citizens and much work was done and many shekels spent to bring the matter to a successful vote, for behold the parent county sternly opposed the amputation of any of its parts, and put up a brave front of battle. For several years through several elections and in the legislative halls at St. Paul the battle waged and many times was Red Lake Falls defeated in her ambitions.

Yet her people rose from each defeat with fresh courage, and passed the hat and collected more funds, and never for a moment ceased to fight, until in 1896, the battle of the ballots was won, the new county of Red Lake was born, wearing as its brightest gem, the triumphant city of Red Lake Falls.

Legal fights followed, for old Polk would not give up, and the moment came when the five wise judges of the great court at St. Paul were called upon to say whether Red Lake lived, or had "died a'bornin." After due deliberation, they seized their pens and wrote the famous decision which took Red Lake from the struggling hands of her wet nurse — Polk, and endowed her with independent life all her own.

Now, this fighting cost many thousands of dollars which the people of Red Lake Falls contributed, and cheerfully borrowed from their friends when they lacked it themselves. During all this time there was situated on the mud flats in the northern part of the county, a little village known as Thief River Falls; whether so called by reason of certain propensities of its citizens, was not known at that time, but it is now certain that the parent who named it was a true prophet and deserves a leather medal for his foresight and a reserved toasting fork in Hades for his hindsight in ever founding such a place at all.

This town had never taken any interest in the new county, never spent any money and cast only four of her people's votes for it at the election. Yet the ink was scarcely dry upon the court's decision, when her people began to cast envious eyes upon the county seat at Red Lake Falls.

Only her weakness and the fact that the law prohibited a change in the county seat for five years prevented her immediate action. Seven or eight years later the opportunity came. The county seat had prospered. The people of the county were well satisfied with its location, yet the jealousy that rankled in the north had prevented the building of a decent courthouse.

A new railroad, the Soo, came wending its way through the county and through some oversight, when Providence wasn't looking, built into Thief River Falls, bringing big crews of foreign labor there. A large saw mill was built, employing drifting crews of lumberjacks.

The little town swelled up like a pint of beans in a bucket of boiling water, and looked so big to its citizens that they began to pity Crookston, Grand Forks and Bemidji.

An unofficial census was taken and its taker counted all the noses that lined up before Andy Erickson's bar for thirty days and nights until his figures became a little hazy and the accuracy of his report has been doubted.

Several hot air lines were built and are now running full blast, on hot air. The surrounding country was promptly notified that Thief River Falls was the only thing that ever happened, and that everybody had better get into the ark before the deluge comes. A few of us are still out taking chances.

True to its name, the nature of the Town soon asserted itself, and its people determined to become possessed of the county seat. A committee was appointed. The saloon licenses raised to sixteen thousand dollars and with eight thousand dollars of the drink money thus obtained, means were at once resorted to, to line up enough of the voters of the county to change the county seat. A petition was circulated to that effect, and booze freely distributed.

Now, Thief River's whiskey would make a jackrabbit sign his grandfather's death warrant, and it apparently had that effect on the voters. Joe Duchamp was employed to dig up all the Indians who had ever died on the reservation, and anyone who has ever seen Joe can safely affirm that no Indian, living or dead, would hesitate long about signing his name at Joe's request.

At any rate the petition to rob Red Lake Falls of its hard earned county seat was finally brought into the county auditor's office in April, 1905, with two-thousand, six names attached. Since then the merry war has been on. To be sure Thief River has not progressed far. Indeed, she seems built like a crab, with great facilities for going backwards.

Red Lake Falls attacked the legality of the petition in the courts. Prolonged litigation followed. Lawsuit after lawsuit was tried, and sometimes the thieves (Riverites) won in the district court, and the county seat defenders appealed to the higher court at St. Paul, when the five wise judges of the supreme court almost invariably promptly seized their pens and wrote the decisions which made Red Lake Falls happy.

At last, after two years, when the poor old petition was worn down to skin and bone with litigation, and had attained a dishonorable ole age, it became so ashamed of itself and the cause for which it stood, that it suddenly faded away, vanished, disappeared, vamosed, and went back to the father of Evil where it undoubtedly had its birth.

No one has yet been found who will own up to a knowledge of its whereabouts, though Red Lake Falls business men offered a reward of five hundred dollars for its return. The city had spent a great deal of money in obtaining withdrawal of signatures from it, and all this would go for naught if a new petition were presented.

Thief River Falls put on a long face, which seemed to conceal a broad smile of joy, and before the smell of brimstone had faded away from the corpse, they were circulating a new petition.

Everybody signed this, who did not live in Red Lake County, North Dakota railroad crews, St. Paul traveling men, Marshall County farmers, Beltrami lumberjacks, and a few Indians who died before the Civil War, but still take great interest in the affairs of Red Lake County. This petition was filed with the county auditor amid great rejoicing on the part of the Thief Riverites, who now thought the fight was all over, but the shouting.

But it wasn't.

Again the Supreme Court had the last to say, and they decided that the rejoicing was premature; that the first petition was "not dead, but sleeping," and that until the board of county commissioners held a post-mortem over its devoted corpse, and ordered funeral trimmings, it was still enough alive to kick its worthy successor, the second petition, into the great hereafter.

And so the matter rests. The people have been granted a breathing spell in the cruel county seat war which had disrupted the county, broken the ties of friendship, turned brother against brother, and father against son.

Let's all get together now and be good, spend our time, our breath, and our money in advertising the whole county, and in doing the greatest good to the greatest number. Cut out all selfishness, ill-will, and sectional feeling and pull together. We have one of the best counties in the state. Let's make it still better.

Charles Boughton, Sr.

COUNTY DIVISION

There was a sound of hilarity by night,
And Red Lake County's Capital (to be) was flooded
With light; (sounds of hilarity and joy),
Pale shone the ever watchful stars
Over County Commissioners (in embryo)
Who feared an interruption from the hosts of sin,
From the dread Crookston town.
"Speak" cried the bold J. D.
"What's the matter with that other son-of-a-gun
From out in the country, why cometh not he?"
Then up spake brave Arthur from the Plain (o):
"Behold here is he; don't shout again
Or the dead will awaken from the tomb,
And Red Lake County meet unworthy doom."
Then on with county division, creation,
Organization, amalgamation and qualification
And merrily turned the wheels in Krueger's clock.
Lo, in the East, (very different from the western species),
Rose the first streaks of incandescent daylight,
(The first time old Sol ever saw Red Lake County)

But hark! What wild rush of hurrying feet
As though a thousand men had rushed to war,
And would in dread (legal) battle meet.
Fly! Away!! Hide!!! God save us!!!
Cry the multitude in wild alarm,
Oh whither for safety may we turn?
"Rats," cries Doc Watson, "Keep on your nether garments,
And get off your bike. Who the devil ever saw the like
Of such evidence of human frailty?
It is not Halvor Steenerson, who comes this way,
Only Frank Hunt with Bourdon's broncho's and sleigh,
Prepared to ride through snow and blood
Or other dangerous or difficult impediments
To Crookston's stronghold: To file there good and true
These documents, which we shall never rue."
A few whispered words, a rush and he was gone
But in Red Lake Falls the mirth rolled on.

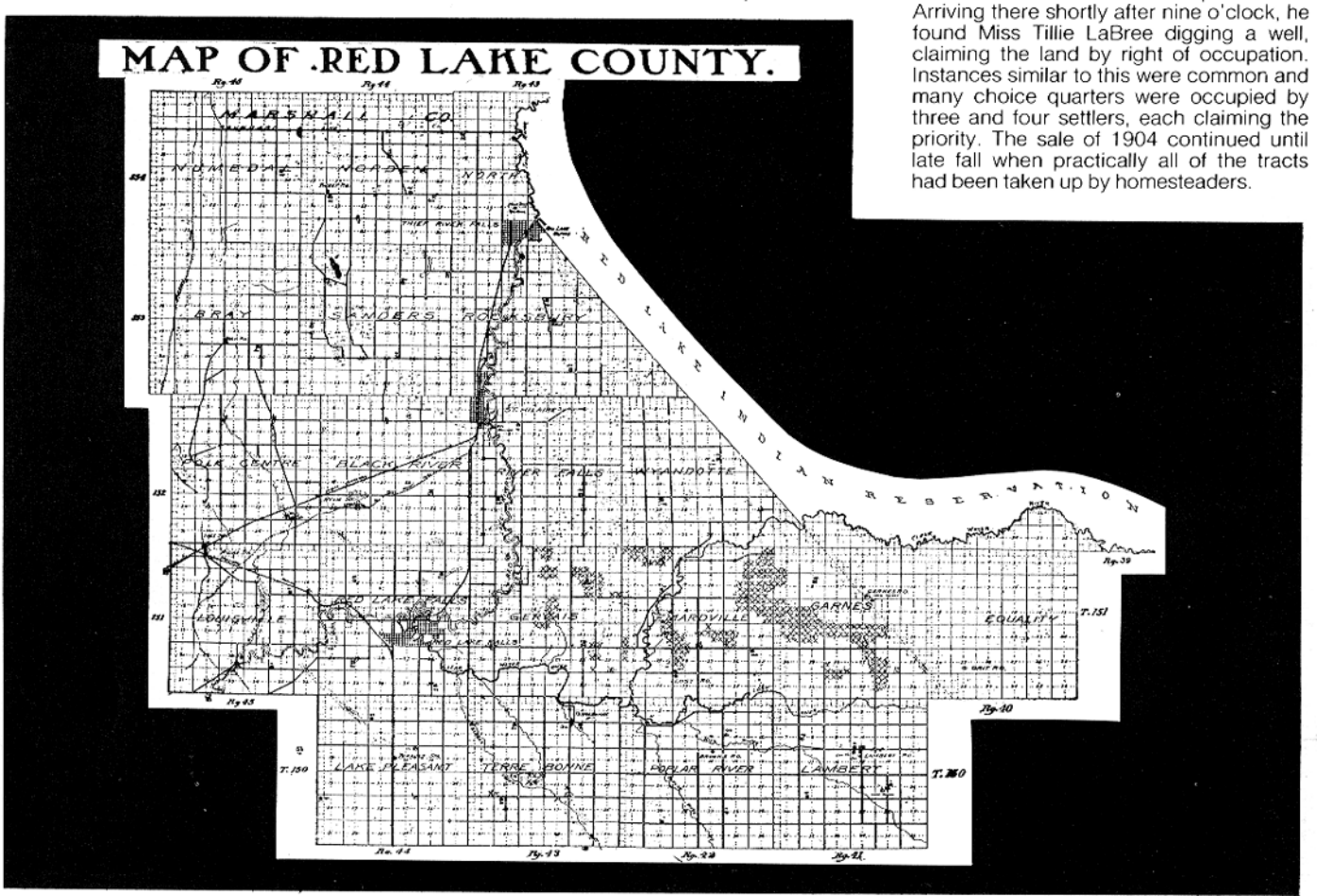
Anonymous
RED LAKE COUNTY JOURNAL
Friday, January 1, 1897

CIVILIZATION OF AN EMPIRE

Up until about 1896, legal barriers and the hereditary rights of the redmen prevented the settlement of that area of Red Lake County in the northeast section. The Chippewas of the Red Lake Indian Reservation protected their properties under the provisions of a treaty made years before when the civilized world became too small and the hardy pioneers pushed forward into the wilderness of the northland and established homes for themselves and their posterity.

It would seem that nature had divided the reservation land into three general classes. First, there was the country immediately surrounding the lake in the eastern half of the territory. Here the Indians lived and supported themselves with all manner of fish, game and fur-bearing animals common to this region. "This was the country chosen by the Indians themselves for a dwelling place, and there was no disposition upon the part of the whites to disturb them in their occupancy." Just west of the lake was a great floating bog, formerly the bed of the ancient geological Lake Agassiz which formed an almost impassable barrier between the eastern and western parts of the reservation. Through this mighty marsh, the Red Lake River, the outlet of the lake, wound a sinuous course, and following this stream westward for twenty miles was a country which differed entirely from both preceding sections. Here was to be found the broad acres and rich prairies on either side of the river and adjacent to the lands farmed in Red Lake County before the division that was to create Pennington to the north. It was inevitable that these lands would be coveted by the white settlers, and on December 28, 1895, following many discussions, the commissioner of the general land office at Washington filed with the Secretary of the Interior a schedule of the opening of the lands finally ceded to the government by the Indians. This included 838,746 acres of the Red Lake Indian Reservation, or over 4,000 homesteads of 160 acres each. The price was to be $1.25 per acre payable in five annual payments of $40.00 each, and the full five years residence was necessary before proof of claim could be made.

Again in 1902, the matter of opening more Indian lands north of the Clearwater River was discussed that would subsequently enlarge Garnes and Emardville townships to the north. Early in 1903 a treaty was presented to the Chippewas, but not ratified by them until February 1904 when certain stipulations were met, including provision for the removal of the bodies of dead Indians to a suitable place of interment. The contract for this removal was let to Jos. DuChamp for $14.50 per head, the contract calling for the removal of 113 bodies. Immediately, hundreds of settlers lined up at the land offices and the gateway to this vast tract was choked with anxious homesteaders who desired to gain possession of some choice quarters. In one instance, R. J. Whipple arose early in the morning and started with a load of lumber for the claim which he had picked out. Arriving there shortly after nine o'clock, he found Miss Tillie LaBree digging a well, claiming the land by right of occupation. Instances similar to this were common and many choice quarters were occupied by three and four settlers, each claiming the priority. The sale of 1904 continued until late fall when practically all of the tracts had been taken up by homesteaders.



PIERRE BOTTINEAU

By far the most important and colorful character ever to have lived in this area is Red Lake Falls' founder, Pierre Bottineau, last of the great voyageurs, the "Kit Carson of the Northwest". To quote a portion of the eulogy printed in the Minneapolis Journal at the time of his death on July 27, 1895:

"With the passing of Pierre Bottineau, the days of the voyageurs and coureurs du bois pass into history. He was one of the last of that long line of hardy pioneers which the French race has given to America. In a later generation, he followed in the paths of Perrot, LeSeur, DuLuht, Charlevoix, LaSalle, and a score of others whose names are synonymous with the early history of discovery and settlement in the Mississippi Valley. Traversing the savage wilderness, thousands of miles beyond the limits of the settlements, they learned the forest and prairie as a book, and their knowledge was an invaluable, almost indispensable, aid in the work of laying the foundations upon which populous states have arisen."

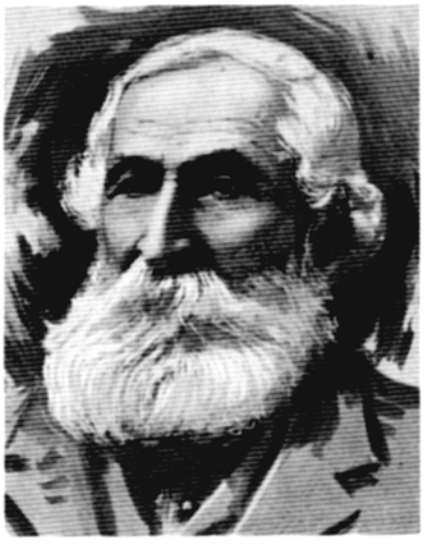
Pierre Bottineau was born in 1810 or 1814 in the Red River Country at Bear Point, near the mouth of the Turtle River. He was the son of Joseph (some accounts say "Charles") Bottineau and Clear Sky, a Chippewa Indian woman, also called "Margaret". Joseph, who was born in France of Huguenot ancestry, came to this country with his parents to enjoy religious freedom. After living in Boston for a time, he journeyed into the wilderness, and it was there that he met the Indian girl whom he married.

Pierre inherited characteristics from both parents that served him well. He is described as being over six feet tall, weighing around 200 pounds. One old biographical sketch described him as having "piercing black eyes", and adds that he was of "attractive appearance in spite of his swarthy complexion. He was naturally of manly instincts and gentlemanly deportment, polite, agreeable and of a kindly disposition, and always true to his word and to his fellow men."

That he was a man of great innate intelligence and adventurous spirit is evidenced by his life as a scout and guide. This career had its start when he, as a small boy, accompanied his voyageur father, hunting and trapping with him on the western plains.

In the earlier years of his life, Pierre's headquarters were in Canada, in the Selkirk settlement. In 1830 he made his first long trip, carrying messages for the fur company from Selkirk to Prairie du Chien. After that, he made several trips from the Hudson Bay Company's posts in Manitoba to the stations of the American fur company in various parts of Minnesota. He was at the Selkirk settlement in 1836, when a man named Dickson proclaimed himself general of the Indian Liberating Army and undertook to unite all the frontiersmen and all of the Indians of North America into a monarchy, of which he was to be the prince with the title of Montezuma II, with headquarters in Mexico. Although this scheme ultimately came to nothing, the originator had a number of followers in the beginning. In the winter of 1837, Martin McLeod, who was one of Dickson's followers (and for whom Mac Leod County was afterward named) set out for the United States, and probably Mexico, "accompanied by a Polander and an Irishman, Pierre Bottineau being the guide. They encountered such extremely cold weather that the Polander and the Irishman perished in a storm. McLeod and Bottineau pushed on through the snow for twenty-six days without encountering a human being. Their provisions were exhausted, and after going five days without food, they killed and ate their dog. They at last found shelter at a trading settlement on Lake Traverse." (Quoted from an 1895 Minneapolis Journal account.)

About 1840, Bottineau became a nominal resident of St. Paul, though he continued to follow the migratory life of a hunter and voyageur, and often served the officers at Fort Snelling as guide and interpreter. In the latter capacity, it was said



that he was fluent not only in French and English, but in the Sioux, Chippewa, Cree, Mandan and Winnebago dialects as well.

Bottineau's St. Paul claim was right in the heart of the present city, but was then known as Pig's Eye Landing. Some accounts say he sold this claim for a horse and a cow, others say $300. In 1844, he bought (for about $160) and settled on 160 acres of land near St. Anthony Falls, becoming the second or third real settler of Minneapolis. He continued to buy land in that area, and at one time owned 700 acres on the present site of Northeast Minneapolis, extending along the river from Central Avenue to Plymouth. In 1852, (or 1855) he settled another claim and founded the town of Osseo, then called Bottineau Prairie. In 1853, he accompanied Governor Isaac I. Stevens of Washington Territory on the first preliminary survey ever made for the Northern Pacific Railway. In his official report of the trip, Governor Stevens spoke "most highly of Bottineau as the man who seemed to have great influence over the voyageurs and Indians." During those years, he made several trips for General Henry Sibley, agent of the American Fur Company, the man who was to become Minnesota's first governor, and assisted Franklin Steele in filling his government contracts, notably the one for supplying Fort Ripley on the upper Mississippi. In 1862, he was in North Dakota on business for Indian Commissioner Dole. The Sioux outbreak occurred and the Sissetons laid siege to Fort Abercrombie. Bottineau, who was in the fort at the time of the attack, offered to go for help. He slipped through the Indian encampments, made his way over Leaf Mountain and managed to get to Sauk Center, from where help could be dispatched to the fort. During 1863-64, he scouted for General Sibley's military expedition into North Dakota and guided Captain Fisk's expedition to Montana. Also, in 1863, Bottineau served as interpreter when the Old Crossing Treaty was signed at Huot. Similar exploits and expeditions appear to have made up his "career" until 1876 when Pierre Bottineau, with two of his sons, Henry and William, came to what is now Red Lake Falls and staked a claim on land on the Clearwater River south of town. They built a shanty and planted a garden. After a time, Pierre returned to Osseo to move the rest of his family here, leaving the two young men to care for the little house and garden. One day the brothers went swimming, with tragic results. Henry, who was 19, became very ill, probably with pneumonia. William did the best he could, and finally got word to Crookston to notify his parents. They arrived just before Henry died. He was buried by the river and Pierre erected a huge wooden cross over the grave. Later his body was removed to the old Cyr Cemetery, and recently to the permanent Bottineau memorial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, where Pierre is buried.

Pierre Bottineau was married twice and had twenty-three children. His first marriage was in Winnipeg to Jennie LaRence. The nine children of this marriage were Pierre, John, Pierre (the first Pierre had died), Marie, Daniel, Rosalie, Margaret, Leon and Elsie, twins who died in infancy.

In this family, John became a lawyer and his daughter, Mrs. Marie Baldwin of Washington, D.C., also became a lawyer. (She has visited in Red Lake Falls.) Daniel took a claim on the north side of town, later returned to Osseo, and his daughter lived in White Bear. Rosalie died in Osseo. The second Pierre was a Civil War veteran who was with Sherman on his march to the sea. After his discharge and return to Osseo, he died of yellow fever which he had contracted in the service. Marie lived in North Dakota where her husband, a Scotchman named McDonald, was a mail carrier out of Fort Totten. McDonald was scalped by warring Indians.

Bottineau's second marriage was to Martha Gervais, and of this wife he had fourteen children, two of whom died as infants. Their names were Charles, Martha, George, Henry, William, Sidney, Emilie, George, Norman, Laura, Jenny, Genevieve, Agnes, and Noah.

The daughter, Martha, was the mother of the Misses Kate, Blanche, and Louise Berthiaume of this city. Genevieve married Ferdinand Bourque in 1900. They had two sons, Jennings and August, and a foster son, Marvin Strande, who now lives in Crookston. August married Celeste Pouliot of Red Lake Falls. Genevieve lived in the Brooks-Oklee area and was a resident of the Erskine Pioneer Home at the time of her death.

The Misses Berthiaume recalled stories told them about the pioneer days in which their grandparents figured so prominently. The red brick house which Pierre had built near the site of the log shanty was large and hospitable. Everyone who happened along was welcome at their table. Their grandmother, Martha, described the hard-

ships she had endured as a pioneer woman. The Indians frequently visited them and walking right in, helped themselves to whatever they wanted, passed the bread around wonderingly, camped on the floor and managed to disrupt the household. Mrs. Bottineau feared them, but Pierre assured her that since he was part Indian, no harm would come to them. Once when Pierre had left the house to do some butchering, the Indians walked in and demanded bullets . . . There were none.

Pierre Bottineau's contribution to Red Lake Falls continued for many years. According to a June 25, 1931, Gazette article, he traveled to Canada in 1878 and induced a large number of settlers to move here. There is evidence that he influenced many French Canadians from Ramsey and Hennepin Counties to do likewise. He established the first crossing over the Clearwater River, and the old road to Sandy Bottom was a remnant of that early road. He served on the village council from 1882 until February, 1887, and was its president in 1885. The following are some interesting entries in the council proceedings:

April 17, 1882 — "Pierre Bottineau and John Zaiser were appointed a committee to find a man willing and qualified to receive the office of Street Commissioner. By unanimous decision, salary of Street Commissioner was fixed at $1.75 per day. Wages for man and team not to exceed three dollars per day."

April 22, 1882 — "Moved by Mr. Bottineau that the Marshall's fee for arresting and taking care of each head of such cattle be 25 cents." (This referred to cattle running at large in town.)

March 19, 1885 — "Moved by Mr. Bottineau to fix village Marshall's salary at $25 a month." (A later motion, seconded by Bottineau, raised this salary to $50 per month.)

Pierre Bottineau was active also as a member of St. Joseph's Church. A picture elsewhere in this book shows him in a gathering of the St. Jean de Baptiste Society.

It was while Bottineau was engaged in the Pacific railroad survey with Governor Isaac Stevens that Stevens wrote to his wife about the guide. The letter was dated June 10, 1853, and it said, "Bottineau is a great guide and voyageur from Minnesota. He is famous as a buffalo hunter and he surpasses all in his class for truthfulness and great intelligence. Not only is he experienced in all the vicissitudes of travel and frontier life, being the hero of many interesting events, but he has the broadness of view of the engineer and I am confident he will be of the greatest service to us in finding the way. He understands, as Mr. Sibley in Washington told me, everything from shooting a bird or paddling a canoe, to hunting buffalo and conducting a large party through a long extent of difficult country." Later Stevens wrote, "Pierre Bottineau I find a most useful man to whom all the voyageurs look up with great confidence."

So appreciated were Bottineau's services to the government that a memorial was made to Congress by Henry Sibley, Governor J. S. Pillsbury, and other prominent men of that day. The memorial set forth his distinguished services as a guide on many important overland expeditions. This was done in St. Paul, in March, 1879, and prayed Congress "to pass a special act for the benefit of granting Pierre Bottineau, pioneer scout and guide, a pension of $50 a month." It further stated that "his services to the government merit the consideration of Congress."

Red Lake Falls' appreciation has culminated in the establishment of the permanent memorial to Pierre Bottineau in St. Joseph's Cemetery. The memorial is located on a triangle from which one can look to the south to Pierre's homestead.



Bottineau Home

LOGGING ON THE CLEARWATER AND RED LAKE RIVERS

Fred E. Cyr was born on the banks of the Clearwater River one mile from Red Lake Falls in the year 1882, the son of Joseph Cyr.

The story of Fred's young logging days were tape recorded in 1954 by historian Dr. Charles Vandersluis of Bemidji and retold for the History of Red Lake County.

As a young boy I played on the logs coming down past our home on the Clearwater river near where it runs into the Red Lake river, and got to be well acquainted with the drivers. We could tell when the logs were coming because the water roiled and the next day the chips would come down, and then it wouldn't be long until the logs would come. We were always anxious to see the drivers. They had calks on their shoes, and we kids looked at the tracks on the shore and knew that someday we would be log drivers.

When I first started to drive logs, I was hired by J. C. Parker who came to Red Lake Falls about 1900 to recruit men because his drive was hung up in a big meadow someplace. I think we got $2.00 a day (with our food) and we worked from 5 a.m. to 8 at night. We got four meals a day and the best food there was. It was hauled by team right alongside the river or was bought from the farmers as the drive proceeded. Sometimes a cow bought from a farmer would be killed and eaten fresh. We had wanigans which were houses built on flat bottomed boats. Half of each house was used for cooking and the other half for sleeping quarters. There were double bunks with an aisle in the center. These boats were quite long but not very high. Sometimes we had to cut them down even more to get them under the bridges. The mosquitoes were the worst trouble. We couldn't sleep without mosquito nets which we got in Red Lake Falls, ready-made. Lice also became a problem in the summer on the wanigans, and we often spent time to "read our shirts to look for lice in the seams."

At the beginning of a drive, Parker would hire anybody who wanted a job. The men would go to work and he would watch to see how they did. The next morning he "passed the sieve", that is, he pointed out those he did not want and said, "You don't have to put up your lunch today" and they knew what that meant. After he picked a good crew, and after they got below the dam at Clearwater Lake, he never fired them.

Logs were boomed and towed across



Fred E. Cyr on a Clearwater River log drive 1906.

Clearwater Lake with a steam outfit and growser. These logs were all stamped and bark-marked. I stamped some of them myself when I worked in the woods. The stamp mark would compress the grain in three inches from each end of the log, so if the log was sawed off near either end, the mark would still show. It was made with an axe and maybe it was 4 X, or something like that. I remember that the Red Lake Falls sawmill had a crow foot as a bark mark. The logs were generally put into the river all along the bank. In the spring the first thing one had to do was to break up the landings and open up the river. It was tough work as it was done when it was still cold, just when the ice was beginning to break up. Drivers would have to wade in the water perhaps up to their waists to get at the logs; oftentimes the water would freeze at night. A lot of fellows quit, but the bunch of us from Red Lake Falls stuck. After the logs got started down the river into Clearwater Lake, it was a snap.

The wanigans, 8 or 10 of them, had been built in readiness for the drive. It was 175 miles from Clearwater Lake to Red Lake Falls. Every few days a crew with a wanigan would start down the river, until there would be as many as ten crews scattered along a hundred miles of river.

There was no dam below Clearwater dam until we came to Plummer, and there was no sorting work on the Clearwater. The first sorting gap was on the Red Lake River two miles above Crookston in a flowage where the water was quiet.

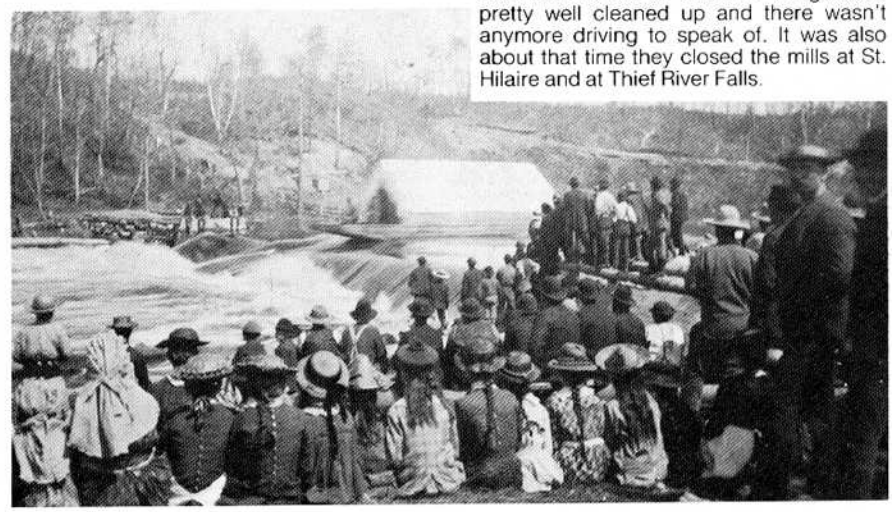
We were armed with pike poles and occasionally peavies, which differ from cant hooks by having a spike in the center. Peavies were used mainly in log jams, and shear booms were often put along the banks so when the logs hit them, they wouldn't stick in the bank and cause a log jam. A shear boom was a peeled log with a peg driven into it tied to shore. We usually didn't have much trouble until we got to Plummer. From Plummer on down to Crookston the water was pretty swift, and it was quite a job breaking up the jams with peavies.

The low water on the Clearwater was on the rapids, which were especially rocky and shallow from Terrebonne to Red Lake Falls. We had to roll the logs over and over, and it was slow and expensive. It is ten miles by land and 20 miles by river from Terrebonne to Red Lake Falls. If we had enough rain it wasn't bad, but sometimes it was dry and we were hung up.

There was a sawmill at Red Lake Falls later on, and logs came to that mill from the Red Lake River. The Clearwater logs went to Crookston and Grand Forks. About 1900, after we moved into Red Lake Falls, I visited there, and it was booming and the sawmill had just started. There was also a big sawmill at St. Hilaire.

The Red Lake River is fairly wide, but crooked. As I remember, the water used to flow over the banks, and we had to use pike poles to get the logs out of the logans (where the water backs up in a depression alongside the river and doesn't move.) If a log gets in a place like that, it has to be poled out. We kept ourselves out of the water by walking logs, and boats or big bateaus would come along to pick up the men. Sometimes we carried a knapsack with food on our backs. If we fell into the water, we would have "mush" and would have to eat it.

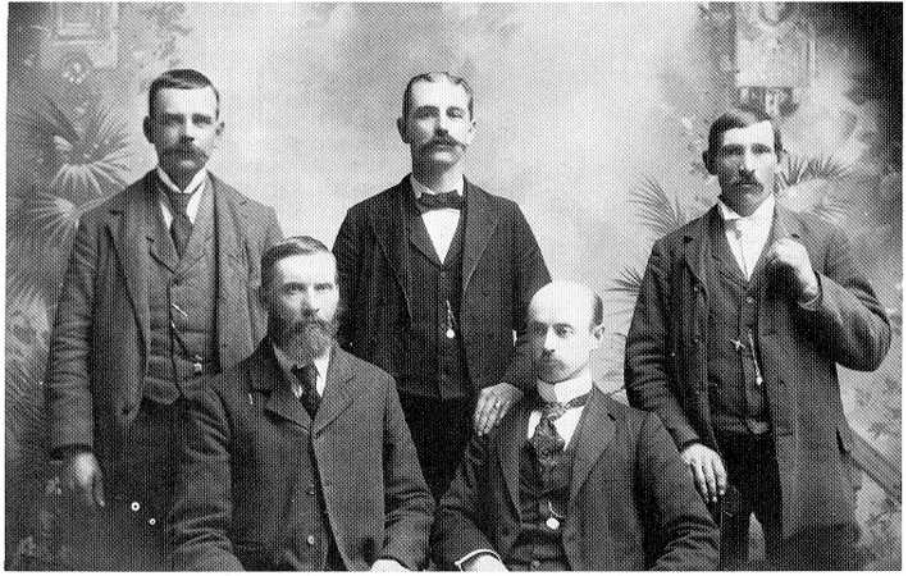
I think that logging on the Clearwater wound up around 1908. I worked with logs until 1911 or so. At that time things were pretty well cleaned up and there wasn't anymore driving to speak of. It was also about that time they closed the mills at St. Hilaire and at Thief River Falls.



Wannigan going over the dam in Red Lake Falls.

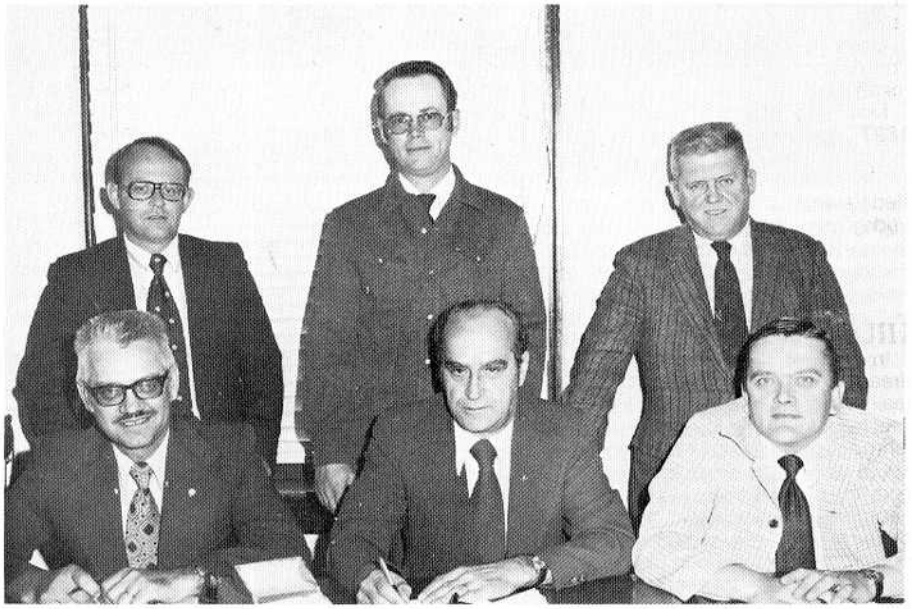


Logs on the Clearwater River.



First Board of County Commissioners

Standing: W. C. Demann, second district; Samuel Gibeau, fifth district; Swan Anderson, third district. *Seated:* Ole J. Johnson, third district; K. M. Hanson, fourth district.



Present Board of County Commissioners.

Standing: David Kankel, Auditor; Orrin Linder, third district; Irving Beyer, first district. *Seated:* Donald Gagner, Fourth District; Neil Prenevost, second district; Russell Huotari, fifth district.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

Committee appointments for members of the board of commissioners for 1976.

County Law Enforcement: All Members, **County Social Service (Welfare):** All Members, **Hill Crest Nursing Home Board:** All Members, **County Finance Committee:** All Members, **Ditch Committee:** All Members, **Road and Bridge Committee:** All Members, **Regional Corrections Committee:** Beyer and Prenevost, **Regional Corrections Center Committee:** Beyer and Prenevost, **Courthouse Committee:** Prenevost, Huotari and Gagner, **Regional Planning Commission:** Beyer, **County Extension Board:** Beyer and Linder, **County Purchasing Committee:** Beyer, **County Planning Commission:** Beyer, **County Board of Health:** Beyer and Prenevost, **Solid Waste Disposal Board:** Prenevost, **Northwest Mental Health Center:** Prenevost, **Northwest Resource Conservation and Development Project Council:** Beyer, **Northwest Tuberculosis Outpatient Clinic Board:** Prenevost, **Region A Criminal Justice Council:** Houtari, **Inter-County Home Health Service Board:** Gagner, **Inter-County Community Council:** Gagner, **Northwest Council on Alcohol and Drug Problems:** Gagner, **City/County Airport Zoning Board:** Gagner, **Red Lake/Polk Joint Drainage Board:** Beyer, Gagner and Linder, **Pennington/Red Lake Joint Drainage Board:** Beyer, Gagner and Linder.

The County Auditor serves as an ex-oficio member and secretary of the County Board. Committee assignments are Secretary of the Extension Board, County Purchasing Committee, County CETA administrator, Secretary of the Joint Drainage Boards for Red Lake and Polk Counties, Member of the Personnel Committee of the Association of Minnesota Counties, member of the Minnesota County Auditors election Committee and Chairman of the Regional Corrections Center Finance Committee.

Red Lake Falls, Minn., Dec. 26, 1896. Meeting of county commissioners for the purpose of organizing the county of Red Lake, of Minnesota.

In accordance with a proclamation issued on the 24th day of Dec. 1896, by the Hon. D. M. Clough, Governor of the state of Minnesota the petition for the creation of Red Lake county, filed with Secretary of State May 8, 1896, to wit: Samuel Gibeau, Karl M. Hanson, Ole J. Johnson, Swan Anderson and Wm. C. L. Demann, having been first duly served with certificate copies of said proclamation and having duly taken the oath of office met on the above named date and effected said organization by first electing Karl M. Hansen as clerk of the board of County Commissioners and Samuel Gibeau as chairman.

It was moved by Swan Anderson and carried to rent rooms of Union Club for temporary quarters not exceeding three months at $1.00 per month. Chairman appointed Anderson, Hansen and Demann committee to purchase necessary supplies.

Balloting for county officers resulted in the unanimous choice of the board as follows: Auditor, W. T. Mullarkey. Thief River Falls. Treasurer, M. A. Hatton. Terrebonne. Register of Deeds, Swan A. Swanson, Black River. County Attorney, C. E. Boughton, Red Lake Falls. Supt. of Schools, Frank Jeffers. Terrebonne. County Surveyor, P. O. Hagglund River Falls. Coroner, Joseph Belaire, Red Lake Falls.

Division of county into commission districts.

FIRST DISTRICT: Louisville, Polk Center, Black River, Bray Numedal. SECOND DISTRICT: Red Lake Falls village and township Lake Pleasant. THIRD DISTRICT: Roxbury, River Falls, Gervais, Emardville, Wyandotte, the fractional part of township 153, range 42 n.w. FOURTH DISTRICT: Sanders, Norden, North, City of Thief River Falls. FIFTH DISTRICT: Terrebonne. Popple River, township 151, range 41 west, township 151 range 40 west, fractional parts lying south of Clearwater river in township 152, range 50 west.

Bonds of the different county officers

were fixed as follows: Auditor, $7,000; treasurer, $20,000; register of deeds, $5,000; county attorney, $1,000; judge of probate, $1,000; court commissioner, $1,000; county surveyor, $500; coroner, $1,000. Board adjournment to meet at 7 p.m.

K. M. Hansen
Clerk of Board

Samuel Gibeau, chairman.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. In the absence of chairman Gibeau, Swan Anderson was chosen chairman pro tem.

Bond of county attorney approved, chairman Gibeau takes his place on the board.

Bonds of auditor and coroner approved. Board adjourned to Tuesday Dec. 29.

Red Lake Falls, Minn. Dec. 29, 1896. Board met pursuant to adjournment.

County auditor was authorized to purchase seal for county auditor, register of deeds, judge of probate and clerk of court.

Bond of S. A. Swanson was not approved on account of not being drawn correctly.

Adjourned to 4 p.m.

Board reconvened at 4:30 p.m.

The offer of Ed Hamery to furnish free court house and offices was laid on the table.

Moved that the fixing of salary of the county attorney be laid on the table till next meeting. Carried.

Moved to adjourn to Tuesday Jan. 5, 1897.

W. T. Mullarkey, county auditor.
Samuel Gibeau, chairman.

Red Lake County Journal
Friday, Jan. 1, 1897

HILLCREST NURSING HOME

In April, 1959, what had only been a dream and an idea to some, become a reality; construction was started on what was to be Hillcrest Nursing Home. The finishing date was scheduled for January, 1960, but as can happen with construction, the building was not completed until February. Hillcrest Nursing Home, owned by the county of Red Lake, was slated for opening March 1, 1960.

This type of structure was considered an ideal building for a nursing home. It was built on the site of the old Washington School with room for expansion. A one story structure, it was to be an easy building for the elderly to get around in and to get in to and out of. The original building consisted of resident rooms to house forty-three individuals (20 double rooms, 3 single), kitchen area, laundry area, and a combination dining room — living room.

At its inception, Charles Stephens, Welfare Director, together with his board of directors (who also serve as the nursing home board) made the developmental plans for Hillcrest. At this time the board consisted of: Irving Beyer, Adrian M. Brule, Arthur L. Christopherson, Bessie Gilbertson, Lloyd Green, Omer Houle and Sidney Kirk. Mrs. Earl Jensen become the first administrator of Hillcrest.

On March 1, 1960, at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Jensen welcomed the first resident to Hillcrest, Mrs. Anna Dupont. Mrs. Dupont, who had been a resident of Red Lake her entire life, had returned from a five year stay at St. Vincents Home in Crookston to her home community. Along with Mrs. Dupont nine other individuals were admitted that first day. Among these individuals were people who had to move from family and community in order to receive nursing home care. What a joy it must have been to them to return to their home community! It



Hillcrest Nursing Home

was not long before the forty-three bed home was filled to capacity as there had been a waiting list of thirty-seven prior to completion of the residence. At the time the home opened, Hillcrest provided jobs for 23 employees, both full and part-time.

As Hillcrest filled to capacity a need was recognized for expansion. To fill the immediate need two single rooms were made into double rooms so the home was able to house forty-five residents. But even with this change, it was realized that an addition was needed. Plans were begun to add a new wing. Involved in the planning were Mrs. Jensen, Administrator, Charles Stephens, Welfare Director; and the Hillcrest board of directors: Adrian M. Brule, Sidney Kirk, Mildred Melby, Arnold Person, Neil Prenevost, Pauline Purath, and Don Ste. Marie.

Construction of the new wing began in August 1966. Between the beginning and completion of the new wing Mrs. Jensen, who had been actively involved in the planning, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly.

Mrs. Joe Pinsonneault, who was serving as nursing supervisor, took on the additional job of administrator. In April of 1967 the new wing was completed with beds for 30 residents and a new activity room. As had been anticipated with the number of individuals seeking admission the new wing was quickly filled. At this time, with seventy-five residents, the nursing home had increased need for staffing. Hillcrest now employed fifty-two full and part-time area residents. With the recognized need for a full time nursing supervisor for the seventy-five bed residence a new administrator was hired in 1968. Mary Drees assumed this position August 12, 1968.

Hillcrest's tenth anniversary in 1970 was a special occasion. Open house was held on Sunday March 8, in honor of this anniversary. Administrator at this time was Hazel Perras who had accepted the position in November of 1969. The 10th anniversary was a good opportunity for residents of Red Lake county to come to the home and see how this county owned and operated facility was operating.

Again in 1975 an open house was held, this time in recognition of the 15th anniversary of Hillcrest's operation. Hillcrest was continuing to run at near capacity with a continued waiting list.

Today the story is the same. The home runs at near 100% capacity with a continuous waiting list. This nursing home definitely is meeting a real need of area residents. Since March, 1960 when Hillcrest first opened its doors the home has served as a residence for 366 individuals, primarily residents of Red Lake county. The average age of the residents is 80 years. In addition to serving a need for our elderly residents Hillcrest also offers numerous jobs for area residents. Since its opening, Hillcrest has grown and so has the number of employees. At present the home provides employment for 74 full and part-time area residents with an annual payroll in excess of $250,000.

Hillcrest has provided a number of services for its residents since it opened. There is round the clock nursing care provided to meet the nursing needs of the residents. There is also an activity department to provide for residents needs. When Hillcrest opened, the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) paid the salary for staffing this department. In January, 1969, the OEO funding terminated and Hillcrest had to face the question of hiring and staffing for the activity department from its own funds. Realizing the value of this department in assisting and encouraging the residents in various activities it was decided to fund the department and keep it in operation. Some of the jobs the activity department has are: operating the arts and crafts program, exercising and walking residents, planning activities (bingo, lake trips, scheduling programs by groups, etc.), writing letters for residents, and other jobs which meet various personal needs of the residents. Individuals are also employed in four other areas; dietary, housekeeping, maintenance and laundry. All the departments serve essential functions in the operation of the home.

At present Hillcrest is licensed by the Minnesota State Health Department and is certified by the medicare program to provide intermediate care. Being an intermediate care facility means that Hillcrest houses residents who require institutional care, which provides nursing care, to assist them in meeting their activities of daily living. To provide assistance in meeting the normal activities of daily living means a person needs assistance in one or more of the following areas: dressing, bathing, feeding and medication administration. Nursing care must be provided on a 24 hour basis in an intermediate care facility and a R.N. must be on staff as the nursing supervisor. The present nursing supervisor is Lorraine Pinsonneault, R.N. The present board of directors who see that Hillcrest continues to operate well and efficiently are: Irving Beyer, Donald Gagner, Russell Huotari, Orrin Linder, Donna Pahlen, Neil Prenevost, and Mildred Thorfinnson. The present administrator is L. W. Larson who has served in that position since April, 1972.

Dorothy Johanneck is one employee still at Hillcrest who has been there since the doors opened. She began as a nurses aide, became a charge nurses aide, and is now the activity coordinator. There are several other long term employees who have been with Hillcrest for a number of years. There are no longer any residents at the facility who were there when it opened. Anna Demarais is presently the long term resident and is also the oldest. She entered Hillcrest 11-25-1965, and she is 96 years of age.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

In the early days, law enforcement was handled entirely by constables in each township with no central law enforcement agency. With the sophistication of county services, rural police control was turned over to the county sheriff and later, to deputies. In the outlying villages of the county, village authorities handled their own police department within the limits of their communities. As of January 1, 1974, the county sheriff's department took over all the law enforcement in the county including the outlying villages in the county, thus eliminating local police departments. At the present time, Kermit Knutson is the sheriff of the county.

RED LAKE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Dunn Law adopted by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1913 was referred to the townships for adoption, was probably the first step towards the formation of county highway departments as known today.

Previously, the townships built and maintained all roads within their areas supported by township levies and poll taxes that required landowners labor horses and equipment as needed to build and maintain the roads for use. In 1913 it was a misdemeanor for the town to pay on contracts over $200.00 without having the approval of the assistant engineer of the state highway commission.

Today, a full time work force of sixteen employees is currently responsible for the maintenance and construction of 180 miles of State Aid Highways, 183 miles of County Aid Highways, and seven miles of Municipal State Aid Highways.

Over one-third of a million dollars is spent annually for the maintenance of the county highway system with another one-quarter million for new road and/or bridge construction.

The County Highway Department has an equipment fleet worth in excess of $210,000 in addition to facilities valued at over $60,000. The annual highway department payroll amounts to approximately $180,000.

Monte L. Berend, P.E., is the Red Lake County Highway Engineer, and Jerome A. Sauve, Assistant Engineer. Other employees in the department in 1976 are Larry Eckstein, survey crew inspector; Frank A. Schmidt, maintenance supervisor; Morris A. Most, Jr., engineering aid; Marion O. Keifenheim, accountant; Lawrence Waldal, shop mechanic; James DuChamp and Luaine Johnson, patrol operators; Lyle Knaack, sign man; Gerald Knott, Goodwin Kvasager and Donald Simonson, patrol operators; and Alpen Meyer, Lloyd Nelson and Jerome Schue, truck drivers.



Sheriff's Department: *Left to Right:* Dave Clements, Dick Hagen, Kermit Knutson, Esther Kankel, Duane Marcotte, Alan Morken, Dave Westerland, Dennis Henricks and Henry Thode.



Repairing the old Jefferson Highway at the Skala hill about 1915. Zaiser Brothers were the contractors.

AGRICULTURE IN RED LAKE COUNTY THE PAST 100 YEARS

Many changes have taken place in the county over the past 100 years and farming is no exception. Our first settlers were hardy souls that had some very trying times. Those residents that are old enough can remember some of their experiences and also have seen the many changes in farming methods.

The depression of the 30's took its toll and forced many farmers out of business. Many survived this ordeal as well as wars and other disasters.

Some areas where we have seen some drastic changes over the past years are mechanization, crop production and livestock production.

Mechanization — When we look at the large four wheel drive tractors and huge combines and trucks that haul 500 bushels of grain, it is hard to visualize doing all this work with human muscle and horses or oxen. The first settlers in Red Lake County came with a few simple farm tools, a team of horses or oxen, a wagon and a lot of determination. They had to be a hardy lot to last those first few cold winters. Many years and many gallons of sweat passed before we saw much change in the way farmers tilled the soil and earned a living.

In the early 1900's we began to see some mechanization taking place. The first steam engines and internal combustion tractors started to appear. Early models were very slow and awkward to operate. Also by this time large horse drawn implements were seen. Some plows and tillage implements required many horses to pull them. This meant that farms had several horses with some as many as 40-50 head. These were the large Bonazana Farms of the Red River Valley and the Dakotas.

Hand labor was still very important. Before horse drawn hay mowers came on the scene, the hay was cut by hand with the hand scythe. Grain was also cut by the scythe and tied in bundles then shocked to dry. As machines came on the scene some of the hand labor was reduced but farmers still had much hand work to do.

The amount of family labor available determined the size of many farms. Farms were much smaller then. This meant that many more families engaged in farming. This is evident by the large number of vacated building sites we now see around the countryside.

Crop Production — In crop production we've also experienced some drastic changes in the county. Perhaps not a lot of change in the type of crops, but in the amount of production. It wasn't until recent years that we saw agricultural chemicals used in large amounts. We now use chemicals to control insects, weeds, and diseases. In past years farmers lost many dollars each year due to pests and diseases.

County farmers remember the years grasshoppers and other pests wiped out their crops.

Farmers also had to contend with diseases such as rust that threatened their crops each year. Today, with new varieties that have disease resistance bred in and with the help of chemicals, farmers are able to produce more bushels per acre.

Commercial fertilizers have also made a tremendous impact on crop production in the county. The use of commercial fertilizers did not become real popular until the 1940's and 50's.

The acreage of many crops have changed over the years also. When work was done by hand and horses fewer acres could be planted. Farms were much more diversified in early years as each farm had livestock which required hay and certain kinds of grain for feed. Fewer acres were devoted to cash crops. Now farms are specialized to a larger extent with many farmers having no animals.

Livestock Production — Livestock numbers have declined very rapidly over the past 30 years. Early settlers had all classes of livestock on their farms. Cows were kept for milk, butter and for meat. Sheep were kept for meat and wool, which was spun into yarn by the housewife. Hogs were kept for meat and lard, chickens were kept for meat and eggs and horses were kept for draft purposes and transportation. Only excess animals were sold. Farmers did not have the large numbers of animals we now see on some specialized farms. Excess milk was sold in towns or fed to young animals. Housewives churned cream into butter and sold it to merchants in the towns.



Threshing scene about 1900

As mechanization began to appear horse numbers declined and as modern transportation appeared farmers changed to more specialized types of animal production. Large dairy herds began to appear, as did large poultry production units and beef herds.

Milk could be processed so it could be transported great distances without spoiling.

County Fairs and Livestock Shows were a very popular way for county residents to display their animals. In the early 1900's, 1910's and 1920's livestock shows were very popular throughout the midwest. In looking back at old records we see that over 450 birds were exhibited at the annual Poultry Show at Plummer in 1919. The County Fairs brought large numbers of purebred horses, cattle, sheep and hogs.

The quality animal grown has also changed to a certain extent. Hogs grown in the early 1900's were very fat and showed poor meat quality by today's standards. We must remember that lard was in demand in early days, so that's what was grown. Beef animals also were short and thick bodied with a lot of fat, here again tallow was in demand. Today we have little demand for fats and therefore the trend to meatier animals with less waste.

Truly farming has changed a great deal in the past 100 years and we look back at old pictures and read articles about farming we see some drastic changes. What changes will we see in the next 100 years? Anyone care to project ahead for 2076.

Blake Peterson, County Agent

RED LAKE COUNTY FAIR AND FAIR BOARD



Red Lake County Fair Grounds at Red Lake Falls 1914.

Imagine, if you will, a fairground complete with a covered grandstand, mile horse racing track and a hexagon shaped dancing pavilion.

It was here in Red Lake Falls.

As early as 1902, the county fair was very much in vogue with the elaborate festivities well planned by the Red Lake County Agricultural Society. Fairs were generally held in the fall but gradually the date was moved up to July in later years.

The date of the erection of the fairground buildings remains oblivious. The site was located north of the present Detroiter Mobile Home plant. The exact time of the destruction of the grandstand and pavilion is also unknown, though their demise is known to have been caused by a severe windstorm which struck the area sometime between August, 1939 and August, 1941.

If the turf were lifted, one could unearth the remains of an especially fine oval dirt race track, which, in its grander days was the best in Northwest Minnesota.

The large covered grandstand stood on the long side of the track facing east. Entrance was from the back. Concession stands were located underneath the stands as one came in. Not only were refreshments served, but the stand was used as a first-aid center and as a rest room for mothers with small children.

The far western side of the grounds had a row of box stalls for the race horses connected to a huge cattle and horse barn. There were other barns for sheep, hogs and poultry.

The hexagon shaped pavilion sat southwest of the track; the center of its domed top was made of glass.

Many a big name swooned and crooned from the center of the hexagon, the dancers surrounding them. During the county fairs, crop exhibits and homemakers entries were housed there. The pavilion was also used in the city's July 4 celebrations.

After the windstorm, date unknown, smashed the wood grandstand and wrecked the pavilion beyond repair, Adrian Brule took the pavilion's dome home and used it for a chicken coop.

Of course, the excitement of the horse, buggy and car races attracted fairgoers like nothing before. Races are thought to have continued at least through the early twenties. After the races stopped, the interest in the fairs waned and the Agricultural Society laid dormant for several years.

In 1936, the introduction of 4-H program revived spirited competition. At that time 4-H Achievement Days began. The old fairgrounds were used for livestock judging from the grandstand. This was so the comments of the judges could be heard plainly. The interest in 4-H sprouted increasingly each year and the need for exhibit room was met by the new Community Hall. Later, the animals were shown and housed in a small building at the present fairgrounds.

The old tow mill building was used for a few years during early fifties but the idea was not successful as the Fair Board, as it



Display at State Fair 1912. Clara Berg, Lena Tischart, Agna La Fontaine.

came to be known, found it too expensive to repair the big structure.

In 1955, 10 lots were purchased south of Bottineau Avenue along the Clearwater riverside by the Fair Board. The first quonset building was erected in 1960 for 4-H exhibits, a second quonset housed the livestock. A third pole shed, also used for animals, is rented to the city. The sports area, rented from the city, houses open class exhibits, a concession stand and grandstand, and business booths.

John Glass has the distinction of serving the longest as president of the Fair Board. He was first elected in 1961 and serves today.

Current Fair Board officers, in addition to Glass, are Vice President, Leslie Flage; Secretary, William Peterson; Treasurer, Clarence Reep and Assistant Secretary, Glenyce Eskeli. Directors are Blake Peterson (County Agent), Mary Drees, Debbie DuChamp, Lori Gjerdingen, Don Ste. Marie, Ernest Derosier, Erwin Weiss and Phil Cuno.

HOMEMAKERS CLUBS

Red Lake County homemakers have seen many changes in the past 100 years. The supermarket scene is a feast compared to the meager larder of the pioneer homemakers. The typical early family ate out of a stew pot and supplied most of what went into the pots by their own efforts of farming, fishing and hunting and foraging in the wild.

The hard fact that our ancestor's diet was usually drab and sometimes skimpy runs counter to cherished romantic notions about the bounty of the past. When we think of early American meals, visions of the sumptuous Thanksgiving or Christmas tables often come to mind. This vision is valid for few, since the wealthy class made up only a small fraction of the population.

In rural areas like Red Lake County, people depended on their own resources for food. Their diet varied with the seasons, with their success in raising crops and livestock, and with the availability of food in the wild. At best, the quantity was abundant, while variety was almost totally lacking.

Early cooking was done entirely at an open hearth. The first American cookstove was cast in 1765, but only the very rich could buy one. Many of our grandmothers might remember the first cookstove, but most likely they remember using the large iron cooking pot.

Cooking was one of the main projects for the early Homemaking Clubs in Red Lake County. Sew and Save Homemakers was the first club and it was organized by Mrs. Tom Dennistoun in 1934. The women met in the various homes and exchanged recipes. Quite often a whole meal was prepared and the women spent the afternoon crocheting or knitting. They also did many hand crafted items and these patterns were exchanged. Later on in the year their projects were displayed at the fair.

The time spent doing housework in the 1920s averaged 52-56 hours per week. It is interesting to note that these are longer hours than those spent by people in the labor force today. American women have so many labor saving devices that they spend less time doing housework! Have you heard that statement? "Because homes have so many labor saving devices women have time on their hands and can join organizations, do volunteer work, or join the labor force" — or so say the soothsayers.

It is true that most of the labor saving appliances have come on the market in the last 50 years. It is true that the birth rate has declined causing a drop in the time spent with the physical care of children. Actually there is little difference in the time spent today and in the twenties! When women once spent time in producing food and clothing, today the time is spent in shopping and managerial tasks have increased, as has the time spent in child care. Less time is spent on food preparation and cleanup. No change in time on general house care has occurred. Laundry is less laborious, but wash and wear fabrics brought more clothing to be washed and have changed the standards of cleanliness, so today's women have more loads of laundry to do per week.

More time spent in child care reflects the change in the meaning of child care. In the 1920s child care usually meant the physical care, while today, mental and social care are also included. Time has increased in hours spent in shopping, household management, and transportation which is needed to carry out other tasks.

The big change today is the time spent by women in the labor force. Employed homemakers spend 26 hours per week in comparison to the 55 hours per week of nonemployed women. Other studies suggested that efficiency in household tasks could be sharpened and thus cut time by at least 25 per cent. This seems to say that all families might take a better look at what they are doing and try to improve work habits.

Most pioneer housewives had many chores besides cooking: The fire had to be built and tended, bread baked, cows milked, butter churned, vegetables picked and cleaned, animals dressed and cut up and so on. There was no time for preparing fancy or complicated dishes. Nearly everything for a meal went into the one large kettle and was cooked together. This is where we get the modern idea of a crockpot.

Home canning took a lot of time and the methods were not very safe. Everything was done in a boiling water bath, some jars were put in canning cupboards. Each jar was wrapped in paper to prevent the exploding jars from breaking the other canned goods when they were stored. A lot of spoilage occurred and many deaths were reported from eating bad food. Today we have the modern conveniences of pressure cookers that cut canning time down to a mere 15-20 minutes. This is in comparison to 3-4 hours of boiling.

Butchering was another seasonal job that had to be done in the fall after the first freeze. The meat was kept in freezers above the ground (to keep out animals) and it had to be eaten before spring when it would thaw out. Wax paper and newspapers were placed between the slabs of meat to prevent a temperature variation. If the spring came early, the meat had to be canned to prevent spoilage during the warm weather. Smoked meat was put in the granary and covered with grain to preserve the flavor and the grain absorbed excess moisture.

Ice houses were also used to store the meat during the winter. The blocks were cut from the lake and covered with sawdust which acted as an insulator. Then during the fourth of July the remaining ice was used to cool beverages and watermelon and finally used to make ice cream for a treat.

The first annual Homemakers Achievement Day was held May 1, 1952 at the Plummer Community Hall. The Home Demonstration agent (extension Home Economist now) was Barbara Curlette. The achievement day was similar to what we have now. Our program has expanded though. Now most of the 14 clubs provide entertainment. The first time just one or two people gave readings and there was a special speaker just as we have now.

The achievement night acted as a catalyst setting off the programs for the following year. These included salad and buffet meals, wills and descent of property, Christmas wrappings, parliamentary procedure, and trims for the ready made look.

The achievement programs have continued throughout the years. Now we also have a Christmas party and a pioneer day on the agenda for the homemakers in the county. Another change from the begin-



Agriculture extension work project at Brooks 1922.

ning clubs is that the clubs are organized into groups by women with common interests. The first clubs were organized by townships. This is advantageous because now the women can join together on common grounds.

The homemakers clubs are still interested in many of the same things such as hand crafted items and foods. Yet, today's woman is also interested in pricing, energy conservation and legislation. Red Lake County women have come a long way since the first group of homemakers met and they will continue to do so.

There are 176 women involved in homemakers clubs in the county and the clubs are The Busy Janes, Buzzin Dozen, Friendly Circle, Holly Hock, Home and Hobby, Lake Pleasant, Learn 'N Do, M.E.M., M.N.O., Sew and Save, Silent Partners, The Merry Go Rounds and the Wacky Homemakers.

The Red Lake County Home and Community Committee is similar to our Home Council now. The first Home and Community chairwoman was Mrs. John Glass and other officers were Vice Chairwoman, Mrs. T. M. Dennistoun, Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Lawrence Stone. Club presidents at that time were Mrs. Paul LaVoie, Mrs. Russell Zimpel, Mrs. Arnold Person, Mrs. Lloyd Philion, Mrs. Walter Audette, Mrs. George Gagnon and Mrs. Mervin Hyde.



A meeting of the Sew and Save Homemakers Club in 1939, first club organized in the county in 1934 by Mrs. Tom Dennistoun.

4-H CLUBS

4-H was founded in 1914 by T. A. "Dad" Erickson on a farm in southern Minnesota. The purpose of 4-H was to give children a chance to express themselves in projects that would help the community and themselves. The farm children could work with their gardens, animals and study the crops on farms. The children living in town could work with their gardens, house pets and craft items. The idea of a 4-H fair came about and soon it was established that once a year the 4-H ers would meet to display their projects and their animals. Some of the first clubs were all "girl" or all "boy" clubs and they specialized in areas like sewing or animals. Gradually the club intermingled and now the clubs have a mixture of town and country children and boys and girls. 4-H offers many trips and awards for those who are willing to work for them. The opportunities are wide open.

The creed of the 4-H clubs: I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living for my home, my club, my community, my country and my world.

There are 243 youngsters enrolled in the 4-H program in Red Lake County and the clubs are: Busy Bees, Clearwater Scramblers, Equality Hustlers, Garnes Go Getters, Happy Go Lucky, Happy Hustlers, Hilltop Ramblers, Lake Pleasant, Lost River Ramblers, Louisville, Pembina Trail and Twin Rivers.

Serving on the Leaders Council are Janice Culkins, Steve Konickson, Pam Moran and Tita Witt and the directors are Mrs. Elmer Hanson and Mrs. Russell Gust.



4H Blue Ribbon Winners in 1942: Dalton Hofius, Delores Hinrichs, Kieran Whalen, Rita Hart, Beatrice Waldal, Alfred Hinrichs, Donald Rivard, Willard Purath, Vernon Berberich, Donald Ste. Marie, Beatrice Hamrum and Lou Ann Kopp.

DEVELOPEMENT OF ELECTRIC POWER

NORTHERN STATES POWER

On December 8, 1898, Marcus Johnson filed an acceptance to a five year franchise which granted him permission to erect, operate and maintain a small electric plant of sufficient size and capacity to furnish electric power to the city of Red Lake Falls solely for the purpose of lighting ten newly installed 1200 CP street lamps. The city agreed to pay Mr. Johnson at the rate of $80.00 per annum per lamp. Gas lighting was used prior to the advent of electric power.

In 1903, S. M. Sivertson, John Padden, E. W. Wheeler, Marcus Johnson and Mrs. E. F. Marshall, then owners of the Red Lake Milling Company, formed a Minnesota corporation for the purpose of establishing the Red Lake Falls Electric Company. The milling company operated a mill which was situated on exactly the site of the Red River Power Company's hydro plant. A small brick building divided into two compartments was built onto the mill in 1903. Two 100 HP hand fired boilers were installed to one compartment, and a 150 HP Corliss engine and 100 KW 1050 volts, 60 cycle, A.C. generator was installed in the generator room. Provisions were made to obtain water power by building a wheel house and installing therein a new 72 inch American Beauty 350 HP water wheel. A multiple rope drive served to connect the wheel with the line shaft in the generator room.

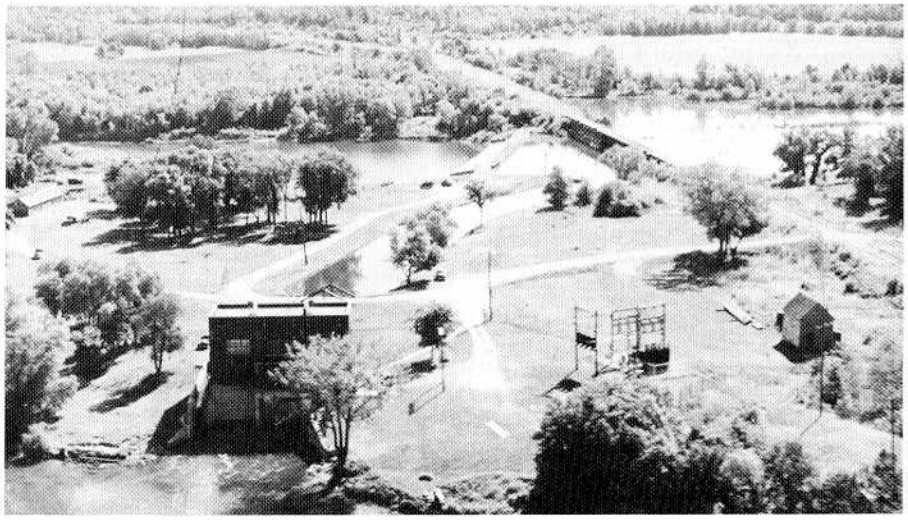
This new company obtained two five-year renewals of the original franchise granted to Mr. Johnson in 1898. However, an amendment to the original franchise in 1903 revoked the right of the city to purchase the plant and equipment belonging to Mr. Johnson for the sum of $2,800.00. A few months following the 1909 renewal, the milling company's mill burned. No serious damage was done to the boiler and generator rooms. The wheel house and rope drive were partially damaged and it was necessary to use the boilers to furnish power for generating purposes.

There was an immense amount of water in the river at that time and it is understood that W. J. Murphy, owner of the Grand Forks Gas and Electric Company, purchased the plant and damsite, together with the Healy damsite, in contemplation of an extensive water power development. The purchase was made, including considerable flowage land, sometime between the date of the fire and June 1910. Mr. Murphy gave the name of Red Lake Falls Water Power Company to the property and it became a subsidiary of the Red River Power Company. Soon after on June 11, 1910, a H. M. Byllesby acquired the Murphy properties and they were transferred to the Consumers Power Company in August 1910, the predecessor of Northern States Power Company (Minnesota.)

Residential lighting was provided (dusk to dawn) at twenty-five cents per month for eight candle power lamps, forty cents for sixteen power lamps, etc. Commercial lighting operated on a ten o'clock schedule at a slightly higher rate. A twelve o'clock schedule cost somewhat more, and only one eight candle power lamp for night lighting purposes was allowed each place of business without extra charge. The meter rate for the first 50 KWH per month started at eleven cents per KWH. Street lighting cost $90.00 per lamp per year for the first ten and a decreasing rate from there on. The Red Lake Falls Electric Company operated under this schedule until June 1910, at which time the Red River Power Company purchased the properties from Mr. Murphy. No revision in rates was made by this company until January 1912. In December 1911, an ordinance had been published which granted the company the necessary rights and privileges for the purpose of enlarging, operating and maintaining for a period of twenty-five years, an electric light plant in the city of Red Lake Falls. The franchise specified that this company shall not establish rates to exceed twelve cents per KWH for lighting purposes and ten cents per KWH for power purposes. The Red River Power Company was the first to establish continuous twenty-four hour service at Red Lake Falls. There was no day service prior to June 1910.

In 1922 there was a surge of expansion at Grand Forks, including extensive improvements in the distribution system. The 33,000 volt line to Crookston was extended in 1923 to Terrebonne. The remaining four and a half miles of line to Red Lake Falls had been completed early in December 1923. On December 30, the station at Red Lake Falls caught fire and was completely destroyed. Immediately after the fire at Red Lake Falls plans were made for the construction of a new hydro plant. Work was begun in the spring of 1924 and before the end of the year the new plant was in operation with a capacity of 600 kilowatts.

Mr. Cash Cartier of Red Lake Falls was in the employ of this company since 1913. E. W. Wheeler was local superintendent for the company here from 1910 to about 1920, at which time he was replaced by Mr. Cartier.



Northern States Power Plant

HISTORY OF THE RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pioneers with the foresight and courage to see the dire need for area farmers to have electricity led to the formation and incorporation of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative on July 30, 1938. They designated Red Lake Falls as the principal place of business. The original incorporators were: Fred Berberick, Erskine; Selmer A. Walhaug, Oklee; Octave Varin, Brooks; Victor Medchill, Plummer; and C. W. Beyer, M. F. Dailey, George Remick, and Joseph W. Ste. Marie, all of Red Lake Falls community. These men also constituted the first Board of Directors of the Cooperative. The authorized capital stock was $5,000.00 and ownership was invested in individual stockholders. The duration of the Cooperative was to be 35 years; however, it was later changed to be perpetual.

The incorporators of the Cooperative held their first meeting on July 8, 1938 in the court house in Red Lake Falls. Mr. Ste. Marie was named president, Mr. Beyer, vice-president, Mr. Berberick, secretary-treasurer. The group chose as its name the Red Lake County Electric Cooperative Association, later shortened to the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

In 1940 the Board of Directors increased the directorship to nine. George Remick of Red Lake Falls had the distinction of buying the first membership in the Cooperative.

In 1940 a group of farmers in Pennington County were being organized for a power cooperative of their own for Pennington County. This group had hoped to have a power contract with Northern States Power Company of Grand Forks, however this did not materialize and since the Pennington County group was unable to locate a satisfactory source of wholesale power it finally led to discussions with the Red Lake County group. A merger was proposed and the two groups consolidated forces to become the Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

The first annual meeting of the Cooperative was held on March 8, 1939 at the Community Hall in Red Lake Falls. The Cooperative had 253 members. The first ten names appearing on the registration list were those of: S. E. Hunt, V. E. Noper,

CARL KANKEL

A man whose memory evokes tender reminiscences in the minds of the wide world of people who knew him was Carl Kankel, the tall man in the stetson hat. The youngest sheriff ever elected, the riotous impersonator of "Hildegarde Gildensprung", the bakery truck man with sweet rolls for his young friends, the mellow voiced singer, thespian, skier, humorist — Carl was esteemed by all. He was many things to many people, but his qualities were universal. As a lawman, Carl's tact, compassion and fairness shone; as a civic leader his integrity, zeal and humor were unmatched. The spillovers of Carl's sensitivity, true concern and respect for young and old alike made him genuine, a man whose enemies were scarce.

Carl grew to manhood in Red Lake Falls and graduated from Lafayette High School in 1920. He was a big man, standing 6'3" in his stocking feet. Because of a weak heart, doctors sent him to a warmer climate when he was eighteen. He rode boxcars, punched cows in Texas, picked fruit in California and lumberjacked in Washington. When he returned via the rails to his home he worked for the Weiberg Bakery for a time. His reputation for giving treats to the children on his route was a favor never forgotten.

In 1930, Carl ran for Sheriff but was defeated by two other candidates in the primary election. Just prior to the general election in November, he and several friends enlisted the help of the youthful friends made during his "sweet roll" days to distribute stickers throughout the county. With their aid, he defeated his two opponents and became the youngest sheriff in the United States at the age of twenty-six.

In 1934, he married Esther Ness of Thief River Falls. Their first son, David, was born in 1935 and their second and last child, Charles, in 1939. Carl remained County Sheriff until 1943 when he left office to work on the ALCAN Highway. He returned home to assume operation of his father's interest in the Terrebonne Milling Company in 1944. With Joseph W. Ste. Marie operated the mill until it burned in July, 1954. He ran for sheriff again in the fall of 1954 and was elected, serving until his death on November 17, 1959, when he was stricken with a heart attack while walking home.

Throughout his life, Carl Kankel was a friend to all with whom he came in contact, having special affection for children and the elderly.

Carl's additions to local society were as expansive as his character. He served on the city council, was a scout master for many years, instigated the Red Lake Falls ski jumping club, helped build the slide at Terrebonne, and was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church.

Carl was a founder and a past president of the Red River Valley Peace Officers Association, attending every meeitng after its inception. In 1947 he was voted a life membership.



In or out of official life, Carl was a colorful character as witnessed by the following deeds:

*His unarmed capture of a murderer (he forgot his gun at home when called to the scene).

*His gun battle with fleeing burglars in Plummer in 1957. He was narrowly missed by flying bullets and the burglars were never caught.

*Notorious exhibitions of the ficticious character, "Hildegarde Gildensprung" — A skiing Scandinavian old maid who performed many odd stunts on the ski hills and jumps of northern Minnesota. The Minneapolis Tribune picked up his escapades in a feature article for this characterization.

*Dressed as a Tennessee frontiersman he publicly sang "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" to Estes Kefauver when the senator was running for the Democratic presidential nomination and campaigned in Red Lake County. He also served as county advertising chairman for Dwight D. Eisenhower when he ran for, and won, the Presidency.

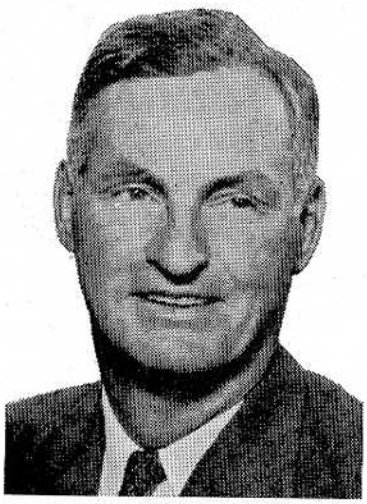
*Novelist Grace Chute's character, "Sheriff Olson", as portrayed in her novel and Saturday Evening Post serials, was based on Carl's personality and exploits through her correspondence and acquaintance with him.

*Once placed the following ad in the Red Lake Falls Gazette, "Baby carriage for sale — going out of business".

Carl Kankel was genuine and it was a rare man who didn't regard him as a friend, even those who came to have "brushes with the law".



ELECT
CARL A. KANKEL



Two More Payments and These Teeth Will Be Mine

Red Lake County Sheriff

YOUR SUPPORT IN THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE APPRECIATED

POLITICAL ADV.—Prepared and circulated by Carl A. Kankel, Red Lake Falls, Minn. in his own behalf.

BLIZZARD OF 1941

The worst storm in the history of the Northwest struck this section Saturday night with the speed of a streamlined express train making up lost time.

Hundreds of people from the country and surrounding communities were in Red Lake Falls and their cars were lined up along Main street and the side streets. When the storm struck with all its fury nobody was foolhardy enough to risk leaving the city and many of those who were uptown did not even attempt to go home.

The schools at Red Lake Falls, Plummer and Oklee were closed all day Monday as a consequence and practically all the rural schools were likewise closed.

The main state aid and county highways were opened by Monday night.

Over the snow-white reaches of storm-swept Minnesota and North Dakota tireless searchers came Monday night nearly to the end of their tragic task of counting the death toll from Saturday's devastating storm, the worst in the history of this area.

With seeming reluctance the white-mantled countryside yielded body after body all through Monday as hundreds of grim-visaged men with long probing iron rods worked their way carefully over the stretches that might hold the tomb of another helpless victim.

But the end of telling the toll seemed at hand Monday night when twilight found the total dead set at 78 in the two states and 8 in nearby Canada — 39 of the fatalities in North Dakota, 29 in Minnesota.

Many who lived through the storm, out on the open prairie in marooned motor cars and other precarious shelters said it was beyond their powers of description.

So great was the velocity of the wind — from 60 to 70 miles, with measured gusts in Grand Forks topping 80 — that it was almost impossible to make any headway through the storm.

Snow and dirt, lashed by the thundering wind, choked to death many victims, or caused them to drop exhausted, far from their intended paths, there to slowly freeze to death as the snow swept in a grave-like mound over their bodies.

It had been a comparatively mild afternoon that day, and the surge of Saturday shopping had drawn many farm residents from their homes into nearby cities and towns. Many of the dead were recruited from that number.

A light snow and temperatures hardly under freezing had marked the early evening in this section. A southern breeze gave promise of a pleasant evening, except for the warning of the weather bureau that a "much colder" wave was due in the night.

Then, suddenly, the storm struck. Through the falling snow the wind shook itself with sudden energy, twisting from the south to the north as though a switch had been thrown in some gargantuan tunnel where winds are made. And with it all temperatures dropped sharply to below zero in two hours.

Out of the north the howling wind came, first like some distant roar of airplanes, blasting its way with mounting intensity across northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota as it swept down from the Canadian border.

It was only a matter of minutes before visibility was nil. Anyone in the open found breathing difficult, so great was the force of the dirt and snow laden wind. Automobiles on highways choked up with snow, their ignition fouled, gave up and generally were abandoned.



Red Lake Falls Main Avenue after a blizzard.

It was to those who left their cars that death came quickest. Others caught on foot on route between farms — however close — found travel unsuited even for the hardiest; even in cities and town, death took its toll as hearts not too strong were forced to surrender.

There was tragedy in it all — tragedy and bravery. Men and women alike fought to defeat the savage storm; even children accepted challenge, only to find their strength unequal to their courage.

Pathetic were the tales of the many who died just short of succor. Some had battled through the storm to within yards of home or other shelter only to have the storm swerve them from their course, and set them wandering helplessly until death overtook them.

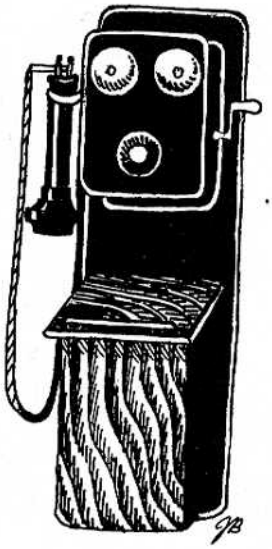
Gazette March 20, 1941.

ASCS OF RED LAKE COUNTY

The Agriculture Adjustment Act approved by Congress in 1933 supported the price of farm products and readjustments to demand. Loans were initiated as temporary measures to give farmers in advance some of the benefits to be derived from controlled production, to relieve market glut at harvest time, and stimulate farm purchasing power as part of the overall program.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of Red Lake County is the present program meeting the agricultural needs of supply and demand. For over forty years, price support and adjustment programs have had an important impact upon the farm and national economy. Consumers have consistently had a reliable supply of farm products for a smaller proportion of their income. Farmers have been assured of at least specified minimum prices for their products. The legislation and resulting programs have been modified to meet varying conditions of depression, war and prosperity, and have sought to give farmers, in general, the opportunity to attain economic equality with other segments of the economy.

The county committee has three members elected by local farmers to administer the programs: Vern Wavra, Orlo Lintvet and Ralph Berg. James Holen is the county executive director.



GARDEN VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY

The Garden Valley Telephone Company purchased the Red Lake Falls and St. Hilaire exchanges from Mrs. Kundert on February 7, 1940. I believe the Kundert Telephone property was called the Red Lake Telephone Company. At that time the President of Garden Valley was Mr. J. O. Melby of Oklee. The General Manager was Thomas Vollom.

In the spring of 1945 an ice jam smashed a submarine cable near the highway bridge in Red Lake Falls, isolating the North side. The same year a vicious wind storm tore down a pole line in town and up ended the cross arm line between Red Lake Falls and Terrebonne.

The first P.B.X. (Public Branch Exchange) switchboard installed by Garden Valley was placed in the Smith Paper Company plant about this time, a cordless 16 line board.

The exchanges and outside plant in Red Lake County owned by Garden Valley were rebuilt with REA funds and converted to dial in the mid 1950's.

The exchanges of Oklee and Plummer were purchased by Garden Valley from the Clearwater Farmers Telephone Company about 1913. The Garden Valley exchange at Brooks was removed in the early 1930's as a result of the depression.

Demand for better communication service required Garden Valley to expand service facilities and buried cable plant replaced pole line in the Red Lake Falls exchange in the 1960's. An exchange was again installed at Brooks with all weather plant facilities.

Garden Valley expects to let a contract on the buried rural plant in the Oklee exchange shortly. The Plummer exchange area is also planned for rural and all exchange one-party service.

RED LAKE FALLS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The Red Lake Falls Rural Fire Protection Association was formed in late 1953. Each township in the Association paid in $100.00 to start the organization. The purpose of the Association was to provide better protection in the rural areas against fires and other emergencies. The first board consisted of Harold Busse, Harry Beadles, Eugene Grenier, John Glass, Eli St. Ives, Oliver Flage, Irv Beyer, Cliff Longtin, and Lawrence Fournier. Of the original members, John Glass is the only one still on the Board. The first fire truck was purchased in November of 1953. The city firemen manned the truck and housed it in the city hall.

The Association is financed by a mill rate assessed against each township according to assessed valuation. Our second truck was purchased in 1974 and the city paid for half of it. In case of a severe fire there is an agreement with the fire department of nearby cities. The most severe fires so far encountered were the school fires at Brooks and Plummer, both started by Halloween pranksters.

The present board consists of John Glass, president, Paul Grandbois, vice president, Leslie Flage, secretary-treasurer, Tom Gagner, Vic Gabor, Clarence Vatthauer, Henry Wieland, John Mead and Vaughn Thorfinnson. There are two general meetings each year, and a special meeting after the annual town elections.

RED LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Red Lake County Historical Society was organized and held its first meeting on August 3, 1948. The first officers were Bernice Orr, president; Julian Johnson, vice president; Elbert Larvik, secretary; and Mrs. Oscar Lovaas, treasurer. Others present at this meeting were William Malwitz, George Christie, Horace Cutten, Mr. and Mrs. James Casey, Oscar Lovaas, Samuel Lovaas, and George Orr. The guest speaker was Arch Grahn, field director for the Minnesota State Historical Society. Another guest was T. M. McCall, superintendent of the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston.

The purpose of the Society was to preserve the heritage of the area and to protect historical landmarks and artifacts of interest to the county. The start was good, but interest lagged and it was decided to disband the organization in April of 1951. Treasury funds amounting to $52.60 were given to the 4-H Leaders Council.

With the approach of the Minnesota Centennial celebration in 1958, a County Centennial Commission was organized and evidently included a reactivated Historical Society because minutes of June 1957 refer to the Red Lake County Centennial Commission and Historical Society. Orlo Melby was the president and Irene Hance, secretary.

Following the Centennial celebration, no further meetings were held until November 1971 when the Red Lake County Historical Society was reactivated for the second time and nine directors elected: Orlo Melby, Rev. Gerald Foley, Anne Healy, J. A. Hughes, Al Buse, Noella Audette, Dorothymae Dodds, Lester Flage and John Corbid. Arch Grahn of the State Historical Society was again present to help the organization, also T. W. Thorson, president of the Polk County Historical Society.

In July 1973, the Society sponsored a tour and visits to Cyr Cemetery, the Indian mounds, site of the original trading post, and the Pierre Bottineau homestead.

Present officers are Lester Flage, president; Sherry Kankel, treasurer; and Noella Audette, secretary. Members on the board of directors are Joyce Jahnke, Al Buse, Lloyd Philion, Rev. Gerald Foley, Tom Melby and Dorothy Dodds. Representing the county on the board of directors of the Red River Valley Historical Society are Anne Healy and J. A. Hughes.

RED LAKE COUNTY FARMERS UNION

The Red Lake County Farmers Union was established in the early forties. Some of the early locals organized were the Riverside-Educational local, Louisville, Red Lake Falls at large, Plummer, Brooks, and Oklee. Later Riverside-Educational, Louisville, and Red Lake Falls at large were united and became the Red Lake Falls local.

One of the first presidents was William Cassavant. The vice president was Chester Gauthier and the secretary-treasurer was Lorena La Coursiere. Except for a short time when Clarence Newcomer was president, William Cassavant was president until 1951 when Alvin Fore was elected. Alvin Fore is still the president at this time. Leslie Flage is the present vice president and Mrs. Oscar Lunke is the present secretary-treasurer. For a number of years the secretary-treasurer was appointed but was later elected at the County Convention. Mrs. Jean Pastir was appointed Educational and Junior Leader in 1950, and the present Education Director is Mrs. Sidney Myhre, and the Junior Leader is Mrs. Bernice Johnson.

NATIONAL FARMERS ORGANIZATION

"Promoting the family farm and a healthy rural Community; a healthy Agriculture, and a prosperous Country — to this end we are sincerely dedicated." Our goal: Cost of production plus a reasonable profit for farmers through Collective Bargaining for Agriculture.

The Red Lake County chapter of the National Farmers Organization held its charter meeting on December 7, 1962 in Plummer under the supervision of Hobart Gundy, first organizer and field staff member to work in this area. The first officers elected at this meeting were Henry Knott, Sr., chairman; Herb Walter, vice chairman; Edward Schmitz, Sr., secretary; and John Ulrich, treasurer. Mrs. Robert Miller was acting secretary.

The first annual meeting of the Red Lake County NFO was held in January 1963. Irving Beyer was elected chairman and served for three years. Herb Walter was elected vice chairman; Edward Schmitz, Sr., secretary; and John Ulrich, treasurer, and still holds that office. Sylvester Johanneck was elected chairman in 1966 and held that position for eight years. It was during his term of office that members began block selling of their production. Leonard Boucher was his vice chairman, later Les Foldoe and later Robert Harmoning. LaVern Knott served as secretary for six years until 1971 when Mrs. Roger (Barbara) Harmoning was elected and still holds that position.

Orville Knott became chairman in 1973 and Calvin Harmoning in 1975. Evelyn Johanneck has taken charge of publicity work and publication of the newsletter. The Red Lake County NFO participated in the meat holding action in 1964, the milk holding action in 1967, and the all-commodity action in 1968.

Christ Engen, John Funnesdahl, and V. E. Copp, all of Thief River Falls, and George Remick, Joe Ste. Marie, J. B. Dufault, Omer Houle, and John Kuiper all of Red Lake Falls. E. E. Hill was elected president of the Board of Directors and Carl Swanson was named vice-president, and Stephen Singer, secretary-treasurer. The directors were C. W. Beyer and Joseph W. Ste. Marie, George Remick, J. G. Newland, and Mons Engelstad.

The engineering firm of Ellerbe and Company of St. Paul was voted as the project engineer and Ralph H. Lee of Red Lake Falls became the project attorney. Charles E. Boughton also served as project attorney until 1970 at which time he retired from active practice.

On February 20, 1939 the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington, D.C. announced that a loan had been approved for the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. On June 11, 1940, bids were opened for the construction of distribution lines in Red Lake, Pennington, Polk and Marshall counties. The bid letting was to cover approximately 238 miles of line in the four county areas.

The next big problem was the availability of a suitable source of wholesale power at a rate that would enable the Cooperative to remain solvent. This seemed to be solved when the Cooperative became associated with the Minnkota Power Cooperative of Grand Forks, ND. On October 18, 1940 ground breaking ceremonies were held at Grand Forks for the construction of the power plant for Minnkota Power which eventually became the source of power for the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. S. E. Hunt of Thief River Falls represented the Red Lake Electric Cooperative on the Board of Directors of the Minnkota Power Cooperative at that time.

In November of 1940 only 20 miles of line remained to be done to complete the first section of the project. The next problem was the individual house wiring of the farm consumers. Only 63 farms out of 400 were reported to be wired at this time.

On March 14, 1941 the transmission line was finally energized. The first home to be electrified was that of Dona Rivard of the Terrebonne area and Roy Logan's home was electrified a short time later.

E. F. Kiland of Willmar, Minnesota was named as the first project superintendent in January 1940. He served until 1942 when he was appointed rural mail carrier of Red Lake Falls and he was then succeeded by Orville J. Overmoen who served until 1957. Charles M. Kleven of Grand Forks became manager in 1957 and is the present manager of the Cooperative.

In 1946 the directors increased the capital stock of the Cooperative $25,000.00, dividing the amounts into 5000 shares at the par value of $5.00 each. The same year directors were elected to serve a term of three years, two years, and one year. The purpose of this was to provide for a three year term for the Board of Directors.

President Carl Swanson who had served as president for eight years resigned in 1946 and was succeeded as president by Millard Dailey who continues to serve on the Board.

In April of 1947 at the annual membership meeting it showed that 270 miles of line had been constructed and 305 farms were connected as of that time.

One of the highlights of the Cooperatives history was recorded in 1949 when detailed plans and specifications were approved and accepted for a headquarters building. Bids were opened for the construction of the building and the building was completed on December 16, 1949. An open house was held on February 7, 1950. At this time the building ranked as one of the finest in the area and was proven that the Cooperative had become a success.

Millard F. Dailey of Red Lake Falls holds the distinction of having been one of the original incorporators and still serving on the Red Lake Electric Cooperative Board. In addition to being an officer and director of the Cooperative he also serves as an officer and director on the Board of the Minnkota Power Cooperative, Grand Forks, ND.

At this date the Board is composed of Leonard Melin, president; Helmer Lind, vice-president; Millard Dailey, secretary-treasurer. The directors are Manvel Moe, Norman Dufault, Verner Arveson, Raymond Parnow, Richard Weiss, Lanis Karel. The Cooperative attorney is Jaroslav Kruta of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota and the consulting engineer is the K. B. MacKichan Company of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Past directors of the Cooperative were Joseph F. Skala, Lars M. Larson, John L. Radniecki, Joseph Brunelle, Stanley Radniecki, Fred M. Berberich, C. W. Beyer, S. A. Walhaug, George Remick, Joe W. Ste. Marie, Octave Varin, Victor Medchill, E. E. Hill, Carl Swanson, Stephen Singer, J. G. Newland, Mons Engelstad, S. E. Hunt, Wilfred Brunelle, Leonard Erickson, Oscar Lovaas, Emil Anderson, Henry Paul, Gunnuf Gunnestenson, Matt Gerardy, Albert Gagner, V. E. Coop, H. I. Finstad, John Isaacson, Arthur C. Rude, Einar Edwards, and Emil Dyrud.

The Cooperative has 24 permanent employees: Charles M. Kleven is the Cooperative Manager, Edwin Etterman, Office Manager; Vincent Schmitz, Line Superintendent; Lester Keifenheim, Power Use Advisor and Salesman. As of December 31, 1974 the Cooperative served 4052 member consumers on 2353 miles of line. Total kilowatt hour sales for the year was over 50 million. The total assets of the Cooperative was $3,863,651.00 and total plant value was $4,983,220.00 making it a substantial investment in the area.

Talk to the old timers and they will tell you what it was like to be without the comforts of lights, plumbing and labor saving devices which electric power provides.

The dedication and help of many past and present member consumers and leaders have pioneered this program. The future generations must continue in their efforts to maintain the contributing factor the cooperative has been to the growth and progress of the area it serves.

OTTER TAIL ELECTRIC POWER — RED LAKE COUNTY

Electric service to the communities of Red Lake Falls, Oklee, Brooks, and Plummer in Red Lake County is supplied by the Otter Tail Power Company, whose general office headquarters is in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

The electric facilities in the towns of Oklee, Plummer, and Brooks were acquired by Otter Tail from the Interstate Power Company of Dubuque, Iowa, on November 15, 1944. A total of 41 towns were transferred to Otter Tail in this transaction.

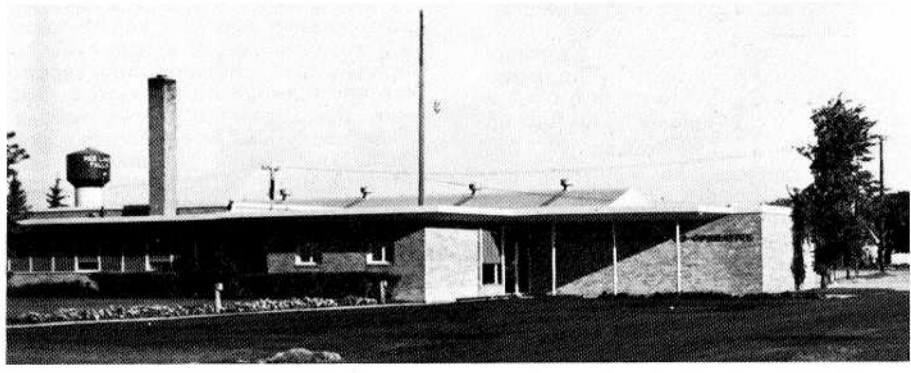
Of interest is a street lighting contract dated July 29, 1929, for four-100 watt lights in the unincorporated community of Brooks. The lights were to be on from dusk to midnight. The contract was with the Poplar River township and was signed by Township Supervisors W. M. Stahle, Euclid Beaudry, Arthur Lussier, and Clerk J. E. Buskirk.

Electric service in Red Lake Falls was supplied by Northern States Power Company until July, 1960, when the facilities were acquired by Otter Tail. The files reveal that the street lighting in 1935 consisted of fifty-one-75 watt lamps and three-100 watt lamps for the residential area. The downtown white way lighting was provided by twenty-seven-75 watt lamps on ornamental posts.

The previous suppliers of electric service to the four county communities were unable to provide the transmission service to meet the growing electrical needs, as these communities were isolated from their plants and larger transmission lines. Otter Tail had generation plants and transmission lines in the area to provide for the electric load growth, and service to the county communities was tied into the company's multiple line transmission system.

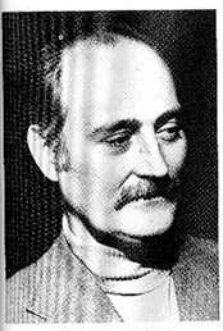
The use of electric energy in the home has been increasing each year. In the early days, electricity was used mainly for lighting, with the average home use being a few hundred kilowatt hours annually. Contrast this to the expected use of 8,400 KWH by the average Otter Tail customer in 1976.

Otter Tail anticipates the increase usage to continue, as electric energy will be used to replace other sources of energy that are in short supply. North Dakota lignite coal is used in all of the company's generating plants, and there is an ample supply of this fuel. The new generating plants are equipped with electrostatic precipitators and cooling ponds to make electricity a clean energy at the "generation" end as well as at the place of consumption.

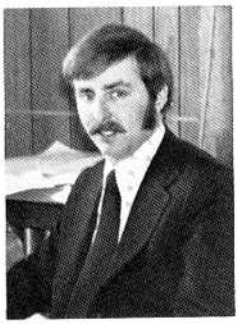


Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.





County Judge
J. A. Harren



Treasurer
Jay Guillemette



Auditor
David Kankel



Assessor
Jesse DuChamp



Sheriff
Kermit Knutson



Clerk of Court
Duane Dargan



Highway Engineer
Monte Berend



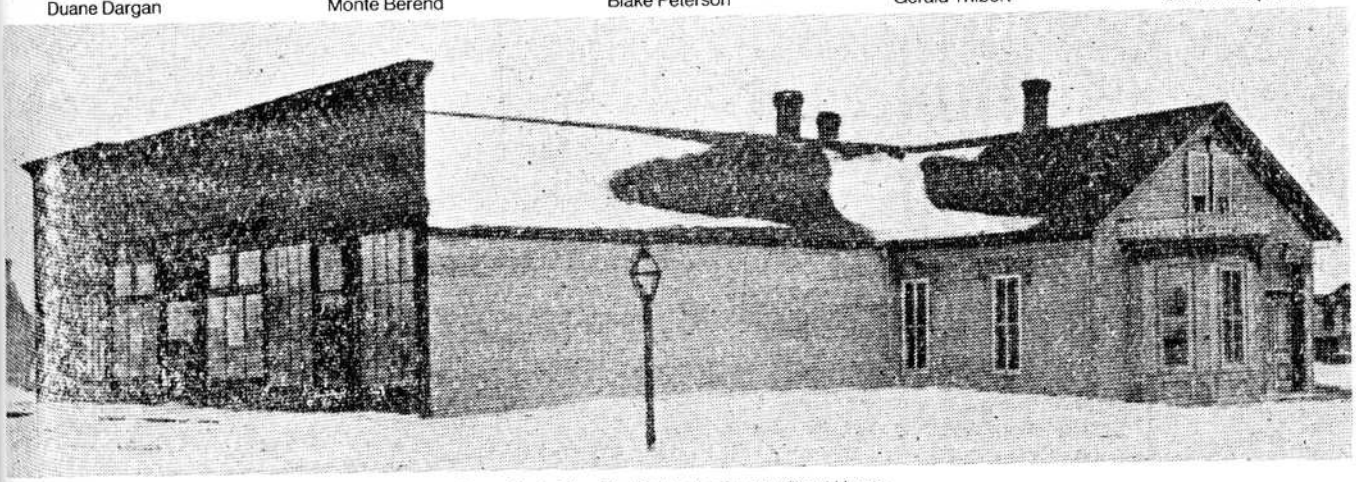
Extension Agent
Blake Peterson



Registrar of Deeds
Gerald Thibert



Welfare Director
Charles Stephens



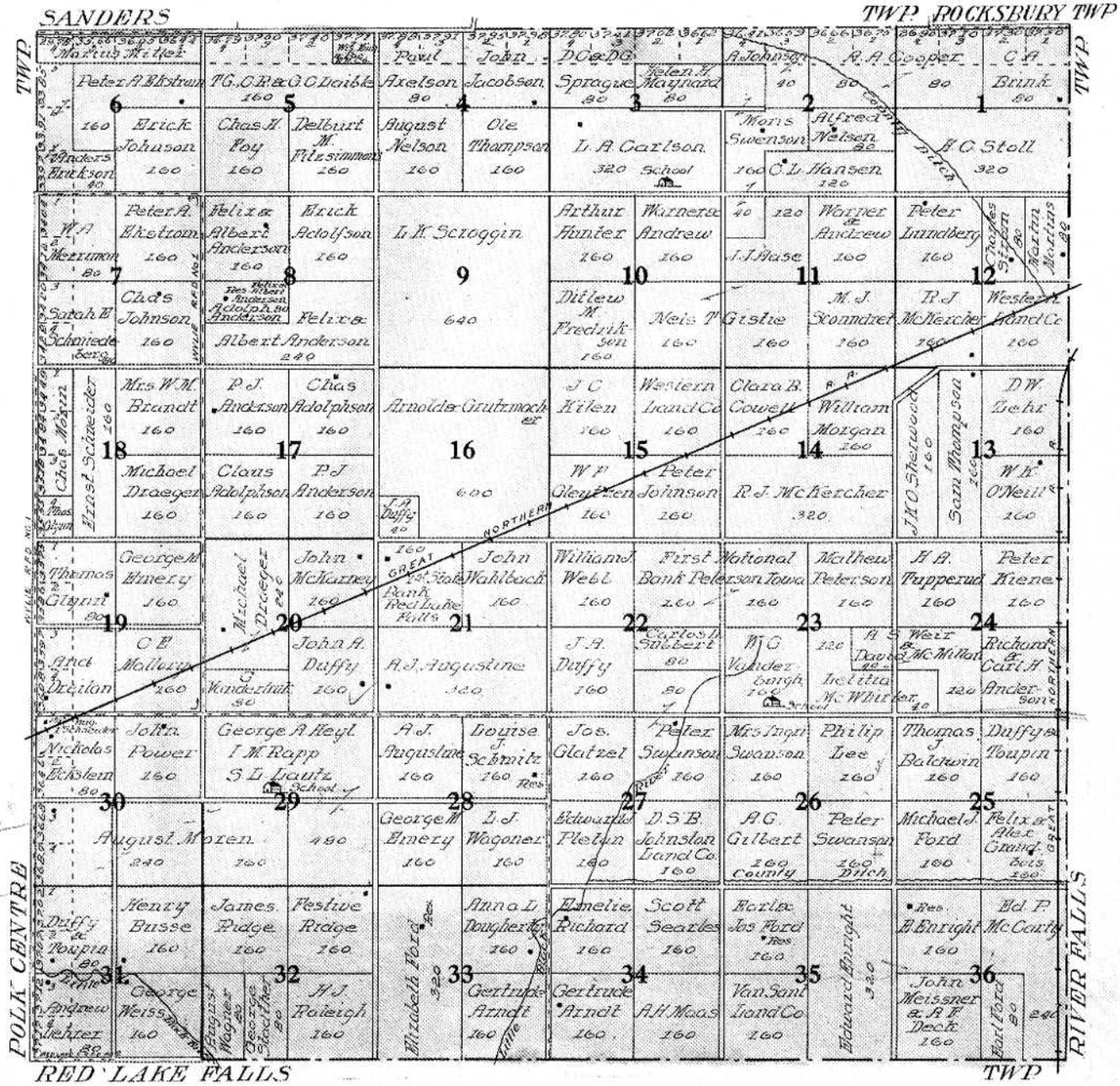
Buse Block, The First Red Lake County Court House

MAP OF TOWNSHIP 152 N., RANGE 44 W

of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¼ inches to 1 mile

BLACK RIVER TOWNSHIP





Joseph Schmitz family "Going to Church"

BROWNS CREEK TOWNSHIP

Browns Creek Township, twelve sections in area, was once a part of Black River Township in Red Lake County before 1911. With the division of Pennington and Red Lake Counties following the vote of the populace in November 1910, the south one-third became Browns Creek.

As in River and Wylie (Polk Centre) Townships, there was the division of assets and equipment with two-thirds going to Black River in Pennington, and the one-third portion to Browns Creek.

The first township officers were Joseph Schmitz, Sr., Andrew Lehrer and Ed Enright, supervisors; C. O. Swanson, clerk, and Festy Ridge, treasurer.

Two schools were located in Browns Creek, The Little Red Schoolhouse, District 43 in the west, and District 108 on the east portion. The latter was closed in the 1950's and has since been used as the town hall.

Three treasurers have served on the board since its beginning, Festy Ridge, Fred Weiss, and presently Ruben Lehrer. Browns Creek has had two clerks, C. O. Swanson who served on the board for forty years and was succeeded by his son, Charles in 1950. Township records were destroyed by fire in 1972 at the home of clerk, Charles Swanson.

Present officers are Sylvester Johanneck, Paul Grandbois and Vernon Wavra, supervisors; Charles Swanson, clerk; and Ruben Lehrer, treasurer.

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL OF BROWNS CREEK TOWNSHIP

A little red school house occupied a small corner of section 29 in Browns Creek township for almost fifty years.

Built around 1885, it was a small structure, measuring 18 × 30 feet and was aptly named for its coat of bright red paint. The only highways leading to the school were the trails made by the children who walked to school from every direction, Indian style.

In the winter when the weather was bad we children were brought to school by team and sleigh. The old Waterbury stove was usually red hot when we arrived at school in the morning, however for the first period it remained so cold that had water been spilled on the floor it would have frozen.

The school day began at 9:00 a.m. with a song, a prayer and some physical exercise. Arithmetic, grammar, history, geography, spelling, physiology and penmanship were the subjects taught. Our personal school supplies were a slate, a penny pencil and a five cent (Jumbo) tablet. Of course, almost the entire inside school wall was covered with black boards which saw a lot of use.

One teacher taught all of the classes in grades one through eight. In retrospect, there perhaps was an advantage in this system for pupils with ambition as there was an opportunity to learn from the other classes.

Weather permitting, the teacher and all the pupils would go outdoors for recess. For recreation we had ball games and played such games as Anti-I-Over, Drop the Handkerchief, Tug of War and London Bridge. Indoors we played Hide the Thimble, What Color is My Bird and other games.

We knew for certain that we had to walk to school if our older brothers or the neighbors had spotted coyotes in the area. Some times this would cause a great deal of commotion around the school when many men on horseback were chasing a wolf. The teacher would then call a recess so we pupils could watch the cunning wolf outwit the hunters.

Besides weekends and vacation time, we students looked forward to the last period on Friday afternoons when we had painting and drawing or learned a new song. It seems that the teachers made a special effort to teach us many songs and even now as I am in my seventies I recall with fond memories those beautiful songs with their meaningful words. It seems that we had a song for every season and every occasion which put us in the spirit of the times and events. Of course, before Christmas we always prepared a special program with music, poems and dialogues which we presented to our friends and neighbors who packed the school for this event.

There were some not so nice things, too, as I recall. Often in the late fall, skunks would stake claim to the space beneath the school house and because skunk fur had some value, the trappers were often after them. This created an odor that lasted longer than the paint on the building.

1911 was my first year in school and I was the eighth child in my family to attend classes in the Little Red School, District 43. Those of my family who were also my classmates that year were Cris, Mary, Ben, Agnes and Josephine. Other students at that time included: John, Albert, Sophie, Freida, George and Alma Busse; Mary, Patrick, Delia and James Ridge; Femly and Anna Dobson; Albin and Clara Ruud; Willie Wahlbeck; John and George Whalen; Emil, Dena and Albert Harbott; Alice, Helen and Buddy Ford.

My first teacher was Marie Cromp; and others that I recall were Lydia Gerlach, Josephine and Frances Keifenheim, Aneta Audler, Gladys Johnson and Elsie Randorf. Superintendents of Schools that I remember were Alban E. Deforge and Erba Pouliot. Speaking for myself, I was very nervous the day the Superintendent would visit our school.

In order to graduate from the eighth grade and receive a diploma, it was neces-

sary to pass a state examination.

The Little Red School House has been gone from that site for many years, but it still occupies a special place in the hearts of those people who were students there.

Edward J. Schmitz

"SCHMITZ" THE CREW THAT GREW IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST!

At the heart of the history of Red Lake County is the story of the immigrants. They came in droves; from Germany, Scandinavia, England and eastern Europe, lending their hearts and hands freely in exchange for a new life.

Their dreams were not in vain.

The story of John Schmitz, a German immigrant who followed several sons to Red Lake County (Brown's Creek township) is a beautiful tale of family devotion and hardiness.

By sheer numbers, the impact of the Schmitz family is prodigious. The father of nine children, John became the grandfather to his son Joseph's equally prolific brood of 13. All 213 Schmitz descendants living in Red Lake County today are descendants of Joseph.

In all, Joseph Schmitz's descendants number 531. So appropriately titled is the following account, "Schmitz — The Crew that grew with the great Northwest."

John Schmitz was born in 1831 in Kiln, Germany and following his marriage to Anna Ott, came to America, settling near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he worked as a butcher. Nine children were born to John and Anna: Agnes (Neibert), Theodore, Adam, Joseph, (the father of all the Schmitzes in the Red Lake Falls area), John, Henry, Ann (Lehr), Herman, and Elizabeth (Nimersgern). Several of John's sons preceded their parents here in 1885 coming to Minnesota by train, seeking good wheat land. John, Anna, and the rest of the children came a short time later to settle in Red Lake Falls (then Polk County) on the North Side, where the late John E. Schmitz, a grandson, was to eventually live and raise his family. This was about two blocks west of the present Co-op Store. John continued his trade as a butcher in this locality, traveling from farm to farm processing animals and making his delicious "home made sausage". He also had an important hobby, making furniture — a little crude, but very functional. John died following a brief illness on July 11, 1918, at the age of 87. Although John had lived in Red Lake Falls less than thirty years, he had carved for himself a little niche in our society, much of which would be recognized many years later.

Several of John's sons were to have their direct impact on Red Lake Falls. Adam started and operated a harness shop here before moving to Grand Forks to continue this profession. John Jr. first farmed north of Joseph's farm, then started a brick yard in Red Lake Falls. He made two kinds of brick — soft and hard. In order to fire the bricks, he spent his winters cutting wood which was then used to fire the kiln to make the hard brick. A major catastrophe (the roof of the brick factory caved in due to the weight of the snow after a severe storm) and competition eventually forced him out of business. Henry and Herman, having become infected by the gold-mining fever, left our locality for Montana.

Joseph, the fourth child of John and Anna, was the one Schmitz to have the greatest impact on Red Lake County. At twenty-one years of age, he boarded the train from Milwaukee. This trip was made more eventful when Matt Younger, one of Jesse James' gang, also rode the same train. Joseph's first job was to donate his help toward the completion of St. Mary's Church which was being built just west of his parents' home. Previously, when a priest was available, Sunday Mass had been held in their home. Even after its completion, St. Mary's Church was not to have a resident priest for several years.

Joseph's wife, the former Louisa Schnirch, came to America from Austria with a sister, Mary (Kilburg). Frank, a brother, had already established residency near Wylie. Though neither of the girls could speak English, they were able to make the necessary arrangements, not only to work off their passage on ship by washing dishes, but also to finally reach their destination, Red Lake Falls. Louisa's work prior to her marriage to Joseph, consisted of house maid duties.

In 1891, Joseph Schmitz and Louisa Schnirch were married, not in St. Mary's Church, but in St. Joseph's Rectory, since St. Joseph's Church had burned down (a twice-repeated fact in this church's history). In 1885, the desire for land — good wheat land — was realized when Joseph bought a quarter of land in Brown's Creek Township from Edmund and Edna Walsh. He paid $4,500, not cheap by that era's standards. He later bought another adjoining quarter and rented a half-section more land, bringing the total land farmed to a section — all farmed with horses and the help of thirteen children, (5 boys and 8 girls). The farmstead has been owned by the family for eighty years. Until November, 1975, Martha Omann, Joseph's youngest daughter, owned it. She sold the property then to Sylvester Schmitz, a nephew.

Of Joseph and Louisa's thirteen children, only two, Agnes (Mrs. Gust Knott) and Gertrude (Mrs. Charles Knott) have not been life-long residents of Red Lake County. The children are: John (deceased 1955); Elizabeth (Mrs. Art Wichterman) (deceased 1951); Crispen "Christ"; Mary (Mrs. John Schindler); Bernard "Ben"; Agnes; Josephine (deceased at age 14 of spinal meningitis); Edward; Gertrude; Theodore "Ted" (deceased 1972); Cecilia (Mrs. Mike Majeres); Clara (Mrs. Morris Hahner) (deceased 1944); and Martha (Mrs. Louis Omann).

Interesting notes —

School was in session seven and one-half months of the year. The Schmitz children attended school to be introduced to the English language, as well as the three R's. School lunch for them very often consisted of homemade bread, or bread garnished with lard spread.

To help pay for the groceries, Louise sold eggs and made good quality sour cream butter (a very sought-after product). Credit was often extended to the Schmitzes by Matt Skala. He would further extend this generosity by always giving a bag of candy with each order of groceries. Food complemented with roasted barley coffee, was always plentiful in this household even in hard times. The domestic diet was often varied by wild rabbit, deer, quail and other wild fowl. Hunting was a necessary and important part of their way of life, and it continues today on a recreational basis. Many of today's Red Lake County hunters still have the Schmitz name on their licenses.

Music was an integral part of the Schmitz family whether they were raising their



Joseph Schmitz children 1976: Crispen, Ed, Martha, Ben, Cecilia, Mary, and Agnes and Gertrude in inset.



Joseph Schmitz Family: *Back Row:* Josephine, Mary, Crispen, Bernard, John, Elizabeth, Agnes. *Middle Row:* Theodore, Clara, Cecelia, Gertrude and Martha with father and mother.

voices during a four-part hymn in the St. Mary's Church choir or playing an instrument for a party or dance. Even today, the St. Joseph Church choir has representatives from several generations of Schmitzes. No wedding within the Schmitz relationship is ever complete without seeing "Uncle Ben" or "Uncle Ed" dragging out their musical instruments and becoming the center and the impetus of the party. Those Schmitzes who couldn't play instruments, did their part by singing and dancing to their heart's content, whether it be to a graceful waltz or a bouncy polka.

Many of the medical problems were treated by home remedies, the help of the midwife or, when possible, by the local doctor. Home remedies: Goose or skunk lard mixed with turpentine was used as a rub-down for sore muscles, throats and chest colds. The juice and pulp from onion-plant leaves was used for soothing burns, and to draw out infection from boils and the like. "Foamentation" was a treatment designed to cure the flu (1918). A woolen blanket would be soaked in boiling water, wrung out, and then wrapped around the patient clothed in a flannel blanket. This sweat bath amounted to an old fashioned sauna. Prayer and love always accompanied home care and at times it was hard to distinguish which had the greater healing power. Someone recalled when a strapping young man of eighteen, suffering from a usually fatal appendicitis attack, was sent by Great Northern Railway to the nearest hospital which was in Grand Forks. After a long, painful trip, with an ice pack as the only pain killer, he did manage to survive the trip, the operation, and the two to three-week hospital stay.

Despite many hardships, the Schmitz family was destined to grow, and grow to dimensions that the first John Schmitz could scarcely have envisioned. John, besides becoming the father of nine children and the grandfather of Joseph's thirteen children, was to become, through his son Joseph alone, the present-day great grandfather of 88 children, great-great grandfather of 350 children, and great-great-great-grandfather of 71 children. The total number of blood relatives swelled to an impressive 531 descendants. These descendants would own and farm approximately 7,400 acres of Red Lake County's good farm land. Hardiness was a definite innate characteristic, for of the 531 descendants, 506 are still living. Of this number, 213 reside in Red Lake County, 153 on farms.

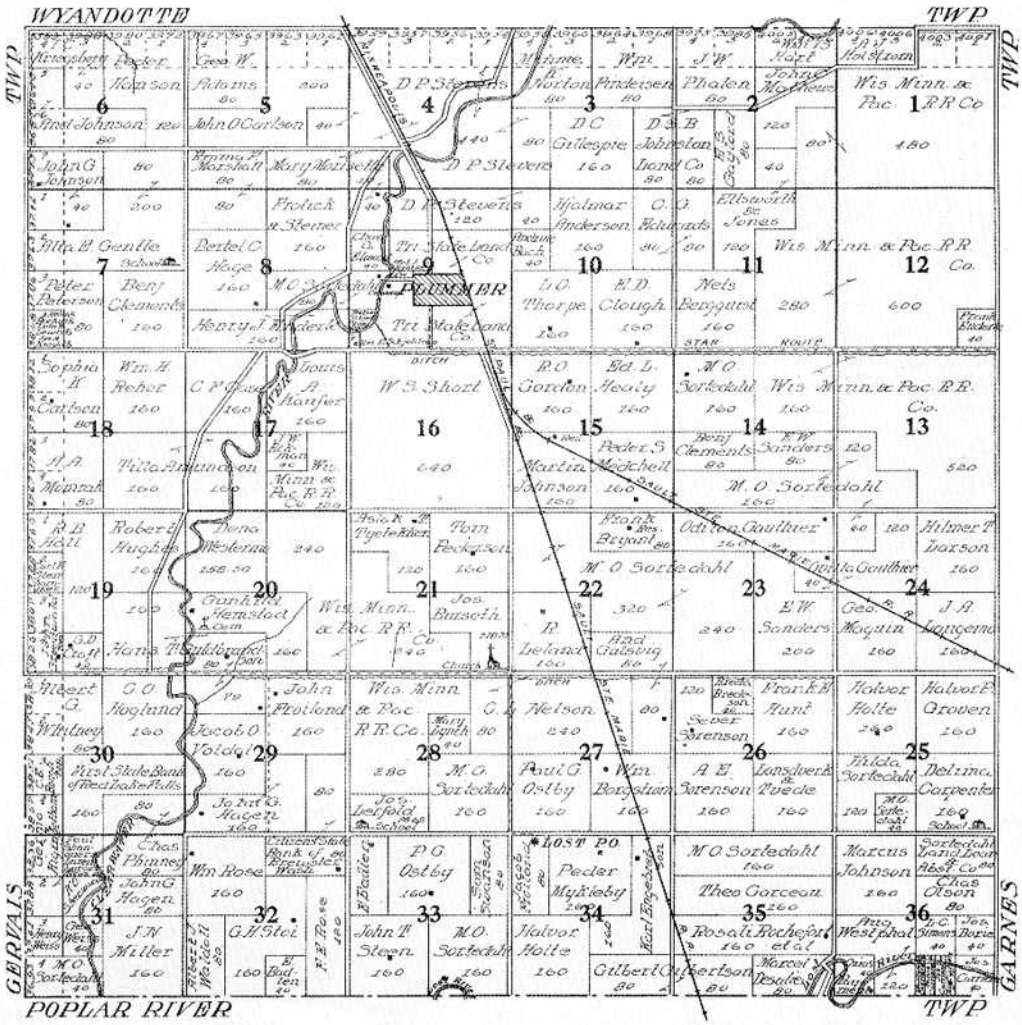


John Schmitz and Anna Ott Schmitz

MAP OF TOWNSHIP 151 N., RANGE 42 W. of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¼ inches to 1 mile

EMARDVILLE TOWNSHIP


WYANDOTTE TWP.
TWP.
GERVAIS
GARNES
POPLAR RIVER
TWP.
POMMER
LOST P.O.
Wis. Minn. & Pac. R.R. Co.
Wis. Minn. & Pac. R.R.
Wis. Minn. & Pac. R.R. Co.
Wis. Minn. & Pac. R.R. Co.
Wis. Minn. & Pac. R.R. Co



In the early days of Emardville Township, there was one social event that was eagerly anticipated by farm families. One night each month the Cloverland Farmer's Club met in School District 214 for basket socials, picnics and bazaars. During the growing season, each family tended and cared for some product for an exhibit at the annual county fair, and in 1918 won the Enderlie Cup for the best farmers' club exhibit. A big picnic was the highlight event for the people that settled and developed the farming land of Red Lake County.

EMARDVILLE TWP.

Emardville Township no doubt got its name from the man who called together a meeting of men in the area on the 18th day of July in 1883. This first organizational town board meeting was held at Pierre Emard's home with John C. Mattanes as moderator. The following people were elected: M. W. Wolfe, Thad Meilleur, and Andre Lemieux as chairmen supervisors; Louis Piche and Pierre Emard as Justice of the Peace; Louis Piche, Town Clerk; Pierre Emard, Treasurer; Louis Piche, Assessor and Henry Bobear, Raphael Robideaus and Louis Heta as constables. At this meeting a by-law was adopted that it was unlawful for horses, mules and asses to run at large in the town of Emardville until further ordered.

One of the prime purposes of an organized town board in the late 1800's was to have an elected group of people oversee the building of roads and bridges. The decision at their first meeting was that each man was to work one or two days each month on roads.

In 1887 the board voted to have C. Gosline purchase two scrapers and a 16" breaking plow at Red Lake Falls. The two road scrapers cost $10.00. In 1888 they explicity designated three road districts and the following year, the overseer of highways, Peter Anderson, assessed every male inhabitant two days a year to work on roads. Records of work were kept with a fine to be imposed if a man didn't contribute his time.

On July 8, 1889 the lowest bidder, Louis Hetu, received the contract to make a ditch from the county road to the coulee on the south side of Henry Bobeur land for the sum of $49.00 and to have it done by September 8. Specifications for the ditches were to be two feet deep on each side, 49 rods long and to scrape the dirt in center and level it down. The supervisor was to review work before payment would be made.

In March of 1890 the town board voted to raise $10.000 for town revenue, $25.00 for the road and bridge fund and to assess two days labor for each liable for poll tax. The following year an additional amount of $10.00 was added to their budget for the "poor fund", and in 1891 the town board voted to assess 100¢ for every $100.00 worth of real estate and personal property liable for taxation.

Cattle were allowed to run loose but some felt it was time to take a vote to restrain them. However at the March meeting in 1894, ten voted against restraining and only five for, so cattle were not restrained.

Early in 1897 it was decided to build a new bridge across Lost River between Section 35 and Section 36, but they couldn't agree on the location so they met three days later at the location to make their decision. They decided the new bridge should be 5 rods further down the river from the old one and to build the piers and bridge of sound pine logs. A list was passed to ascertain the number of days labor that would be donated. Lorentz Lee was appointed overseer and he ordered some of the volunteers to appear at the site on February 1st.

On March 30, 1895 a hearing was held for deciding on which new roads should be built according to public benefit and interest. After this was voted on bids were called for and reviewed. The bids accepted ranged from 16¢ to 25¢ a rod for a road and ditch. All ground from ditches was to be put in the center of the road and all ditches were to be 2½ feet wide and 15 inches deep unless otherwise stated and to be completed by November 1, 1896. If a culvert was involved 28¢ a rod was paid. Men who were enterprising worked long and hard to earn money this way to launch themselves as land and property owners in Emardville Township.

The poor and unfortunate folk were called paupers and it was the obligation of the township in which they resided to pay their bills. On January 2, 1896 bills were presented by Dr. N. M. Watson, Dr. H. J. Lemieux and Attorney Chas. E. Boughton, Sr. They were paid and settled for only after cutting each one down sufficiently to keep within their funds. It was also this year that the annual town meeting began to be held at the school house in Dist. #214, Section 28. Their budget was increased to $400.00 for general fund, $100.00 for roads and bridges and $150.00 for the poor fund. The following year the road overseers were B. C. Hagan, Ole Anderson, Harvey Wolfe, Odiloux Gauthier, Gustaf Svenby and P. Oslund. Jacob Waldal was chairman and Ole G. Hagan, Town Clerk.

On May 17, 1897 with Chas. E. Asp still the town clerk, a meeting was held to let out work to be completed by May 31, 1897. The work was clearing and cutting away brush and timber on the county road for a width of 1½ rods in line with section corners. The average pay was $10.00 a mile. The town board met on June 5, 1897 to personally examine work done before payment would be made.

In 1902 the supervisors on the town board heard all the reasons for and against laying out a road from the south east corner of section 34 along the line north to the



Township Officers: *Standing:* Melvin Eskeli, Clayton Larson (chairman) Eldon Vigstol. *Seated:* Pete Gerardy, clerk, and Joe Fallon, treasurer.

EARLY SCHOOLS



Nick Eskeli with his unusual team.

north east corner of section 27 as petitioned for. Upon examining said petition the board found it illegal on the reason that some of the signees were not legal voters because of not having their full citizenship papers as called for in the petition. However, it was decided to lay out said road upon a new legal petition.

It was common to find in the disbursement ledger in the early 1900's items such as $8.60 for flour for the poor, $1.00 for cleaning the schoolhouse, 50¢ for liniment for the poor to Norsk Handel Co. and $1.20 for 10 cedar posts.

At the May 11th meeting in 1908 the Clearwater Farmers Telephone Company was granted the right to erect telephone posts in Emardville Township with the stipulation that they not obstruct roads or road work. This year the board authorized payment of 40¢ an hour for a team of horses and a man for road work. A. J. Hemstad was town clerk.

In 1911 Emardville Township was changed in physical appearance. Pennington County divided from Red Lake County and Emardville township added a strip on the north 2 × 6 miles, or 12 sections of land, from Wyandotte township. The town boards' office equipment as such, and road equipment such as log drags and scrapers, was either divided or sold.

Perhaps the biggest change in town boards in the county came about in 1914. In a brochure issued by the State Highway Commission of Minnesota and to be read at the annual town meeting on March 10, 1914, regulations concerning approval and overseeing of road and bridge construction was to be changed from township to county authority. Town Boards were to be charged with a misdemeanor if a road contract exceeded $200.00 without having the approval of an assistant engineer of the State Highway Commission or the county auditor who was to be located at the county seat.

In 1918 it was interesting to note that 13¢ per yard was paid for "digging up new roads". A. J. Waldal, Anton Lee and John Greenwald were supervisors and A. J. Hemstad was Clerk. There was still a poor fund maintained but the Town Board also employed the people in need of financial assistance to do brushing in preparation to road and ditch making and any kind of work they had. They were paid very well for their services as the Town Board felt it was better to give them help in this way rather than an outright aid.

This history of Emardville township skims the highlights of the first 30 years, and it can be likened to the birth and growth of an individual. This period could well compare to the tremendous pace an infant goes through in development in the first year of its life. The following 58 years in the township history settled down to a more or less even keel with a consistent dedication and devotion to duties that is still evident to this day.

Hail to the writers of history! They present to us a colorful panorama of events in the building of our nation. Along with the events, they give us a taste of what the builders went through — their ambitions and frustrations; their triumphs and failures.

In the early days of American settlement, illiteracy was common throughout the world. With the flush of immigrants to the new land, the idea of "education for all" took strong hold. Horace Mann and Emma Willard were among the leaders in this cause.

Step by step, through legislation, public, tax-supported schools replaced the private and church schools.

In the year 1918, Red Lake County's rural schools numbered about fifty. These one-room schools were heated by a wood stove in the center or corner of the room. The teacher would start the fire, though in some cases, a close neighbor would do this during the cold season. There was a well and a hand pump on the grounds.

Fortified with a half hour walk in the morning, the children were eager to set down their lunch buckets and run out to play until the bell called them in. In severe weather, parents brought the children to school with horses and sleigh.

As I remember, we got through our day of ten minute classes quite well, but there were days when the minutes wouldn't stretch, so we borrowed time from other classes or from free time.

Lacking the modern supplements to education and to daily life, I was often asked by parents to send home work with the children so they would settle down in the evening.

Teaching is an all time job. Aims and plans are with you always. It is also rewarding. Having chosen to serve, a teacher will try to reap as much profit as possible, not in money of course, but in knowledge and efficiency.

Every school offers the challenges which provide this opportunity. Some problems in children are serious and deep seated. It is these that have been the highlights of my career.

Recently I have been asked, "Where are you teaching now?" I say, "I'm not." An emphatic retort, "You're not quitting!" For a moment convictions weaken, but a silent voice cuts in, "Frieda, a teacher doesn't quit! She changes avenues."

A person who has taught in a one-room school has been nurse, counselor, helper and psychiatrist. The experiences are rich, and their values will never diminish. In my avenues, I meet lots of happy surprises. A "Hey, there! You don't know me. You were my teacher once." Or someone steps up smilingly with, "You used to be my teacher." From me: "You are . . .?" I get it right at times. But forty years on top of a twelve-year boy? No, I can't guess. Then we reminisce with bits of humor mixed in.

Of special interest to my pupils and me have been the participation in three centennial celebrations; the Minnesota Territorial Centennial in 1949 in School District No. 232 east of Plummer; the Minnesota State Centennial in 1958 in the Eldred School; The 100th year celebration of the San Juan Islands as part of the United States in 1971.

In preparing for the Minnesota events, we delved deeply into the history of our state. The study brought out understandings and appreciations of our culture. The culminating activities, pageants, folk music and square dancing were fun for all.

The San Juan Centennial was observed by presenting in art and action, the perilous journey of the Whitmans and Spaldings, missionaries to the West. The finale found us in the potato patch where an American shot a pig that belonged to the English. The threatening omen which grew out of this incident had national significance. Who owned the San Juan Islands? The British? Or the United States? We came near to fighting an open Pig War with Great Britain. Thanks to both nations, they agreed to have it settled by arbitration. Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany was chosen arbitrator. He decided that the Islands should belong to the United States. The story is intriguing. So is all history.

Resolve now to preserve the incidents in your family's life. Listen. Write. Somebody will be glad you did.

by Frieda Bredeson

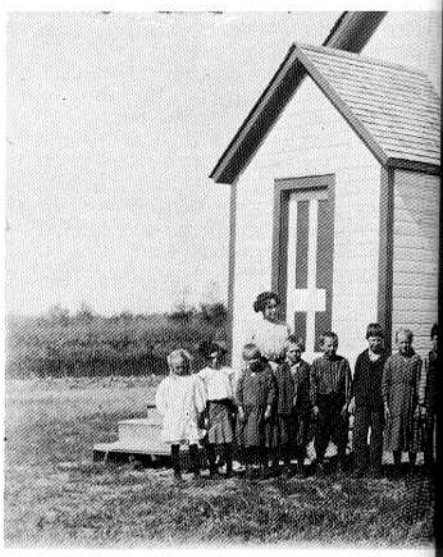
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR:

Life began for me in the rural area where nature and homework provided my first learning. On the farm there is something useful to do for every member of the family. Sometimes the load is heavy, but that, too, is learning — that endurance makes us strong in muscle and in character.

My formal education started in the two-room school in Plummer where it continued through grade seven. Then came the colorful climax — a beautiful, new, three-story brick building! Enjoyment of the new facilities was reflected in various interesting activities throughout the year. Later I enrolled at Bemidji State College in the program which combined high school completion with teacher training, and received my Bachelor of Science degree with a major in elementary education with concentration in music. I also took graduate work at Bemidji and the University of Washington.

For the last five years, I have been teaching grades one through eight in the Little Red School House at Shaw Island, one of the scenic San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington. This school was made a state historical site in 1974.

Note: (Miss Bredeson has also researched and written all the school histories for Plummer and Emardville Township.)



Green Meadow School District 148J

DISTRICT 148J — GREEN MEADOW SCHOOL

It was known as the Lee School, established around 1895, located in section 29, Wyandotte Township, Polk County.

In 1897, a teacher named Page taught during the winter months.

Otto E. Olson taught in 1903, and Anton Lee was director of the School Board.

1907 records show Anton Lee, Clerk; John Brekke, director; Fred Anderson, Treasurer.

The school became 148J after Pennington County was organized. It was moved about a half mile farther south, but in the same section.

1909 records show Josephine Constant as teacher; in 1911, Stella Olson.

In 1923 a new Green Meadow School was built on the same location. Bernice Orr was the first teacher in the new school. Other teachers were Jessie Joyce, Alyce Ford, Flora Zins, Esther Purath (Mrs. Herb Walters) — the last teacher. They merged with Plummer District 16 in 1947.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 5 — PLEASANT OAK SCHOOL

It was known as the Fehr School, located in section 35. It was organized in 1898 in Wyandotte Township, Polk County.

The first records show Louis Halvorson, Paul Bray, and H. B. LaPlant as officials. 1907 records show Osgood, clerk; Ole Hagg and H. B. LaPlant, officers.

A bill found when the school was moved, showed that the lumber for the school was from a St. Hilaire sawmill and the price was less than $100.00.

Teachers were Mabel Peterson, Ruth Lee, Annie Henderson, Elida Orr, Annie Wedul and Daisy Abbott.

Consolidation occurred in 1947.

The building was moved to a farmstead west of Plummer.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 228 — CARPENTER SCHOOL

Originally in Polk County and located first on the northwest corner of section 25, it was built around 1895 and measured about 12′ × 12′. Laura Pruesse was teacher and had six to eight pupils, namely: Emil Gauthier, Phil Riendeau, Zepherin Gauthier, Aimie Riendeau, Nick and Sarah Thoreson.



1897 records show A. E. Sorenson, Odilon Gauthier and A. F. Larson as school officers. Victorine Patnode was the teacher. Teachers' wages averaged $75.00 for men and $42.00 for women.

In 1906 the school was moved to the southwest corner of the same section and an addition was built to make it three times larger. Other teachers were S. J. Melcer, 1901; Bertha Hastad, Edith Demann (Mrs. Paul Schoenauer), and Stella Olson.

In 1927 Esther Colbank taught 44 pupils. It was the duty of the teachers to sweep and keep the school in order. 1907 records show Joseph Carrier, clerk; Adolph Carpenter, director; John Westlake, treasurer.

Consolidation with Plummer took place in 1947.

In 1897, Red Lake County was organized and these three preceding schools were functioning at that time.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 214 — CLOVERLAND SCHOOL

Originally in Polk County, it was located in section 28.

On April 24, 1894 a meeting was held at Ole Hagen's home in Emardville Township for the purpose of organizing School District No. 214. A. O. Lee, director; Charles Asp, clerk; and B. M. Johnson, moderator.

A November, 1894 meeting called for two more months of school. Originally there were five. The vote didn't carry.

Anyone in the district over 21 years of age wishing to attend school may do so by paying the treasurer one dollar per month of attendance, the money to go toward paying the teachers' wages. It was agreed that all legal voters and residents do equal amount of work building the school house. Charlie Asp was chosen foreman. It was agreed that taxes be levied for teachers wages, purchase school material and to raise bonds.

On April 24, 1896 it was decided to clear the school house site and lay a stone foundation under; to build a brick chimney 16" square. Bids were given and Lorenz Lee was to build the chimney for $3.00 and a $4.00 bid to paint the school went to Gustav Hanson.

Four bonds were issued, the amount of $25.00 to be due on the 1st of July, 1897 for the first bond and each succeeding July 1st until 1900.

Minnie Swanson was hired as teacher on December, 1894 for three months starting January 2, 1895 at $33.00 a month. Ada LaBlane hired in 1895 as teacher. It was decided on July 18, 1896 an effort should be made to hire a man teacher.

The first teachers and the years they taught are as follows: 1896-97, Olivina Patnode; 1897-98, Tilda Anderson and Gertie Gjerberg; 1898-99, Martin Villars; 1899-1900, Ed Granger; 1900-1901, Effie Hamry; 1901-1902, Tillie Mathias, 1902-03, Kate Wilson, 1903-1905, S. J. Melces; 1905-1906, A. L. Irvin; 1906-1909, Ina Matz.

There were 50 pupils enrolled in 1902. School was in session for five months.

In 1915-1916, Laura Vandervaal taught, school now being held for eight months. 1916-19, Izora Vandervaal; 1919-20, Mina Hagen; 1920-21, Rose Hance; 1921-23, Rose Tarum; 1923-24, Adeline Nyland; 1924-25, Ivy Zimple; 1925-26, Ada Peterson.

On February 27, 1924 a special meeting and election was held for the purpose of voting for bonds of $2500 to build a new



Cloverland School District 214

school house. Fifteen votes were cast, all in favor.

The original school was sold at open sale and sold to Brennan for $130.00. J. B. Jones and Bennie Johnson bought the storm windows. Erickson Folvig built the new school and it was ready for the spring opening of 1926. It was regarded as a modern school with water fountain and two indoor chemical toilets.

The first teacher in the new school was Anna Strande, (Mrs. George Beito). She taught from 1926 to 1929. From 1929-30, Elida Orr (Mrs. Clifford Christenson) taught. Later teachers were: Marie Pinsonneault, Ella Causin, Clara Breivold, Clara Berg (Mrs. Florian Hesse), Gladys Lafayette, and Francis Froiland was the last teacher.

Church suppers, bazaars, school carnivals, basket socials, farmers clubs and meetings were held there. It was a center of community life. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting during evening events.

The school consolidated with District 16 in 1947. The building was moved to Plummer and used as an extra school room for a time.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 234 — FINN SCHOOL

On November 12, 1913, a special school meeting was held at the Matt Pokela home at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Pokela was chosen moderator and Peter Kakkonen, clerk. Officers elected were: Ben Hoole, treasurer; Hjalmer Hill, director; Matt Pokela, clerk.

It was decided to build a new school with $1500.00 raised. A two acre plot was purchased from John Holappa for $31.00 in section 12. Bids were called for and Franz Freunk bid $1770.00 which was accepted.

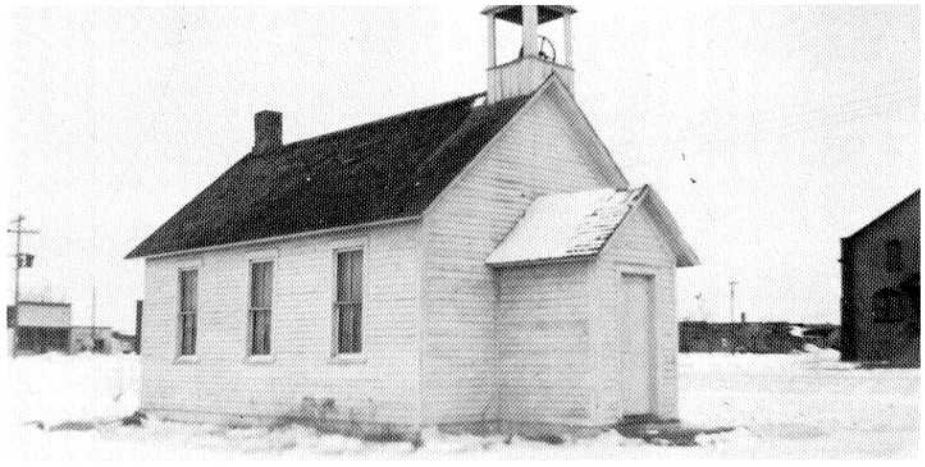
Irene Lanager (Mrs. Lars Haga) was the first teacher. The term was seven months. It was voted in 1914 to have an eight month school year; three months in the fall, three in the winter and two in the spring.

On August 1, 1915 a basket social raised $23.00 to buy a new lamp.

In 1921, through the insistence of Mrs. Kauppila, a barn was built. Gust Kangas built it for $15.00. This sheltered the horses the pupils rode to and from school and as storage space for fire wood.

A June 1940 vote made the school term run nine months. Other teachers were Laura Lanager, Klara Kolstoe, Myrtle Demann, Esther Widger, Elida Orr, Bertha Hastad, Esther Kuoppala, Rachelle Toulouse, Frieda Bredeson, Hazel Zaiser, and Cecyl Bemis.

After consolidation, the building was sold and moved to St. Hilaire.



Haga School District 115

HAGA SCHOOL DISTRICT 115 HISTORY

This was the first school in Emardville township and the first district to join district 16.

In July 1882, Emardville township, then in Polk county was organized and named. Present at the meeting were Pierre Emard, Isaac Morrisette and A. Lemieux, appointed judges, and Alfred Doutre and Leon Marsonette as clerks of the election.

An 1884 petition was drawn up by Louis Pische and others for school organization for sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17 and 18 and to be known as School District 115.

An April 24, 1889 meeting extended District 115 to include sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 10, 15 and 3.

This school is believed to have been built in 1885-1886. It was of log construction, measuring about 22 feet by 25 feet and located in the middle of section 8 near the old river road that followed the Clearwater River from Terrebonne through the Isaac Morrisette farmstead and on. It was north of the H. H. Finroe Store and was known as the Scotland Log House School, later known as the Plummer Dam Log House School. It it believed to be the first established school in Emardville.

Around 1898, a new frame school was built in the district, about three-fourths mile northwest of this log structure in section 7. This became known as the Haga School.

Records from 1897 show B. C. Haga, Ole Anderson, and Andrew Johnson as school officers. Ida Poeshell was one of the teachers. A road was marked leading to the school, but it was never completed. Things came to a halt in 1907 when Plummer's first village two-room school was established. District 115 was terminated.

After a decade of dormancy, the little Haga school came to have an adventurous future. The Plummer school was in need of a third room for the increasing enrollment. The Haga school would serve this purpose.

A man was found who had the will and the means to undertake the moving. This was John Norby. He would use his steam engine, part of his threshing rig, and move it on skids across the Clearwater River Dam, by old Plummer.

Skids were fastened under the house. The Greenwald Advance Steam rig stood ready to render extra help. Smoothly it slid over the sod and grass, but the gravel road made greater demands, resulting in a burned out gear on Norby's Nicholson-Shepherd. Mechanism fixed, Pat Greenwald joined with "Noisy Joe", so nicknamed after the fireman, Joe Smith, and the loud noise emitted by the engine. The two machines, in tandem style, brought the school house to the river.

The Plummer Dam and Bridge which supported the school's passage was built by a lumber company in the early years. Logs came floating down the river and collected at the dam. When the water was high enough, the water gates were lifted up by means of cables wound on spools. The sudden gush of water floated the logs through and over the rapids. This procedure was repeated until all the logs were sent over.

When Pat and Ed Greenwald came here, about 1914, the dam was no longer used for logging. Still intact, except for the missing water gates, its use as a bridge was unhampered.

Following is a sketch of the dam according to Ed and Pat Greenwald.

The dam had been prepared, planks laid level and secured with rocks between.

The weight of the engines and the building would likely be too much for the dam's strength, so they decided to pull it over with cables, the engines going over the creamery bridge. They pulled the building as close as possible, unhitched, and went about gathering cables, chains, and other needed equipment.

The school's period of waiting wasn't all loneliness. The desks were there. So were the books. What resourceful boys wouldn't try the door, walk in, and help themselves to some learning! After all, playing school is fun.

Preparations made, Pat Greenwald and John Norby brought the steam engines over the creamery bridge and to the dam, strung cables across, one to each engine. The Nicholson-Shepherd did the pulling with Noisy Joe on the emergency anchor.

Foot by foot, the slow journey proceeded to a safe landing.

Thrill was sensed in the "Too-oot" of the engines' whistles as the "boys" brought the school house to the Plummer School grounds. It was placed north-east of the two room building, the sidewalk running between the two buildings.

The middle grades occupied the building during the ensuing year.

With the erection of the brick school in 1918, the little building was moved and used temporarily as the Plummer Presbyterian Church.

Its next move was to a lot south of McGrady's. Here it was occupied as a residence by Mrs. Olive Wichterman for about five years.

Again, its role became one of Christian service. For about two years, a minister, Alrick Olson of International Falls, Minnesota came here and held weekly services. It was called Smyrna Mission.

Presently, situated near rows of beautiful evergreens, the old school house continues to offer its hospitality and charm. It is a guest house on the Harold Vatthauer farmstead.



Finrow Store and postal service west of Clearwater River

A LETTER TO MY CHILDHOOD:

Does anyone here remember *The Plummer Pioneer?* It almost sounds like the words of some half-remembered song — a song from the "old days", when I was a child, in Emardville township.

I know that that newspaper existed because I remember seeing the front page. Did I actually read it, or did I just see it pasted on the wall above the wash stand to protect the new calcimine from splashes? Did I perhaps see it over the edge of the dipper as I drank from it at that same dry sink?

Newspapers were more precious in every way then. Not only were the words in them taken for gospel, they were never thrown into the trash, nor tied up in bundles for this or that paper drive. They were put away carefully for many uses, such as, starting fires in the wood stoves, lining dresser drawers, and cupboard shelves, wrapping apples and vegetables for winter storage in the cellar. My mother told me that when she was a child in the late 1890's, newspapers were saved all year and used to paper the walls of the summer kitchen.

Remember those?

Remember the spring day when it was finally warm enough to "take the heater out?" That would be just before we started cooking in the summer kitchen, which was a sort of outer porch attached to the house, where the canning and much of the cooking was done in hot weather. More "progressive" families had so-called "oil" stoves, burning kerosene or gasoline. Some of them worked, more often did not. I remember the smell of them in the church basement at bazaars, mingled with the aroma of fresh coffee and roasting chicken.

I remember Pleasant Oak School . . . Eight grades in one room. Some of the desks were double, seating two people, and the worst punishment I ever got was having my seat changed for whispering in class; I had to sit with a boy! Embarrassment!

The school socials and programs were very important affairs. The "rag ball" social was my favorite. Each girl packed a fancy box lunch, then wrote her name on a slip of paper and wound torn strips of cloth around it to form a ball. The bigger it was, the more fun. The boys bid on each ball as the auctioneer held it up (no one allowed to bid more than ten cents) and would get to eat the box lunch with the girl whose name was inside the ball. Oh! how we hoped the boy we secretly worshipped would get the first bid in.

The Christmas program was another high point at school, and at the little churches in each community. There were plays, pageants, songs and recitations. I remember one year when many of my schoolmates were in bed with flu at Christmas time, and I gradually accumulated most of the roles in the program. Ham, that I was, I thought it would be fun to be the star of the show, but it really wasn't at all; nobody that I wanted to impress was able to come.

There was always a Christmas tree with real candles on it, and the biggest boy in the school was delegated to watch the tree with a pail of water beside him, while the candles were lit. What a beautiful, magical sight to my eyes was the Christmas tree at that little country school!

I remember going barefoot . . .

Most of us "country kids" went barefoot as soon as weather permitted. However, none of us would have been seen "in town" barefoot. Indeed, we were just sure that the "town kids" never went barefoot at all. I think back to those days with a smile, from far away (and far-out!) California, where children and adults of affluence are seen everywhere in bare feet, and signs saying "Shoes Required" need to be posted in good restaurants.

Also, driving down the freeways, I sometimes flash back on the roads of my childhood. If you were lucky, you lived on a "gravel" — or better yet, a "State" road, but most of them were just dirt, running narrowly between steeply sloped ditches. They were rough and dusty when dry, and treacherous in wet weather.

Remember the mud?

We went often to my grandparents' home six miles north of Red Lake Falls. The terror of my life was that we would get stuck in the mud on that narrow black dirt road. I haven't been half that scared on the wildest freeway at 5:30 on Friday afternoon.

I remember horses; working horses —

Every farmer had a favorite team which he was sure could out-run and out-work any other horses around. In winter we drove to church in a sleigh, and there would be good-natured races between neighbors, probably because they knew the children enjoyed it. Of course, it looked to us like we won every time, until we got to school the next day, when we found out loud and clear that the other kids were just as sure they had won.

I hated dishes and housework, and I knew my mother would always let me out of it if I milked cows, picked berries, or did other outside work. Does anybody milk by hand any more? And are there still Juneberries and wild raspberries by the pailfull in those woods? And chokecherries to turn your teeth brown and coat your tongue so food tastes "funny"?

In the hayfield my job was to handle the sweep-rake.

Remember those mean things?

I hated that job with a passion, and would cry all the way out to pick up a load of hay, but never would I let my father see my tears. I knew he would expect me to do the job and not be a cry-baby.

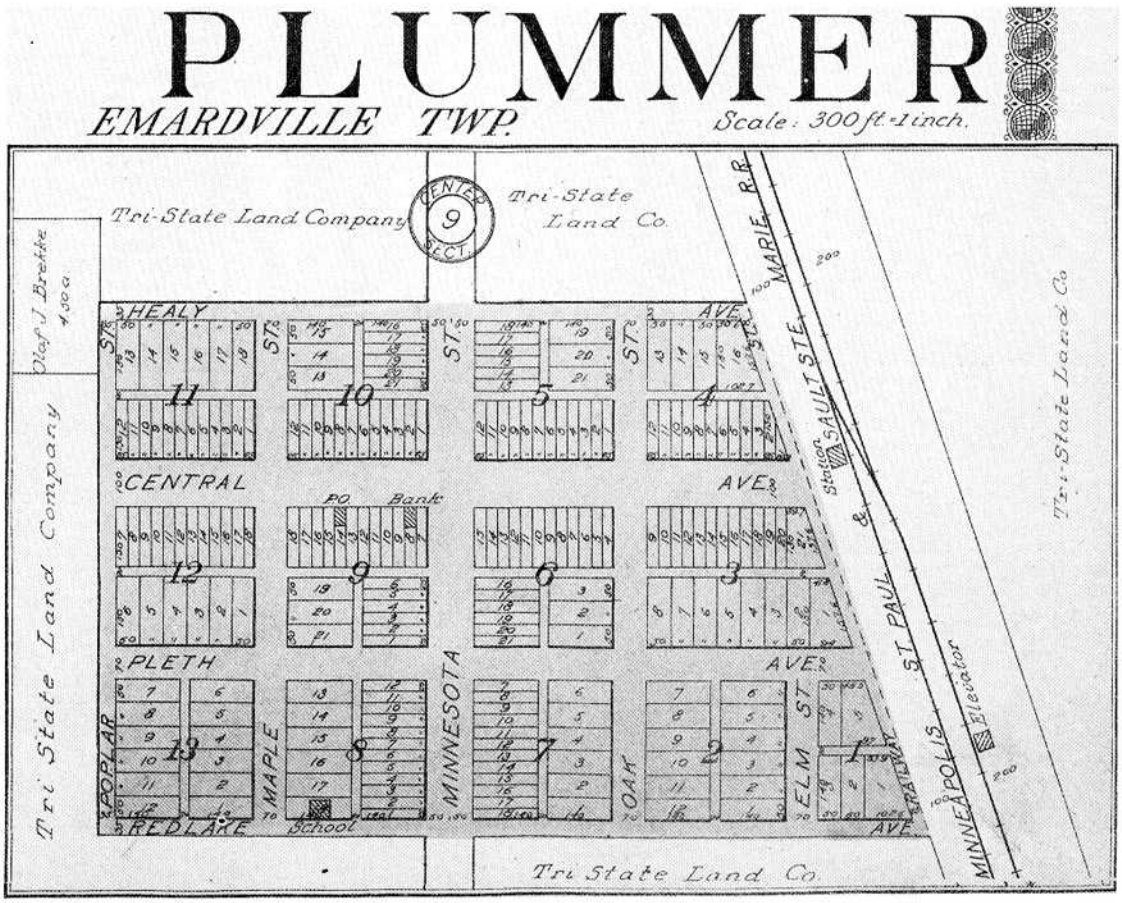
This was a fundamental philosophy of the community. The heat of summer, the storms of winter, crop failure, disease and other catastrophies were endured with patience and a basic, over-riding hope that the future would be better. It was an example that has stayed with me through the years, and has sustained me in the worst of times.

Dear Red Lake County, you gave me the greatest of all gifts: a childhood of security, trust and the example of honorable adults; and for this, "— now I return my thanks with heart and lips."

Elaine Wichterman Moran



Aerial View — Village of Plummer



PLUMMER

Plummer is located in north central Red Lake County on U.S. Highway #59 and County road #1 in Section 9 of Emardville township with a population of 283.

At the turn of the century the townsite of Plummer was located west of the Clearwater River Dam. A man by the name of C. A. Plummer operated a feed mill and trading post which he later sold to H. H. Finrow. Finrow operated a store and restaurant and was also the postmaster.

In 1904 the Soo Ste. Marie Railroad built through Emardville township and a town soon began to mushroom close to the railroad. It was decided to call the new town Scotland, but upon petitioning it was found that there already was a Scotland in Minnesota. It was then named Plummer after the first storekeeper. The first freight train passed through the town in September, 1904. Plummer was plotted in the summer and by the end of the year almost every business was represented. The first to purchase land was the First State Bank which opened for business on November 7, 1904, with L. C. Simons, President, C. N. Bourdon, Vice-President and Henry J. Enderle, Cashier.

Julius Pleth formerly of St. Hilaire was the townsite agent and had a real estate office. Due to his vision of growth for the town, it was plotted with the wide streets as they stand today. At first there were two plank walks laid length-wise from the bank to the depot; the streets were still full of poplar stumps which were finally grubbed and the streets put into good shape.

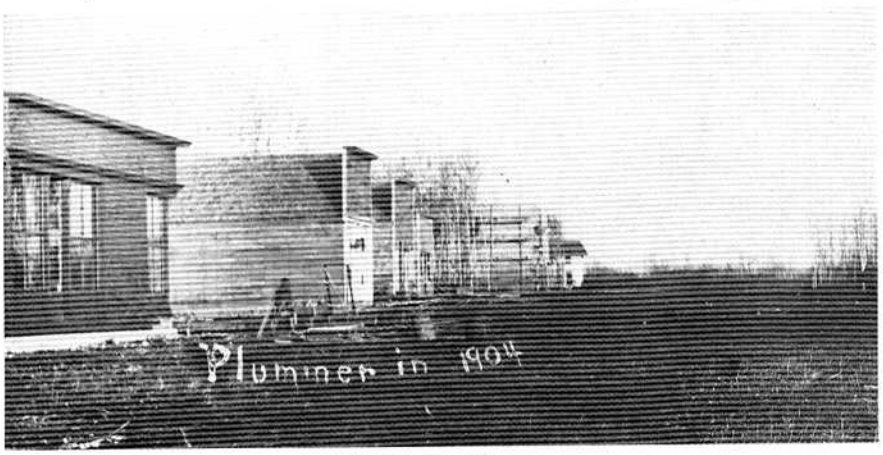
By Christmas of 1904, several businesses were established. Robinson and Co. were the first to start a general store. P. K. Olson ran the "Welcome" saloon and restaurant. W. G. Brown and J. E. Buskirk were the pioneer contractors and builders and put up nearly every building in the new town except the railroad building. They also operated a saloon. Hotel Scotland was owned and operated by Erick Iverson. Louis Seiff owned a large livery and feed stable with Joe Morrissette in charge. The Bovey-Schute Lumber Company of Minneapolis had a lumber yard with A. Aldrich in charge. E. Peterson was a blacksmith, J. A. Rothstein ran a meat market and was a cattle buyer, and J. M. Reed was a furniture dealer and also handled confectionary items.

The Plummer Pioneer newspaper was published by Charles T. Latta, who was also postmaster. The Thief River Falls Milling Company owned a large elevator in the town with Olaf Tande in charge. The Emardville Creamery Association purchased an acre of land on the west side of the Clearwater River and moved their creamery to Plummer. Due to heavy lumbering in the area, the Soo Line Railroad built a branch line from Plummer to Duluth in 1910.

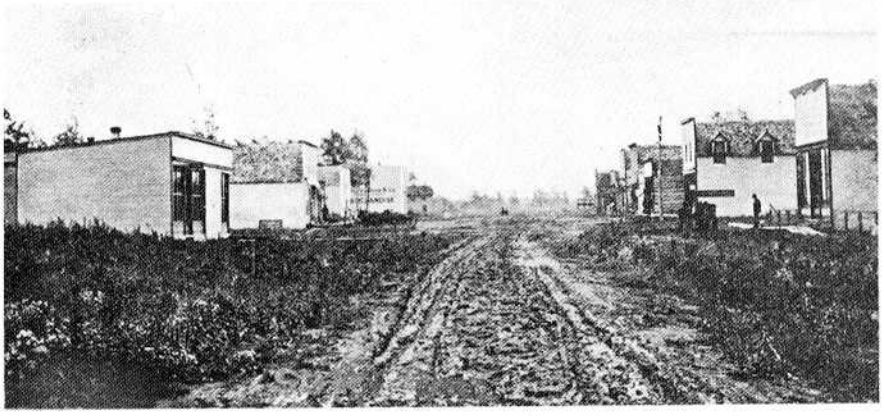
Plummer was incorporated in 1906. John M. Reed was the first Mayor, Charles Latta, Clerk, and Henry Enderle, Treasurer. Other former mayors were: William Bottineau, P. B. Lanager, H. H. Finrow, Alcide Morrissette, Arthur Carlson, James Ford, George LaFaivre, Emil Larson, Henry Weiss, E. B. Kopp, Reaume St. Marie, Emil Malwitz, Franklin Brown, James Froseth, Ernest Pederson, and Norman Baune.

In the past seventy years many businesses have come and gone. These included the S. J. Rice Hotel, Hotel LaVoy and the Farmers Bank with Booren and Hagen. Merchandise stores were run by O. H. Langlie (Clearwater Mercantile), Fox, Johnson and Rowvien and Charles Schmitz. Alcide Morrissette operated a store from 1914 to 1965. Saloons were run by Tom Norby, Ed Johnson and Skoghaug. Severin Hanson operated a rooming house and restaurant. Albert Martin was buttermaker at the Creamery. Other businessmen were cattle buyer Henderson, wheat buyer Oscar Carlson, Andrew Gunderson of the elevator, and Tom Norby who ran the electric power plant for the village. Paul Schoenauer was an implement dealer and operated a garage for many years. Lars Haga and E. B. Lanager owned a hardware store. Wm. Bottineau had a lumber yard and J. W. Pahlen a land office. Depot Agents were Krueger and Taggert. There was a Bertram-Wright Lumber Company, Hans Huggett had a butcher shop, E. L. Wichterman ran a livery stable, and Willett was a well-driller, Holten and Nelson were blacksmiths, and Davies was an editor of the Plummer Pioneer.

The present mayor of Plummer is Clinton Theroux, and councilmen are Jim Froseth, Larry Ness, Ray Franklund and Howard Greenwald.



1904 Main Street Plummer



Main Street Plummer 1908



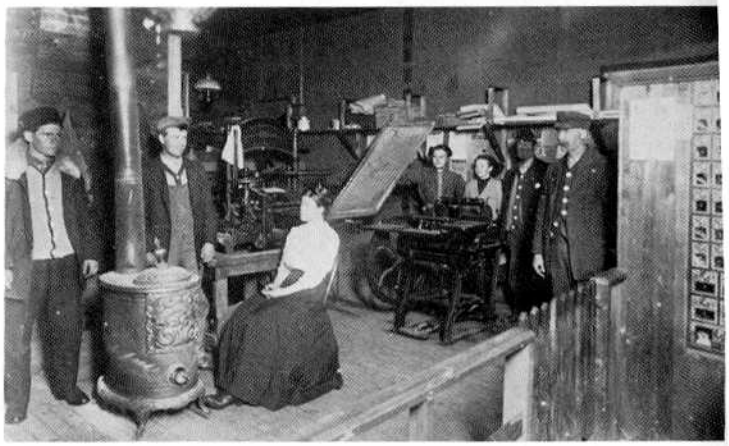
Plummer 1912



Hotel Scotland — Plummer



Pioneer Hardware



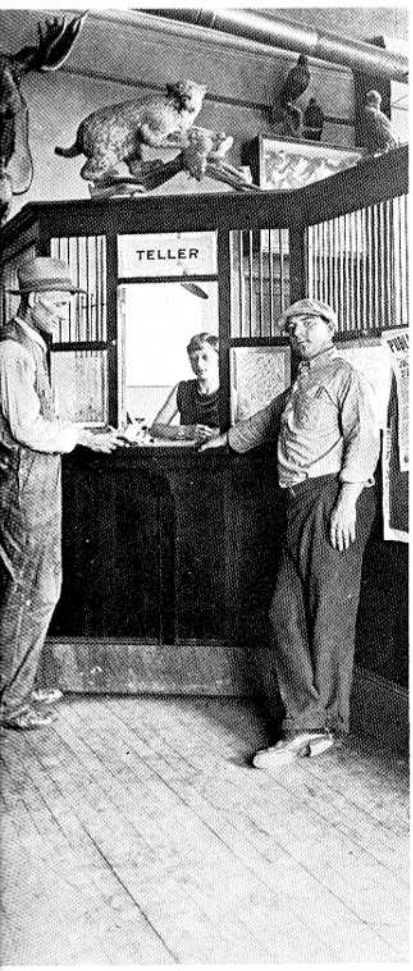
Postoffice about 1906



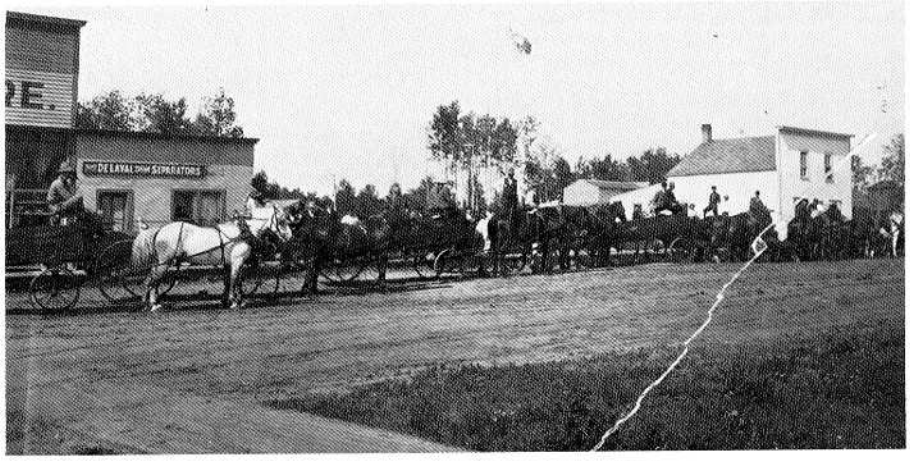
First State Bank



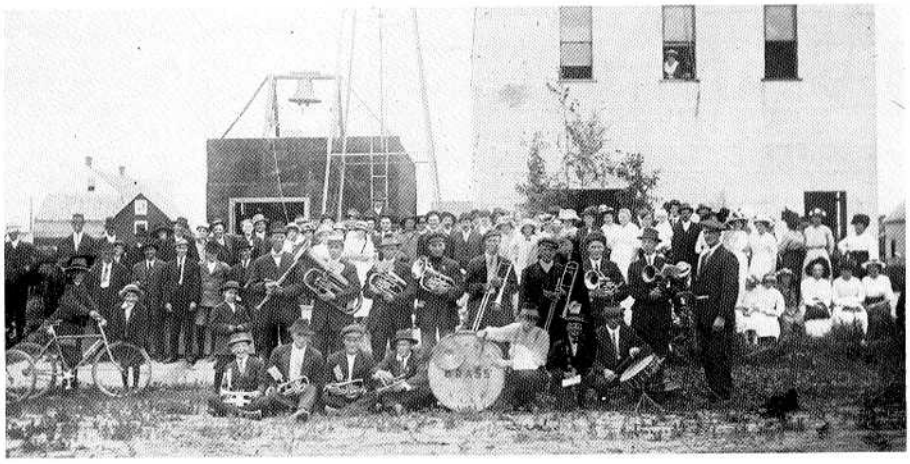
Pioneer Hardware



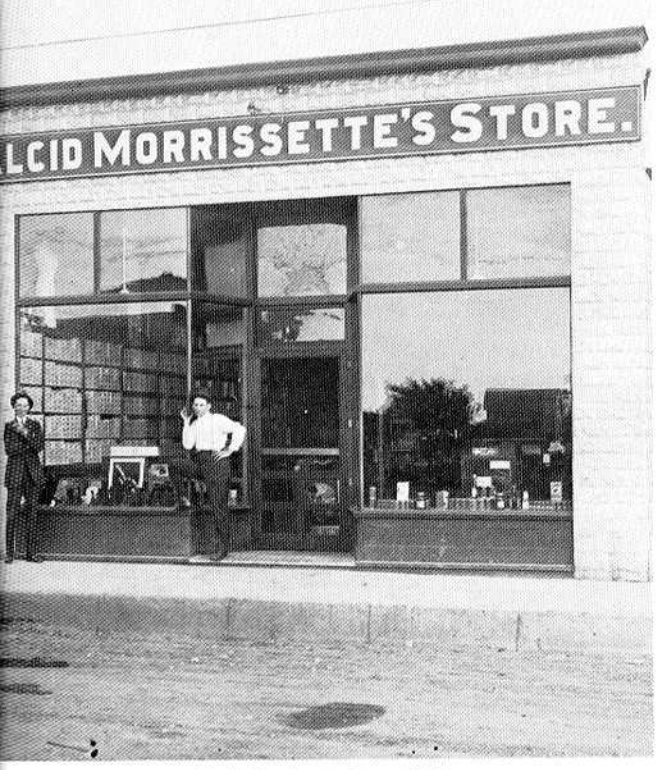
First State Bank 1926: August Glewve, Gladys Jorgenson, S. J. Bredeson and Henry Enderle.



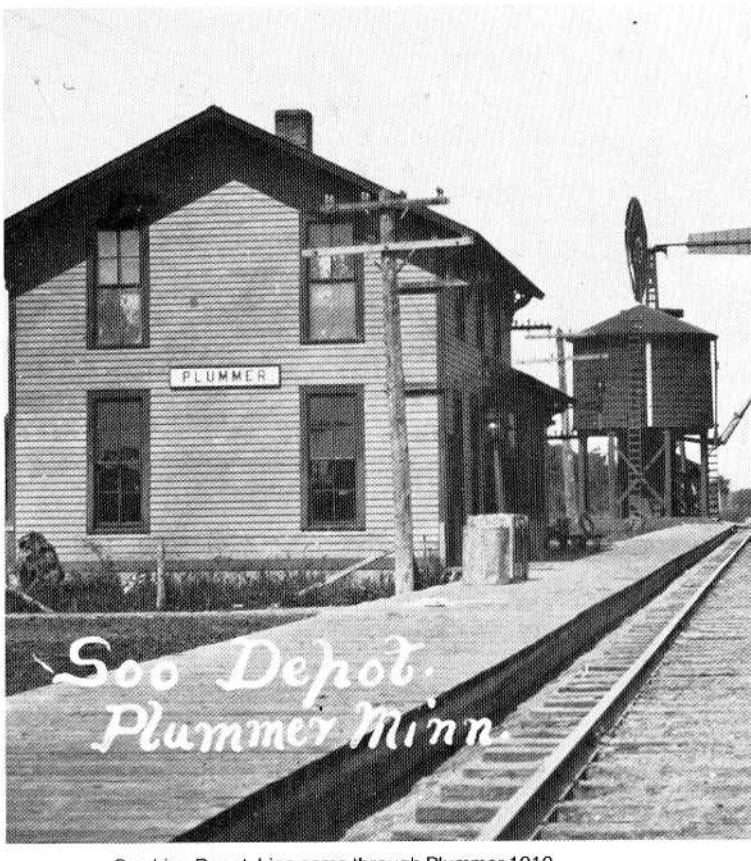
A lineup of wagons on north side of Main Street.



Old Plummer Hall and Plummer brass band 1916.



Alcid Morrissette Store 1914



Soo Line Depot. Line came through Plummer 1910.

ORIGIN OF PERSHING SCHOOL

The village of Plummer acquired its first school in October, 1906. The building was moved from its location in District 16, one-fourth mile east of the Soo Line Railroad track and on the north side of the present road to Oklee.

It was built in 1898 on section 9 on land given the district by Eyvind Schjeldrup who homesteaded the acreage.

Known first as the Magnell School, it was later called the Medchill School.

Following the turn of the century, Plummer Village was getting its start. The number of children from town who attended the Medchill School was increasing. Fearing for the safety of the children in crossing the railroad tracks, the citizens of Plummer decided to have the building moved into town. The move was accomplished on October 19, 1906 by means of horses.

Related to the event was an accident that cast sorrow over the whole community. The building was set down, horses unhitched and a fourteen year old boy was holding the reins of one team. Something scared the horses. Quick as lightning they took off and ran away, throwing the boy, Clarence Finrow, to his death. It was said that he was thrown as high as the tallest buildings nearby.

Location of the building was near the present site of Pershing School. Remodeling included a wall through the middle providing for two rooms.

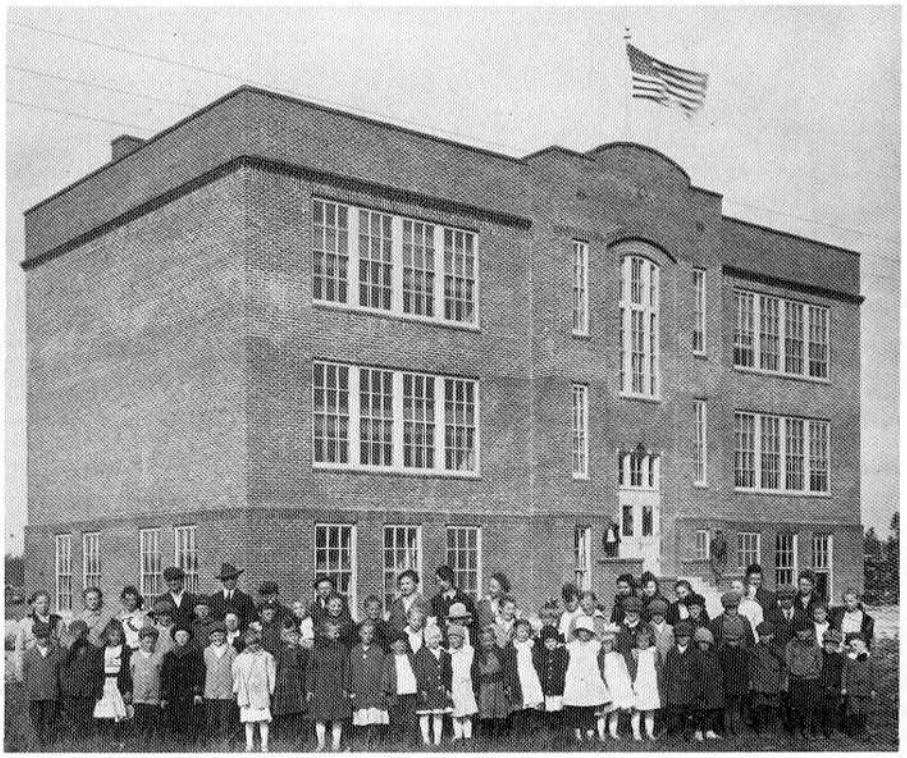
Behind the school was solid brush and woods and also a ditch which was really a little river during the spring break-up. Boys would sail rafts down the ditch.



Built in 1898, the Medchill (Magnell) School was moved to Plummer in 1906.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 16 — PLUMMER VILLAGE SCHOOL

Teachers who taught the upper grades from 1909 to 1914, Lou Green; 1914-15, Lena Gullingsrud; 1915-16, Olga Narveson; and 1916-17, Amanda Eckblad, Lower grades were 1909-12, Laura Halseth; 1912-14, Emma Tanberg; 1914-15, Anne Tharaldson; 1915-16, Fern Lindly; and 1916-17, Irene Lanager. Haga School was added: 1917-18, Amanda Eckblad taught the upper grades, Miss Kelly, Middle grades and Irene Lanager, lower grades.



New Plummer School 1918

THE NEW BRICK BUILDING

Contractors for building the school was the Brady Construction Company of Red Lake Falls.

The three story brick school was ready for the 1918 school year and the transition from a one or two room school was an event not to be forgotten. Sixty-five pupils was the approximate enrollment.

Miss Hazel Baseman, Principal, taught grades 8 and 9 and boys' manual training. Grade 9 subjects were algebra, English literature, science and ancient history. Miss Caroline Graham had grades 5, 6 and 7. Miss Marie Erickson was in Room 2 and taught sewing to the upper grade girls. Miss Bertha Erickson was primary teacher and taught cooking to the girls. A hot dish was prepared each day by these domestic science teachers and the children brought sandwiches from home.

It was war time and the students busied themselves knitting garments and shared in other Red Cross projects for the fighting world war I soldiers.

Community sings were held weekly in the assembly room and patriotic songs such as "Over There", "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and "Till We Meet Again" were lustily sung.

An outstanding event in this school year was a visit by the nationally known author and lecturer, Maria Sanford.

Miss Baseman was a former student of Miss Sanford and when she heard about her coming to a nearby area, contacted her. She was a vibrant speaker and her recitation of "Old Ironsides" was so impressive that it is still remembered by some who were in the fifth grade at that time.

Towards spring there grew an interest in giving the school a name. It was decided that the students should have the privilege of making a choice by ballot. Preceding the voting were discussions which brought out strong support for the names Washington and Lincoln. One boy, however, Elmer Schjeldrup, opposed these choices. He thought it would be confusing to have the same names as schools in nearby towns. Also, he felt that a more recently noted hero should be honored. The idea spread and when the votes were counted, the name, "John G. Pershing" won.

Finalization of the event was the christening. This occurred on one of the Wednesday assembly sessions. Pupils and teachers were in the rear of the room. A suitable target was placed on the floor. As Oren Norby came on the stage, a round bottomed bottle in hand, stillness pervaded the air. His words came clear, "I christen thee the Pershing School", as he swung the bottle. CRASH! Stillness shattered. All were proud of the little hero.

"Elated" was the feeling experienced by the pupils as Miss Baseman later read a letter to the group. A letter from General John G. Pershing to the school thanking them for the honor given him. This letter was saved, but couldn't be found for the bicentennial year.

Teachers for the first three years were: 1918-19, Hazel Baseman, Principal, Room 4; Caroline Graham, Room 3; Marie Erickson, Room 2; and Bertha Erickson, Room 1. 1919-20, Hazel Baseman, Principal; Caroline Graham, Miss Baker, and Miss Toms. 1920-21 Albert Giles, Principal; Vivian Huffman, Miss Vore, and Francis Kauffman.

THE TRANSITION YEARS — 1921-1926

1921-1922, Walter Kelly was the Principal. There were three bus routes. Drivers were Route 1, Sam Pikkela, Route 2, R. A. Preston and Route 3, Andrew Nelson.

Buses were horse drawn, high wheeled wagons with bright red bus bodies. The roads were deep rutted and usually muddy. Horse drawn sleighs with a box style shelter was used during winter. Short cuts across fields and through farms were unrestricted routes taken and the last children off would often get home at 6 p.m. Foot warmers and blankets were used for warmth.

In 1922-23, Walter Kelly was principal. Enrollment was 137 pupils.

1923-24, John Budzinski was principal with Lucille Engeldinger as helper. Domestic science was dropped and physics introduced. Touring cars were occasionally driven on bus routes. These were crowded.

1924-25, Eloise Anderson was principal and Jessie Battenfeld was helper. 1925-26, Bernard Curtiss, principal and Jessie Battenfeld, helper. A school district vote was taken for a state accredited four year high school. The vote was 44 in favor; 6 negative. Mr. Curtiss resigned because of ill health. Jessie Battenfeld became principal with Mable Splitzloeser as helper.

A girls' basketball team was organized by Miss Splitztoeser, but was discontinued after a year's time because of fear that the strenuous activity might be hazardous to girls' health.

A FOUR-YEAR PERSHING HIGH SCHOOL

The goal was reached. In September 1926 the Plummer school started with a full senior high school. Graduates of the first four year state accredited class were: Gladys Norby, Aagot Hanson, Gertrude Schaack, Anton Mickelson, Ethel Johnson and Minard Slattery.

Superintendents from 1926 to present time are as follows: Russel Newman, 1926-1928; Reuben Peterson, 1928-1933; Aleck Ripple, 1933-1937; Herman Berger, 1937, 1950; Homer Bjornson, 1950-1953; Roger Piehl, 1953-1958; Edvin Kval, 1958-1961; George Glum, 1961-1967; and Edward Arntson, 1967 — present time (1976).

High School Principals from 1926: Julia Saterlie, 1926-1928; Wahnita Tschida, 1928-1929; Marjorie Flaa, 1929-1931; Carl Bye, 1931-1933; Leo Lauer, 1933-1935; Irene Swenseid, 1935-1936; Julias Adrian, 1936-1941; Harold Spears, 1941-1943; E. Palmer Rocksvold, 1943-1945; George Saunders, 1945-1948; Elmer Doran, 1949-1950; Howard Casmey, 1952-1954; Harold Grams, 1954-1956; Harold Wilcox, 1956-1957; R. E. Farning, 1957-1958; George Glum, 1958-1961; Sherman Oftedal, 1961-1963; J. Malinousky, 1963-1964; Norman Nystrom, 1964-1966; Scott Hammond, 1966-1968; Elon Johnson, 1968-1969; Hugh Kappas, 1969-1971; and Francis Tobias, 1971 to present time (1976).

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM 1926 to 1976

During the years 1926 to 1931 bids were regularly taken right after the first of the year for green "popple" cord wood that was cut, split and delivered to the school ground and there unloaded and ranked. The price for a cord of wood was $1.98 in 1931.

During the years of 1930-1931 motor driven buses went under strict state qualifications, but still privately owned.

School carnivals were initiated. Each grade presented some feature: there were skits, folk dances, and musical numbers plus other novelties.

1933-1934, Aleck Ripple was hired for $125.00 per month and Leo Lauer for $100.00. The teachers were asked to take a ten percent cut in wages. The Basketball Cardinals won the District Consolation trophy.

1934-1935: A hot dish or soup was served at lunch time for 2¢ per dish. Peter Rolf Ohnstad organized and directed the first Plummer School Band. The band has continued to grow and is featured at festivities.

1940-1941: Bonds were issued for the purpose of building an addition to the school.

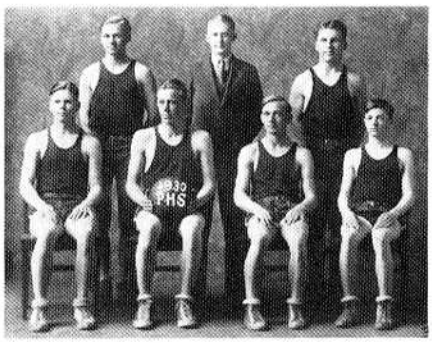
1941: Forty-two passenger buses were purchased.

1942-1943: These were World War II years. Daylight saving time was in effect and school days started at 9:30 a.m. on shorter days. A Fargo Foundry was to build fire escapes for $315.00. A coal stoker was installed at a cost of $1,000.00.

1944-1945: Due to crowded conditions in school, it was authorized to build a room in the stairway space.

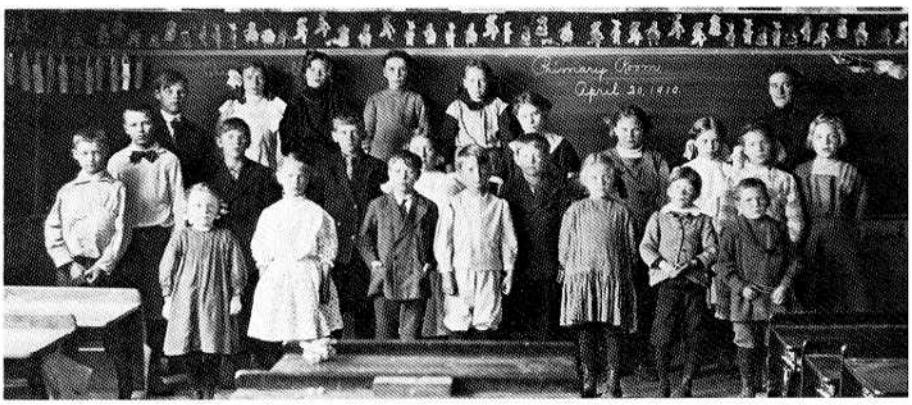
1945-1946: Bus drivers salaries were $100.00 a month. School rent for village auditorium was $400.00 a year for use in athletic activities and physical education programs.

1946-1947: Elbert Larvick engaged as Veteran Vocational Agricultural Trainee.



Plummer team 1930


Teachers Laura Halseth and Lou Green 1912


Plummer School primary grades 1910


Plummer School upper grades 1910

Contracts made with closed school districts 3, 5, 133J, 148J, 214, 228, 234 and 335. Contract for instruction with districts 126, 141, 208 and 233J.

1948-1949: Move to extend facilities of agriculture and home economics department in high school. Plans were made to build more class rooms. School water source was to be hooked up to Plummer water supply.

In 1949 there were five bus routes: Route 1, Thibert; 2, Kopp; 3, Carpenter; 4, Schoenauer; and 5, Hanson. K. R. Anderson blueprint for new building approved.

1949-1950: In March, 1950 Elmer Doran was appointed acting superintendent. Supt. Berger passed away May 19, 1950. Districts 142, 140, 233 and 249 admitted into District 16.

1950-1951: Hot lunch program to serve complete meal; 20¢ for grades 1-6, 25¢ for higher grades. Families with four or more children, 10¢ each. Industrial arts course introduced. Dist. 208 consolidated with District 16. Elimination of agriculture department took place.

1954-1955: Elementary wing added to original brick building. Purpose: to accommodate the growing enrollment.

1956-1957: Legislature changed the consolidated schools to independent schools and decreed these to be numbered consecutively. District Number 16 became Independent District 628.

1957-1958: A long discussed need for a gymnasium was resolved and built. Also athletic dressing rooms, a vocational agriculture classroom and two more classrooms in the elementary area. These areas were built to accommodate the varied curriculum and to modernize the athletic facilities which had been in the town auditorium. Home Economics and vocational agriculture were added to the curriculum.

1966-1961: Due to an acute accident that impaired Supt. Kval's health, George Glum was appointed acting superintendent.

1961-1962: It was decided to have an elementary principal for grades 1-6. Hazel Hagen was chosen.

1967-1968: The halloween burning of the Pershing School by vandals, a senseless act, left the residents heartsick and angered. The original structure with desks and books were destroyed. Neighboring schools of Oklee, Red Lake Falls and Thief River Falls gave and loaned books. The auditorium was partitioned into lunchroom and classrooms. Church basements were also put into use.

The gymnasium and north wing were preserved by a fire wall. After some pro and con discussions and some bitter resentment whether the Plummer school should consolidate with Oklee and/or Red Lake Falls, it was decided to rebuild. The decision was to build between the existing buildings. Work started in 1968. The bids went as follows: General construction, Nasvick Construction Co. Inc., Bemidji, MN; Electric, Langlie Electric, Thief River Falls, MN; Mechanical, Lundseth Plumbing and Heating, Thief River Falls, MN; Equipment, Kitchen Equipment, St. Paul Equipment Co.; St. Paul, MN; Library Equipment and casework, Erlenson Lumber Co. The total cost was $214,306.00.

The entire Brooks school district no. 626 consolidated with Plummer district no. 628.

In the fall of 1968, Kindergarten started as a full time class. In the summer, a swimming program had started at the cost of 25¢ per individual.

A dedication of the new school building was held on November 6, 1969 with Odin Langen as speaker. Representative Langen was introduced by Jerry Gerardy, President of the Plummer school board. Harold Birkeland of Buffalo, MN, architect of the new addition presented Jerry Gerardy the key.

1973-1974: A modern music room, band practice areas, and a multipurpose room were added.

1975-1976: There are six bus routes, one bus for each route. Two window-van buses are used to transport kindergarten pupils and the students to the vocational center in Thief River Falls. Bus drivers for the present year are: Clarence Christianson, Barry Gustafson, Loren LaFayette, Roger Skjerven, Mrs. Henry Tvedt, and Raymond Witt.

Pershing School Personnel are: Edward Arntson, Superintendent; Francis W. Tobias, Jr., Secondary Principal; Charles Walker, Elementary Principal and Elementary Music; Nancy Anderson, Home Economics; Carole Berg, Librarian and English; Gary Brantl, Social Studies, Boys Phys. Ed.; Wallace Etter, Industrial Arts; Donald Fox, Science; Elizabeth Howard, Art and Girls' Phys. Ed.; Ellen Pierce, Music; William Poole, English and Social; Carolyn Carlson, Commercial; Paul Williams, Junior High Remedial Reading; Paul Walker, Mathematics; LeLon Naylor, Vocational Agriculture; Ruth Oen, SLBP-Elem. Rem. Reading; Roberta Weigand, SLBP-High School; Arlene Zimpel, Kindergarten; Inga Linder, Grade 1; Kathy Knott, Grade 2; Jean Schoeller, Grade 3; Rickey Koivisto, Grade 4; Leslie Hofstad, Grade 5; Leslie Wagner, Grade 6; Hazel Ollie, Elem. Rem. Reading. The cooks are Mrs. Goodwin Kvasager, Mrs. Lloyd Sorenson and Mrs. Gertie Palzinski. Aides are Mrs. Helen LaFayette and Mrs. Avis Froiland. Secretaries are Dorothy Pederson and Diana Qualley. Janitors are Harold Vatthauer and Arlan Koskela.

Enrollment for 1975-1976 are as follows: Kindergarten, 31; Elementary Grades, 140; Junior and Senior High, 166. Total 337.

School board members are Arthur Hamrum, Merlin Carlson, Jerry Gerardy, Dwight Robidous, Jerry Freitag and Melvin Eskeli.

PLUMMER IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking back into the history of good people in the Plummer community, we see the dedicated services of pastors, laymen and women throughout the years. It was just before the turn of the century that the first lutheran women a few miles south of Plummer decided there was definite need for a church so they got together and organized a ladies aid in the year 1896. Mrs. John Hagen was elected as the first president with nine women as charter members. In the year 1900 these dedicated women, through a lot of hard work baking, sewing and holding bazaars, had raised enough funds to start the building of a small church to be known as the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

The Village of Plummer was founded in 1905 and with several families moving into the community it became apparent a school and church were needed. The building of a school was considered of greater importance than a church, however it was understood that the school could be used for church functions whenever it would be available. Because of such limited facilities for their church work and meetings, a group of women got together at the home of Mrs. Adolph Aldrich and organized a ladies aid society, whose purpose was to raise funds for the construction of a church in the village of Plummer. It is very interesting to note that the uppermost thought in the minds of these early settlers was for a christian education in the community. The first officers for the aid were: Mrs. Adolph Aldrich, President; Mrs. E. B. Lanager, Vice President; Mrs. Ellen Rice, Secretary and Mrs. Knute Henderson, Treasurer. The ladies of the aid were very busy sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, baking and making all kinds of saleable articles for their fall bazaars. On May 14, 1914 the great day arrived which was of great importance in the history of our church. On this day the ladies voted to turn over the money in the sum of $993.56 to the church building fund, which had been raised in the period of five years. Ole Bergdahl volunteered to solicit for donations toward the building fund also, so together with the money donated by the women and other donations, the building of the church began in 1914 and was completed the same year. The name chosen was Plummer Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. O. M. Stensgaard was the first regular pastor to serve the church. Vernice Priebe, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Priebe was the first child to be baptized in the new church. The baptism took place December 7, 1914. She is now known as Mrs. Lowell Hawkinson and resides in St. Hilaire. On Thanksgiving day November 25, 1915, the dedication and cornerstone laying services were held. Visiting pastors for the occasion were: Rev. I. T. Austad of Thief River Falls, Minnesota and Rev. H. O. Norby of Gary, Minnesota. This was a day long to be remembered.

On Palm Sunday, April 16, 1916 the first class was confirmed. Members of the class were: Otila Hemly, Julia Bredeson, Hilda Schjelderup and Elmer Haugen.

The ladies of the church still kept on working diligently raising funds to furnish the church. Finally the day arrived when they had enough money in their treasury to purchase chairs, a pulpit, baptismal font, pews, church bell, altar, heater and carpeting for the chancel.

In 1920 Rev. J. K. Lerohl was installed as pastor. The first wedding was held in the church in December, 1920. The bride was Mary Erickson and the groom was Richard Loffelmaker. Attendants were Bertha Erickson and Chester Fredrickson.

In March, 1947 Rev. J. K. Lerohl passed away, after faithfully serving the church for 27 years. Then until October the church was served by student pastors. In October, 1947, Rev. J. M. Runestead was installed to be our regular pastor. It was in this year that talk started for merger of the country church known as the Immanuel Lutheran Church, with the Plummer Evangelical Lutheran Church, as it was getting very difficult to secure a pastor who was willing to serve multiple church congregations. So it was in 1947 that the Immanuel Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church voted to become one congregation and the name Immanuel Lutheran Church was taken for the name of it.

In the spring of 1949 extensive remodeling of the church began and was finished the same year. The remodeling consisted of a full basement, modern heating and plumbing facilities. Cornerstone laying services were held on May 21, 1950. The first

wedding in the newly remodeled church was on December 21, 1949 for Beatrice Waldal and Clayton Larson.

During the period that Rev. Runestead served as pastor, plans were made and finalized for organization of a Luther League for the youth of our church.

On September 23, 1952, the Immanuel Lutheran Church congregation voted to become separate from the Oklee parish which was also served by Rev. Runestead. This was to begin June 1, 1953.

In 1954 Rev. Runestead resigned and Rev. O. M. Simondson accepted a call to become our pastor. It was in 1954 that the parsonage was built and we became an independent congregation. The lots for the parsonage were donated by Edwin Jacobson, which was originally a part of the land homesteaded by Eyvind Schjeldrup in 1894. Most of the labor on the parsonage was donated and dedication service was held September 20, 1955, by E. A. Hanson, President of the Northern Minnesota District.

During the period Rev. Simundson served as our pastor, the ladies aid became known as the A.L.C. Women as our congregation joined the American Lutheran Church. The women voted to divide into circles so they could serve the church more effectively.

In 1961 Rev. Simundson left for Aberdeen, South Dakota and Rev. Milton Grorud was installed to serve our church. Rev. Grorud served our church only eighteen months when he resigned and moved to Arizona due to the illness of his wife. During the time Rev. Grorud served as pastor of our church, a constitution was adopted, and also one for the A.L.C. women's organization.

We were without services of a regular pastor from January until June, 1964, when Rev. Robert Amundson accepted a call to become our pastor and was installed July 5, 1964. No major changes took place during these years. In 1967 he accepted a call from Tigerton, Wisconsin and Rev. Sheldahl was installed on October 1, 1967. In the fall of 1972 Rev. Sheldahl resigned and moved to Hoople, North Dakota. A farewell party was held for Rev. and Mrs. Sheldahl and their daughter, Esther on Sept. 10, 1972. Now again we were left without a pastor. Lay pastor, Wilbur Neilson, from Erskine, Minnesota filled in until the time when Rev. Max Dietze accepted our call to become the eighth pastor to serve our church and was installed February 18, 1973 by Pastor Olaf C. Cartford, Assistant President of the Northern Minnesota District of the American Lutheran Church. For the first time in the 60 year history of our church three women were elected to serve on the church council. Membership in our church had grown considerably with 115 children enrolled in Sunday school. Our church facilities were very limited with no Sunday school rooms. In April, 1974 the congregation voted to do very extensive remodeling to enlarge the church by adding ten Sunday school rooms, a library, a pastor's study and the worship area was enlarged to seat more people. Dedication services were held December 1, 1974 by Bishop Cecil Johnson, President of the Northern Minnesota District.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLUMMER

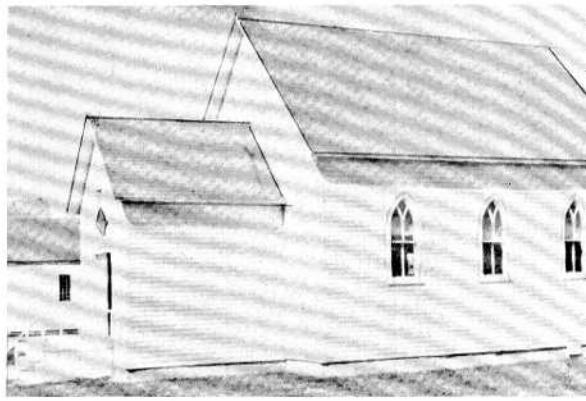
The first German Lutheran pastor to serve the Plummer area was Rev. Fred J. Seltz from Thief River Falls. Services were held in homes once a month. The house church took the name of St. Johns.



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Immanuel Lutheran Church 1974



First Presbyterian Church



St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church



Norwegian Lutheran Church 1914 now the Immanuel Lutheran

St. Johns (Redeemer) congregation was served by Rev. P. J. Seltz of McIntosh in 1917. August 10, 1919 the congregation was organized. Five members H. Schmidt, Aug. Newbert, Carl Carlson, Aug. Arlt and Richard Loeffelmacher pledged their whole hearted support to the newly organized congregation. Carl Carlson was the first Treasurer. The Norwegian Lutheran Church was rented for $1.00 per service. Shortly afterward they purchased 24 hymnals and promised to pay Pastor Paul Seltz $3.00 for every trip for services.

Rev. O. C. Fedcke was the first and only resident pastor for Redeemer. Pastor Fedcke was installed Sept. 5, 1920. An estimate of 95 people crowded the church.

Upon his arrival Plummer Congregation numbered 25 baptized and 14 communing members. The Plummer congregations first Mission Festival was held Aug. 28, 1921, when Rev. Emil Kreidt of Thief River Falls preached the mission sermon. Sometimes the old outdoor Mission Festival turned into a dismal failure as in 1922 when both scheduled services were washed out by rain.

Financial troubles plagued the congregation. But after Pastor Fedckes first full year, Plummer Congregation listed 35 baptized members, 17 communing members with average church attendance of 14 per service.

In April 1923, Pastor Fedcke was given permission to accept the call of Ogema and Callaway congregation while still serving Plummer. Attendance sank under this arrangement. Pastor Fedcke traveled some 5,625 miles in the interest of Redeemer that year.

In 1925 the Presbyterian church was secured for services for $1.00 per service. Sunday School sessions were begun in June 1925.

Pastor A. C. Seltz served the Ogema, Callaway, Plummer parish from October 1927 to October 1929. During his pastorate there was a noticeable increase in Mission giving and offerings were gathered to help acquire Valparaiso University as a Lutheran University and the 400 anniversary of Luthers Small Catechishm (1929) was mared by a childrens program held in connection with the annual Mission Festival.

The parish lines were changed and the tie to Ogema, Callaway was dropped because of distance. A new parish alignment was made with Red Lake Falls and Wylie Township. Plummer people went along with the arrangement, but wanted services every two weeks in summer, less often in winter. The Pastor was paid $8.00 per month.

Pastor Paul Burgdorf from Red Lake Falls, Wylie conducted his initial service on November 24, 1929. Under his pastorate there was liturgical change, as the congregation worship began to take shape of the Lutheran liturgy today.

During this time, Redeemer decided to apply for membership in the Synod. In 1936 George Hesse was a delegate to the convention in which Redeemer was accepted as a member.

In 1936 the congregation began a building fund for the purpose of owning its own building. In July 10, 1938 the congregation incorporated and chose the name (Redeemer) because of the large number of St. John congregations.

October 1940 Pastor John Stehr accepted the call to Wylie, Red Lake Falls and Plummer. Under his leadership the congregation showed remarkable growth, with membership more than doubling.

In Jan. 1945, the congregation purchased property. The present church building was purchased, moved from Brooks to the present location and remodeled to serve as a church. Members donated their time and ability to complete the first building after more than 25 years of existence.

Pastor Immanuel Bade served Redeemer from 1948-1953. Under his leadership altar hangings were introduced and improvements made in training the young in Sunday School.

Pastor Robert Boerger served the parish from 1953-1955.

Pastor Orville Poellet served from 1955-1959. After Wylie and Red Lake Falls merged in 1958 to form St. Johns church in Red Lake Falls, Redeemer congregation and Pastor Poellet agreed by mutual consent to sever that tie to Red Lake Falls.

After being without a pastor for some six months, Pastor A. C. Seltz served the congregation on a vacancy basis until 1963, when St. Johns of Thief River Falls and Redeemer agreed to form a parish.

Pastor Biegner accepted the call to Thief River Falls and Plummer in April 1963, after Pastor Seltz was elected to the full time presidency of the Minnesota North District. Pastor Biegner is still serving these congregations.

August 10, 1969, Redeemer celebrated their Golden Jubilee with a huge attendance. Invitations had been sent out to all former Pastors and members to attend this event.

Doris Malwitz was a delegate from Redeemer to the LWML International convention at Houston, Texas, in July 1969.

Rev. Bernard Lutz, a former son of Redeemer serves as an evangelistic missionary in New Guinea.

At the present time Redeemer congregation has services every Sunday at 9:00. Midweek services average about nine or ten through the year. LWML meet once a month and the voting members meet every third month. Confirmation classes meet once a week during the school year.

At this time Redeemer has approximately 75 communing members and about 23 in the Sunday School classes.

A discussion was held recently to repair or remodel the present church. Decision was made to set up a building fund for future use.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

First priest to say mass in Plummer in 1912 in an old wooden schoolhouse was Father Charles J. Deshales, who was stationed at the hospital in Bemidji.

Because of the great need and desire of the Catholic families and Father Deshales, a decision was made to build a church. Money was raised by loans and donations from parishioners and a great deal of work was donated by the members of the developing parish. The first mass in the new church, the structure that is still used today, was said by Father Paul LeFloch in 1913. He administered to the spiritual needs until Father Dingman came from St. Bernard's Church in Thief River Falls. He came by train to care for the Plummer mission church. The church had a low foundation without a basement, no bell, no pews — not much more than the building. The lights were kerosene lamps bracketed to the side walls. A woodburning, pot-bellied stove in the back of the church furnished heat. The organ, too, was in the back of the church.

In 1914, St. Vincent de Paul was made a parish with a resident priest, Father Stanley Bouchard. His first improvement was obtaining a bell, which was acquired from the Gentilly church, and this called for a parish celebration! Pews were also added, and a cemetery located about one mile southwest of the village was obtained.

Father Bouchard was transferred to St. Anthony's parish in Terrebonne in 1917, and was succeeded by Father L. Perronet. Until this time there was no parish residence and house had to be rented for the priest. The abandoned schoolhouse was considered, and the majority of the parishioners deemed it wise to buy the old schoolhouse and remodel it. Therefore, the building that served as the first church continued to serve as parish rectory after it was moved next to the church.

Father Patrick Lyons succeeded Father Perronet in 1919, and remained only a few months, Father N. P. Junker becoming his successor. During Father Junker's tenure, he finished the front porch of the rectory, which had been started by Father Lyons. The interior of the church was decorated, two stained glass windows donated by the families of M. J. Fallon and Julius Pleth were installed in the sanctuary, and Stations of the Cross and statues were installed. The high altar was a gift of the Extension Society and with that the sanctuary was raised and two steps were added.

Father Emil Luetticke came to serve as pastor in 1924, after Father Junker was transferred to Bluffton. The parish had grown and more room had to be provided in the church, so a balcony was erected over the back part of the church. The organ was moved to the balcony and more pews added. Father Luetticke enjoyed social activities, so in order to provide a parish hall, he encouraged raising the church and putting a basement under it. His jovial disposition prompted people of all faiths to help, so it was made a truly ecumenical affair. He, himself, donned working clothes and helped with the digging and cement pouring. Electric lights and a wood furnace were then installed, wood being readily available in those days and donated by the parishioners. During Father Luetticke's last year as pastor, Father August Zellikens said his first mass in the parish. Both priests had come over from Germany, and Father Zellikens, while attending St. John's at Collegeville, had spent his vacations with Father Luetticke.

Father Zellikens replaced Father Luetticke as pastor on August 15, 1927. He improved the balcony and repaired the organ as one of his first projects. He was an accomplished musician and organist, having studied in Germany and in Rome, as well as at St. John's. The silver jubilee of the parish was celebrated by the congregation in 1938.

Father Paul Cardin and Father William Keefe served the parish out of Red Lake Falls from February until May, 1940, when Father John Merth came to serve, remaining and improving on the spiritual life by urging the study of Christian doctrine and getting involved with the Rural Life Movement. He entered military service upon his departure from the parish.

Father Vincent Zarzecki, pastor from 1944-55, continued to help improve church properties. A new lower altar was installed, a beautiful tabernacle was donated in memory of Mrs. Mary Moonen, and newer pews, Stations of the Cross and

a baptismal font were obtained when St. Mary's church or Red Lake Falls joined St. Joseph's church.

Father Jerome Felion served the parish from 1955-59, directing and assisting in the church's remodeling. He organized the Christian Mothers, St. Anne's Sodality, Holy Name Men's Society, and renewed parishioner's interest in the Rural Life Movement.

From 1959-65, Father Daniel Noah served and established the CYO and actively directed it. He initiated the Blessed Virgin Sodality also. Water and sewer were installed in the church and parish house. Additional kitchen equipment was obtained so more social functions could be held in the church basement. The interior of the house and church were painted and many parish functions helped raise money for continued remodeling.

In 1965, St. Vincent de Paul, a mission again because of the shortage of priests, was served by Father Henry Carriere of Brooks until 1972. Since there was no resident priest, the rectory was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Arntson. During Father Carriere's tenure, the church kitchen was enlarged and modernized, to eliminate having to use facilities at the village hall and the school for parish dinners which were open to the public. Recently a hot-water furnace was installed and the walls were paneled and painted. A beautiful new organ was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Bernier and Fred, in memory of their son, Roger, killed in service in Vietnam.

Father Michael Patnode served the parish from May to August, 1972. With his guidance a parish council was started, and he was instrumental in getting the parishioners to be more active in the new liturgy which had been recommended by the Second Vatican Council.

Father Larry Wieseler is the present pastor. Under his guidance the interior of the church has been completely remodeled in a more modern design, and carpeting was put in. In 1974 an enlarged entrance replaced the open steps, and there is an inside entrance to the basement.

Members of St. Vincent de Paul church are deeply grateful to all those who were instrumental in starting and carrying on the work of this church.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — PLUMMER

When the Rev. S. M. Kelley was called to serve the First Presbyterian Church in Red Lake Falls in 1917, he found that there was only one other Protestant Church using the English language. This was the Brooks Presbyterian Church.

In the spring of 1918, Rev. Kelley visited Plummer, which had no American Protestant services. Plummer was a small but progressive incorporated village having the best railroad facilities in the county. Upon interviewing some of the people, he found a deep desire for a Sunday School. Rev. Kelley secured the assistance of Rev. R. S. Pryor, Sunday School missionary for Adams Presbytery, and services were held occasionally during the summer. Through the efforts of F. R. Davies and a number of other people, two lots and an old country school, called the Haga school, were bought and moved into the place where the present church stands.

In the spring of 1919, an attempt was made through the Home Mission Board to secure a man who would take charge of the work at Plummer and Brooks, but due to the shortage of ministers this was impossible. So the Rev. Kelley agreed to serve the Brooks and Plummer churches, but this necessitated holding only one service at Red Lake Falls. During the winter months, Missionary Pryor conducted services on a once a month basis.

In the spring of 1920, a petition was prepared, circulated, and presented to Adams Presbytery asking for the organization of a Presbyterian church at Plummer. The Presbytery appointed a commission of three: Rev. S. M. Kelley of Red Lake Falls, Rev. R. L. Barackman of Thief River Falls, and Elder Ed Healy of Red Lake Falls, who were to arrange the organization. On June 20, 1920, this committee met after the church services, and the organization took place. The names of Mrs. Hulda Anderson, Agnes Anderson Sorenson and Segrid Anderson Tillman were enrolled by transfer from the Red Lake Falls church. Other charter members were Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brooker, George Tanner, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wichterman. Pearl, Helen and Kathryn Preston were baptized at this time.

The little schoolhouse was sold and in the spring of 1947, the Emardville Lutheran church was bought and moved to the present location.

In 1960, it was deemed necessary to merge with the Brooks Presbyterian Church. The two churches brought together their heritages and formed one. The Brooks building was moved to Plummer, a basement put in and a few other changes made. This was aided with land and material from the old church. On December 13, 1963, the dedication service was held, and the Brooks-Plummer congregation went down in church history as a merged church.

Since the merger, Rev. Gruneich, Rev. Glenn Atchison, Rev. R. J. Villwock, and the present pastor, Rev. Ronald Geisman have served the congregation. In all, twenty pastors have served since 1918.

It was an extreme necessity that brought on this merger. However, there was opposition to it, so much so that members left and went elsewhere. Will our church now endure? We believe as the word of God states, "People who have no vision perish". We have vision, and our vision shall last as long as our eyes are fixed on God.

PLUMMER POST OFFICE

The 1st post office in Plummer was open in 1904, west of the present village with H. H. Finrow as Postmaster. When the town moved to its present site near the railroad Charles A. Latta was appointed postmaster. Ole Johnson succeeded him and he moved the office into the Johnson Saloon in the Village of Plummer. Later a new building was erected on the property presently owned by Mrs. Ann Jaeger. In 1914 Mrs. Lamie Morrissette was appointed Postmistress serving until G. A. Krueger assumed the post. He moved the office to a building on main street. In 1905 a star route was established and the first driver was a Mr. Olson. He served 15-18 miles NE of Plummer called Rhoda. When he retired Mrs. Ole Hemly started to carry the mail by horse and buggy. Many times when the weather got down to 40 below, she would have to spend the night with a patron. Her patrons could tell she was coming from a distance as they saw the smoke from her pipe coming out the side of her carriage.



Post Office

She served for many years. Mrs. Hemly died on the route and the horses returned to the livery barn.

John L. Bredson drove the star route from 1916 to 1918. Mr. Ole Hemly was carrier from 1919 to 1923 and Edwin Jacobson from 1923 to 1927. In 1914 Mr. Walter Lonergan started serving a route. In 1925 the rural free delivery service was started and served by Mr. Lonergan and Clarence Rice. When Clarence Rice gave up the route, Edwin Jacobson was appointed. Routes at that time were 16 miles long and could take as long as 9 hours to cover. The substitute carrier for the two routes was Ben Schjelderup. When G. A. Krueger retired Frank Mack was appointed postmaster with Alice Mack as clerk. He had the office in the same building on main street, the present Emardville Town Hall, until he built a new post office next to the theatre. It burned in 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Mack retired in March of 1948. Mr. Kenneth M. Haaven was appointed Postmaster in March, 1948. The clerk was Lorraine Haaven with Mae Jackson as temporary clerk. In 1961 when Mrs. Jackson retired, Mrs. Nadine Johnson was appointed temporary clerk. The post office remained in the same building until Mr. Haaven donated a lot and Edwin Langlie of Thief River Falls built a new one, occupying it in December 1962. In 1956 Walter Lonergan retired so the two routes were consolidated into one and served by Ed Jacobson until his retirement in 1959. The route was served by Jesse DuChamp until 1961 when the regular carrier, Russell H. Pahlen, was appointed. Mail went off the trains in 1957 so Plummer was served by star route carriers: Henry Pederson, W. Jablinski of Thief River Falls, MN and Ronald Paradis of Brooks, MN. It is possible to now serve 114 miles in six hours. Kenneth Haaven retired after 23½ years of service in October 1971. Mrs. Lorraine Haaven was appointed the postmistress. Other employees are Nadine Johnson, Clerk; Russell Pahlen, Rural Mail Carrier; and Joseph Fallon, substitute rural carrier.

PLUMMER COOPERATIVE CREAMERY ASSOCIATION

Following is an excerpt from the handbook, "Guide to Northwestern Minnesota", published in 1950 by Earl V. Chapman:

"Plummer is situated in a territory devoted to mixed farming with dairying predominant. Indicative of the growth of the latter is the record of the Plummer Cooperative Creamery. In 1903 the creamery produced 12,411 pounds of butter. By 1941, it produced approximately 400,000 pounds of butter annually."

History of the Plummer Cooperative Creamery goes back to 1900, when a

group of farmers organized and built the Emardville Creamery Association located near the Gilbertson bridge. In 1904 this building was moved to a spot on the west side of the Clearwater River at the new townsite of Plummer.

In 1918 a meeting was held to disband the Emardville Creamery Association and the Plummer Cooperative Creamery Association was begun. Those present at this meeting were: John Hagen, S. Michelson, John Carlson, Jacob Waldal, Harry Olson, Nils Hanson, Isaac Wilson, Carl Sorenson, John Brekke, Oscar Wilson, Anton Lee, John Greenwald, John Westerlund, Theodore Halverson, Martin Berg, Martin Foldoe, John Sorenson, L. J. Ellingson, Edwin Jacobson, David Haugen, S. J. Hemstad, Henry Giere, M. J. Fallon, H. C. Jesperson, Alfred Waldal, E. Schjeldrup and Simon Sater. The first officers of the newly formed association were: David Haugen, President; John Greenwald, Vice President; A. J. Hemstad, Secretary-Treasurer and Directors were John Greenwald, Anton Lee and P. S. Medchill.

A new brick building was constructed in 1918 at a total cost of $11,723. Mr. Albert Martin was the first buttermaker.

In 1945 the Plummer Cooperative Creamery started handling milk, and at that time also an addition was put on the building. In 1962 the Creamery began picking up bulk milk.

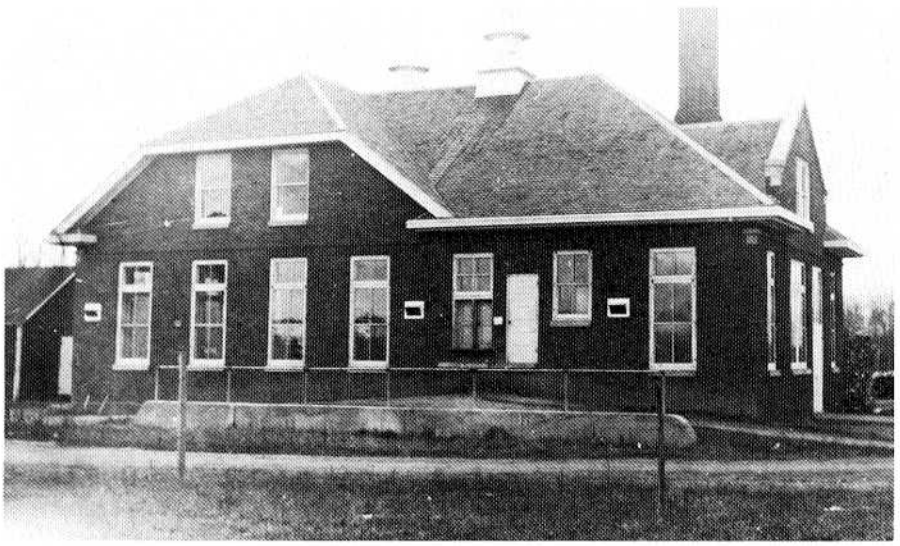
Present officers of the Association are: Gust Foldoe, President; Joe Fallon, Vice President; Jerry Gerardy, Secretary-Treasurer; Lloyd Sorenson and Erwin Weiss, Directors. Russell Houtari is the manager. At the present time there are one hundred patrons, and the volume of milk handled in 1974 was 16,971,767 pounds.



Plummer Fire Department



Old Plummer Creamery



Plummer Creamery

PLUMMER FIRE DEPARTMENT

One of the earliest institutions which was organized in the Village of Plummer was the fire department. A bell was rung warning everyone of a fire and grabbing a bucket they raced to the scene of the fire forming a bucket brigade. Most all attempts to save any buildings were futile. A pull cart with a small tank containing a chemical compound and water was stored in an early fire hall north of the town hall. The main reason for the chemical was to keep the water from freezing but it didn't serve the purpose as at most fires the hoses were frozen and the tank useless. This is a proven fact as most of the original buildings in town burned. As time progressed an old truck with a pump was purchased before World War II which was the pride and joy of the town. This served the purpose until the Plummer Fire Department was formed in 1947. Elected to office were Ed Jacobson, President and Fire-Chief; George Saunders, Sec.-Treas. There were 22 volunteers who became members of the volunteer fire relief association. Their first truck was a 1936 Chevrolet truck with reel hoses. With no sirens the fire bell was rung to call the firemen to duty. The Village purchased a 1950 Dodge truck with all new equipment in 1952. In 1953 the rural communities of Plummer and Oklee joined with the Village of Plummer to form the Plummer-Oklee Rural Fire Ass'n. The Fire Department not only fought fires but were very active in other activities. In 1953 the Plummer Fire Dept. purchased Christmas lights and it has been their responsibility to put up and take down the lighting ever since. For many years the Plummer Fire Dept. conducted the heart fund drive. In 1962 they sponsored a bowling team. Plummer has hosted the Regional Fireman's Ass'n meeting in 1962 and 1967. Plummer Fire Dept. has sponsored a New Years Eve Fireman's Ball for many years. In 1966 the Commercial Club and Fire Department purchased new lights.

In 1969 the original fire bell was moved to the Plummer Community Park installed in a permanent base to be preserved as a historical landmark of our community. Past Fire Chiefs were: 1947-1953, Ed Jacobson; 1954-1956, Lawrence Carpenter and 1957-1968, Ted LaCoursiere. Past Sec.-Treasurers were: 1947-1948, George Saunders; 1949-1954, Elmer Doran and 1955-1968, Oscar Brown.

In 1968 the Fire Department was reorganized. R. H. Pahlen was elected President; Ted LaCoursiere, Fire Chief and Gust Westerlund, Sec.-Treas. Six fire phones were installed in business places and fireman's homes.

In 1969 the first large Fourth of July celebration was held and the Fire Department had the responsibility of taking charge of the fireworks. This was done until 1974.

The Fire Department has been called to assist in many fires. The largest being the Post Office and Theatre in 1943, Plummer Liquor Store in 1962, the Plummer School in 1967 and East Side Service in 1971.

In 1972 a new fire hall was built. In 1973 the firemen were reclassified and are now called fire-fighters. They are well-trained, capable men, and as members of the State Vocational Training School, training is received three times a year. Fire Chiefs since reorganization are: 1968, Ted LaCoursiere; 1969, R. H. Pahlen; 1972, Keith Kruse; and 1974, Gust Westerlund (presently serving).

PLUMMER AMERICAN LEGION POST #623

A temporary charter for the Plummer American Legion Post #623 was issued August 6, 1947. The first Commander was James Jackson with twenty-two charter members: Hubert Matt, Nick Jaeger, William Remer, John Bentley, Walter Peterson, Deane Schoenauer, Joseph Fallon, Joel Nelson, Donald Wichterman, Eugene Carpenter, John Hemstad, Walter Toulouse, Ollie Mattison, Russell Pahlen, Howard Greenwald, Douglas Maney, Joseph Havlick, Lloyd Hanson, Erwin Siebel, James Jackson, Waldamar Walter, and Kenneth Haaven.

After almost thirty years since the American Legion Post began, only four of the charter members are deceased. An all-time high in membership of 78 members was reached in 1948. Over-top membership today is thirty, and the average membership is approximately fifty members.

The American Legion conducts a Memorial Day Service every year visiting six cemeteries in the Brooks-Plummer communities. A $50.00 scholarship has been given to a graduating senior the last few years. The Post has taken a very active part in the 4th of July celebrations in Plummer and send their colors to participate in all local parades.

Past Commanders are James Jackson, Jesse DuChamp, Ernest Pederson, Leo Eskeli, Hubert Matt, Walter Peterson, John Hemstad, Ernest Pederson, Floyd Hesse, Alvin Johnson, Russell Pahlen, Henry Moonen, Donald Hesse, Lorence Granum, Lawrence Carpenter, and Joseph Fallon.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #623

An organizational meeting was held in Plummer in November, 1947, with twenty-two women present for the purpose of starting an auxiliary to the Plummer American Legion Post #623. For a number of years several Plummer women had belonged to the Red Lake Falls Auxiliary Unit, but at this time decided to form their own unit. First President was Mrs. Walter Peterson, and other officers were Mrs. James Jackson, Mrs. Amelia Eskeli, Mrs. Deane Schoenauer, Mrs. Kenneth Haaven, Mrs. Hubert Matt, Mrs. Josephine McCrady and Mrs. Merle Skatvold. There were thirty-four charter members six of them being Gold Star mothers.

The unit has been actively working with the Legion on such projects as the Memorial Day program, July 4th celebration and other programs.

The first girl to attend Girls' State from the Plummer unit was Eunice Jaeger, and Patricia Guillemette was the first girl to receive the Citizenship Award at graduation. Floyd Howard won third place in state competition with his poppy poster while a student at Pershing school.

In 1971 the Unit voted to give a scholarship to a deserving high school graduate, and Linda Hemly was the first recipient.

The Unit purchased unit colors in 1974, and first to carry them at a district convention were Arlene Kelly and Janice Mattison.

All-time high membership was achieved in 1974-75 when there were seventy-three members. Since the unit was organized, twenty-two members have died, five of them Gold Star mothers.

Present membership is seventy-two. Two of these are Gold Star mothers, Mrs. Emil Malwitz and Mrs. Jerome Bernier.

LANAGER-HAGA

In the late 1890's Elling Bjorn Lanager and his brother Halvor were in the hardware business in Climax. By 1904 they decided to break up the partnership and "E. B." began to look elsewhere to start another hardware store. He had several locations in mind. Henry Enderle did a good salesmanship job and E. B. opened his hardware store in Plummer September 1904. (Thirteen years later Henry also talked E. B. into letting him marry his daughter Laura.)

He sold everything from paint to pots and pans to farm implements to coffins. For many years the family lived in back of the store. It wasn't unusual for anyone traveling a distance to sleep overnight on the floor. A big purchase was celebrated by E. B. grabbing a bucket and bringing it back from the saloon full of beer.

A boy who lived a few miles west of town finally saved up enough money to buy his first gun that he had been admiring in the store. He left home at sunrise and waited for two hours on the step for E. B. to open the store so he could buy his gun. Little did he dream that someday he would marry E. B.'s daughter Irene and in 1930 "Pioneer Hardware" would be changed to "Lanager and Haga".

Both E. B. Lanager and Lars Haga were members of the village council and members of the school board.



The Lanagers

WESTSIDE GROCERY

The first grocery store in Plummer was stareted in 1904 by a man named Al Finrow. The store building was located in back of the bank and faced east. After the bank burned, the grocery store building was moved to the corner where it stands today.

Charles Schmidt, Sr. operated it for some time, and sold to Arthur Torstveidt. He had the business until 1947, when Jesse and Wally DuChamp bought it. In 1965 Jesse sold his share to Wally, and he in turn sold to Wilfred Karr in 1974.

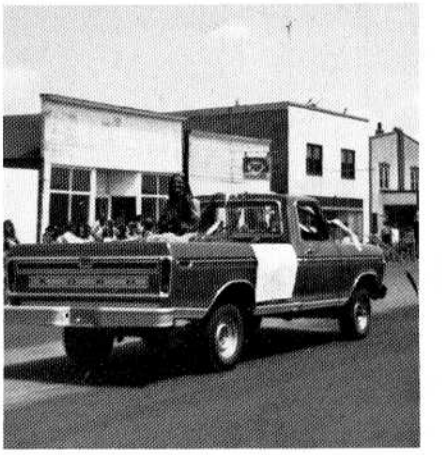
In October of 1974, Clinton and Pauline Theroux purchased the business and named it Westside Grocery.



Mr. and Mrs. Lars Haga



Finrow General Merchandise



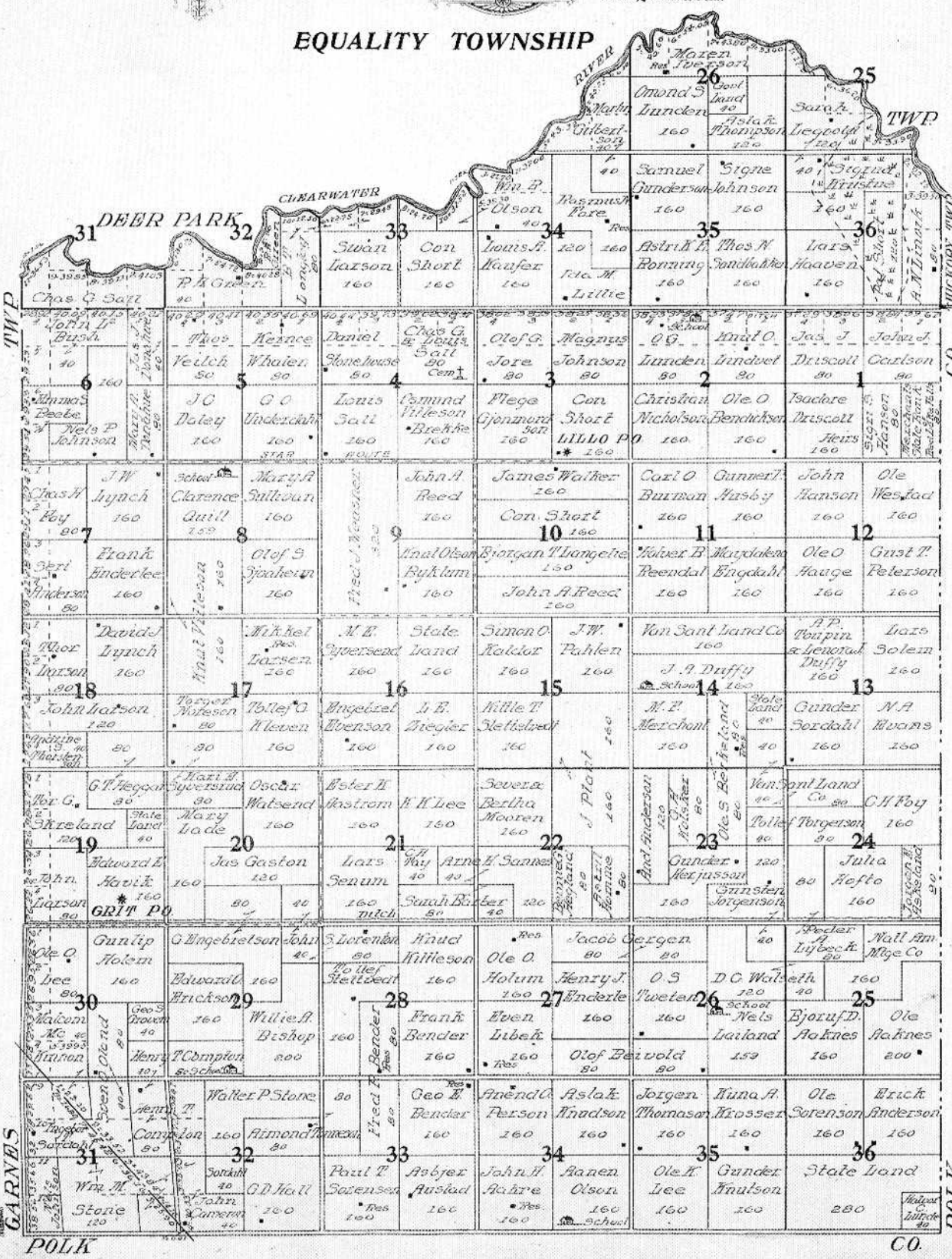
Fourth of July Celebration

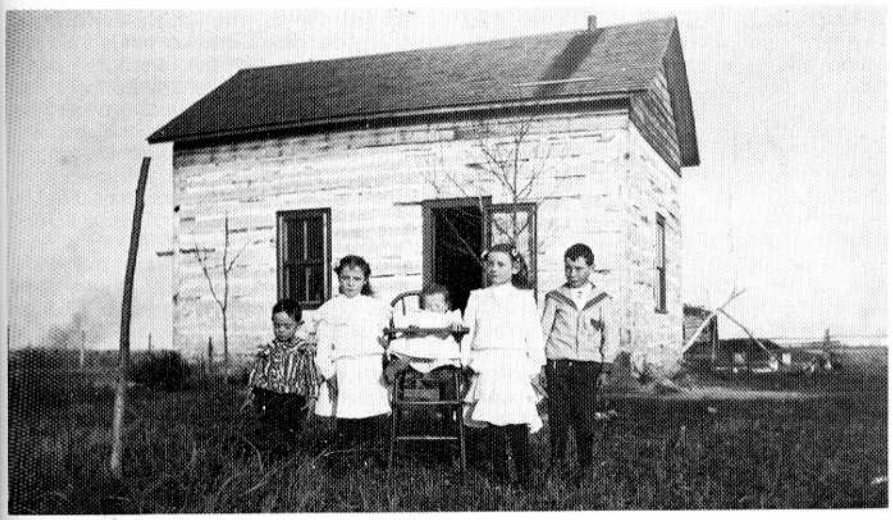
MAP OF TOWNSHIP 151 N., RANGE 40 W. and PART OF TOWNSHIP 152 N., RANGE 40 W

of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¾ inches to 1 mile

EQUALITY TOWNSHIP





J. E. Buskirk log home 1903. The Buskirk children, Wallace, Nina, Conrad, Amy and Burton. Note the Indian campfires in the background across the Clearwater River.

EQUALITY TOWNSHIP

Town of Equality was opened for homestead in the spring of 1896. There were many looking for land, so all of the better land was taken the first year and by the time 1897 and 1898 had passed there was a homesteader on almost every quarter section in the township.

The first meeting to organize the township was held at the A. M. Prestlien place on the 25th day of January, 1898. C. E. Roberts acted as moderator, C. D. Hall, clerk and Edward Havik, R. H. Green and George Bender as judges.

At this meeting it was resolved that the most public places for posting public notices would be at Edward E. Havik Store on the Southeast Sec. 19, Southeast corn of Section 6 and at the corners between Sections 22 and 23 and Sections 26 and 27. It was also resolved that all section lines be public roads to the width of four rods and $50.00 was voted for current expenses. A. M. Prestlien was allowed $2.00 for the use of his house for the meeting.

The first regular annual township meeting was held at the A. M. Prestlien home on the 8th day of March, 1898. At this meeting the first township board was elected with the following results: Edward E. Havik, town clerk; Lewis Sall, treasurer; J. E. Buskirk, assessor; J. J. Donahue was elected chairman of supervisors; S. M. Adams and A. M. Tonneson as supervisors; Edward E. Havik and D. W. Brown, justices of the peace; E. B. Walker and George Bender, constables; Frank Bender and Lewis Sall, pondmasters.

There were two general stores and post offices in the township that started shortly after the land was opened up for settlement. Edward E. Havik had a store and the Grit post office located towards the southwest part of the township in Section 19. Magnus J. Lillo had the Lillo post office located in the northeast part of the township in Section 3. Mrs. Magnus J. Lillo operated a small general store in connection with the post office, and a few years later their daughter Ida Lillo had the store and post office for some time, and when she decided to not continue any longer, Mrs. Con Short was appointed postmaster and also operated a small store in connection. In 1914 she quit the store and Mrs. Mary Walker was appointed postmaster and she had the Lillo post office until it was discontinued.

The first mail carrier was J. Sigurdson who carried the mail from Lambert to Grit and Lillo post offices until the Soo Line from Minneapolis to Winnipeg came. Then Ole Hemly had the star route from Plummer that served these post offices for many years.

Mr. Hemly never had anything but a team and open sleigh in the winter and quite often very poor roads both summer and winter, but it was very few times he didn't make his route regardless of roads and weather conditions.

A few years after Oklee was started, the Grit and Lillo post offices and the star route from Plummer were discontinued and the mail has been delivered from Oklee by two rural route since that time. Lou Horstman has been the mail carrier on Route 1 and Clarence Lynch on Route 2. Both these men have recently retired.

In 1907 the first large drainage ditch was constructed known as Judicial Ditch No. 4. It was dug with a large floating dredge so in order to have water to float, work was started on the upper end at a point near the east boundary of township of Johnson and then five miles west where it turned south one mile and then on west again and at about the line between township of Johnson and Equality they had to stop work when it froze up in the fall.

Then in the spring of 1908 they continued on to the line between Equality and Garnes, then on south to Lost River where it was finished in the fall of 1908.

The majority of the early settlers were young married couples with small children. They had many hardships to contend with; for one thing, most of them had very little money, if any, and because of poor drainage it was very wet at times during the summer and they had no roads, only trails.

The settlers would drive with team and wagon and others would walk and carry a pail filled with eggs or some homemade butter to the store which they exchanged for groceries and it was almost for sure they had along a one-gallon can to bring home some kerosene.

Many of the settlers did not have more than one team of horses or oxen to begin with so they couldn't plow very much new land for new crops. They put up some hay in summer and in the fall they went out to the harvest fields in North Dakota and left their wives and children at home to take care of the few cattle they had.

Mr. Havik who had the store used to hitch his team to the wagon and load a few sacks of flour to deliver to the families while the men were gone.

In the fall of 1940 the first Rural Electric lines were built into the township and a few farmers got electric energy in March, 1941. Then the war put a stop to line building until 1946 when work was started again, and in a short time everybody who wanted electricity to their farms got it.

Present township officers are: Supervisors, Russell Norberg, chairman, Robert Bluemke and Einar Kvasager; Orlo Lintvet, clerk; and Louis Mathson, treasurer.

EQUALITY TOWNSHIP EARLY SETTLERS

Equality Early Settlers: The following is a list of names of the early settlers in the Township of Equality: S. F. Adams, James Walker, Stener Anderson, Mrs. Mary Bodie, Mrs. Con Short, D. W. Brown, C. E. Roberts, Rasmus N. Fore, Andrew Gilbertson, M. N. Gilbertson, O. N. Gilbertson, Gunnar Husby, Marit Husby, John Hanson, Mrs. A. Iverson, Ida Lillo, Magnus J. Lillo, Ole Jore, Hage Jore, Ole Lindtveit, T. G. Smidjan, Osmund O. Legvold, Lewis Lunde, John F. Magnuson, Gust F. Petterson, Ole B. Rendal, H. B. Rendal, Torjus Smidjan, Ole N. Skomedal, Mikkel T. Lunde, B. A. Wahl, A. Bostrom, K. T. Slettvedt, Lewis Neek, Gunsten Lundan, Gunder Thompson, John Osmundson, Sam Gunderson, T. Sanbak, J. E. Buskirk.

Alex Arveson, Albin Arveson, A. W. Brekke, Knut O. Byklom, J. L. Bush, J. L. McCall, J. E. Daly, J. J. Donahue, Leif C. Erickson, R. H. Green, E. Hova, Tollof G. Kleven, John J. Lundblad, J. W. Lynch, D. J. Lynch, John Lundell, Mikkel Larson, Gjermund Larson, Thor Larson, F. C. Sullivan.

Charlie Sall, Lewis Sall, O. W. Sjaaheim, K. E. Syversrud, Dan Stoneouse, Duncan Stoneouse, S. O. Storaasli, G. O. Underdahl, T. B. Veitch, Kerence Whalen, Knut Wettson, T. Nereson, G. Heggar, S. T. Slettvedt, Albert Pufahl, D. J. Helle, N. Syversrud, Frank Bender, George Bender, Fred Bender.

L. M. Anderson, G. O. Austad, Frank Compton, Henry Compton, Edward E. Havik, C. D. Hall, J. F. Kile, Swen Olant, T.



Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Lillo and sons on homestead in 1896. Oscar, Magnus, Ingeborg and August.

O. Sordal, P. T. Sorenson, Nels Stalemo, Ole Torkelson, A. M. Tonneson, A. O. Watsend, G. O. Grovom, E. O. Erickson, Thor Gunstenson, John Larson, Ole O. Lee.

Osmund Trydal, Ben Kveste, John Cameron, Dan Reierson, W. S. Bishop, T. T. Slettvedt, Lars Senum, John Lorentson, J. L. Bolstad, O. C. Swanson, Arne Sannes, Thor Skreland, Olav Breivold, Ole S. Birkeland, B. D. Aaknes, O. D. Aaknes, B. H. Castello, Thomas Gunderson, Gunder Herjuson, Torjei Herjuson, J. T. Hofstad.

G. Jorgenson, K. O. Krossen, Grundy Knutson, A. K. Lie, Nels O. Loiland, O. T. Lande, Halvor Lande, E. K. Norgaard, A. J. Olson, Anund Olson, Sever H. Maaren, Gunder Thompson, Evind Liebak, P. Liebak, Knut Homme, Nels Egeland, Magnus Olson, Sever Grothe, Ed Vasstrand, M. C. Rustad, O. Hopperstad, A. M. Prestelien, Swen Gullickson, Torgrim Senum.

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1896 and 1897, the many Scandinavian people who settled in the eastern part of Red Lake County had attended Lutheran Churches in the places from which they came, and a need was felt by them for a minister and a place to worship. Reverend A. A. Oppegaard of McIntosh held a service in the home of H. B. Rendal in 1897 and at this service, Hulda, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Rendal was baptized.



On February 21, 1898, the Clearwater Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America was organized with thirty members. Services were held in homes of which some were only paper covered shacks and others built of logs, whitewashed inside and out. Some roofs were sod and others covered with tar paper which did not make them waterproof.

Roads were but trails, some made by Indians and other by animals. Transportation was by foot or with a wagon pulled by a team of oxen or horses. Before 1900, School District #8 was organized and a log school house built. A little later the school house in District #20 was built and church services could be held alternately in the two.

In 1898 the first baptism service in the original congregation was held. The babies were Willie Brekke, Russell Fore and Ole Theodore Storaasli. On April 22, 1900, the first confirmation took place in the log school and class members were Michael Reindahl, Edwind Slettvet, Edwin Rendahl, Clara Elvera Lillo and Aase Olive Thea Trydahl.

Reverend Oppegaard was paid $50.00 a year for his services by the congregation and missions paid him $150.00. Two acres of land were donated by A. W. Brekke to the congregation for a cemetery, and in 1901 it was dedicated as Clearwater Cemetery by Rev. J. O. Saeter and Rev. Oppegaard. The dedication ceremony was performed by the graves of Gunnar, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gunderson, and the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Helle. In 1903 the first charter member, Osmond Legvold, was laid to rest.

Rev. Oppegaard stayed for six or seven years and then returned to Norway. Rev. Saeter from Fosston became pastor until 1909 when Rev. J. Skagen began serving the parish and also the Lost River and Oak Grove congregations. Rev. Skagen drew blue prints for a new church and the building project began. He also organized a Young People's Society with ten or twelve members and meetings were held in the homes of the members. At this time church services were held only once every three weeks.

In the early summer of 1911, the dedication of the corner stone for the foundation of the new church took place. Services were conducted by Rev. O. Preus and Rev. Skagen. The foundation of the church was laid on a lot donated by Hege Fore in the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section three, right across the road from the cemetery. Rev. Skagen left for Rice Lake, Wisconsin, but the building of the church continued. Services in the new church began in 1912 when Rev. Saeter became Pastor. Myrtle Hofstad was the first baby baptized in the new church and Jens Fore and Anniebelle Rolandson were the first couple married there. The Altar Ring was purchased in 1915 from Northern Woodwork of Thief River Falls and the cost, with transportation, was $59.83.

The pastor from 1912 through 1920 was Rev. Palm and during this time there was a change. The congregation had been with the Lost River Church, and during Rev. Palm's service, with Oklee (Zion) and Oak Grove. This was changed so that the sister congregations became Nazareth, Oak Park and Ebenezer. Rev. Leirfallom, who had served the three, served Clearwater as well and the Lost River congregation joined Valle, one of Rev. Kolstoe's churches. Rev. Lierfallom left in 1925 and Rev. Kolstoe served as temporary pastor until Rev. Lierfallom returned in 1926. Rev. Lierfallom died in 1927, and once again Rev. Kolstoe served as temporary pastor.

In 1924 the bell was purchased. It had been the one used in the Lost River Church and the congregation paid $48.00 for it. A. W. Brekke was appointed bell ringer.

Rev. Fladmark was pastor from 1928 until 1941 and during this time many improvements were made. In 1930, an altar was installed at the cost of $166.00 and in 1933 red carpet and altar cloths were obtained for $115.00. The altar picture was painted in 1931 by Thomas Waale and in 1937 the basement construction was begun by Reier Fossum. A "Gubbefest" was held in the new basement in 1938 with Norwegian dishes served by the men. Festivals were also held in the summer to raise money.

Rev. Fladmark died in 1941 while he was pastor. His last request was to be buried in the Clearwater Cemetery and this was done. Rev. Lie followed as new pastor, remaining until 1952. In 1949 the interior of the church was sealed with celotex, painted and varnished. At this time the church was also wired for electricity.

The pastors since 1952: Reverend Peterson (1953-1960); Reverend Larson (1961-1968); Reverend Lilleguard (1968-1970), at this time there were five congregations together, (including Trail and St. Petri at Grygla); Reverend Wosje (1971-1973), five congregations; Reverend Beherens (1973-1975), three congregations.

CLEARWATER LADIES AID

The Clearwater Ladies Aid was organized in 1898 at the Jens Balstad home with two women present, Mrs. Balstad and Mrs. Lillo, and as more people joined the group, the meetings were held monthly at various homes. There were no roads and travel was difficult because many women walked and carried their babies or drove wagons with oxen or teams of horses coming as far as five or six miles to attend. Heavy rain made the roads and trails very muddy and many had to remove their shoes and stockings to wade through the mire. Because travel to the meetings was long and arduous, the women would leave home in the morning so a noon meal would be served when they arrived. In later years when travel was improved, a lunch was served at



A meeting of the Clearwater Ladies Aid. Miss Nellie Short, a guest. Gunhild Gunderson, Clara Hillestad. Mrs. Mary Gunderson, Mrs. Theodor Reindal, Emma Rendal, Laura Rendal, Mrs. A. W. Brekke, Mrs. Ingeborg Lillo, Mrs. O. L. Bendickson, Mrs. Sire Legvold, Mrs. Anna Hofstad, Mrs. Ida Fore, Mrs. Aase Fore, Mrs. Tilda Berget and Mrs. Lena Rolandson.

lour in the afternoon.

Often the minister could not attend the meeting so the ladies held devotion and sang hymns. Some would bring their hand work such as knitting, crocheting and fancy work which whould later be sold to raise money for the Aid and the Church. The price for the lunch was a dime and the money was used for the church and Parochial school. This was the purpose for organizing the Ladies Aid. The ladies made many things for the church when it was first built and many of these things have now been replaced. They worked very hard between the years 1929-1941 to furnish the church, inside and out.

During Rev. Fladmark's time of service, the congregation held out-door festivals and the women would serve a dinner plus an afternoon lunch and a program would be held with a guest speaker.

Before 1940, Norwegian was taught at the Parochial School. After this time, English was taught but a few Norwegian services were still conducted in the 1950s.

In 1944 there was a visit by Governor Edward Thye and Chester Nelson plus the commissioner of the Department of Conservation and several county officials. They were in the area on a tour to inspect the flooding rivers. The ladies of the Aid prepared a noon meal for them and many others who came to hear the Governor speak. In the summer of 1948 work was started on the Red Lake River so the Governor's visit brought results.

In 1949 much work was done at the church which was paid for by the Ladies Aid. Electricity was installed and an automatic sump pump was put into the basement. Before this if the water wasn't pumped out of the basement before freeze-up, the men would have to chip out the ice and remove it. Throughout the years many improvements have been made by the Aid and also with funds from the numerous memorials that were given. The Ladies Aid has assisted the Parochial School and Sunday School throughout the years and continues to do so.

EQUALITY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

From the days of early settlement to the time of consolidation, five schools had served the educational needs of the children of Equality township.

District #1, located in the NW part of section 8, was a one room school and employed two teachers in later years when another room was added to the original building to accommodate the increase in students. It was the largest of the five schools.

District #8, located in the NE part of section 2, was also organized sometime before 1900. The first building, a log structure, was also used for a time by the Clearwater Lutheran Congregation for services. In 1912, a frame building was constructed which housed the school until 1944 when the children were bussed to District #58J.

The first school in the southeast section of Equality was a one room log building located on the homestead of Delphine Walseth, who was also the first teacher. The students at that time were Margaret and Annie Jorgenson, Helga and Ausil Sorenson, Mary and Bergit Krossen, Signe, Olga, Valla and Andrew Anderson, Tellef and Anna Aaknes and Harry Kolshus. The school site was located on what is now the John Corbid farm. A few years later a new school was built about one mile south of the original site in section 26 and it was given the name, Fairview. Classes were held there until 1935 at which time it closed for lack of students.



The first District 8 in Section Two: Gunder Gunderson, Russel Fore, Osmund Hofstad, Mrs. Theo. Rendahl, teacher, Gladys Gunderson, Gunhild Gunderson.



District 8 1930: Ferdinand Land, Arnold Fossum, Gladys Fossum, Tolvine Land, Daisy Farrington, Lillian Fore, Bernice Land, Leo Farrington, Oral Land, James Walker, teacher Frieda Bredeson, Eldore Lillo, Gilmore Land, Ruby Slettvedt, Virgil Fore, Dorine Fore, Mavis Fore, Mabel Lintvedt, George Fossum, Delmaine Walker, Roy Slettvedt, Orlo Lintvet, Leslie Walker, LaVern Farrington, Norman Lillo.



Poplar Glen District 20

The first classes of District #20, also known as Poplar Glen, were held in a farm house owned by George Jorgenson. Around 1900 a school was built on the Jorgenson farm in section 14 where the building still stands. It was a one-room building with a large entryway where wood was stored for the winter months. Because of the very severe cold of the mid-winter months, school was held only in the fall and spring at first. Later the school year expanded to eight months with vacations. The school closed about 1947 because of consolidation. The building is now used by the township for board meetings.

School District 58J, Roadside School, was organized at a meeting held on August 1, 1907, at the home of Petter Milen. It was decided at this meeting to hold school for five months, two in the fall and three in the winter. The teachers salary was set at $50.00.

A special meeting was held in November of 1907 to bond the district for $700.00 to build a school house, 18 × 26 × 10 feet high. It was to be located on the section line between sections 28 and 29. This site was given by A. E. Oftlas for the purchase price of $1.00. The size of the lot was 100 square rods and the school house was built in 1908 by Oscar Nesland with the help of legal voters donating as much work as they could. The cost of labor for the building was $50.73.

In June of 1947 District 58J consolidated with School District #1 in Oklee and the building was sold to Dewey Lambert and moved to Oklee.



Roadside School District 58 1924: Clara Systveit, Florence Rodman, Morris Rodman, Beatrice Bammerud, Emma Bammerud, John Dahle, Alma Dahle, George Dahle, Alward Rustan, Edwin Rustan, Adolph Hofstad, Myrtle Hofstad, Annie and Grunde Hofstad, Arlie Brekke, Alice Rystad, Elmer Pederson, Walter Pederson, Arthur Rolandson, Mabel and Orval Rolandson, Edith Peterson, teacher.



District 19: *Back Row:* Ole Krossen, Ole Breivold, Thom Holum, Torkel Knutson, Rudolph Thoen, Ole Holum, Ralph Sorenson, Andrew Knutson.
Front: Ole Jorgenson, Ole Knutson, Paul Jorgenson, Andrew Holum, Albert Breivold, Gunder Sorenson and Chester Olson.

ROLAND STORE AND CLEARWATER CREAMERY

In 1904 when the Reservation land opened for settlement north of the Clearwater River, a bridge was built across the river and Otto Dahl erected a store near the bridge on the A. A. Rolandson farm, located on the north side of the river. Dahl operated the store for six years and also a post office which was called Roland. He sold the store to the Bondy Brothers in 1912 and they continued in business until 1919 when they sold the store to A. A. Rolandson and he and his son, Knute operated the store together for six years. Then Knute bought the store from his father and in 1939 he sold it to Leonard Singer. In 1944, Singer sold the store to Harvey Woods who operated it until 1946 when he in turn sold it to his son, Earl. Earl

had the business until 1954 when the store was closed.

Located across from the Roland store, the Clearwater Creamery was started in 1906 or 1907 by a group of farmers who needed a place where they could take their cream. Among the early buttermakers were Carl Rendahl, Gilbert Hoveland, Robert Anderson and Walter Welte. Raymond Gordon was the last buttermaker there and he continued until 1933 when the farmers voted to close this creamery because it was too small.

On this site many years later, a dance hall was built by Harvey Woods and named Silver Star. This hall closed several years later and the building moved from the site. A boat landing is there at the present time.

Red Lake Falls Gazette, December 18, 1902

EQUALITY

On the 15th day of May, 1896, at 9 o'clock a.m. (and possibly a few minutes earlier) any one who was on the ground, could have seen all manner of men of all nationalities, with all kinds of vehicles, some on foot, some on horseback, making the race to "squat" on the land which was then part of the Red Lake reservation, but which is now embraced in the township of Equality.

At that time a good foot racer had the advantage over any one with any other means of locomotion, as it had been raining incessantly for a month or more, and the soil was literally soaked with water.

There were a number of contests for each quarter section to be taken, but nevertheless there was no serious trouble, and only a few contests were brought before the land office.

Should a person who has not been over the township since the opening visit Equality now, he would scarcely recognize it, so great has been the progress. Every quarter section of land has its buildings, fields, etc., and nearly every settler has a nice bunch of stock. All section lines are roads some graded and considerable work done on most of them. The township has two road graders and a ditching machine, and now that most of the settlers have "proved up", there will be more road work done, as heretofore we have had to depend upon poll tax work entirely, and in a short time will have roads second to no township in the county.

The soil is a rich loam, with a heavy clay subsoil, easily drained, as it slopes from the center, south to the Lost and north to the Clearwater river.

Native grasses, blue-joint and peavine, grow luxuriantly, especially on the Clearwater river bottom land and consequently it is one of the best townships in the banner county of Minnesota, for stockraising and diversified farming.

An up-to-date cheese factory, owned and operated by Mrs. Josie Short, was built the past summer and is expected to do a large business next season as a large number of cows are tributary to it.

The first store and post office was started on Section 19 by E. E. Havik and named "Grit," which name was very appropriate, as it required considerable of that commodity to undertake to haul goods over the then almost impassable roads twenty miles, but Ed had the necessary article in large chunks, as it was very seldom he was out of the necessaries at least.

"Lillo" on section 10 was the next post office and Magnus Johnson Lillo its postmaster. He also had a small store.

The personal property valuation for 1902 is $22,557.00 which is well up with the highest in the county, a pretty good showing when it is remembered that only six years ago every foot of ground in what is now Equality township belonged to the Indians.

There are five school districts, all with schools in successful operation.

At the last election there were registered 103 votes.

And last but not least, you can go into nine out of every ten homes and you will find "The Gazette" upon the mantel or in the hands of some eager reader who will tell you they couldn't get along without the leading paper in the county — and the only kidder hasn't been here yet, either.



Roland Store



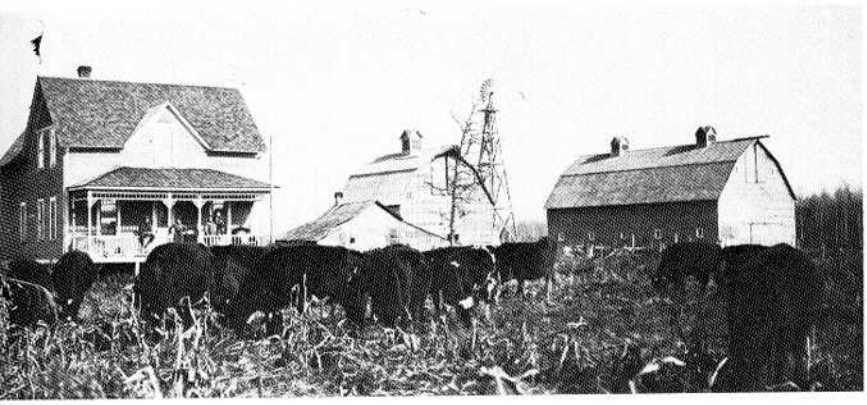
Torkel Gunderson team hauling wood.



Halvor Dahl, Vera Helgeson, Ingeborg Lillo, Ida (Lillo) Fore, Mrs. Rasmus Fore.



James Walker home



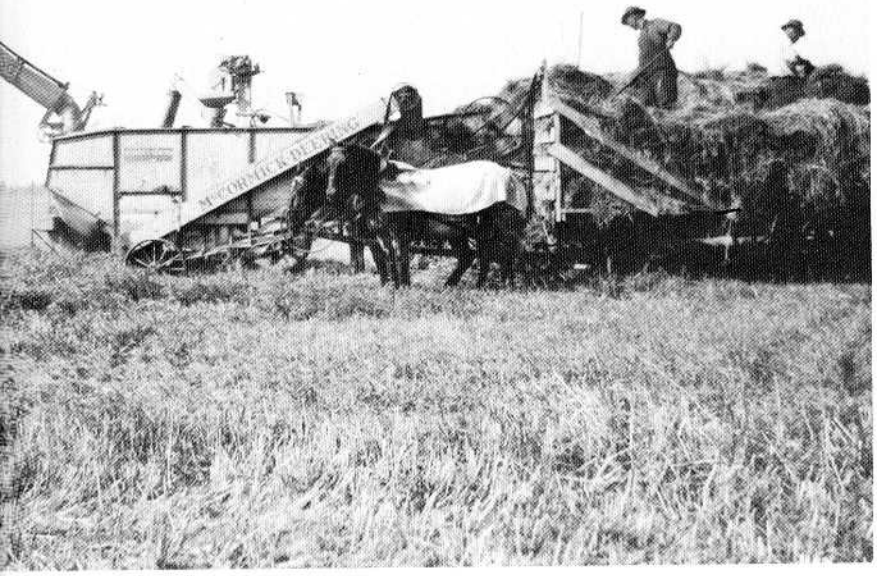
Con Short Farm



Rolf Hofstad Homestead 1902



Clearwater Creamery



Russell Norberg and Clarence Bergerson threshing at the Norberg farm.

RED LAKE COUNTY COURIER 12/9/01

LOCALS FROM LILLO.

The Comings and Goings of the People Chronicled.

By Sybil.

Hilmer Iverson and S. Storaasli were recent visitors to McIntosh.

Magnus Johnson is making a visit to his old home near Rochester, this state.

The Messrs. Jorgenson, Lintwedt and Lillo made a buiiness trip to St. Hilaire the first part of the week after lumber.

A basket social at J. Buskerk's place is one of the events this week. It is posted for Friday evening. It is understood that everyone will be welcome.

Married, at Red Lake Falls last Saturday, Christ Krim to Gertie Rendal. Mrs. Krim has recently proved up on a fine homestead near the post office. We extend congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Jensen have taken up their abode for the winter with Mrs. Jenson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Legwold. Mr. Jenson has a claim near Minot, North Dakota, upon which they will move towards spring.

A number of our citizens attended a wedding near Grit recently. The contracting parties were Mr. William Sivenson and Miss Mary Skreland, well-known young people of Grit. The couple were joined in the bonds of matrimony by Rev. Kolstor at 7 o'clock p. m., after which a bounteous supper was served to some seventy guests. The bride wore a wreath of orange blossoms and a dress of white serge, made up with silk, lace and passemeterie. They received many handsome and valuable presents.

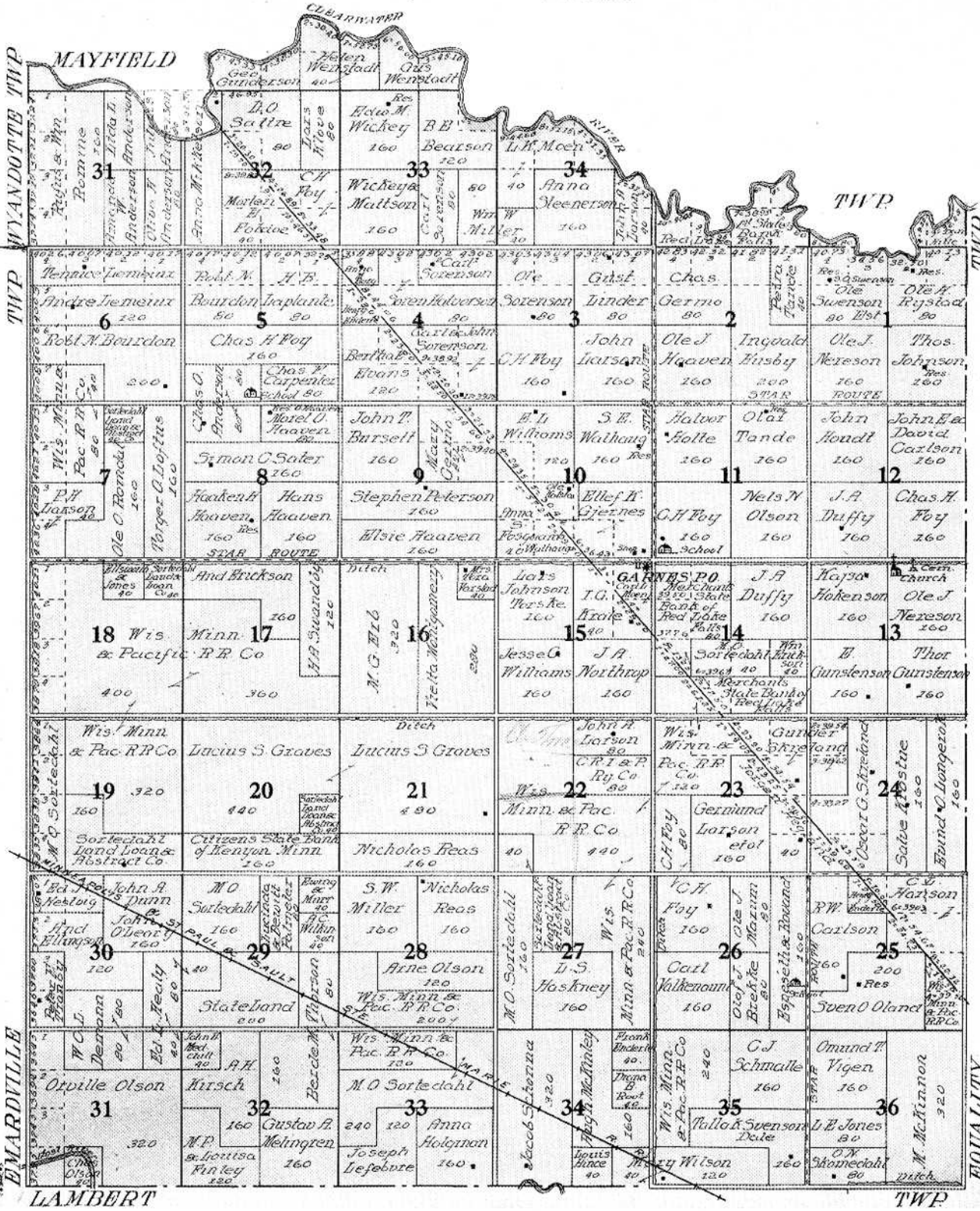
MAP OF

TOWNSHIP 151 N., RANGE 41 W. and PART OF TOWNSHIP 152 N., RANGE 41 W

of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¼ inches to 1 mile

GARNES TOWNSHIP



GARNES TOWNSHIP

The territory that is now Garnes township belonged at one time to the Red Lake Chippewa Indians. A reservation line split the township running from the southeast part of the township to the northwest part. The land on the west of this line was opened for settlement in the early eighties, while on the east of the line the land was opened for settlement in 1896.

Clearwater River became the boundary line on the north between the Indian reservation and the township and was at this time noted for its log drives. Many millions of board feet of lumber in the form of logs were floated down the river to saw mills in Crookston. Some logs were also floated down the Red River to Winnipeg. As many as six Wanegans (cooking and sleeping boats) would go down with the log drive some years and many of the early settlers worked as drivers during the spring and summer.

Part of the land had scattered groves of timber on it, mostly poplar with some oak. Many early settlers built their homes as well as other buildings from logs. The rest of the land was more open with scattered groves of poplar, oak and willows. The northwest part of the township along the river was settled mostly by French speaking people. The rest of the township was comprised of mostly Scandinavians with some Irish and Germans. The nearest railroad towns were St. Hilaire, Red Lake Falls and McIntosh. However, soon small stores were established where the settlers could get their groceries and other items of need.

In the fall of the year it was customary for many of the settlers to leave for the harvest fields in North Dakota to earn money to support themselves and their families.

With no roads and only slow methods of transportation available, the new settlers could not venture far to secure their necessary supplies. The first store was built by Egil Skaale, in the SW corner of Sec. 35. No record is available as to when it was built, although it was known to be in the early nineties. In the fall of 1896, E. K. Gjernes built a store in the SE corner of his homestead in Sec. 10. About 1899 Hughes and Manders built a store across the road from the Gjernes store, where Geo. E. Spong now lives. This store was later operated by L. K. Moen.

Some time during 1897, the Garnes post office was established and E. K. Gjernes appointed post master. Mr. Gjernes operated the store and post office until the store burned in 1903, after which Ole G. Lee served as postmaster until it was moved to the L. K. Moen store. The mail came from Lambert, with Ljot Sigurson as mail carrier. With the coming of the Soo Railroad, mail service then came from Plummer.

E. K. Gjernes homesteaded in Highlanding township in 1904, but later came back and bought L. K. Moen's store which he operated until 1911 when he moved to Oklee.

About the year 1900, A. Manders built the Cheese Factory, which became a source of income for the settlers as most of them now had cows. Nels and Henry Nelson built a blacksmith shop in 1896. When the village of Plummer came into being, Nels opened a shop in that village and Henry continued in Garnes until he moved to Oklee in 1910.

John Mostrom operated a feed mill for a few years. A Woodmen of the World Lodge was organized, with the second floor of the L. K. Moen Store as headquarters. This hall was used as a meeting place and also for entertainment purposes. When Oklee was established, Garnes faded out of the picture as a trading center. Thom Johnson bought the Cheese Factory building and moved it to his farm in Section one where he operated a store for a while.

Garnes township was named after E. K. Gjernes who was a homesteader in the town and also the builder of the first store in Garnes.

The first birth recorded in the town of Garnes was that of Ellen Marie Swanson, born April 26, 1890, to parents Mr. and Mrs. Gust Swanson.

Ingval Husby owned the first automobile in the town of Garnes. It was a Model T Ford bought in the year of 1914 at a cost of $450.00.

He also was the first to separate milk, wash clothes and pump water using a gas engine as a source of power.

A petition by Andrew Lemieux and others to organize the Town of Garnes was presented to the board of county commissioners on the fifth day of January, 1898.

The first town meeting to elect town officers for the newly organized township was designated to be held in the town of Garnes on the 25th day of January, 1898, with the following appointed to act as judges of election: E. K. Gjernes, O. N. Skomedahl and Louis Falardeau.

The first town meeting was held in the town of Garnes on the 25th day of January, 1898. The meeting was called to order and Olaf Tande was chosen to preside as moderator of the meeting. Willie Swenson was then chosen to act as Clerk of the meeting.

The judges of election appointed by the county board were E. K. Gjernes, O. N. Skomedahl and Louis Falardeau.

The result of the balloting in this first election was as follows: Supervisors, Gus Iverson, I. Lemieux and Iver Gjeldaker. Town clerk, Olaf Tande. Assessor, Olus Olson. Treasurer, E. K. Gjernes. Justices of the Peace, O. N. Skomedahl and Erick Iverson. Constables, E. Halvorson and Halvor Vellison.

In organizing the board, Gust Iverson was elected to act as chairman. It was also resolved at this meeting that the following places be considered the most public places in the town: At school house No. 210, the post office in Garnes and at school house No. 230.

On motion made, seconded and carried, meeting adjourned.

The members of the present Garnes Town Board are Chairman, Tom Huotari; Clerk, John Kolstoe; Treasurer, Engvald Larson; Supervisors, Ervin Flatgard and Ronald Linder.



Threshing scene. Ed Anderson's rig and Severt Torske on engine.

Among the ranks of Garnes early settlers may be listed the following: Joe Clearmo, Fred Ethier, Michall Phelon, Osio Paymont, Antoine Paymont, Jorger Lofthus, Mike Madden, Nels Moe, Frank St. Martin, Victor St. Martin, John Mostrom, Joe Junnoe, Joe Marchall, Andre Skorpiene, Erick Palmer, Karen Palmer, Julius Hammer, John Dempsey, Iver Belle, Charley Foye, Martin Bergh, O. H. Olson, Camil Belairi, Andrew Lemieux, Alphonse LaComb, Joe Belairi, Octave Lefaivre, Ole Haaven, Haakon Haaven, Hans Haaven, Marten Foldoe, Elsie Haaven, Simon Sather, Albert Wangsted, Gust Wangsted, Soren Halvorson, Carl Sorenson, John Sorenson, Sam Warstad, Nels Nereson, Ole Swenson, Thom Johnson, Ole Nereson, Adelor Ethier, Henry Ethier, Ole Haaven, Ingvald Husby, John Larson, John Bammerud, Ole Sorenson, Theo. Torgerson, Gunder Asbjornson, Swen Arveson, Nels Haakonson, Olaf Tande, Knut Gjeldaker, Ole G. Lee, Olaf Gunderson, E. K. Gjernes, Ole Kolstoe, Annie Forsgaard, Swan Walhaug, Elling Halvorson, Gust Linder, Lars Torske, T. G. Quale, Charley Haakonson, Knut Danielson, John Haakonson, Eivind Gunstenson, Thor Gunstenson, K. Haakonson, Salve Krostue, Osov Skreland, O. N. Skomedahl, Jorgen Hegland, P. A. Rustad, Halvor Vettleson, Gunstein Skreland, Eivind Langerak, Gunsten Torjerson, Gust Swanson, Swen Oland, Per Libak, Bernth Olson, Tobias Olson, Taalak Dahle, Andrew Nelson, Egil Skaale, Martin Boraas, Ljot Sigurson, Torge Torgerson, Jim Torgerson, Erick Iverson, Orville Olson, Joe Goulete, Louis Falardeau, John Olson, Mr. Rodridey.



Ed and Knute Anderson



Charley Johnson homestead about 1908

GARNES TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICTS

District 210

Early records show that a petition was filed with the Polk county board of commissioners dated March 28, 1895, requesting that nine sections in the southern part of Township 151 Range 41 be set aside as a School District.

A special school meeting was held at the Gust Swanson place on the 17th day of April, 1895, for the purpose of organizing a school district. Martin Peterson was elected chairman and O. N. Skomedahl clerk. Nothing was accomplished at this meeting. In the northern part of the district resided mostly single men not interested in a school, while the southern part of the district had mostly family men. However, there are no records to show when the school district was organized, or who were elected members to form the first school board.

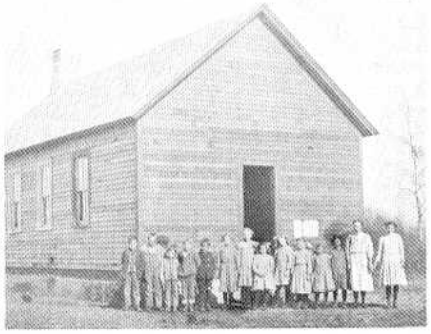
The first term of school began on July 9, 1895 with Gina M. Lee as teacher. The term of school was for two months, teacher's salary $30.00 per month.

The first annual school meeting was held at the Gust Swenson home on July 20, 1895. Halvor Vettleson was chosen moderator and O. N. Skomedahl as clerk. Officers elected were Halvor Vettleson director until July 31, 1896; Gust Swenson treasurer until July 31, 1897; O. N. Skomedahl clerk until July 31, 1898.

The following motion was passed: Be it resolved that a school site be designated in the Southeast corner of Sec. 26, township 151 range 41. Be it also resolved that the District be bonded for the sum of $300.00 payable in ten years for the purpose of building a school house, school to begin upon completion of the school.



School District 11, 1919



School District 233

At a meeting held on January 10, 1896, a committee of two was elected to find out the cost of building a school house. Martin Peterson and Jorgen Hegland composed this committee. Martin Peterson agreed to give one acre of land as school site free of all costs to the school district. The school house was built by Per Libak and it was used for a church until Salem church was built in 1902. The school district consolidated with Oklee in 1915. Treasurer's Annual Statement as of July 18, 1896: Teachers wages $93.00. Wood and supplies $45.65. Paid for new school house $187.35. Other expenses $27.71. Cash on hand $21.90. Total $375.61. First order issued for school supplies to L. A. Cooler $25.00, July 5, 1895.

School District 233

The first meeting on record to organize a school was held at the Joe Belairi home on June 2, 1897. Camil Belairi was chosen chairman, O. H. Olson Clerk, and Andrew Lemieux treasurer. It was decided to have one month of school at the Joe Clearmoe home in Section 32-152-41, school to begin June 14, 1897. Julia Sovick was the teacher at a salary of $30.00 with 35 pupils in attendance.

The first annual meeting was held at the O. H. Olson home on July 17, 1897. It was then decided to hold three months of school beginning in September. The following sums were also voted. Teachers wages $30.00. Wood and supplies $16.00. Books $20.00. Discussed also was a site for the school. Many meetings were held concerning this topic. In 1899 the school house was built in the SE corner of the SW¼ Section 32, 151-41. The farm is now owned by Gust Foldoe.

In the year of 1902 the school house was moved to the south line of Sec. 5, 154-41, now owned by Olga Haaven. In 1914 it was moved to the NE corner of Sec. 5, now owned by Harry Sorenson.

The school burned down in 1938 and was rebuilt the same year. In 1948 the District consolidated with Plummer.

School District 11

A petition signed by Olaf Tande and others to organize a school district was filed with the county board and approved Nov. 14, 1898. One month of school was held in the summer of 1899 at the Dempsey farm in Section 14. In 1900 school was held at the Elling Halvorson farm in Sec. 10 with Isabella Reed as the teacher. School was also held in the Woodmen Hall until the school house was built in the SW corner of Sec. 11. It is believed the school house was built in 1903 although early records are not available.

The school house was moved from Garnes to its present site in the year 1913. School District 11 consolidated with the Oklee School district in 1944. Later the school house was bought from the Oklee school district and is now the Garnes town hall.

Following are the pupils attending school in District 11 in 1904: First grade — Lea Ethier, Ernest Ethier, Elvin Bammerud, Segrid Thoreson, Konstance Swenson, Tilley Helly, Regina Hanson, Oscar Drangsholt. Second grade — Max Manders, Agnes Lee, Severt Torske, Hjalmer Haakanson, Bell Iverson, Eva Ethier, Robert Dempsey, Inger Drangsholt, Gunder Drangsholt.

Third grade — Annie Gunderson, Sadie Hughes, Lizzie Dempsey, Eddie Dempsey, Benjamin Iverson, Edvin Iverson, Ole Hanson, Clara Kolstoe.

Fourth grade — Henry Torske, Selmer Swenson, Elmer Moen. Sixth grade — Lothard Haaven, Maude Iverson, Mary Dempsey, Olaf Kolstoe, Lillie Hughes, Gunder Gunstenson, Willie Dempsey.

SALEM CONGREGATION

Salem Evangelical congregation, in what was then Polk county, was organized January 30, 1895, by Pastor Lunde. The next congregation meeting was held Nov. 2, 1896, at the home of E. K. Gjernes. The following were received as members at this meeting: Iver Gjeldaker and family, E. K. Gjernes, Ole G. Lee and John Lundell.

It was unanimously decided at the organization meeting that the congregation adopt the Symbols of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. The following were charter members: G. Svendsen and family, Simon Sether, Haakon Haaven and family, T. O. Lofthus, Ole O. Raundal, Erik Ericson, Gilbert Evenson, Ole Loiland and family, and T. J. Quale, S. Simonson was elected president, and Ole Rauland secretary. It was decided to ask Rev. Lunde to serve the congregation for one year. The congregation promised to support the work by free-will gifts according to ability.

A committee of three was elected to draw up a constitution and by-laws for the congregation and report at the next meeting: Members of that committee were the following: T. Quale, O. Kolstoe and Iver Gjeldaker. Also a committee was elected to see what could be done as to getting a house of worship. Members of this committee were H. Haaven, T. Quale and G. Lofthus. At this meeting the secretary was instructed to issue a letter of çall to Rev. O. Kolstoe.

Rev. Kolstoe accepted the call and began work in Salem congregation as its pastor in 1896. Several congregational meetings were held to consider the place and location for a cemetery and the building of a church. At a meeting March 31, 1898, Rev. Ellestad of the United church was present and was elected chairman. After some discussion it was unanimously



Original Salem church which burned in 1936

decided that the cemetery should be located in the northwest corner of the northeast half of Section 13 in town of Garnes. The congregation extended thanks to Pastor Ellestad and the Mission Committee for the help rendered the congregation.

At a meeting Feb. 12, a committee of seven members was elected to try and gather some money for the building of a church. The committee consisted of the following: O. Svendsen, G. Skreland, E. Byklum, M. Boraas, Syver Maaren, B. A. Wall and I. Gjeldaker. This committee reported on March 1, 1900. At this meeting it was decided to build the church where the cemetery was located.

The church was built in 1902. The man who ought to be mentioned especially in connection with the building of the church is E. K. Gjernes. He helped greatly to get the church built. He donated $75.00 and spent much time traveling around soliciting money for this undertaking.

At the congregational meeting in 1908, Ole A. Lee and Olaf Tande were received as members. In 1909 Carl Sorenson joined and in 1910 Swan Walhaug was admitted as a member. All of these men are now deceased. T. Kleven was admitted as a member in 1900 and served for many years as secretary, precentor, and also parochial school teacher. He moved from here in 1920.

Rev. Kolstoe served Salem congregation as its pastor, together with Immanuel and Aardal congregations, for 24 years, from 1896 to 1920. He, like so many of the pioneer pastors, experienced a great deal of hardships and difficulties. Roads were very poor and it was often difficult for the pastor to make his appointments. Quite often he had to wade through streams of water and walk on foot to get to his congregations. Rev. Kolstoe traveled a good deal. Besides serving his regular call he helped organize congregations in Wanke, Gonvick, Clearbrook, and he also went as far as Bagley preaching the word of God in the early days. His step-son, Villars, who died while yet a young man, was of great assistance to him, especially in his work among the children and young people. Rev. Kolstoe retired in 1920.

A new call had just then been organized, namely the three congregations served by Rev. Kolstoe — Salem, Immanual and Aardal; and also Zion congregation, Oklee, Lost River congregation and Plummer Lutheran congregation. Pastor Lerohl was called in June, 1920. He accepted the call and was installed as pastor Oct. 3, 1920, by District President Aastad.

The Ladies Aids of Salem congregation worked diligently and faithfully to furnish the old church and finish it inside and out. It took several years to get nice oak pews, an altar, painting and a church bell and to get it finished with nice interior material. Finally the church was complete and very nice. Then, in the early morning or in the night of August 19, 1936, the church burned to the ground. All went up in flames, nothing was saved. How the fire started no one knows. It was a clear night — no thunder or lightning. The origin of the fire will perhaps always remain a mystery.

A meeting was called in the school house in Garnes on August 29th. It was announced that the congregation would get the full amount of the insurance, namely $3,200.00. The congregation decided unanimously to rebuild the church, the new church to be two feet longer than the old, and with a full basement. A building committee was elected consisting of Swan Walhaug, chairman; Carl Sorenson, T. T. Slettvedt, Mikkel Larson and Sig Krostue. A committee to solicit money for the building fund was also elected at this meeting. The following were elected: Thor Gunstenson, Thor Larson and Thor Skreland. A subscription was taken at the meeting and a nice sum of money was subscribed. All agreed to go to work and rebuild the church and the church was rebuilt in a comparatively short time.

The following were members of the congregation almost from its beginning: Salve Krostue, Osov Skreland, Mikkel Larson,



Young Peoples Society before 1912

and Gjermund Larson. C. O. Lindberg served as precentor for many years and Olaf Tande served as secretary of the congregation for about 20 years continuously.

Knut Wetleson, who was the oldest member at the time of his death, remembered the Salem congregation in his will with a gift of $400.00 toward getting a church bell. Mr. Wetleson was for many years teaching the children in the vacation week day school. He taught in his own congregation and also in a number of neighboring congregations.

May the Lord continue to bless Salem congregation with His rich blessing in Christ.

SALEM CONGREGATION LADIES AID

In the beginning there were four separate Ladies Aids in the Salem congregation. They were all working for parochial school and to help build and improve the church, besides giving money for mission work. The North Salem Ladies Aid was organized in 1897. Some members of each group of Ladies Aid would hold office for one year while at the present time the officers are elected to serve for one year in order to distribute the work more evenly. Mrs. Ole Kolstoe was president in the beginning of the North Ladies Aid, and later on Mrs. Swan Walhaug was president for the next fourteen years while Mrs. Ole Haaven was secretary-treasurer combined for many years.

A constitution was written for the North Ladies Aid which would serve the same purpose for all the branches. It was written in the Norwegian language as that was the language used more at that time than at present. Some of the contents of the constitution were the extension of God's Kingdom both at home and abroad. That all members be present except for some important reasons.

The South Salem Ladies Aid was organized in 1897. Mrs. Ole Lee was president of the Aid for many years, while Mrs. Havik was secretary and treasurer combined for many years.

The East Ladies Aid was organized in 1898. That Aid grew until it had 51 members. Mrs. T. G. Kleven was the secretary in the beginning while Mrs. M. O. Mathson was president for a number of years. Later on Mrs. Peder Barsness was president for a number of years.

West Garnes Ladies Aid was organized in 1915. Mrs. Wicky was president and Mrs. M. Foldoe was secretary-treasurer. They held office for seven years. The members met once a month in the farm homes, each lady serving a large lunch alone. Ten cents was charged for lunch.

Since the Aid meetings were held in the homes it meant that the house had to be thoroughly cleaned from the attic to the basement. The best of everything had to be put into use, and a lot of good food was prepared. The Ladies Aid was the main topic to be heard in the household for weeks ahead of time. When the women were ready to go to Ladies Aid, they would have to walk or step into lumber wagons or buggies drawn either by horses or oxen. Most of the women in those days would spend their time sewing or knitting while at their meetings. These articles were then sold to raise money for their Aid.

On the 6th day of May, 1937, a business meeting was held at the Salem Church at which time a motion was made and carried that all of the Ladies Aids of the Congregation consolidate and become one Ladies Aid. The first officers were Mrs. Swan Olson, president; Mrs. Ole Lee, vice president; Mrs. Knute Vake, treasurer; and Mrs. Gustaf Foldoe, secretary. The term of office was limited to one year.

The following have been presidents over the years: Mrs. Ole Lee, Mrs. Ben Larson, Mrs. Osov Skreland, Mrs. Melvin Johnson, Mrs. Oscar Stenberg, Mrs. T. O. Lien, Mrs. John Rosten, Mrs. Oliver Langie, Mrs. Conrad Engebretson, Mrs. Oscar Linder, Mrs. Edwin Walhaug, Mrs. Osmund Hofstad, Mrs. Leonard Johnson, Mrs. Gust Foldoe, Mrs. Gilman Hegland. Some of these have been re-elected for two years and one lady for three years.

MAGIC OF WHITE MAN'S TOUCH —

Exemplified in the Progress of Garnes in Six Years Since Reclaimed from Redmen.

Garnes township is situated in the southeastern part of Red Lake county and for three years was an independent township, being Town 151, Range 41, but two years ago a strip along the north side containing about 2,800 acres was added, and is now a part of this township.

About twenty-six sections are a part of what is called by the settlers, the "old grant." The remainder of the town was a part of the Red Lake Indian Reservation, a portion of which was opened to settlement in 1896. As the Indians never visited this portion of their domains, it remained for the white man to turn to advantage the natural resources of the country.

The reservation was opened for settlement May 15, 1896. The heavy snows of the previous winter, and abundance of rain in the early spring and up to the day of opening, caused many of the homeseekers to turn back discouraged before they had reached the border of the Indian lands. Most of the people came on foot from the nearest railroad, and the night before the opening many of the small log houses along the line were so full, that standing room was at a premium. Some of the men had tents but on account of the rain and the wet ground, camping out was anything but comfortable.

At 9 o'clock the morning of May 15, the "rush" began; but two hours later all was again quiet, most of the people having departed for Crookston to get filing on the land they had taken.

Through the efforts of E. K. Gjernes a post office was established here the same year, with himself as postmaster. He also carried the weekly mail to and from Lambert. The following spring the government established a carrier route with tri-weekly mail service which was continued until the summer of 1902 when the daily mail was allowed.

The township was organized in January 1898 and three names for it were suggested, viz, Garnes, Clearwater and Prosperity. The county commissioners decided upon Garnes as the post office was called by that name.

The first officers of the new town were G. Swenson, chairman and Olaf Tande, clerk, with Iver Gjeldaker and Isaac Lemiux as supervisors. These served until the spring election, when Louis Falardeau was elected chairman, while the other members of the board were re-elected.

The Modern Woodmen of America organized a camp here in 1899, and have a flourishing lodge at present. They occupy the hall built by J. D. Hughes above his store in 1899. Mr. Hughes conducted a general mercantile business here for five years, and in the fall of 1901 sold his interests to L. K. Moen, who is now keeping a hotel and restaurant.

Nels Nelson came here in 1897 and engaged in blacksmithing. He has picked up his share of the work in his line and many dollars with it.

The Garnes Cheese factory was built in 1898 by the farmers in the vicinity and later purchased by the firm of Manders and Rogers, who still control it. The supply of milk is bout 1,500 pounds per day on an average and yields a trifle over 10 lbs. of cheese to a hundred pounds of milk. The farmers are getting cattle as fast as they can see a way to care for them, and many are preparing tame grass pastures, which will greatly increase the yield as well as the quality of the milk.

Rev. O. Kolstoe, pastor of the Lutheran church, has a fine residence about one mile northwest of the post office, and the congregation has recently built a large church near the cemetery.

There are five road districts and four school districts in the town; but only two school houses. The residents of the north east portion of town recently voted on the site for a new school house soon to be erected, and it is to be located at the southwest corner of section eleven.

The Catholic church is in section thirty-one but has no regular pastor.

The question of drainage has been the one problem which the farmers could not solve to their satisfaction; but last summer the State Drainage Commission solved it satisfactorily, and during the last month contracts have been let for three ditches in Garnes township which will redeem many acres of land now practically worthless. The soil is good, and fruit and vegetables and small grains do well here; though the season is shorter, yet it seems that we have more daylight here than in the country farther south, so the grain ripens fully as fast, considering the time is is put into the ground.

About 70% of the population are Scandinavians. Within a few years these hardy and industrious settlers have made rapid strides toward advancement. Every year additions to their number, by friends, and relatives from the "homeland" are made, and the settlement of the land is being gradually extended. We welcome them as good citizens who are doing much for the country of their adoption.

Twenty-five per cent of the settlers are French who moved here from Canada. They are an intelligent class of people who are quick to see their opportunities and take advantage of them. *Gazette* Dec. 28, 1902.

LIFE ON THE HOMESTEAD

It was sometime in the year 1896 that my father, Martin E. Foldoe, drove with horses from Norman County to Red Lake Falls to file a claim on a quarter section of land in Garnes Township five miles east of Plummer and just east of what was then known as the Garnes swamp.

A log house was erected and the family, father, mother and two little boys, Alfred, four, and Carl, two years old, moved in. Later a summer kitchen was built but it was still a very small house, so small that a trundle bed was built that could be rolled away under our parents' bed in daytime and pulled out at night to give sleeping space to us girls.

The young homesteaders worked hard to glean a living off a piece of raw land. My father grubbed trees and brush by hand and broke up the virgin soil with a walking plow. They managed to raise quite a herd of cattle meaning more hard work, milking cows, feeding calves and fighting hordes of mosquitoes. The men had built big smudges at night to drive the mosquitoes away from the cattle in the barnyard.

Spring came early in 1898, the spring that I arrived on the 9th of March. The Garnes Swamp was filled with water from the melting snow. I've heard tell that when my father drove across the swamp to get the mid-wife, "Old Kari Stryl," the water reached up into the buggy box. Old Kari came to stay for a few days and also brought along her jug of whiskey. Well, regardless, the patient and new arrival managed to survive.

That summer when haying time arrived the young mother had to help in the hay field. What to do with a four-month old baby and two little boys was solved in a way that hardly would be acceptable in present standards of child care. We were taken to an unoccupied bachelors shack located a half mile or so from the hay field, I was pillowed in a rocking chair and the boys were instructed to rotate the chair, not rock it, as that might tip me out.

Some very good and binding friendships were made with some of the fine Scandinavian neighbors to the north. Beyond these farms and extending to the Clearwater River was a French settlement.

When I was about four years old, my father took a load of wheat to Terrebonne to have it ground into flour for the family's winter supply and promised to bring me a little rocking chair. There was a general merchandise store at Terrebonne in those days where one could purchase anything from coffee beans to clothing, milk strainers and grubhoes. Yes, there amongst all the clutter was also a little rocking chair. I waited and waited all day long, for one so young could hardly have any idea how long it would take to make the trip there and back with a team of horses and have a load of wheat ground. I was permitted to stay up until my father returned and when he presented me with the most beautiful little red rocking chair, I'm sure I was the happiest little girl in the world.

When time came for the oldest child to start school, a real problem arose. The school was located near the north end of the district, a distance of three miles, much too far for a small youngster to walk. So for his first year in school, arrangement was made with Rev. Kolstoe and family to board and room Alfred so that he could attend school with the Kolstoe children in the Garnes school. Since there were more children of school age in the southern half of the district than in the north half, Martin Foldoe soon conceived the idea that the school house should be moved. It had not been centrally located in the first place. Before long the matter was discussed amongst the neighbors, put to a vote and the group who wanted to move the school won out. It was moved about one mile south to a new site directly across the road from the Marit Haaven home.

A few years later, the Foldoe family moved north to the present Foldoe farm and since the greatest number of children now came from families living in this part of the district, residents voted again to move the school and it was said by some, "Where Martin Foldoe goes, the school goes too."

The new Foldoe homestead had an enormous amount of rock for I remember my father hauling rocks from the fields and building a stone fence about four feet wide and at least that high all along the north side of the garden. The garden plot was ample, and planted with hardy fruit trees, currant bushes and rhubarb with still enough space for all the vegetables needed for a growing family. The country was over-populated with wolves. One could hear the blood-curdling howl of the wolf packs most any night and they were a menace to humans and livestock.

Doctors lived in the towns and transportation was very difficult, so for such little incidents as a sawed off finger or another crushed in the cream separator, it was "mother" who took charge and used whatever means or remedies at hand. There was one time however, when the fifth Foldoe child was about to be born, that the mid-wife found the case to be beyond her ability. The nearest doctor was at St. Hilaire, a distance of twenty miles or more. There was no telephone and the only means of travel was either by horseback or horse and buggy. A good neighbor rode his horse to St. Hilaire hoping to find the doctor at home and to persuade him to drive the distance by horse and buggy. One can imagine the many agonizing hours spent by the patient and the anxiety of others who were with her.

I think it must take people of great strength, fortitude and faith to survive the rigors of such hardships as had to be endured by many homesteaders.

I recall when our new granary was built. It was customary to have a neighborhood dance when some granary or barn with a hayloft was built. So word was spread that there would be a dance in the new granary on the Foldoe farm. I don't recall the musicians but my father likely furnished the music part of the time as he was a fiddler himself. My first teacher, Miss Lulu Fletcher, from Red Lake Falls was there and I can see her yet doing the two-step with young Tom Norby who was then a bartender in the Plummer saloon. I thought Miss Fletcher was the utmost in class as she daintily held her long skirt a bit off the floor with her left hand as she stepped along so lightly and gracefully to the new dance steps.

By the tenth year my folks felt they had enough of the hard life on this farm and decided to sell and go west.

The family now consisted of three boys and three girls. My mother's brother, Gustave Svenby, who had homesteaded in Emardville had moved to Sedro Woolley, Washington, a year before and wrote glowing letters about his paradise out there. It made fighting mosquitoes seem senseless, so the farm was sold to M. O. Sortedahl, a realtor in Red Lake Falls, and an auction sale was held to dispose of all stock, machinery and household goods. However, the Foldoes didn't go west as planned. My father went to Bagley to see his aging parents before moving so far away and was persuaded to bring his family up to Bagley to live instead.

The following months were sad ones. The family moved from Bagley to Erskine that same fall and after two and a half years of trying to make ends meet as a day laborer, my father decided it would be wise to get on a farm again and purchased a place only two and a half miles north of the old homestead from Octave LeFaivre. The family now counted four boys and four girls, a perfect set for a square dance, they used to say.

My father was to have no more than fifteen years on this farm as he died an untimely death at the age of fifty-six, the result of a run-away accident with his team of horses. Mother lived to the age of eighty-three and passed away in 1953. Seven of the eight children are still living. Alfred of Mentor; Carl of Bagley; Mrs. J. A. Hughes (Belle) of Red Lake Falls; Mrs. Irving Giere of St. Paul; Gust of rural Plummer, still on the Foldoe farm; Joe lives in Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Helmer Linder (Mabel) of Brainerd; Mrs. Dan Nelson (Anne) of California died two years ago.

Contributed by Belle Hughes

REV. KOLSTOE, A PIONEER PASTOR, AND HIS HORSE, BILL

Bill was a horse, a white pony to be exact. He was a handsome creature with a well formed head which he carried on a sturdy, slightly arched neck. To complete the picture, his white mane was full and luxuriant. In addition, he was nimble and so cute in his ways that his playful nippings at his friends, whether they were horses or people, more often caused amusement than annoyance. When other horses attempted to bite back at him, they generally missed. No matter, minutes later they might well find themselves in a mutual back-scratching routine, friendly as ever! If horses have personalities, and I guess they do, White Bill, as he was generally called, had it in full measure. He was so cunning about his little shenanigans that he remained easy to forgive, no matter what tricks he tried to pull, and remained through it all a thoroughly likeable sort of creature. All this is intended as an introduction so that you may more easily form a picture of this highly acceptable animal, but it hardly provides any clue to another side of White Bill's makeup, that made him the significant participant that he later unwittingly became in bringing the comfort and the guidance of the gospel to isolated pioneers in northwestern Minnesota. And so here, we shall leave White Bill, but not for long.

At about the turn of the century, a considerable part of what is now Polk, Red Lake and Pennington Counties was opened up for homesteading. Many of the settlers were of Scandinavian, Lutheran background and so, my father, Pastor Ole Kolstoe, answered a call from the Home Mission Board of the United Lutheran Church, to go into this area as a pioneer pastor. It was a hard assignment, one that called for gruelling effort merely to travel the sodden wagon tracks that served as roads. The country is flat; a vast lake bottom formed by an earlier extension of what came later to be known as the Lake Agassiz bottom lands. While rainfall is generally moderate in that area, the ground was almost always soggy in the early days from the accumulation of brush and dead grass, which prevented the ground from drying out. This condition caused broad seepage areas which slowly drew the surplus water off into the creeks and rivers. These "swamps" as they were locally called, had among other troublesome features, the bad effect of cutting the higher, more usable land up into irregular strips, each of which became the base for an isolated community during the wet part of the year. This soggy condition encouraged further growth of brush and an accumulation of



Kolstoe Family. *Standing:* Ellen, Martin, Villars, Martha, Severin. *Seated:* Klara, Rev. Kolstoe, Olaf and Mrs. Meta Kolstoe.

dead grass, which slowed down clearing of the ground for market farming. It limited the settlers to scarcely more than subsistence farming and to its accompanying poverty.

For the minister whose usefulness depended so much on his ability to traverse the wide stretches of near wilderness both summer and winter, the situation was well-nigh catastrophic. With all these obstacles present, the duties of the pastor continued to remain so obvious and compelling that any thought of easing up at any time or at any point of ministerial duties was given short shift. Those people had troubles — all the troubles of which humans are normally heir to, plus a host of other problems caused by pioneering and poverty. No one ever spoke of vacations in those days. To do so would have sounded frivolous, if not downright sinful.

I do not really know which posed the bigger threat to the pioneer pastor; the mud and mosquitoes of summer, or the cold and snow of winter. I recall one winter when the snow began falling very early and accumulated to a depth that made horses absolutely useless for traveling. With that situation before him, Dad promptly contacted a native of Finland who had a good reputation for making skiis. With that pair of skiis and a Finnish knapsack for carrying his essential belongings, Dad launched out on a cold, winter-long project of attending to his duties. He must have traveled several hundred miles over the frozen wilderness that constituted his parish. Heroic! That word probably never entered Dad's mind. To him it was a way of tending to his pastoral duties. There was no other way, so this was it. The work to which he had dedicated his life was not neglected.

Father needed horses — good horses, that were well-suited to the situation in general and to the soggy roads, in particular. Unfortunately, his ability to judge horse flesh was mediocre and maybe lower than that. But Dad had a friend, John Larson, who was an old-time horse trader, with all that that implied. I'm not sure whether horse-trading was his vocation, or if it was merely an avocation, but there is no doubt about his being a natural for the business and he was about as sharp as they come. John's sharpness did not consist of merely spotting a profitable horse trade if it came his way. He really understood horses and was particularly fond of the talented ones. He seemed to spot them instinctively; even horses with high potential that had been damaged by mishandling. Dad was fortunate. John considered him to be his friend — maybe a special sort of friend who might need help or even protection at times. By the time John acquired Bill, the horse had already earned a reputation of being balky and rather tricky in general, but John seemed to be all the more sure that in this particular case, Dad and Bill could and would do much for each other. And so, he went on with his sales pitch. Dad, as John do doubt expected, believed every word he said. Dad could never believe that John could stand there and say anything that was intended to be deliberately misleading, not John — he would not, and Dad was sure of it. On the surface, that would seem like a naive attitude to take towards a horse trader. But Father wasn't naive, he knew John Larson from a different aspect than most people, and I haven't the slightest doubt that Father was right and that to think of John Larson as merely another horse trader would be grossly wrong and highly misleading. Let me give you just one instance of the courageously reliable person that dad saw in John Larson, and on which he acted with confidence; as well he might!

John and his brother, Gust, were living together in John's homestead shack. In the spring of the year it became clear that they were about to run short of flour. The nearest railroad point where flour could be had was St. Hilaire which was twenty slush-filled miles away. In the break-up of the winter roads, this would be a hazardous journey, if not to say, an outright dangerous one, for both horse and rider. John almost casually, as it appeared, put on his hat and jacket, took off on foot, walked for twenty miles through the miserable slush, bought a fifty-pound bag of flour, hoisted it on his back and started back. Not much was said about it on his return. He and Gust didn't need to talk. The episode spoke for itself! Such a man could be relied on in anything that really mattered — father knew it, and those two men knew each other, knew each other well. It took such men to build a pioneer coummunity. The friendship and mutual respect dad and John Larson had for each other rested on a firm foundation and lasted as long as they lived.

How White Bill, dad's horse, came into John's possession, I don't know, but he seemed to be well trained as a cattle pony. Somewhere he got the reputation of being balky and tricky. However, as usual, dad relied on John's judgment and believed his sale's pitch, "That horse is worth thirty dollars if he is worth thirty cents." He knew full well that John knew what he was talking about, and so, he somehow managed to scrape together the thirty dollars and White Bill was his! Dad had finally found a horse on whose good horse sense he could rely, and a new life began for White Bill. Bill promptly set about building himself into a legend — the biggest bog-crossing horse for miles around. Legend has it that, before venturing into a bog, he would figure out a complete strategy for crossing. Once in the swamp, he would walk on his haunches like a snowshoe rabbit! I recall one time when he had gotten a front foot tangled in a slack lower wire. I don't know how much he may have struggled to free himself, but from the time I saw him and hurried across the pasture, he scarcely moved at all. I was pretty young at that time, but I finally managed to get his foot free from the wire, after which White Bill went right on nibbling grass as if to tell me that he had it figured out that way all along. There were other instances too, where his behavior was hard to explain on a simple one-to-one basis, which is generally believed to be the limit of a horse's thinking. He was adroit and resistant to panic. That alone could take him a long way. A lot of people who knew White Bill, would be inclined to reject this as an adequate explanation for all his behavior. Here is an example. A group of the pioneers were discussing the timely question, if the swamp had become crossable yet, after a heavy deluge of rain. A woman in the group spoke up to say: "Yes, I know it is." She explained that she had spoken to Pastor Kolstoe just the day before and he must have crossed the swamp to get there. One of the men then spoke up to ask if the Pastor was driving White Bill. "Yes, he was"; and "did he have his two-wheeled cart?" And the answer again was "Yes." The man said with finality "then your idea about the swamp being crossable isn't worth a nickel." "Because, where those two can cross with that two-wheeled cart, only the devil himself can follow." Not elegantly stated, but there is no doubt about its meaning — White Bill had become a legend in his own lifetime!

If the heavy concentration of attention on Dad, Larson and White Bill should have suggested that these three were all that

were needed to build a pioneer community, or any other sort of community, that would not only have been untrue, but brutally unfair as well. A community is a joint creation of many diverse individuals, each with his own contribution. But one of the limitations of language is that words will not permit such bits to be put together meaningfully into a story. The description of any small representative group would probably be equally valid. The reason for the selection in this story was mostly my own personal convenience. I happened to know more about these persons and these episodes than I did of others. The fact that heroic people and heroic episodes were used, was not accidental. These were heroic times, and that too was not accidental. All the fainthearted people were quickly driven out by hardships, mud and mosquitoes, and the get-rich-quick dreamers followed soon afterwards. Those who remained were the men and women alike, who, like Dad and John, had the fortitude and ingenuity to meet and overcome crises and even dangers at times; and so, a successful pioneer group has an unusually large proportion of heroic people. The same could be said for mutually helpful, group-spirited people. For this reason, while I am talking about a very few people, I would like to have the readers think in terms of many people to whom these characterizations would apply, more or less. And so, we will probably have to let John Larson continue to do service as a representative of the people who made up our pioneer group. Perhaps you are curious to know how things went with John after he had weathered his pioneering.

To everyone's surprise, including his son, John Larson married. A fine young woman came over directly from Sweden to seek her fortune in the new world. She found it easy to admire and later to love a man like John Larson. The change in John was in some ways astonishing. He surprised the neighborhood by selling every horse on the place and buying a couple of yokes of oxen. He cleared land, broke sod and bought still more land. Within a few years, he was probably the wealthiest farmer in the whole community. In addition, he and his young, ambitious wife built up a fine dairy herd and raised a family of four husky boys.

At this point in our story, John's four sons had grown to young manhood, the tractor had come in to dominate the farm scene and John's yen for conquering new situations had probably ebbed some and so, John turned the farm over to the boys and retired from active farming. There were plenty of fruits from his earlier labors to live on. But the easy life didn't quite suit him. Well, you probably guessed it — in a small way, John started trading horses all over again!

As for father, his old age was saddened by the loss of mother's companionship. He never quite recovered from the loss, although his health was good and he lived well into his eighties. His loneliness was further complicated by relative poverty. He had given so much and had retained so very little for himself. His retirement came in the depression years of the thirties and pension provisions for ministers were pathetically small. Dad had lived a rich life, but the closing chapter was outwardly tragically barren. Mere money alone would hardly have solved his problem. There was here an injustice where it is hard to know just where to put the blame, if blame there was.

We have already such an inevitable injustice showing up right in this story. In an attempt to present as vivid a picture as possible of the people and of the heroic episodes of pioneering in this area, we are denying special mention to so very many people who have richly deserved such mention. The means of giving full recognition to all would call for some sort of expedience which would be fantastically unrealistic, such as procuring a huge canvas, big enough to show all those worthy people clearly. In addition to showing all their portraits clearly, the artist must also by some means have been able to make their inner characters and personalities shine through so as to show what sort of people they really were. Medieval artists would have used halos for this purpose, but that probably would not have worked. There would have been halos enough to blur up the whole picture. I have no notion that any such picture will ever be painted, although I wish it could.

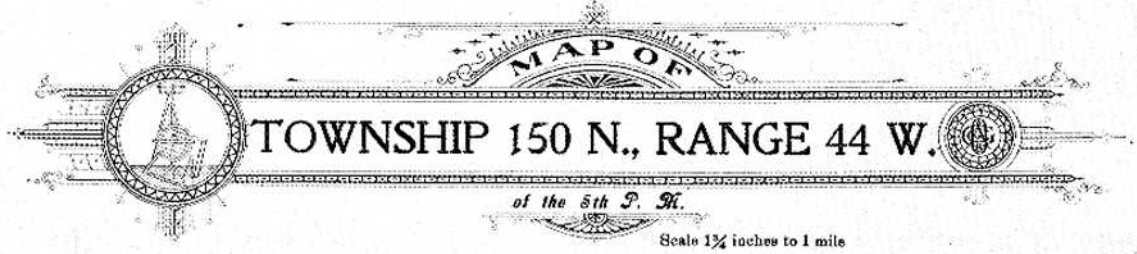
But while we are in an imaginative mood, let us see what other things we would want to include in our magic picture. We would want the cores of the persons' characters to show their very souls, if you please. This would tell us if anyone was a true pioneer or a fake hero. I would want a special place of honor for the women who, in addition to all the other hazards of pioneering, had in a special way the health and welfare of their children to worry about. The stress on them would likely be greater than on the men. I would also want the singular freedom from any evidence of bravado, in the phenominal success of Dad and Bill in crossing "impassable" swamps to somehow show in the picture. It was probably not a thing in itself, but more nearly an expression of a firm devotion on Dad's part, to the sacredness of his ministry, and on Bill's part, the response of a willing, competent horse to the gentleness of his driver. I believe it was so understood by the people with whom Father was working. White Bill's unstinted contribution, no doubt, added something to the inner confidence of these sturdy pioneers which was necessary in converting a wilderness into a proper habitation for man, with God and His church still holding a central position in the picture.

Naturally, I would want Dad in there, preferably wearing his long-length Mackintosh raincoat, perhaps spattered with mud and work-stained. He wore it a long time — it almost became a vestment of his office. John would be there and with him as many more of those worthy pioneers as could be crowded on a single canvas. Then to complete it, somewhere in the background there would be a frieze of soft clouds. White Bill would be there, his beautiful head resting on a pillow of clouds. He has richly deserved his rest and place of honor. He labored long and well! Much of what he gave was given unwittingly. White Bill could have little or no understanding of the plan and ultimate purpose of the efforts in which he was engaged jointly with Dad. But God could use them, and He did! White Bill, in response to the kindness of a gentle driver, gave us all that he had, he stinted on nothing and so, who are we to say that his unwitting contributions were less pleasing in the sight of God than any of the more carefully contrived services that you or I might have had to offer. John Larson said "that horse is worth thirty dollars, if he is worth thirty cents!" John was right!!

Contributed by Dr. Olaf Kolstoe



Warstad farmstead about 1920



Scale 1¼ inches to 1 mile

LAKE PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

RED LAKE FALLS

TWP

CO

TWP

POLK

POLK

DELORME SIDING

PENNINGTON CO

PENNINGTON CO

GERVAIS TOWNSHIP

Gervais Township was organized on March 15, 1885 and was a part of Polk County. Samuel Allard was the first town clerk and assessor. The three supervisors were Louis Perreault, chairman, Basil Emard and Moses Allard. Phillip Thayer was Justice of the Peace, and Frederic Emard was constable. The first meeting were held in School District #112. The town hall was built in 1910 between sections sixteen and twenty-one and is still in use today.

The first settler in Gervais was Isaiah Gervais who came from St. Paul in 1876 with Pierre Bottineau. He built a two-story log cabin on his new homestead and sent for his family who arrived in a horse-drawn covered wagon. Other early settlers were J. B. Fournier, Charles Richard, Joseph Patnode, Pierre Emard, Jerome Longtin, Dolphis Patnode, Louis Perrault, Phillip Thayer, Joseph Laurent, Sam Miller, and Ovilla Gervais. The township took its name, however, from Isaiah Gervais.

The early township boards were responsible for roads and ditches in their areas. Each landholder was assessed one dollar per one hundred dollars of evaluation on real estate and fifty cents per hundred on personal property. Apparently the assessed value of county properties was low. The money went into the road and bridge fund. Each landholder was also assessed a poll tax of one or two days of work each year, and those days were usually spent in ditch digging, brush cutting, road building or any work that needed to be done for the town. Records of births and deaths were kept by the town clerk.

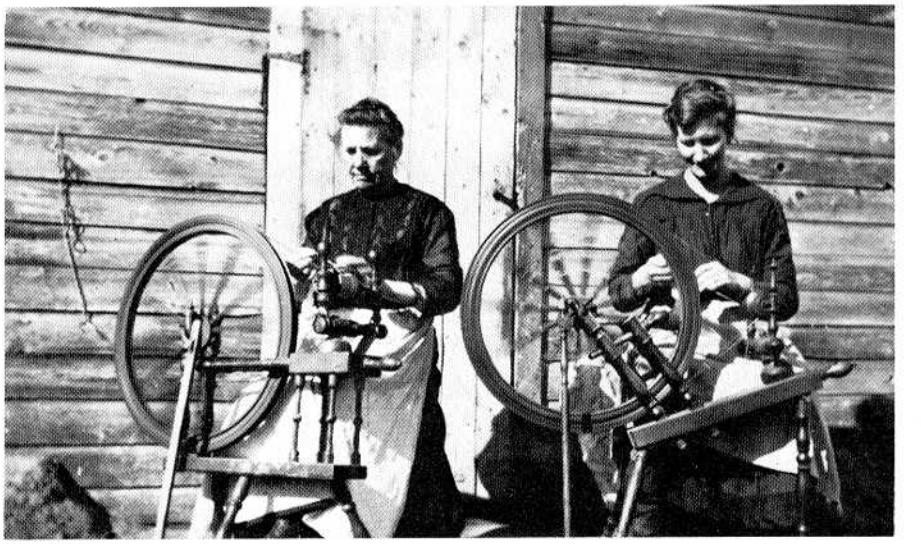
The townships also entertained petitions for the payment of medical bills of families in the township. This was practiced in Gervais up until fifteen years ago. The petitioner would place his request before the board and it would determine the degree of need among all petitioners and disperse the money according to need.

The treasury books of the township were in the Orr home for fifty years. George Orr, Sr., was elected to the board as treasurer in 1903. In 1917, George Orr, Jr., was elected to replace his father. He held that position until 1953, making the family record a total of fifty years.

At the present time, Leslie Flage is chairman, and other supervisors are Curtis Berard and Russell Zimpel. George Reopelle is clerk and Harold Derosier is treasurer.



Steam threshing on Bisson farm 1915



Hannah Gustafson and daughter Mattie



Jos. Helm, Sr. drove this new car to the Charles Seeger, Sr. farm for a visit in 1908. Fred Seeger is at the wheel with Charles in the front seat. Maria is standing and Mrs. Charles Seeger and Mrs. Fred Seeger in the back seat. Charles Seeger built this house in 1901 in Gervais Township on the spot where the old log building once stood.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 88

School District #88 was organized before 1883 in Gervais Township in the County of Polk. Early trustees were Basil Emard, Henry Helgeson, and Ulrich Plante. On April 23, 1883, at a special meeting, it was decided to build a school house in the middle of the district on land owned by Basil Emard. One acre of land was purchased at a price of $20.00, the total cost of the school amounted to $521.00.

Teachers received $30.00 per month, and the names of some of those hardworking persons found in the records were Ella Roark, Mrs. Mary Jeffers, Frank Deming, Mary Schusser, Felix Grandbois, Gertie Gjerberg and Lydia Fletcher. Classes began each fall in October and were dismissed in April for a seven month school term.

In 1905 there were 29 children crowded

into the one-room school which contained grades one through eight. The Red Lake river cut the district in half so that students from families east of the river had to cross the water either by boat in the spring and fall, or on the ice during the cold winter months. This made attendance somewhat irregular, especially in the spring and fall. Some of the subjects taught were orthography, reading, writing, mental arithmetic, arithmetic, geography, language, grammar, United States history, physiology and civil government.

A list of students from grades one through eight in the early 1900's included: Lillie Just, Cora Just, Lydia Hinrichs, Annie Norman, Andrew Norman, Roy Gauthier, Frieda Gomoll, Gertrude Starken, Herman Schmidt, Frank Schmidt, August Hinrichs, Annie Schmidt, Joseph Schmidt, Peter Starken, Carl Gomoll, Mary Just, Leona Just, Willie Gomoll, Henry Gomoll, Rose Hinrichs, Sarah Hinrichs, John Schmidt, Tina Rawertz, Charles Seeger, Mary Seeger, Alice Gauthier and Hazel Kellogg.

About the year 1926, the school was moved one mile southwest where it stood in the southwest corner of Frank Schmidt's north quarter. Here it remained until the 1940's when the district was consolidated with the Red Lake Falls school. At the present time, the old school building is standing in Andrew Neilson's yard and is used as a granary.



School District 88 about 1906-07: Carl Schusser was the teacher. Students identified are, *Back Row:* Henry Gommal, Frank Schmidt, Sarah Hinrichs, Tina Rewertz, Carl Gommal, Annie Rewertz, August Hinrichs and Lonie Just. *Front:* John Knott, Emman Hinrichs, Lillie Just, Freida Gommal, Anton Schmidt, Hubert Hinrichs, Henry Schmidt, Roy Gauthier, Lydia Hinrichs, Cora Just, Gust Knott, Clifford Gauthier, Anna Norman and Herman Just.

WILDWOOD SCHOOL

The old records of the Wildwood School date back to 1896. The teacher was a Mr. Fletcher and he had thirty-four pupils. School Board members were Alex Patnode, Sam Miller and Jerome Longtin. Miss Mamie Swanson was the teacher in the year 1897 and her wages are noted at $35.00 for a seven-month school year. Other teachers were Alice Fellman, Mildred Helm, Carl Schusser, Irene Schusser, Leora Krueger, Marie and Marguerite Patnode, Bernice Orr, Joyce Surprenant, Elsie LaChance, Evelyn Longtin and Florence Keim.

Some of the board members in later years were Jos. St. Marie, William Eukel, Leo Longtin, George LeFaive, Clayton and Donald Walker, Frank Schafer and Hulda Zimpel.

Wildwood School, District 112 in Section 30 of Gervais Township, was the setting and scene for numerous social events of all sorts including 4-H meeting of the youth in the area. After the school closed, the building was used as the town hall until it was moved to Terrebonne and became the Beau Gerlot School.

GERVAIS FARMERS ALERT CLUB

About 1915, a group of farmers from Gervais township, and some residents from the area east of Plummer, joined together to form a social club. Their meetings were held either in the Wildwood or the Hawthorne schools each month. During these meetings, they discussed the social events they were sponsoring at the time, and often had potluck lunches, members bringing their most special dishes. Among other events, they sponsored summer ball teams which competed with other teams around the county. Special summer activities included excursions to Maple Lake, Itasca Park, or to Red Lake, all topped off with a grand picnic. Home talent plays and all the rehearsals that go with them, seemed to be the big events of the winter seasons.

Harry Anderson and Herbert Arlt were organizers and promoters of the club which operated into the 1930's. A few of the families who were members included the Andersons, Arlts, Crafts, Greenwalds, Flages, Halversons, Tillmans, Christiansons, Carlsons, Tillmans, Carlsons and Malwitzes. The organization was most active from the year 1915 into the 1930's, and provided an opportunity for people to join together for fun and relaxation with each other and their families.



Patnode School District 112





The Tillman, Arlt, Flage and Westerlund clan.



Gervais team is standing and Emardville baseball team in front.

MAP OF

TOWNSHIP 151 N., RANGE 43 W

of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¾ inches to 1 mile

GERVAIS TOWNSHIP





Morinville brothers with their threshing machine. Straw was used for fuel.

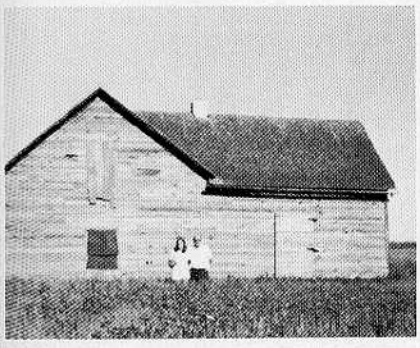
LAKE PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

Homesteaders began settling the land in Lake Pleasant Township shortly after the Bottineau Group arrived in 1876. In 1877 Charle and Zephirin Perrault and George Brunelle and George Marchand arrived from Penetanguishene, Ontario, Canada, and selected their homesteads to lie in close proximity to the proposed railroad.

In 1886 the Duluth and Manitoba Railroad Co. built their line across Lake Pleasant Township and two switching stations were installed. The Delorme station was used mainly as a loading station for hay, grain and wood and the Perrault station located farther north was used as a depot as well as a loading station.

Charle Perrault, for whom the station was named and on whose land it was built, also erected an elevator on that site and a cheese factory run by Theo. Fournier also operated there for many years.

The township was organized at a meeting held at the home of Pheran Perrault on the 13th day of August in 1879. The meeting was called to order by John Perrault who served as clerk and J. L. Beaudry was chosen to serve as moderator. The first order of business was the election of officers and those elected and declared qualified to serve were as follows: Chairman, Charle Perrault; Supervisors, Onezime Ducharme and Michael Fourtin; Clerk, Edward Columbus; Treasurer, William Scharper; Justices of the Peace, Henry Hennemuth and John Perrault; Constables, Adolph Riechal and George Frennette.



Louis Morinville home built 1879 still stands one mile south of junction of Highways 32 and 92.

The meetings were held in homes until 1881 when they were held in the school house of District #32 and compensation for officers was one dollar per meeting.

The following excerpts were chosen from the early records to reflect the progress and development of Lake Pleasant Township.

1880 — By-Laws were adopted to prevent cows, oxen, horses, mules, asses, sheep, pigs or any other livestock to be allowed to run at large during the months of April through October 15th in each year until further ordered. Desirean Lacoursiere was elected poundmaster with the pound being located in section one. The cost for impoundment for twenty-four hours for any kind of stock was set at fifty cents except horses for which the cost was set at one dollar. A motion ordered that four days poll tax labor be worked on the roads and the township was divided into four road districts with the overseers of roads to be elected at annual meetings.

1881 — It was resolved by the board of supervisors that all section lines be recorded in the town record book as wagon roads to be worked by the town board as they see fit. The poll tax labor was reduced to two days of road work.

1883 — The first bridge was built at Badger Creek.

1884 — The poll tax labor was reduced to one day. A bridge was built across the Cyr Creek and a road was built between Tilden and Lake Pleasant townships. (Present Highway Two).

1885 — The first road grader purchased by the township from the New Era Manufacturing Co. of Chicago for one thousand dollars was to be paid within ten years. Three dollars a day was allowed as payment for one man and a team of horses or oxen doing road work. In December an election was held to decide whether to permit the Duluth and Manitoba Railroad Co. to construct a line across the township beginning at a point on the Northern Pacific Railroad in Clay County to Red Lake Falls with the work to be completed in 1886. Twenty-eight voted for the railroad proposition, eighteen against.

1887 — It was proposed that the supervisors act as a board of health and that Dr. Lemieux be designated as health officer for the coming year. It was also decided that a shed for the road grader be built at the Charle Perrault farm.

1888 — A grade would be made across the little lake in the town line between section 35 of Red Lake Falls township and section 2 of Lake Pleasant. It was proposed that it be made unlawful for inhabitants of other townships to hunt in Lake Pleasant and the penalty for this was set from five to twenty dollars. It was also proposed by J. C. Beaudry, seconded by Hubert Cardinal, to buy four chairs to be used when holding meetings.

1893 — A road (Present Highway 32) was built and declared a public highway.

1894 — It was decided that the road grader be operated by one man hired purposely for the job and Denis Lizotte was employed at $1.50 per day.

1895 — Four dollars per day for one man with a team would be paid for road work with ten hours set as a day's work.

1896 — A road running north and south along the railroad track was built. The township was no longer a part of Polk County as Red Lake County was formed.

1900 — A desk was purchased for the clerk and the one previously used was to be returned to the chairman, Evangeline Quesnel. $2.00 was to be paid to School District #32 for each meeting held in the

school house. An election was held to approve a bond issue of $10,000 to help defray the cost of constructing a court house at the county seat in Red Lake Falls. The taxable evaluation of the township was set at $66,378.00.

1904 — A motion was passed to allow taxpayers to work on roads at four dollars per day to pay taxes.

1906 — The township was assessed $25.00 towards the county poor fund.

1909 — A motion passed that each road overseer would also be a poundmaster.

1915 — A pound was established in section nine at the William Marleau farm. In March it was resolved and passed by the voters that the township organize the Highway Home Rule Club to cooperate with similar clubs in other townships in a statewide campaign to dispute the rule of the Highway Commissioners and to keep up the fight until the legislature now in session or a succeeding one removes every vestige of control and supervision from the state commissioners and rests these powers in local boards elected by the people.

1916 — It was resolved that each and every farmer be poundmaster.

1920 — A bridge was built between sections eight and five with the township and county sharing the cost at $1,750 each. Mrs. Marie Ann Delorme cast the first woman's vote in Lake Pleasant at a general election in which ninety votes were cast, thirty of them by women.

1926 — The bridge at the corner of sections 9, 10, 15 and 16 was rebuilt.

1933 — A motion was made and carried to designate the Northern State Bank of Gonvick as depository for the township funds. Later in the year it was decided to let the treasurer, Joe Delorme, choose between the Red Lake County State Bank of Red Lake Falls and the Northern State Bank of Gonvick.



Delorme Station

1949 — The township made an agreement with the Red Lake Falls Fire Department for fire protection.

1954 — The township share to be paid for a new rural fire truck was $1,016.

The present board members serving the township: Chairman, John Glass; Clerk, Marie Chaput; Treasurer, Sybil Derosier; Supervisors, Leo Hoefer and Erwin Weiss.

Prior to 1900 there was a church located in section 27 and the cemetery is located on the farm presently owned by William Marwitz. Another cemetery, located in section 13, was known as the Demann Cemetery. In 1905 Ludwig Weiss and Sam and George Luxenburg purchased the adjoining land from John and Mary McCormick of Logan County, Illinois, and this became the Evergreen Cemetery.

Marcoux Corner, located in section 24 at the junction of Highways 32 and 2 was built in 1927 by Ed Marcoux. He also had a pony farm where he rented and sold ponies. The Corner had a barber shop for many years and was also a bus depot, gas station, grocery store, restaurant and tavern. For many years they rented cabins and had an emergency signal station for the highway patrol.

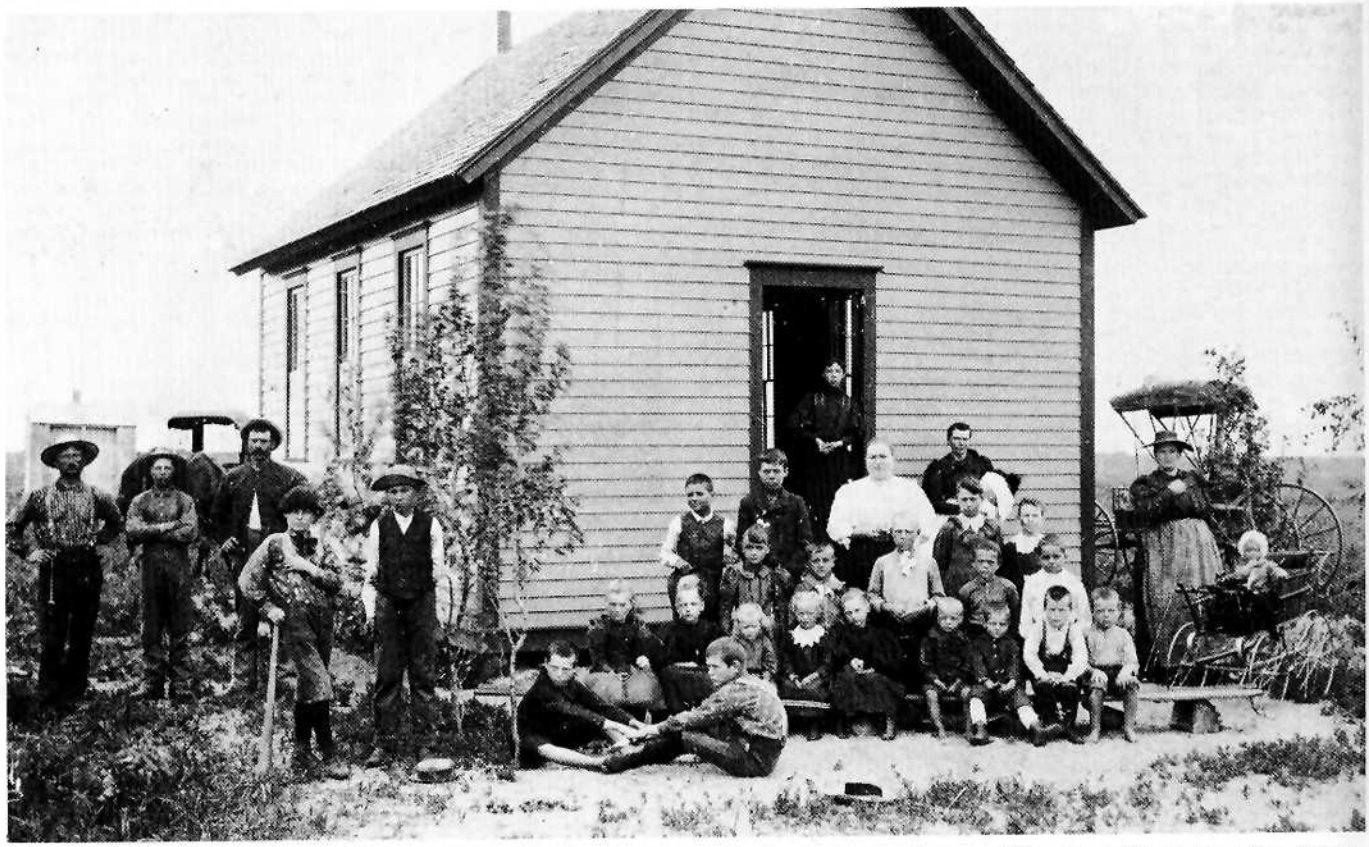
Midway Tavern, Restaurant and Filling Station was located in the southwestern part of the township along Highway 2. It was started in 1935 by Isadore Rosen and the same year sold to Harvey Bombardier who owned it until 1938. Other operators have been Paul Bruneau, Ed Callier and Joe Juhl who later started a gravel business which he sold to Tuseth Gravel Co. It is now owned by Bradshaw Gravel Supply. The Midway Building was moved to Gentilly and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brault.

In 1975 construction was started on the Red Lake Falls Municipal Airport which is located at the junction of Highways 92 and 32.

Lake Pleasant Township presently counts 177 people residing within its boundaries and of these 98 are registered voters. The township also has a very active 4-H and Homemakers Clubs.

LAKE PLEASANT TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

There were six schools located in Lake Pleasant Township although the earliest



School District 216, Lake Pleasant Township in 1897. Ida Koke was the teacher. Men to the left are William Schaper, William Cyr and Mr. Robillard. Mrs. George Marchildon is at the right with baby. Standing to the right of the teacher is Mrs. Robillard. Emma Schaper (Mrs. Fred Purath) is the little girl with white collar in front. Others are Laura Cyr, Marchildons, Schapers, Cyrs, Robbilards and the Warren children.



Perreault Station School

available records do not indicate when they started.

District #32 in 1901 had Josephine Kaus as a teacher with thirty-one students. Her salary was $30.00 per month. District #32 school house now serves as the Lake Pleasant Town Hall.

District #191 in 1901 had Ozana Dubuque teaching twenty-three students in grades one through seven for which she was paid $30.00 per month.

District #4 in 1902 had eighteen students taught by Alvina Lizotte. Her salary was $30.00.

District #216 teacher in 1902 was Florence Columbus who had twenty-one students and received a $33.00 salary.

District #45 in 1905 had Catherine Berthiaume teaching twenty-five students.

District #23 in 1909 had eight students taught by Victoria Parenteau.

MARCOUX CORNER

Marcoux Corner, situated north of Highway Two and west of Highway Thirty-two in Lake Pleasant Township, was named for Edward Marcoux who settled there in 1927 and opened a Phillips Gas Station and a small cafe. Marcoux had purchased a small parcel of land, four acres in all, from Omer Delorme who owned the quarter section on this site. Many thought Ed had made a poor investment in choosing this spot for a business place, and that he could not possibly eke a living there.

Having the foresight to know that some day with improved highways, cars in great numbers would travel these roads stopping for gas and food, Ed continued to develop and improve his business. The first structure he built, containing living quarters and lunch counter, burned to the ground wiping out everything he owned. But Ed did not give up; instead he bought a large, square, two story house from a farmer, Archie Dupont, and moved this onto his premises where it remained for many years. As business improved another large room was annexed to the east side of the original house.

Highway Two was improved and paved and Highway Thirty-two also was widened and tarred. More people had cars by this time and consequently traffic became heavier. Large trucks were taking over much of the freight transportation, especially grain from the wheat farms of North Dakota and the Red River Valley, which was trucked to Duluth. One of the refueling stops for the drivers was at Marcoux Corner. This in itself was a great help to the gas business and the establishment.

When Ed Marcoux decided to move to California in 1936, he sold the Corner to his two brothers-in-law, Noel and Oliver Proulx, a partnership that was maintained for several years and ended only when Noel Proulx became sheriff of Red Lake County when Carl Kankel had resigned and a new sheriff was appointed.

Oliver and Anne Proulx purchased Noel's share of Marcoux Corner in 1942 and remained there to operate the gas station, cafe and bar for many years. Their family of three boys, Joseph Oliver, Daniel and George and one daughter, Marie Jean, grew up at Marcoux and attended school at Red Lake Falls and Crookston.

Subsequently, the place was sold to Walter Montpettit in 1946, who operated the business for only one year. In 1947, Oliver Proulx again bought the Corner when Montpettit, at the death of his father, returned home to manage his father's business. According to township records, the next purchaser of Marcoux Corner was LaVern Laundreville who acquired it in 1961 and operated it for four years selling the place to Joseph Juhl in 1965. A second fire leveled the Corner and Joe Juhl had a one story building constructed on the spot where the old one had stood.

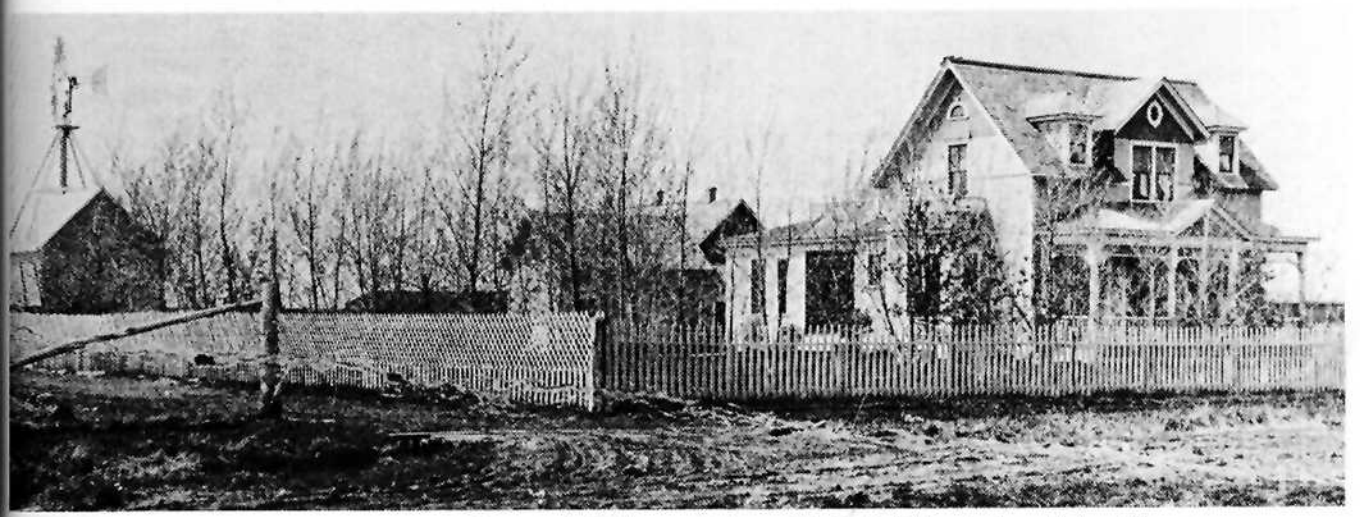
Many times the Corner was a haven for travelers when a blinding blizzard would strike northwestern Minnesota. The worst storm in these later years occurred in March of 1966 and during this time the Corner remained open day and night for the convenience and protection of those who needed shelter from the storm which kept many people captive there for several days.

Marcoux Corner, presently operated by Fred and Dorothy Gjesdahl, is a modern, well decorated establishment where patrons can enjoy dining and dancing in the restaurant, bar and lounge.



Players in 1889 were Joe Morinville, Jos. St. Marie, Pete Bausch, Ildage Barl, George Morinville, Delorme, George Bottineau, Telesphore Robillard, Peter Pouliot. Bats and a catcher's mask were the only equipment.





The Columbus farm home was built in the early 1880's, now the home of the Martin DeHaan family on Highway 32.

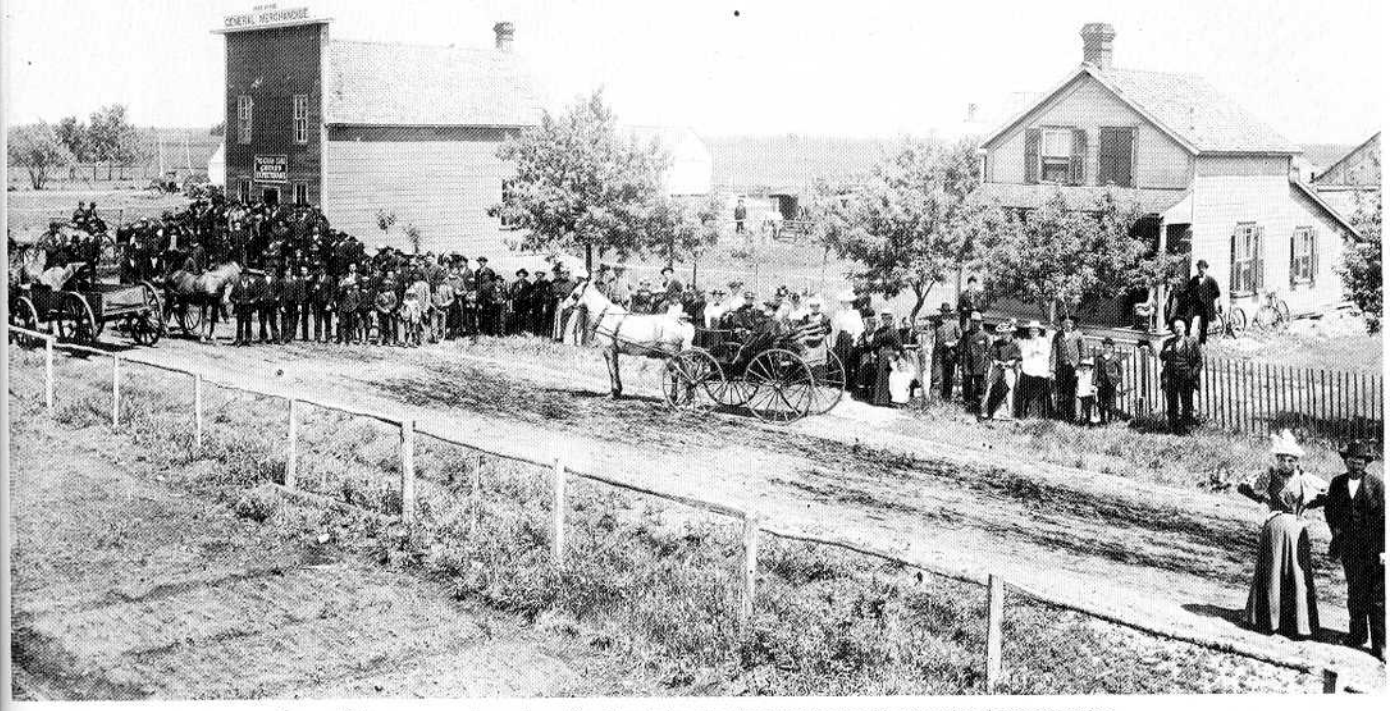
MAP OF

TOWNSHIP 150 N., RANGE 41 W. 5th P. M.

Scale 1¼ inches to 1 mile

LAMBERT TOWNSHIP





Samuel Gibeau general merchandise store in Lambert and his home. He was also the postmaster.

LAMBERT TOWNSHIP

Lambert Township was organized at a meeting held at the Francois Lambert home on January 28, 1882. The first officers elected were: Francois Lambert, Patrice Lamay and S. ViLain, judges, J. Lambert and Sylvin Bergevin, clerks.

The first birth recorded in Lambert Township was that of Armidas Boucher, son of Joe Boucher and Marie Paquin, who was born on March 10, 1882.

In 1910 there were sixteen buildings in the Lambert townsite built along the present highway 92. Following is a list of the buildings and what happened to each:

1. X. A. Lambert store, moved to Oklee in 1917.
2. Town Hall, first school building, still standing in the original location.
3. Hotel, torn down.
4. Home, owner unknown, torn down.
5. Joe Paquin home, torn down.
6. Alphonse Paquin home, moved to Oklee in 1917.
7. School, moved to Oklee in 1948.
8. J. Robidoux home, torn down.
9. M. Boisvert home, moved to Oklee in 1917.
10. Louis Doucet home, moved to Oklee in 1917.
11. Doucet store, moved to Oklee in 1910.
12. L. Falardeau store, moved to Oklee in 1910.
13. Anton Lambert home, still standing in original location.
14. Francis Lambert home, still standing in original location.
15. Rectory, moved to Oklee in 1917.
16. St. Francis Xavier Church, moved to Oklee in 1917.

LAMBERT TOWNSHIP BOARD

The present board of the Township of Lambert is as follows: Chairman, Melvin R. Johnson, Jr.; Supervisors, Raymond Lessard and Michael Paquin; Clerk, Eleanor Sandeen; Treasurer, Ralph Berg.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Pierre B. Champagne, who very likely came from the Arch Diocese of St. Paul, was the first missionary priest to offer Mass for the early settlers of the Lambert Township area. The Masses were held about every two weeks from 1881 until 1884 in the home of Francois Lambert.

Under the leadership of Father Champagne a 40 x 20 foot mission chapel was erected on the NW quarter of section 15. The itinerant priest was housed in the home of Pierre Belland.

Land for the chapel, rectory and cemetery was donated by Pierre Belland and this cemetery was used until 1915 when land was then donated by Joseph Bergeron for that purpose and this cemetery is still used today.

It was Father Champagne who chose the name St. Francis Xavier for the mission in its earliest days.

The first recorded baptism in the church was administered by Father G. S. Dugan on June 17, 1884, to Thomas Juneau, son of Joseph Juneau and Delphine Belland.

From 1885 to 1890, Lambert was served by Fathers H. Mercil, Elie Theillon, Louis Feige and S. Arpin.

Under the direction of the first resident pastor, Father L. Guillaume (1890-1892), a larger church was built. However, the new church was completely demolished by a wind storm and church services were again held in the small mission chapel.

Father J. Archambault, appointed pastor in 1896, built the present church building in 1899. Almost two-thirds of its total cost of $3,800 was collected in Canada by Father Archambault and Francois Lambert.

The first Confirmation ceremony for a large group in the parish was held in 1888.

From 1901 to 1918, Fathers William Roy, Stanislaus Beaulieu and Arthur Beaulieu were the Pastors. In 1917, under Father Arthur Beaulieu, the parish at Lambert was divided into two sections. The east half, with about 80 families, became the new parish at Oklee; and the west half, comprising about 90 families, became the new parish at Brooks.

Now only the cemetery remains at Lambert, for the church and rectory were moved to their present site in Oklee in 1917.

Many parishioners vividly recall that while the church was perched on wooden blocks prior to the construction of the cement foundation, a violent wind vibrated the building enough to ring the bell.



Hotel at Lambert built by Xavier Lambert.



Early Catholic church in Lambert



St. Francis Xavier Church built in 1899

LAMBERT TOWNSHIP POST OFFICE

The first Lambert post office was established in 1887 and located in the Sylvin Gergevin Store. In April, 1891, Samuel Gibeau was appointed postmaster and the post office was moved to his store where it remained until 1899 when it was relocated in the Louis Doucet store. In 1910 the post office was moved to Oklee when Mr. Doucet moved his store there and it continued to be called the Lambert Post Office until September of 1914 when it was changed to the Oklee Post Office.

LAMBERT TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The first school in Lambert Township was built on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 10.

School District 76 was organized in March of 1882 and was made up of all of Lambert Township which at that time was part of Polk County. The first teacher was Miss Agne Monpetit who later married Xavier Bergeron.

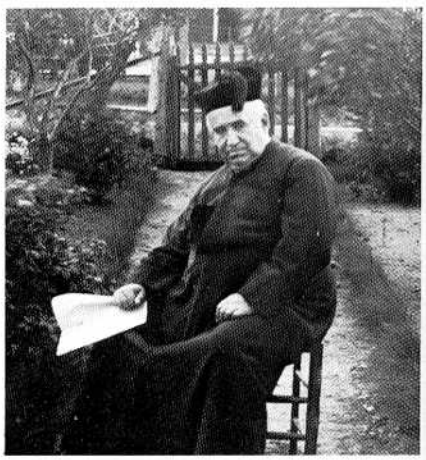
Among the first pupils were: Edward Paquin, Urgell Lambert, Xavier Juneau, Olive Juneau, Mary Louise Lambert, Arthur Belland, Francis Belland, Joe Lambert, Adelore Shank, Gedeon Shank, Alphonse Lambert and Virginia Lambert.

The first school building is the same building presently being used as a town hall. The next school building was built in 1904 and was used until June of 1947 when the school district was consolidated with the Oklee School. Other schools later organized in the township were Bucktown, District 9, Turgeon School and Boisvert School.

1910 LAMBERT TOWNSHIP CENSUS

In 1910 Ole N. Skomedahl was in charge of taking the census for Lambert Township. There were 93 different families then and the population of the township was 533. Following is a list of some of the early settlers and where they came from:

Onezime Asselin, wife Permelia. From Canada.
Cleophas Asselin, wife Elzima. From Canada.
Charley Boisvert. From Canada in 1882.
Michael Boisvert, wife Avina, farmers. From Canada in 1882.
Zelia Martin Bachand, hotel keeper. From Canada in 1879.
Antonio Bachand, wife Vitaline. Born in Minnesota.
Joe Belland. Sold agricultural equipment.
Peter Boucher, wife Louise, farmers.
Joe Boucher, wife Marie, farmers. From Canada.
Fortuna Bourque, wife Jenny Bottineau. From Canada.
Urgelle Bergeron, wife Mary, farmers. From Canada.
Joseph Beaudoin, wife Virginnia, farmers. From Canada in 1882.
George Charest, wife Otevine, farmers. From Canada in 1881.
Horace Corbeil, wife Minde. From Michigan.
Gideon Dessellier, wife Malvina, farmers. From Canada in 1887.
Louis Doucet, wife Mary, hotel and retail merchant. From Canada in 1865.
Louis Falardeau, dry goods merchant. From Canada in 1875.
Henry Falardeau, born in Minnesota.
Philip Gibeau, wife Elmire, owned blacksmith shop. From Indiana.
William Hart. Minnesota.
Louis Hince, wife Mary. From Canada.
Ermenegile Hince, wife Adeline. From Canada.
Adelore Hince, wife Angelina, farmers. From Canada in 1880.
Goust Lambert, wife Adeline.
Alphonse Lambert, wife Ciseri, farmers. From Canada in 1881.
Joseph Lambert, wife Mary. From Canada in 1882.
Xavier Lambert, wife Josephine, dry goods store. From Canada in 1881.
Anton Lambert, wife Matulde. From Canada in 1881.
Armidas Lambert, wife Blanche, sold agricultural equipment. From Canada in 1881.
William Langlois, wife Adeline. Agricultural equipment. From Canada.
Joseph Falardeau. From Canada.
Isidore Lefeive, wife Adline, farmers. From Canada.
Abraham LaCoursiere, wife Vitaline, farmers. From Canada in 1884.
Joseph LeBlanche, retail merchant, dry goods. From Canada in 1883.
Fred Lessard, wife Lucy, farmers. From Canada in 1898.
Edward Lessard, wife Valeria, farmers. From Canada in 1899.
Peter Hince, wife Rosilda. From Canada.
Casper LaJambe, wife Adeline, farmers. From Canada in 1887.
Joe Marsonette, wife Ensell, agricultural equipment. From New York.
L. E. Nelson, wife Amelia from Germany. From Denmark.



Father William Roy who served the Lambert church from 1901 to 1912.



The old cheese factory in Bucktown, Lambert township in 1891. Some people in the photo are Antoine Lambert, John Paquin, Armidas Lambert, Peter Boucher, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers (operators) Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bergeron, Henry Rodman, Mr. Asselin, George Charest, Gust Deymonaz, Abraham La Coursiere, Joe Belland, Hughes Dery, Sr., Frank Fournier and Ole Quinlag family.



The two family home built by Zepherin Lambert and his son, Francois, in 1881 so that the dwellings were situated on both homesteads fulfilling the requisite for buildings on homesteaded property.



LAMBERT

(Reprinted from a 1902 Gazette Article)

Town 150, Range 41, is called Lambert after one of its first settlers, Francois Lambert who still resides there.

About eighty per cent of the population are French and the congregation of the large Catholic Church there is almost entirely composed of that nationality. In the village of Lambert besides the many residences, are four stores, a hotel, blacksmith shop and post office. Louis Doucet is postmaster and they have a daily mail to and from Red Lake Falls.

The Lambert Cheese Factory is situated in a small settlement called Bucktown, two and one half miles southeast of Lambert post office. The factory was built by a stock company organized in 1888. They operated the factory about three months, then sold it to Mr. Marchand. He made cheese there two seasons. Ovide Moreau then purchased it and controlled it about three months, selling it in August 1895, to Ralph Rogers who still owns it.

The amount of milk has varied from 1500 lbs. to 4700 lbs. a day. The past season the average has been 1800 lbs. and the price paid about 70 cents per cwt. Alex Bergeron, D. Berthiaume, Simon Boucher, Geo. Charest, Adelard Boucher, Geo. Charest, Adelard Boucher, Edward Paquin, Jos. Falardeau, Simon Bernier and others have averaged about $35.00 a month from the sale of their milk during the factory season.

Rudolph Warberg has recently purchased fifteen cows and expects to be a patron of the factory another season.

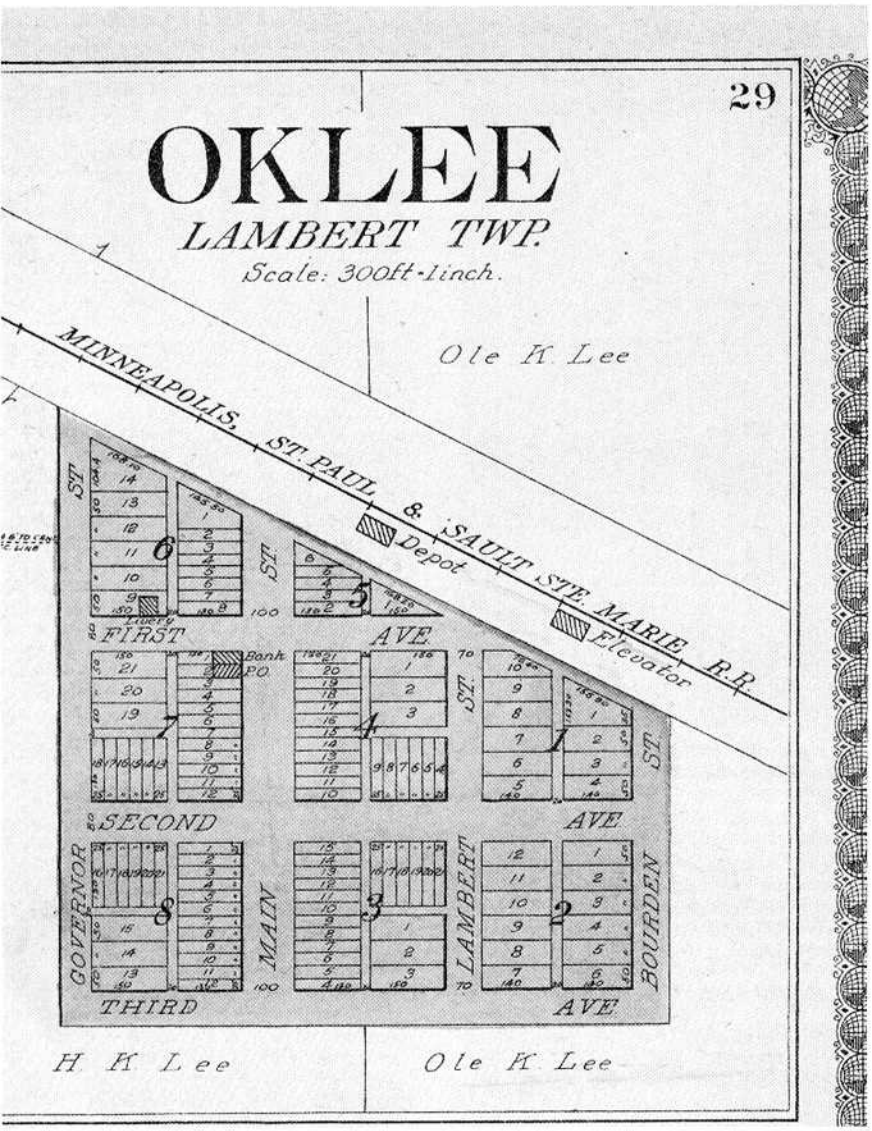
Simon Boucher and Jos. Bergeron have erected handsome residences during the past summer, and think cows are a safe investment and pay good interest on the money invested.

Most of the farmers have two thirds of their land under cultivation, and wheat yields from twenty to twenty-five bushels an acre. Cattle thrive on the short prairie grass and hay is very cheap winter feed. The farmers find a good market for their products in Red Lake Falls.

Mathias Nash, wife Kate from Vermont. Irish descent.
Torge Torgerson, Minnesota. Wife Gunda from Norway.
Louis Toulouse, wife Clara. From Minnesota.
Abraham Paquin, wife Marie, farmers. From Canada in 1883.
Joseph Paquin. From Canada in 1881.
Alphonse Paquin, wife Virginia, owned a saloon. From Canada.
William T. Roy, Priest. From Canada in 1872.
Edward Paquin, wife Anna, agricultural equipment. From Canada in 1881.
Joseph Robideaux, wife Rhodena, farmers. From Canada in 1910.
Simeon Bernier, wife Celina. From Canada.
Edward Erickson, wife Ida. From Minnesota.
A. F. Turgeon, wife Rosana, sell agricultural equipment. From Canada.
Reney Varin, wife Georgiana. From Canada.



Aerial view of Oklee



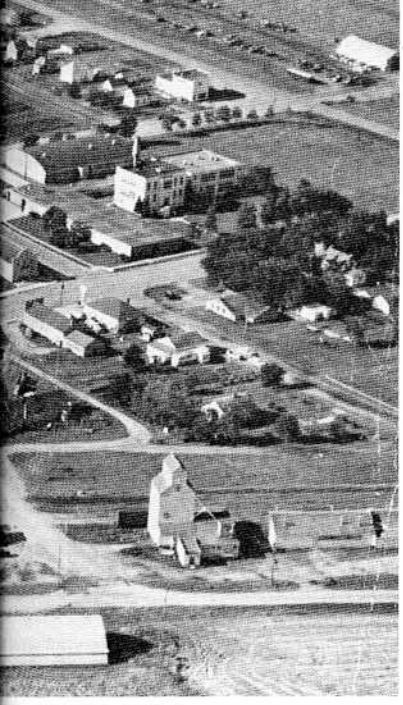
The recorded history of the ownership of the land on which the Village of Oklee is located dates back to the receiver's receipt issued by the U.S. Government June 22, 1882 to John C. Fitzgerald who became the first legal owner of the west one-mile quarter of section 1, township 150 N. He sold the quarter to Cornelius O'Neill. Since then ownership changed hands several times. It was acquired by Ole and Anne Vattendahl in 1896 who retained ownership for several years. The Tri-State Land Company, a corporation, purchased the land from E. E. Quenroe in 1910.

Mary O'Neill acquired a patent April 12, 1888 to the adjoining quarter to the east. After several changes in ownership the land was purchased by Edward O. Erickson in 1905 who sold it to O. K. Lee in 1909. Mr. Lee sold it to the Tri-State Land Company which had the town site surveyed, platted and named Oklee.

The land on which the town site is located was originally located in Lambert Township, Polk County, but on December 31, 1896 Polk County was divided into two counties to form Polk and Red Lake County with the county seat at Red Lake Falls. Red Lake County at this time included what is now Pennington County, but differences of opinion developed between the people of the northern and southern halves of Red Lake County over the location of the court house, which led to the division of Red Lake County to form Red Lake and Pennington County, November 23, 1910.

The year 1905 is remembered as being very wet. The summer and fall rains made it impossible to harvest the crops on the village site. It, however, was good weather for ducks, as Oklee was situated in an excellent hunting area for water fowl.

In 1909 the Soo Line Railroad surveyed the course of the proposed route in preparation for locating and laying the roadbed. Oklee became the shipping point for freight, but mail which came in had to be addressed to Lambert until 1914 although the post office was located in Oklee. The first lots on the village site were auctioned off at a public sale to individual buyers in



OKLEE



Main Street of Oklee 1911 looking north.

locate in what promised to become a prosperous community.

Several buildings were erected on the village site during 1910. Peter Husby, local manager of the I. O. Manger Lumber Yark, of McIntosh, brought in the first loads of lumber from McIntosh and erected the first temporary building in Oklee. The one room building served both as an office and a home.

The first permanent building, a hardware store, was erected by K. K. Sannes. It was located somewhere between the present residence of Lowell Sovde and the Railroad. Mrs. Mary Sannes built the second building north of what is now the East Farmers Union Elevator where she operated a small restaurant. The First State Bank was built on the present site of the Security State Bank.

Ole and Tom Melby, brothers who had formerly lived in Wilton where Tom had operated a store, erected their place of business with the aid of Richard Sletvold as carpenter, on its present site. This is the only original commercial establishment that is still actively engaged in business under the original management. Mrs. Nap Miller was hired as the first clerk in Melby's Store.

Other buildings that went up during the spring of 1910. The corner lots were sold for $300 each and the other lots for $250. The lots were sold before there was railroad service or even tracks laid. However, the railroad was in the process of building the roadbed and in September, 1910 the first passenger train came to Oklee.

The summer of 1910 was unusually dry. There was no water in Lost River. The channel was void of water and in its place was green grass. This condition had its advantages as it made it a good year for construction work.

The next few years were destined to bring about a big change in the town site as there was considerable building activity as new business enterprises came in to 1910 were a livery stable by Peter Hince, a hotel by Elsie Haaven and her sister, Mrs. Williams, a meat market by Gunder Stromme, a hotel by Mrs. Mary Sannes, a harness shop by Charles Seeger, a lumber yard by I. O. Manger of McIntosh, a soft drink parlor by Alphonse Paquin, Northland Grain Elevator, Farmers and Merchants Bank. Albert Lemieux was Oklee's first drayman and was responsible for delivering the lumber, equipment, and merchandise used by the early business establishments and their homes.

Louis Falardeau of Lambert Town moved his general store to the present Main Street and Louis Doucet, also of Lambert Town, moved his grocery store, post office, and home to Oklee. By 1911 Oklee had become a thriving little town which interested and encouraged other business enterprises to come and establish their businesses in the next few years.

Nap Miller first opened a barber shop in the Alphonse Paquin Building in 1911 but moved into the new addition of the Melby Store. Later he and Bert Riel put up a new building which served as a barber shop, pool hall and a soft drink parlor. Mr. Miller had operated a barber shop continuously until his retirement in January, 1958.

It was in May 1911 that a daughter, Helga Stromme, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Stromme to become the first child born in Oklee.

E. K. Gjernes who had operated a store in Garnes put up a new building and moved his business to Oklee. E. J. Wanke and Nels Strande put up a new livery stable. Henry Nelson from Garnes Town erected a new blacksmith shop, and Ole and Charles Sletvold built a new feed mill which later burned down. Many other businesses made their appearance in Oklee in later years. In 1914, eleven other buildings were put up — Fortier's Blacksmith Shop, Hamilton opened a drug and jewelry store in the Doucet Building, S. P. Johnson, General Merchandise, The Oklee Herald, The Village Fire Hall, D. Meikle, Oklee Dry Cleaner, and several residences. Abraham (Governor) Paquin erected several buildings during the early history of the town.

On January 14, 1914 the county board approved a petition which authorized the village of Oklee to hold an election for incorporating. A successful election was held January 31, 1914. The first elected officers of the village were J. A. C. Torgerson, President; Louis Doucet, Clerk; W. B. Torgerson, Treasurer; and Ole Sannes, Assessor.

The first levy called for $600 for revenue, $300 for roads and $50 for the poor.

The early settlers of Oklee and the community were mostly composed of persons of French and Norwegian ancestry. Many had come directly from either Canada or



The general merchandise store owned by Peter Bergeron was one of the first Oklee stores. Gunlik Holum is the driver of the ox team.

Norway. While the language, religion and customs differed, they have set an enviable record in mutual respect, understanding and cooperation in their common endeavor for the benefit of the community.

While Oklee and its surrounding community felt young, strong and was thriving in a wholesome, energetic spirit, many of the early settlers experienced privation and frustrations. Many of their days were filled with hardships, heartaches and inconveniences. Conditions existed that were a severe test of the character and stamina of the people in order to survive the rigorous demands of the day. Conditions which plagued the people were the poor roads, the long cold hard winters, the late springs, the heavy rains, the heavy snows, the floods, the droughts, the grasshopper infestations, the plant and animal diseases and pestilence, the flies and mosquitoes, and the lack of capital and equipment. There were also, of course, the deaths, illnesses and accidents. Every once in awhile the community was shocked and deeply concerned by reports of cases of individuals who had become ill with smallpox, typhoid fever, tuberculosis and pneumonia which in those days so often spelled death. Local sanitation was also a problem until the horses were replaced by cars and the city sewage system was completed.

However, these negative conditions and the long hard working days which were the rule of the early settlers did not dampen their spirits for long, nor did they cause them to neglect the lighter side of life. They sought relaxation, pleasure, and contentment in several different ways. There were the usual family and neighborhood get-togethers for fun and as early as 1912 there was popular interest in the baseball games which were played between Oklee and the neighboring towns and communities. Suprisingly enough there was even consideration given to organizing a football team in the fall of 1914 for the boys and to provide fall entertainment. A cornet band, made up of local persons under the direction of Dr. Tessier served notice to the public in the May 14, 1914 edition of the local paper that they were ready to play for the public. The same year people were talking about the wonderful moving picture shows that were brought into Oklee and shown in the local hall. Dances seemingly were as popular in those days as today. They did differ in some respects from today's dances especially in that it seemed the dances continued later into the dawn of the new day.

The location of Oklee was ideally suited for outdoor sports such as hunting and fishing as the country side was at first sparsely populated and largely covered by trees and brush interspersed with several rivers, marshes and sloughs. During the summer many people spent much time fishing and boating in the nearby lakes and rivers. The fall months provided the sports-minded persons with many pleasant experiences hunting the upland birds and water fowl, especially the ducks, which were plentiful. As the cold fall weather moved in, the hunters made preparations to hunt the rabbit and deer which were both numerous. There was also an occasional bear hunt. The winter months offered the more hardy outdoor men the opportunity to trap the mink and muskrat which not only provided a way to spend leisure time, but often provided a profitable income when the pelts were sold.

There are records of successful Market Day celebrations as early as 1917. These were planned and promoted by The Community Club which was known to have held meetings as early as 1912. Here the people brought their products which had been raised on their farms and in their gardens. Here, too, the women were offered the opportunity to display their talents in handicraft work, baking and canning. As economic conditions improved for the early residents, the sale of automobiles increased. By the year 1921 car ownership had become so popular that the car owners organized a car club which planned many Sunday excursions to nearby localities where people could enjoy picnics and other get-together activities.

Besides the already mentioned organizations and activities, there were the Sons of Norway, Social Clubs, Reading Clubs, Chatauqua Programs and Tent Shows, The Woodmen of the World, and later the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary to appeal to and satisfy the interest of many persons with many hours of pleasant companionship.

The moral and spiritual needs of the people were met and satisfied by attendance at the local church, parochial schools, Sunday schools, and in later years, released time from the public school for religious instruction during week days.

The schools provided for the educational needs, making an earnest effort to successfully meet the standards of the day.

The early settlers of the area were also fortunate in enjoying many services and organizations to help enrich, promote, and inspire the life of the people and to encourage others to come and settle in the community. Once the townsite was established and development began, doctors and dentists established themselves at a very early date to foster and protect the health and welfare of the people.

In 1911, Dr. W. O. Tessier arrived from Canada and established offices in a residence on Main Street. In 1912 Dr. Sample, a dentist, provided dental services for the local people. Even a photographer, H. F. Nixon, set up an office in 1914 which, however, did not survive long.

The first edition of the Oklee Herald made its debut in May, 1912 and has served the people continuously, with the exception of a few short interruptions, as a weekly paper to the present day. The Oklee Tribune, published by G. T. Veillerux, was a short-lived paper as only the two issues of July 18 and August 1, 1912 were published.

Because Oklee and the surrounding community was settled in the late 19th and early 20th century, the settler enjoyed many public utilities which were not available in an earlier era. From the outset there was telephone and postal service.

Louis Doucet, who moved his post office



Melby's Store in 1911. Persons are Dr. Tessier, Tom Melby, Ole Melby, Aamund Person and Nap Miller



C. F. Seeger at work in his harness shop and shoe repair business 1911. Olaf Haaven and Ted Lemieux customers.

from Lambert, was the first local postmaster. He was followed by Ed J. Soland in 1914 who remained until Henry Falardeau, who had been manager of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator, was appointed in 1936. Two permanent daily R.F.D. mail routes were established in 1925 with Clarence Lynch and Louis Horstman as drivers.

As early as the year 1914, the village had received two chemical fire engines, one 50 gallon and the other a 60 gallon engine equipped with regulation firemen's tools. (The first annual Firemen's Ball was held in 1913). It was not long before gas lights illuminated the Main Street. These were, however, replaced at an early date with electric lighting provided by a village owned light plant. A few years later light and power was furnished by the Interstate Power Co. As early as 1917, while the village was still very young, work began on the tiling of the streets which made it possible for every resident to connect their basements with the drainage. The present day water system was installed in 1919 which offered to the people one of the most appreciated services since the village was established. Again in 1948 the village installed an extensive and costly improved sewage system.

Probably the most exciting election in the history of the community took place in 1916. The big decision to be settled was whether the county of Red Lake was to be wet or dry. Much talking and arguing took place as the feelings of the people were strong as they gave support to their own convictions. Results? The Oklee Village voted dry 49 to 19, and the village of Red Lake Falls wet 358 to 45. The County voted wet 931 to 703.

In 1917 came the ominous rumblings of war which brought about a rapid change in the lives of the people from the usual every day routine. Men between the ages of 21-30 were ordered to register for wartime duty under the Federal Conscription Law. The people were called upon to observe meatless and heatless days, to buy Liberty Bonds, Thrift Stamps. Red Cross Chapters and War Saving Societies were organized. The people held loyalty meetings, and listened to patriotic speeches, and women were busy making comfort kits.

In February 1918 came the sad news that Gunder G. Austad, the first young man from Oklee to cross the Atlantic for service in France, had been buried somewhere on the Irish Coast. He had been a member of the 20th Engineers and was on the transport, Tuscania, which Was sunk February 4 by a German submarine. He was the first young man from the county to give his life for his country in World War One. The Red Lake Falls Legion Post is named after him.

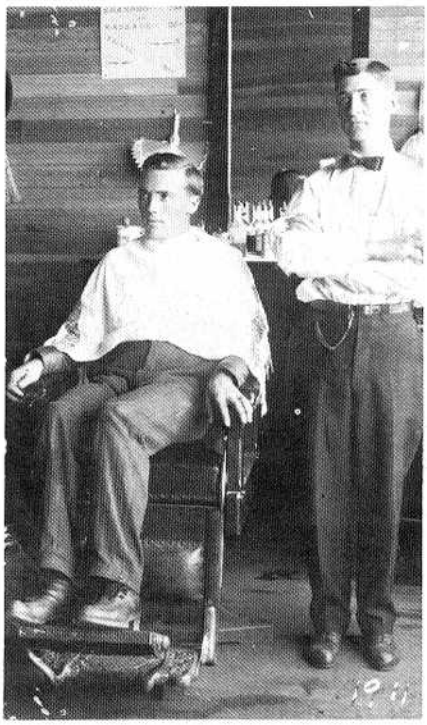
Back in 1914 a young man by the name of John O. Melby, who had been born and raised in Norway, arrived in Oklee to establish himself in business and to take a prominent part in local, civic, church and community activities. Later on he became interested in politics. In 1926 he was endorsed by the Farm Labor Party and was elected to represent the people of the 65th District in the House of Representatives of the state legislature. Here he served the people by promoting and safeguarding their interests continuously until his death in 1944.

An active interest in local civic affairs by women is evident from the earliest days. In the November election of 1920 we find Mrs. J. Bourque, operator of the Oklee Fashion Shop, and the first local woman voter, occupying the position of judge of election. In 1950 Mrs. Coya Knutson, a local high school instructor and the wife of a local farmer and hotel operator, was elected to the state legislature where she served the people of the 65th District in the House of Representatives for three terms. In 1956 she further distinguished herself, and focused the attention of our entire country to Oklee, by becoming the first woman from the State of Minnesota to be elected by the people of the 9th District to the Congress of the United States where she served two terms in the House of Representatives. While there, her ceaseless and tireless efforts in helping to enact the National Defense Education Act, won for her the grateful appreciation of thousands of our young college students and their parents. The Act not only set up a student loan program which provides funds for promising and needy college students who otherwise might find it impossible to attend school but also provides funds to local schools, like Oklee, to help improve the learning and teaching situation.

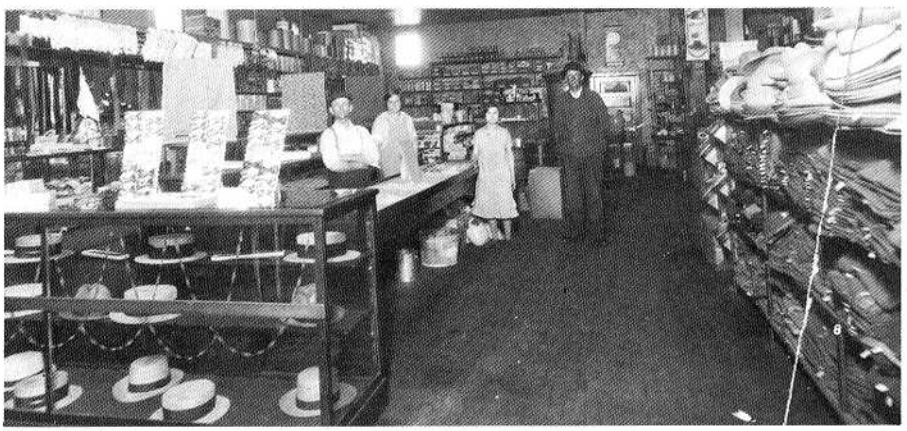
One of the most difficult and persistent problems faced by the villagers of Oklee and one that defied any simple and permanent solution was the maintenance of the streets, especially during the spring breakup. It often happened that they were impassable and always treacherous in the spring as their appearances were often deceiving. They would look dry on the surface but if used, vehicles often sank in the soft subsoil to the hubs and became stuck. Often horses and later tractors were kept near to help the victims. Large quantities of gravel were spread on the surface, but this improved the situation only temporarily. It was not until the village in 1955 undertook a program of improvement in which several inches and sometimes several feet of the old surface soil was removed and replaced by gravel and blacktop that a permanent solution was effected.

Fortunately for Oklee there never was a dearth of excellent leadership which has been repeatedly reflected in the rapid and steady progress of the village.

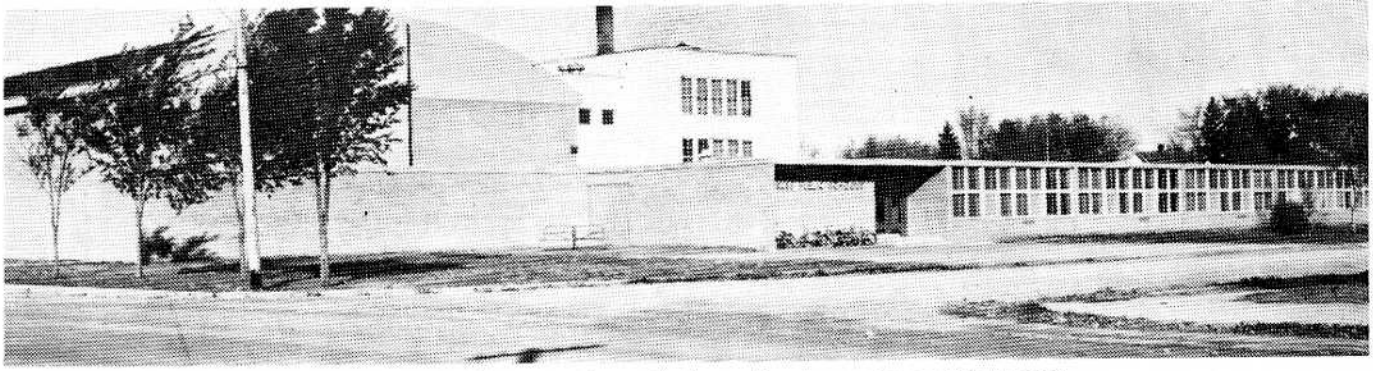
Presently serving as Oklee's Mayor is Alvin Jensen and Larry Skallet is the Clerk-Treasurer.



Ole Melby and Nap Miller in 1911



Interior of Peter Bergeron store approximately 1925. Peter Bergeron, Mrs. Paul Varin, Cecelia Bergeron and unidentified man.



Oklee public school. The gymnasium, auditorium and ten classrooms were added in 1952.

OKLEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The story of the local school parallels that of the village. It is one which denotes a continuous improvement in the educational facilities to meet the needs of the children as the village grew and prospered. From the beginning there is evidence that the parents have desired and provided the best that the economic conditions of the times would permit.

The children of the first families in the village had to attend a rural school located east of the townsite. This school was attended until the close of the 1913-14 school year. During the summer of 1914 a new frame school building was erected in the village. A sum of $10,000 had been voted for financing the structure and it was expected to be ready for use the fall of 1914-15. However, the actual cost came to $15,000 and it was not ready for occupancy until in February, 1915. It was dedicated in November, 1915. While the building was under construction, classes were held in the Zion Lutheran Church and the village hall. The first teachers were Victor C. Hill, Principal, with Ida Rovang of Erskine and Astrid Kindseth of Red Lake Falls as Assistants. When the school opened in the fall of 1915 manual training and domestic science were added to the curriculum. 87 students had enrolled the first week.

The rural school district lying directly to the north of the village in Garnes Township consolidated with the local district when it was decided to open a school in the village, to form consolidated school district No. 1 of Red Lake County.

During the summer of 1923 the outside of the school building was renovated by lathing and stuccoing.

On May 16, 1938 the voters of Consolidated School District No. 1 by a vote of 181 to 29 authorized the school board to issue bonds to the State of Minnesota for a total of $12,000 for the construction of a fireproof high school building and for repairs to the old building. The new building provided for offices, a study hall, a library room, a science room, and three general classrooms. It was built with federal aid and under the supervision of the Works Projects Administration. This building provided a tremendous boost to the educational facilities of the school.

Due to decreasing enrollments and a shortage of rural teachers during the latter part of the thirties and the early forties, several of the rural school districts closed their schools and transported their children to the Oklee Public School. This situation created an overcrowded condition which was corrected June 3, 1947 by the consolidation of schools districts 9, 10, 11, 13, 19, 20, 76, 103, 151 of Red Lake County, 204, 252, of Polk County and joint districts No. 33, 58, and 8-271 with Consolidated School District No. 1 and increased the area of the district to 86,615 acres. The consolidation made it financially possible to add new additions to our school.

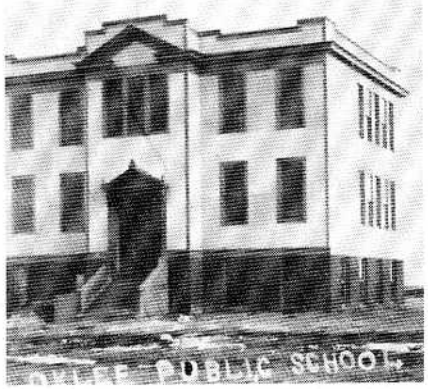
On June 27th at a special election the voters authorized the school board to dispose of school buildings and other property acquired from rural school districts by the consolidation.

On August 18, 1947 the voters at a special election authorized the local school board to issue bonds to the State of Minnesota in an amount of $16,000 for financing the present practical arts building, and $12,000 to be used for the purchase of new buses, both sums bearing interest at 2½ per cent per annum. This building was erected across the street to the east and provided for five elementary classrooms. Bert Riel and Ray Lindquist supervised the construction of the building which cost the school district about $23,000. It was occupied early in 1948. This building was later remodeled to provide industrial arts and the domestic science departments in 1953.

The period following the consolidation was marked by a sharp increase in the enrollment. From 1946 to 1954 the total enrollment increased from 295 to 506. The largest enrollment in the grades (1-6) was 261 in 1955 and in the high school (7-12) with 237 students in 1959.

To provide classrooms and special departments for the increased enrollment, a special election was held March 17, 1952 which authorized the school board to borrow money and issue bonds to a maximum of $300,000 for the construction of a new addition which included a ten room elementary school, and auditorium — Physical Education unit with lockers and storage rooms, a new heating unit, and facilities for carrying on a school lunch program.

The proposal to build was carried by a vote of 370-140. $290,000 worth of bonds were issued with interest rates of 2½ and 3 percent.



Old school built in 1915.

As a result of the expanding school program we find that the school district as of March 1958 was appraised as having an investment of $694,598 in building and equipment.

Transportation as a service has been provided for students since the district was first consolidated. Cars and trucks with homemade bus bodies were first used. These were owned and operated by private parties. As time went on the school district began to purchase their own buses.

Shortly after the school district began to invest in school buses, the school board purchased a garage to house the vehicles. It also hired a full-time mechanic to maintain them and to drive a bus over one of the routes.

Extra curricular activities too have prospered as the school grew. Records indicated that the first high school basketball team was organized in 1923. Members of this team were Theodore Torgerson, Raymond Lindquist, Orrin Melby, William Torgerson, Oscar Rolland, August Bourque, Carl Lerohl, Elmer Hince and Orlo Soland. Since that time basketball has been carried on continuously as an extra curricular activity, but football was not added as a permanent sport until in 1946. Interested boys have also been given opportunities to participate in baseball and track although it has received much less emphasis.

Since the school has participated in intercollegiate sports, our football teams have won three championships, 1951, 1955, 1958, and has established an enviable record in the Tri-County Conference. Our basketball teams were runners-up in the North Sub-District in 1951 and 1952. The calendar year of 1955 is remembered as a banner year in athletics as our basketball team won the North Sub-District Championship for the first and only time in the school's history.

The same spring the track team set a new record in the Sprint Medley at the Beaver Relays in Bemidji and our football team won the Tri-County Conference championship in the fall. Our boys have also set new records in both track and field events.

Several of our athletes have been sought out by college and university coaches. However, only a few have responded and have participated in college athletics.

Dramatics and speech has had a prominent place in the lives of many of our students, and special music instructors have been maintained on the staff for several years to direct vocal and instrumental music in both the grades and high school.

A successful school lunch program has been in operation since the thirties except

for a few years during World War Two. After the consolidation and before the last addition was completed the facilities of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church were used to carry on the school lunch program which is partly supported by state and federal money and surplus agriculture commodities.

The success story of the Oklee Public School can be accounted for by the genuine interest the people have always had in education and their wise choice of school board members. Special consideration should be given to Peter Bergeron, Ole Melby, Ben Sordahl and Joe Dufault who had served continuously 20 to 32 years on the board. The present Board of Education for the Oklee Public School: Dr. H. T. Lindquist, President; Robert Bluemke, Vice President; Donald Stenberg, Secretary; George Lee, Treasurer; Earl Strand and Gary Mitchell, Directors.

The administrators who have served the Oklee Public Schools from the beginning are: Victor C. Hill, 1914-1916; B. O. Norby, 1916-1918; E. T. Jacobson, 1918-1919; Elmer Johnson, 1919-1920; Herbert E. Race, 1920-1923; Olaf A. Homme, 1923-1925; George L. Netteland, 1925-1937; Loren M. Ness, 1937-1942; Carl G. Quist, 1942-1971; Marvin Bronken, 1971.

Mr. Race writes from his home in Yucaipa, California, "I have not taught school since leaving Oklee as the load was too heavy for me. I had to be a teacher every period of the day, be a supervisor, a disciplinarian, an administrator, a librarian, a manual training teacher, a coach, and many other duties". Mr. Race did other kinds of work and for a while he was in real estate business but is now retired and lives in southern California.

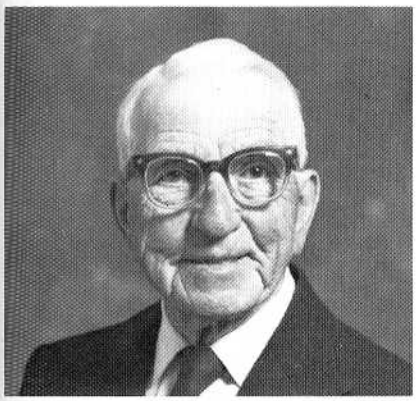
Olaf A. Homme was a graduate of Concordia College and was principal of the Oklee High School for one year and when Mr. Race resigned he became superintendent. He was the first science teacher who had a real science laboratory to work in. During his stay a high school literary society was formed and the high school students met once a month for a program, refreshments and fun. Under his leadership a small high school annual was published. Mr. Homme later taught school at Thompson, North Dakota, and Barnum, Minnesota. He died in 1965 in Minneapolis.

George L. Netteland was administrator of the Oklee School during the depression of the early thirties when teacher's salaries went as low as eighty-five dollars a month. But the school weathered the period well and the enrollment increased. The first Parent-Teachers Association was formed during Netteland's administration and several new subjects were added to the curriculum. After leaving Oklee in 1937, Mr. Netteland has been busy in the insurance field selling both life insurance and hospital insurance. He is now ninety-one years of age and hale and hearty in both body and mind and together with his wife lives in Thief River Falls where they enjoy every minute of the day.

Loren M. Ness succeeded Mr. Netteland as superintendent in 1937. He came from Moorhead where he graduated from Concordia College and he also had a Master of Arts Degree from the University of North Dakota. During Mr. Ness' administration a new high school building was erected through help from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during World War Two. The enrollment was growing tremendously and typing and music were added to the curriculum. After resigning from the Oklee School, Mr. Ness spent two years at Clearbook. Since then he has been in Boy Scout work. From 1944 to 1947 he was a district executive in the Viking Council, Boy Scouts of America. In 1947 he was called to the position of National Boys' Work Director of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and he continued the same work in the American Lutheran Church. He is now retired and he and his wife, the former Leona Soland, live in Minneapolis. They have two adopted children, Lora Lee and Lance.

Carl G. Quist succeeded Mr. Ness as superintendent in 1942. This was the World War Two period and many people from the area left for the West Coast to find employment in the defense plants. However, the school carried on and in 1948 a temporary grade building was erected which later became the Home Economics and Industrial Arts Building. In 1953 the large gymnasium and grade school building was completed and the enrollment was large due to the consolidation with many of the rural school districts. Mr. Quist had worked diligently for this cause. Mr. and Mrs. Quist continue to make their home in Oklee and have traveled extensively since his retirement.

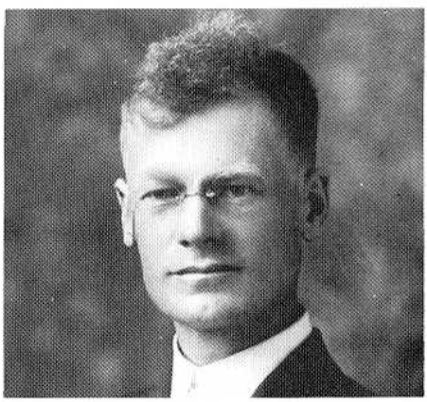
Marvin Bronken, a native of North Dakota, received his B.A. and M.A. Degrees from the University of North Dakota. He served for seven years in the public school at McVill, North Dakota before coming to Oklee in 1956 where he served as principal until 1971 when Mr. Quist retired. Since that time he has served as Superintendent. During these last four years improvements have been made at the football field such as lights, score board, new bleachers and a broadcasting booth. A full time kindergarten program, a grade school library, a new individualized reading program, an intercom system and a video tape recorder are some of the new developments. Mr. and Mrs. Bronken own their home in Oklee and four of their children have graduated from the Oklee High School.



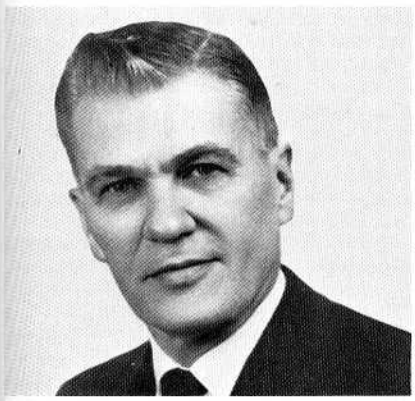
H. E. Race



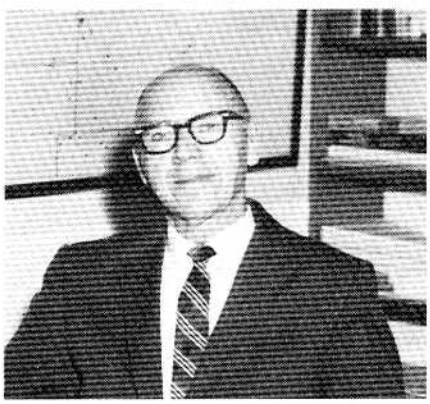
Olaf Homme



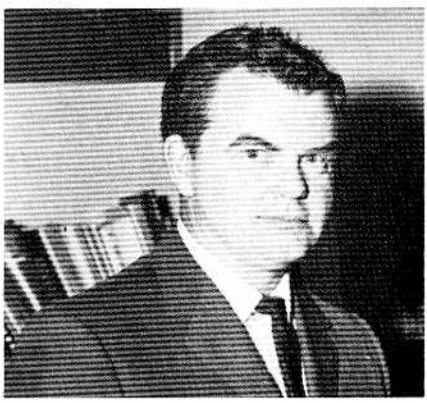
George L. Netteland



Loren M. Ness



Carl G. Quist



Marvin Bronken



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Several original parishioners of what is now St. Francis Xavier Parish in Oklee unanimously agree to the humble and modest beginning of the parish.

The non-extant Lambert townsite was so named because of many families bearing the name of Lambert. These included Zepherin Lambert, father of Francis Lambert and Antoin Lambert. In addition to these, there was also the family of Joseph Lambert.

Other early pioneers were the brothers John Belland and Pierre Belland, Francois Juneau and Pierre Paquin.

All pioneer members of what was then only a mission, originally came from the Province of Quebec, Canada.

Rev. P. C. Champagne, who presumably came from the Archdiocese of St. Paul, was the first missionary priest to offer Masses occasionally for the early settlers in 1881-1884. The first Masses were offered in the home of Francois Lambert.

Under the leadership of Father Champagne, a mission chapel, 20 feet by 40 feet, facing north, was erected on the NW quarter of Section 15.

Peter Belland agreed to donate sufficient land for a chapel and proposed rectory. Land for the cemetery site was donated by Joseph Bergeron. It was Father Champagne who chose the name St. Francis Xavier for the mission in its earliest days.

The first recorded baptism dates back to June 17, 1884. This baptism was administered to Thomas Juneau, son of Joseph Juneau and Delphine Belland, by Father G. L. Dugal. Father Dugal tended the mission in the short period of 1884-1885.

Following the appointment of Father Dugal, there was a succession of four priests. This group included Father J. H. Mercil, 1885-1887; Father Elie Theillon, 1887-1888; Father L. Feige, 1888-1890; Father L. Arpin, August to October 1890.

The first priest to be named resident pastor of the parish at Lambert was Father L. Guillaume, 1890-1892, originally from France. It was during his time that the construction for a larger church was undertaken.

Located alongside the first and original chapel, the proposed new church was completely demolished in the process of construction by a wind storm. Only the floor could be salvaged. Temporarily, church services were again held in the small mission chapel.

For lack of rectory facilities, all early missionaries were sheltered in the log house of Pierre Belland.

Following the destruction of the first proposed church building, Father Feige was appointed a second time to St. Francis Xavier Parish from 1892-1895.

Father J. Archambault, appointed pastor in 1896, remained until 1901. In 1899, it was he who was responsible for the construction of the present church building, measuring 40 feet by 90 feet.

In the hope of obtaining financial help for the construction of the church, Father Archambault and Francois Lambert, solicited donations in Canada. With a total construction cost of $3,800 almost two thirds were realized from the Canadian benefactors.

Joseph Lachance was in charge of the construction. Having no basement, the foundation was made of rock and lime. The original altar was constructed by Pierre Roy, Sr. The first pews were made by Eugene Lambert.

At the time of the construction of the church building in the summer of 1899, the parish trustees were Antoine Lambert and Michel Boivert.

Prior to the erection of the Diocese of Crookston, the Parish at Lambert formed part of the Diocese of Duluth. Bishop James McGolrick was the first bishop of Duluth.

The records of the very first confirmation ceremony for a large group in the parish at Lambert dates back to 1888, during that time of Father Feige's pastorate. Bishop McGolrick again returned in 1898 during the pastorate of Father Archambault, to confirm another group.

In 1910, the Diocese of Crookston was formed out of the Diocese of Duluth, Bishop Timothy Corbett was the first to be appointed to the Episcopal see in Crookston. Records indicate that Bishop Corbett conducted the third confirmation ceremony on September 15, 1910. Father William Roy, appointed pastor in 1901, remained until 1912.

Father Stanislaus Beaulieu, 1912-1915 and Father Arthur Beaulieu, 1915-1918, brothers, were the next to succeed in line as pastors.

In the year 1917, while Father Arthur Beaulieu was pastor, a major decision was made. The church as constructed in 1899 by Father Archambault and the rectory built in 1895, were both moved to the present site in the Oklee Village.

The second pastor of the parish now established in Oklee, was Father L. Perronnet, a native of France. His pastorate extended from 1919-1922. Father Arthur Beaulieu was appointed for a short term from June to October in 1922.

Father Ernest J. Paquin was the next to be appointed pastor. This office he held from 1922 to 1929.

During the pastorate of Father Charles O. Trudeau, from September 1929 to May 1932, major improvements were made in the church building. Beautiful stained glass windows were installed at the presently incredible cost of $75.00 each. Yet, the national depression of the early thirties had so affected local parishioners, that in some instances, it was found necessary to ask three families to contribute jointly for the purchase of one window valued at $75.00.

Father Trudeau was also instrumental in having the walls and ceiling of the church renovated in the first, rough type of celotex ever produced. Father Trudeau died in 1932.

Serving as assistant in St. Phillip's parish in Bemidji, Father Keough Patnode was appointed pastor of Oklee in 1932. This office he held until June of 1952.

In June of 1952, Father Patnode was transferred to St. Bernard's parish in Thief River Falls. Father Paul A. Cardin, formerly pastor of St. Dorothy's Church in Dorothy, was appointed to succeed Father Patnode on June 28, 1952.

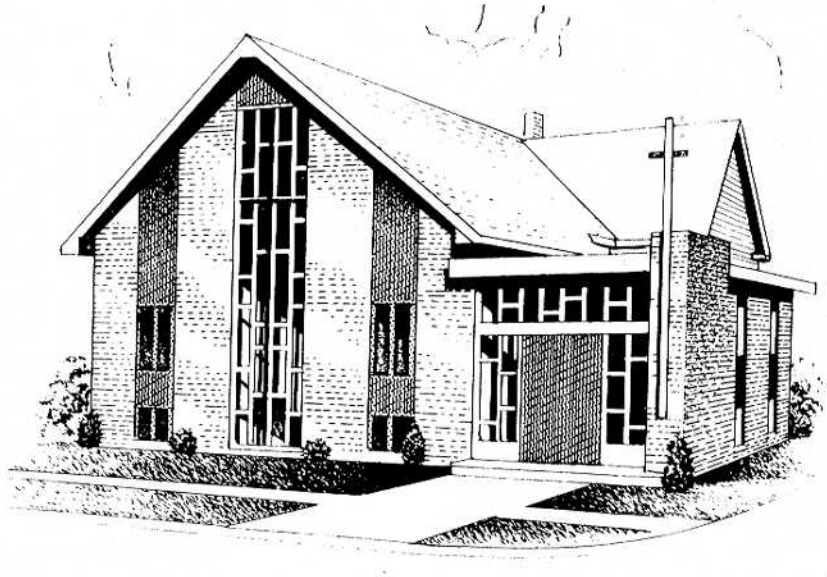
Father Paul Cardin was transferred to Argyle in September of 1972 and Father Keough Patnode returned from St. Bernard's in Thief River Falls to once again assume the duties of pastor at St. Francis Xavier Church.

The church interior was painted and remodeled in the winter of 1971 and in the fall of 1972 a large new addition was built onto the front of the church. In 1975 an extensive remodeling project was completed in the church basement.

The congregation presently numbers about a hundred families and has been represented in church decisions by a parish council since 1971.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Not long after the coming of the railroad in 1910, the Zion Congregation was organized. The railroad company donated a piece of land to be used for the building of a church, the present site of Zion Lutheran Church. Several men, including T. O. Sordahl and E. O. Erickson, used teams and scrapers and hauled in dirt to build up the lot, and work was begun on the building of the church. Rev. Skagen served the Oklee parish from 1910 to 1911 and it was he who organized the congregation. There were seven families who first joined: Mr. and Mrs. Torkel Sordahl, farmers, and their children, Ole, Annie, Anders, Knute, Ben and Andrew; Mr. and Mrs. Torger Torgerson and family, Annie, Tom, Ole, Oscar and Alma; Mr. and Mrs. Ole Stromme, a farmer, and their family, Gunder, Tom, Ole, Willie, Annie, Gertie, Betsy, and Tollef; Mr. and Mrs. John Gunderson, the section foreman, and family, Alma, Julia, Oscar, Clara and Clarence; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Melby, a merchant, and family, Andor, Orrin, Olga and Wilton; Mr. and Mrs. Ellef Gjernes, a merchant, and family, Carl, Gina, Adolph and Lillian; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Reierson and family, Annie, Betsy, Regina, Molia and Swen.

These people were all of Norse extraction and from the newly formed village of Oklee with the exception of Sordahls, who lived three and a half miles from town. Later on, others joined the congregation, namely: W. B. Torgersons, E. J. Solands, Nels Strandes and Richard Slettvolds; and as the community grew the congregation grew also, including people of other nationalities and backgrounds in faith as the Zion Lutheran Church was the only protestant church in Oklee.

The first Sunday in June, 1911, on a sunny, wintry day, a throng of local people assembled in a rude structure of rough walls minus a top, with canvasses substituting for a roof and sat on planks and chairs brought by these same people for the austere occasion of laying the cornerstone of their church. This crude meeting place is what we now know as our Zion Lutheran Church.

The Rev. Skagen, who was then the local pastor, Ole Sordahl and Richard Slettvold were the actual builders of the church. On this particular June day, the Rev. A. J. H. Preus, a schoolmate of the local pastor, and the Rev. Njus were the guest speakers.

After the erection of the church it was used for a public school for two years.

The Rev. Skagen held the first confirmation class in 1911 in the Gjernes Store and the only confirmand was Alma Gunderson who was confirmed in the Norse Language.

The first child to be baptized by Rev. Skagen at Oklee was Helga Stromme, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Stromme. This baptism was done at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Erickson as the church had not yet been built.

When Rev. Skagen left in 1911, the church was served by Rev. Njus of McIntosh until Rev. Palm came in the fall of 1912. Rev. Palm and his wife and five children lived in a parsonage located four miles north of Trail near the Greibrok Post Office.

During Rev. Palm's stay at Oklee, the union of three churches took place: The Synod, The United and Hauge's Lutheran becoming one large church and adopting the name, The Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Rev. J. K. Lerohl came to our parish in the fall of 1920 from Starbuck, Manitoba, Canada. He and his family lived in what is now the Horstman home until 1926, when the parish bought the present parsonage site across the street from the church.

In 1939 after special meetings with the officers of the church and much discussion the Ladies Aid borrowed $1,000 from the church extension fund. With the aid of two other loans the Aid assisted the congregation in remodeling the church and building a basement, leveling the grounds and laying sidewalks. The first Ladies Aid meeting was held in the new church basement in February of 1940.

The newly enlarged church was dedicated October 20, 1940, with Rev. O. Fjelstad officiating.

On Sunday, March 2, 1947 the church was saddened by the death of their beloved pastor, Rev. J. K. Lerohl. He had served faithfully and well for 27 years. He served five congregations the first years he was in Oklee: Oklee Zion, Salem, Valle, Plummer and a small rural congregation near Plummer. Rev. Lerohl's salary from Zion was $375. per year, the same as it was in 1932. Church services were held twice a month and church collections would run between $2.00 and $4.00.

In October 1947 Rev. J. M. Runestad accepted a call to serve the Oklee parish. On November 6, 1947 a dinner and lunch was served at installation services and reception for Rev. Runestad and family. Rev. Runestad served the parish until 1954 at which time he accepted a call to serve the Bethany Church in Red Lake Falls.

Rev. Grorud served the parish from 1954 for three years. It was during his stay here the old parsonage was sold and the new one was built. Rev. Grorud and family moved from the Paquin apartment to the new parsonage on January 27, 1955.

Rev. Saethre conducted his first service in the Oklee parish on March 9, 1958. He was officially installed by Dr. A. E. Hanson, president of the Northern Minnesota District, at a special service on March 16.

In 1964 under the able direction of Rev. Saethre new plans were made for the remodeling of the Zion Church. A $21,601. project was approved by the congregation. This new addition, a brick veneer structure, includes a pastor's study, a lounge, a cry room, four class rooms, a large narthex, a new heating system, cathedral glass windows, carillon bells, and chimes, and a huge gold cross which is placed near the entrance.

Rev. Saethre served our parish until September 1964. For the following year our parish was served by pastors from Concordia College at Moorhead.

In September 1965, Rev. Charles A. Gunderson came to serve the congregation and is still our pastor at the present time.

THE ZION LUTHERAN LADIES AID

On a wintry December day in 1910, the Zion Ladies Aid was organized at the home of Mrs. T. O. Sordahl of rural Oklee. The two first members were Mrs. T. O. Sordahl and Mrs. E. O. Erickson, who became the first president. As early as 1911 the ladies sewed and embroidered fancy work to be sold at auction in order to raise money for various purposes. They also served dinners and suppers to augment their treasury.

In 1940 the Zion Church was remodeled and a basement was built. The Zion Aid assisted the congregation in the endeavor. Now they could meet in the basement instead of in the homes and they also had a place to serve their suppers.

In 1913 Rev. S. T. Palm wrote the constitution for the Ladies Aid in the Norse Language, and several years later Rev. J. K. Lerohl rewrote it in English.

During World War One and World War Two the ladies were busy knitting and sewing for the American Red Cross and various missions. In 1942 the Ladies Aid helped finance the renovation and building of a bathroom in the old parsonage. The aid also assisted in the financing of the vast remodeling project in the church in 1964.

In January of 1962 the Zion American Lutheran Church Women of Oklee organized their members into group circles named for women of the Bible. The circles are named Mary, Ruth, Naomi, Deborah and Elizabeth. The general A.L.C.W. group meets only four times a year with one circle giving the program and serving refreshments.

Throughout the years the Zion Ladies Aid has assisted their congregation in its endeavor to create a pleasant and comfortable place to worship and enjoy the fellowship of its members.



OKLEE COMMUNITY HOMES

An attractive landscaped semi-circle of senior citizens' homes are located in the eastern part of Oklee. The occupants decorate with flowers around their apartments. They also may plant and care for a garden plot just south of the homes in front of their windbreak. There are eight one-bedroom duplexes, one two-bedroom duplex, one two-bedroom unit and a seven car garage. George Bruggeman has taken care of the units and the grounds since the project was organized in May of 1964. Many persons in the Oklee area have been on the board of directors or served as an officer in the organization. It was one of the first successful senior citizen developments and has been visited by interested persons from many parts of the country.

THE OKLEE HERALD

The publication of the Oklee Herald dates back to 1911 when W. N. Phillips was publisher. Early history is somewhat vague, although it is known that for a brief period there was an Oklee Tribune, followed again by publication of the Herald. Nils Hagen was publisher for many years followed by Iver Gjernes. O. M. Sundrud was owner and publisher from 1947 until 1972 when he sold the paper to Richard D. Richards of Gonvick.

DR. W. B. TORGERSON

Dr. W. B. Torgerson was born in Worth County, Iowa on October 27, 1872. His parents were Rev. and Mrs. T. A. Torgerson. For two years he attended Luther College and then transferred to Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana, from which he graduated in 1894. Enrolling in the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota in the fall of that year he was awarded his degree in 1897.

After a year of Post-graduate training in St. Paul and New York, he began his practice at Cannon Falls, Minnesota. Later continuing it at Clarkfield and Greenbush and moving to Oklee in 1912. Prior to his illness, he was a member of the staff of St. Luke's Hospital in Thief River Falls. He was interested in banking in Oklee from 1912 to 1931.

While located at Cannon Falls, he was married to Ingeborg Ohnstad on June 14, 1900. To them were born Dora (Mrs. R. E. Bilbrough), Erling, Harold, Theodore and William.

Dr. Torgerson was active in the establishment of the Consolidated School District and long served as a member and treasurer of the school board. He also served as village treasurer. He was a member of the board of directors of the Oklee Cooperative Creamery Ass'n and was secretary of the creamery for twenty years. He was always interested in athletics and was an active tennis and baseball player in his early years. He died on July 7, 1952.

Throughout his residence in Oklee, he was a member of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. He was a member of the church choir and director of the Sunday School.

Mrs. W. B. Torgerson was born near Cannon Falls on June 5, 1876. Her parents, Rognald and Perine Ohnstad, homesteaded there in 1840. She attended school in Cannon Falls and at the Ladies Seminary in Red Wing. She was a member of the Ladies Aid of the Zion Church and an active church worker. She died January 27, 1956.

DR. W. O. TESSIER

Dr. W. O. Tessier, pioneer doctor of Red Lake County, arrived in Lambert Village in the spring of 1896. Later he moved with his family to Terrebonne. During winter months he had to face blizzards and snow banks in an open cutter and in spring and summer he had to ford rivers with his team and buggy. In the spring of 1903 while fording the river close to Plummer his team and buggy were carried down stream and came up a steep bank. There he lost a fur coat and a bag of much needed instruments and valuable medicine.

In 1904 he moved to Saskatchewan, Canada, and returned to Oklee in March of 1911. Here he built a home and office and established his medical practice. He took part in civic affairs and organized and conducted Oklee's first band. This band, known as the Oklee Cornet Band, was Dr. Tessier's pride and joy.

Dr. and Mrs. Tessier lived in Oklee until World War One when they moved to Red Lake Falls. This was the time of the worst epidemic of "Flu" ever encountered and Dr. Tessier was called to attend to the sick in all parts of the county. He soon returned to Oklee after the war ended and lived here until 1925 when poor health forced him to retire from active practice. He then moved to Kelliher, Minnesota and returned to Oklee in the fall of 1927. Here he conducted a limited practice and lived in the village of his choice until his death in October of 1932.

Following Dr. Tessier's death, his widow lived in Oklee with her brother, George Rahier, until her death. There were two children, Onezime and Flore (Mrs. C. F. Seeger).



Dr. W. O. Tessier's original home and office in Oklee

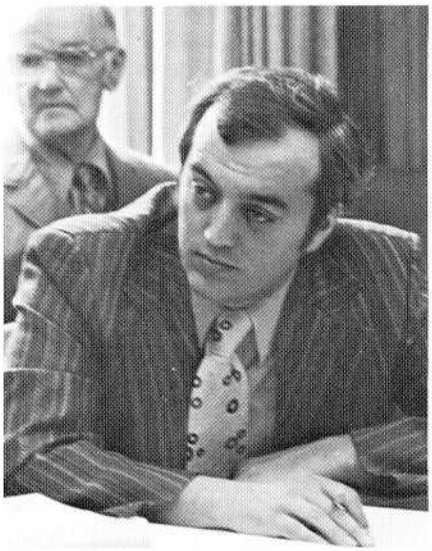


This home built in 1911 belonged to Dr. W. B. Torgerson.

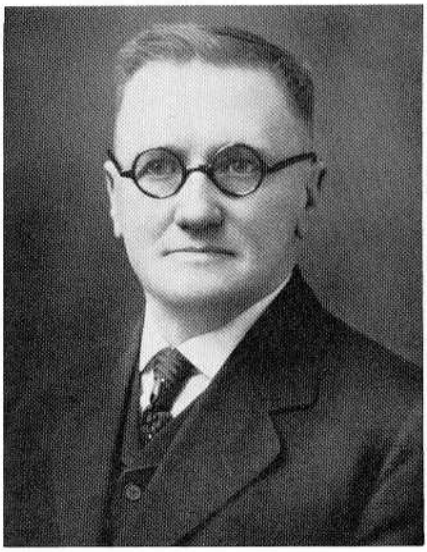
OKLEE



Congresswoman Coya Knutson



John Corbid, Legislator



J. O. Melby, Legislator

COYA KNUTSON

Coya Knutson was born August 22, 1912 to Chris Gjesdal and Christina Anderson Gjesdal at Edmore, North Dakota. She graduated from high school there in 1930 and graduated from Concordia College at Moorhead, Minnesota in 1934 with majors in English and Music. Her teaching duties took her to Penn, North Dakota, Plummer, Minnesota, and Oklee, until her entry into politics. She married Andrew Knutson of Oklee in March of 1940 and they were divorced in March of 1963. She has a son Terry Knutson and two grandchildren, Jackie Lee and Jason Randolph Knutson.

Coya served in the Minnesota Legislature from 1950 to 1954. She ran for Congress, defeating five men in the primary and was elected and served from 1955 to 1959.

Two legislative landmarks are credited to Minnesota's first Congresswoman. Title Two of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 was "to create a federal student loan fund". Of her years as a high school teacher, she says, "They motivated her to find a way for poor country kids to go to college". She still gets letters from grateful graduates who write, "I wouldn't have made it without the loan".

She also authored the bill which provided more than one million dollars for Cystic Fibrosis Research. A grant to the University of Minnesota Medical Research Department resulted in the perfection of a serum to counteract the disease.

Coya Knutson retired from public life in 1970 and presently lives with her son and his family in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

JOHN CORBID

John Corbid was born and raised in East Grand Forks and moved to Oklee in 1968 where he taught political science and history at the Oklee Public High School. In November of 1974 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives from District 1B which includes Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall and North Polk counties. He is now presently serving on the Appropriations, Agriculture, and Finance and Banking Committees. He and his wife, Roberta, and their three children live in Equality Township.

J. O. MELBY

Mr. J. O. Melby was a Representative in Minnesota's 65th Legistative District from 1926 to 1944. He had been born and educated in Norway and emigrated to the United States in 1900, living first at Lake Mills, Iowa and then in Wilton, Minnesota. In 1915 he came to Oklee and operated a meat market.

Mr. Melby was interested in politics and had a well rounded library at home. All the years he was in the Legislature he introduced many bills and every one passed. He was especially interested in farm legislation, old age assistance for widows and in the Oklee Consolidated School District. He was also president of the Garden Valley Telephone Company where he served without a salary.

He was up for re-election in 1944, but he died in October of that year after serving faithfully for eighteen years.



RECOLLECTIONS OF A PIONEER WOMAN

Mr. Erickson and I came to Red Lake County in 1899, a very different place from what it is today. There were no roads, just trails across country. The only Buicks to be seen were wagons drawn by work horses, or if these weren't available we got about on foot. The land was overgrown with brush and there were many rocks to be hauled off. It rained often so great patches of water were everywhere. The mosquitos were plentiful in those days, too.

The nearest town was McIntosh and Mr. Erickson and I made 21 trips there to get our goods from the railroad car shipped from Moorhead where we had lived the first three years of our married life. We usually left home about three o'clock in the morning so that we'd get back by evening.

We were fortunate in having a general store and a post office one mile from our home operated by Mr. and Mrs. Havik. The mail was brought out from Plummer, via horse and buggy or wagon, twice a week. It was called "Grit Post Office", and it was a well chosen name. It took a lot of grit in those days.

To this store we brought our eggs and butter, churned by hand, to exchange for Arbuckle coffee at 15¢ a pound, syrup came in bulk and we would get it in gallon jugs; five pounds of loaf sugar cost 10¢, and seven or eight cents worth of peanuts was a load to carry home. Calico for dresses cost 14¢ a yard, and in dresses of that material we felt almost as festive as in the dacrons and nylons of today. We sold our eggs for eight cents a dozen and the butter for 10 and 12 cents a pound.

Our first home was a 14x16 one-room structure built of rough boards. We used kerosene lamps and heated our house and cooked our meals over a wood fire. Wood was easy to get as fallen trees were everywhere as the result of a fire that had passed over many acres of timber some time before we came.

We preserved our meat by packing it in a salt brine or by frying it and covering layers of it with fat. Quite often beef was salted and then cured and dried. Berries of all kinds were plentiful; wild cranberries, pincherries, choke cherries, june berries, raspberries, and wild strawberries were large and plentiful. A large pail of strawberries could be picked in a short time.

On Sundays we attended services conducted by Rev. Kolstoe in a little school house located not far from Gilman Hegland's farm. Our pews were the little school desks. How thankful we were for the privilege of worshipping together.

One of our neighbors, Mr. Compton, went to Iowa on a visit and on his return he brought back three telephones, so Bishops, Comptons and Ericksons could visit over the line. It was a very simple instrument, just a circular box and in place of ringing or dialing, we would tap gently on the box and wait for a voice to speak. We were gradually becoming modern.

Quite often you hear old-timers like myself speak of the "good old days". We were young and strong with hearts full of love and hope and courage. In youth no task seems too great to perform and there is always that "hitching of one's wagon to a star".

We hear so much in these modern times of "keeping up with the Jones" — the Jones in those days had no more nor no less than the rest of us. We all had the same humble beginning; that of building a home in an unsettled community.

On Sunday afternoons we visited with the neighbors and occasionally we got together for a birthday party or a dinner.

After a few years we bought another farm, known now as the Reierson farm, where we lived for six years. Our house there was built of logs, one story, with a small attic. The walls were whitewashed, not painted. Oh, yes, we enjoyed the luxury of a "cook shanty", a little shack built of logs, near to the main house, where I cooked the meals and did the baking. Of course, my two little girls loved to help.

On Sundays visiting pastors came to the different homes and conducted services. Rev. Oppegaard and Rev. Njus were two who served.

Some of us felt the need for a church and a parochial school so we decided to form an Aid and have meetings in our homes. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. T. O. Sordahl in December of 1910. This was the beginning of the Zion Ladies Aid, the name being suggested by Mrs. Sordahl. Three members were present at this meeting, Mrs. Sordahl, Mrs. Paul Sorenson, a grandmother of Paul Sorenson of Oklee, and myself.

Such were the humble beginnings of our Zion Ladies Aid. It is my prayer that our beloved Zion may press forward with strong and courageous hearts in the building of God's Kingdom on Earth.

Contributed by Mrs. Edward O. Erickson

JENNIE BOURQUE

(b. 1872 — d. 1962)

MY MOST UNFORGETTABLE RED LAKE COUNTY CHARACTER

In the summer of 1915 my family moved to Oklee. Our home for the first year was a small house just north across the railroad tracks.

The first house on Main Street just south of the tracks (where the Tom Mayernicks now reside) was the home of Ferdinand and Jennie Bourque and their two sons, Jennings and August. The Bourques were our nearest neighbors and Jennie became my mother's first friend in Oklee.

Mrs. Bourque had made her front room into a millinery shop. What a fascinating place that shop was to a little girl! She would fashion the silk, felt, or straw into shapes. After the straw hats were fashioned, she would often put a dye on them with a little brush making them red, brown, or black. Then the trimmings of silk ribbon bows or bright flowers were sewn on.

However it was in story telling that Mrs. Bourque excelled. If she came to our house, my sisters and brothers and I would leave our play and rush in to hover around her chair to hear her tell those exciting stories.

Jennie Bourque was Jennie Bottineau before her marriage to Ferdinand Bourque, a homesteader who lived southwest of Oklee. Jennie was born in Osseo and moved with her parents, the Pierre Boutineaus, to Red Lake Falls.

Mrs. Bourque told many stories about her father and especially liked to tell of his naming Red Lake Falls. Stories about her grandmother who was the daughter of an Indian chief left us wide eyed. We laughed gaily as she told of her experiences as a teacher in the old Lambert school. She never failed to play the organ when we visited her.

She often described her wedding dress. As she talked, I could vividly imagine I was seeing that row of buttons down the front of her wedding dress, each button being a gold piece. What happened to those buttons? "Well," she said, "as we needed flour to make bread, I would cut off one button, take it to the flour mill, and give it to the miller for a sack of flour." What sad faces we would have as we pictured one button after another being cut off until not a one was left.

The Bourques' two sons were August and Jennings. Jennings had a scientific mind and was always inventing things. One invention of his was a doorbell for the millinery shop. If his mother was in the kitchen, which was just back of the shop, she could hear the bell if a customer turned a little knob as she entered the shop. What fun it was for me when Mrs. Bourque would let me go to the kitchen to hear the bell while she turned the knob. Since this was before Oklee had electricity, I don't know how Jennings made the system work.



Jenny Bottineau Bourque

Mrs. Bourque loved her two children dearly so it was a sad time when Jennings, a high school student, died very suddenly. For many weeks the sparkle was gone from those black eyes. But the kind heart of this lady reached out that very same year to a motherless 18 month old boy. She took Marvin Strande into her home and raised him with loving care. Marvin always speaks of Mother Bourque with deep affection.

August Bourque became director of the REA in Northern Minnesota and literally brought light into most of the homes in that area before his death in 1955.

Jennie Bourque closed her millinery shop in the 1920's, and she and her family moved back to the original homestead. Mr. Bourque died sometime in the 1930's.

When Mrs. Bourque was nearly 90 years of age, I visited her in Pioneer Home at Erskine. Her eyes were still as shiny and black as ever in a dark lined face topped with the whitest hair I have ever seen. She didn't recognize people then, but whenever anyone said, "Hello, Mrs. Bourque," she would begin talking of those days long gone by when she was a pioneer in Red Lake County.

Contributed by Alice Lindquist

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Early in the winter of 1960 the people of Oklee began planning the Golden Jubilee Celebration to be held July 2, 3, and 4th.

Tom Melby was elected chairman of the steering committee assisted by William Seeger, A. W. Nyquist, Bernard Remick, and Orlo Melby. Seventeen special committees were at work for several weeks before the event.

The alumni committee headed by Grace McManus and Selmer Walhaug assisted by Walter Asselin, Mrs. Joe Asselin, Adella Lindquist and Carl Quist was especially busy sending out invitations to former graduates and planning the banquet and program for the big event. It was held in the High School Auditorium on July 2nd with Kenneth Thorpe as master of ceremonies. Several members spoke and brought greetings from the various classes. It was a huge success as over four hundred alumni returned from distances as far as California and Washington, D.C.

Historical committees had been appointed for both the village of Oklee and surrounding townships and a beautiful book called "Oklee Community Story" was published and ready for sale at the time of the celebration.

A large parade took place on July 4th. All the business places, some of the townships, the two village churches and a few country churches entered their beautiful floats in the parade. St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church of Oklee won first prize for the best float. The day before a wonderful kiddie parade was held for the enjoyment of all.

An outdoor street program was held late in the afternoon of July 4th with Senator Hubert Humphrey as main speaker. Some of the pioneer business men and their wives were honored at this event. They were Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bergeron, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Melby, Mr. and Mrs. Nap Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Seeger and Mr. and Mrs. Nels Strande.

It was a gala event with men sporting beards and women and children dressed in pioneer costumes. A queen contest had



Oklee's Golden Jubilee celebration in 1960

been held and Myrna Bakke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bakke, was crowned Golden Jubilee Queen.

The two churches of Oklee, the Zion Lutheran and the St. Francis Xavier Catholic had special services on Sunday and saw many former members return for the event. Rev. A. N. Grorud and Rev. Francis Jeffery, former pastors of Zion Church returned to be with their former congregation.

It was a gala three day celebration never to be forgotten. William Seeger, the Mayor, received a message from President Eisenhower congratulating the community on its fine tradition of progress and hospitality.



Tom Melby presents gift to oldest graduate Marie Lindberg at celebration.



SETESDALSLAGET

The "Setesdalslaget of America" is a Norwegian organization composed of descendants of natives of the province of Setesdal, Norway. The group was organized at Grand Forks College on June 30, 1909. It is a two day convention with a program of Norwegian music, folk and old time dancing, poems, readings and speeches. Highlights of the laget include costumed folk dancers and Hardanger fiddlers and many special guest speakers have appeared on the program.

Oklee has been called "The Capitol of the Setesdals" because it is located in the midst of a settlement of Norse people who came from Setesdal, Norway. Olaf Vattendahl, a Setesdöl, was an early owner of the Oklee townsite. Though most of the old pioneers from Setesdalen are dead the younger generations and other Norwegians and nationalities who are interested, attend the convention every summer.

This has been an annual event in Oklee for many years and is usually held in June, attracting hundreds of people from several states, Canada and Norway.

Bjorguluv Bjornaraa served as president of the Organization for the first thirty-two years, from 1909 until 1932. The present officers are: Oliver Lien, president; Byron Flateland, vice-president; Mrs. Erick Johnson, secretary-treasurer; Gunder Sorenson, Osmund Olson, Oscar Flateland, Gust Gunstenson and Julian Gunderson, directors.

TELELAGET

"Northwest Telelaget of America" was organized at Williston, North Dakota in July of 1917. It is a Norwegian organization composed of descendants of the Natives of the province of Telemark, Norway. Until a few years ago the convention was held in various North Dakota towns, but it has become an annual summer event in Oklee.

The two day program includes a fiddlers contest, musical selections and speakers. An old time dance and social gathering follows the program each evening.

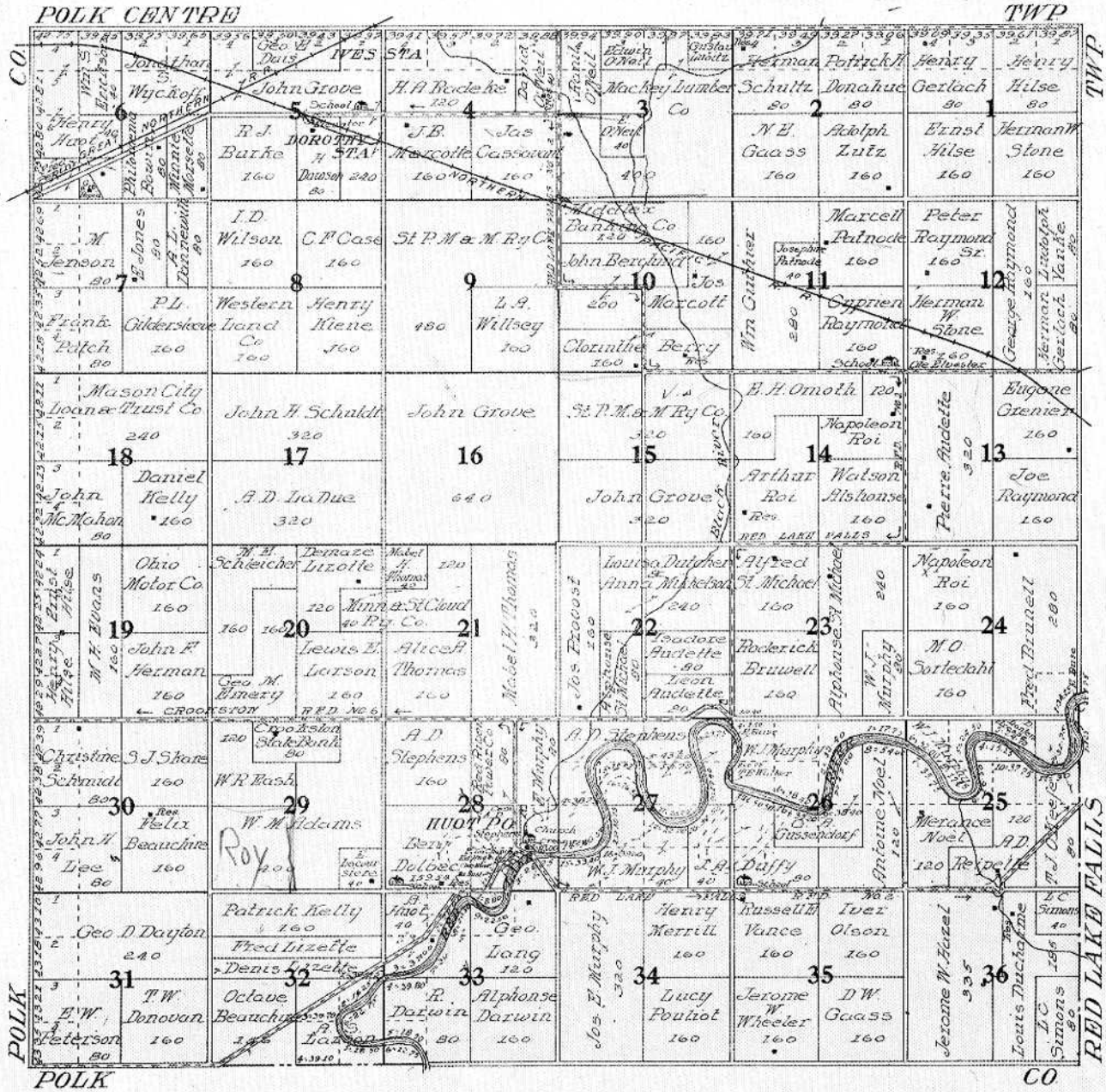
The first president of the Telelaget was Ottis A. Hauge. The present officers include: President, Archie Teigen; Vice-President, Truman Sorenson; Treasurer, Ole Gullickson; Secretary, Mrs. Erick Johnson; Directors, Tilda Langerud, Leonard Gullickson, Arlie Brekke, Carl Norjore and Oscar Carlson.

MAP OF TOWNSHIP 151 N., RANGE 45 W.

of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¾ inches to 1 mile

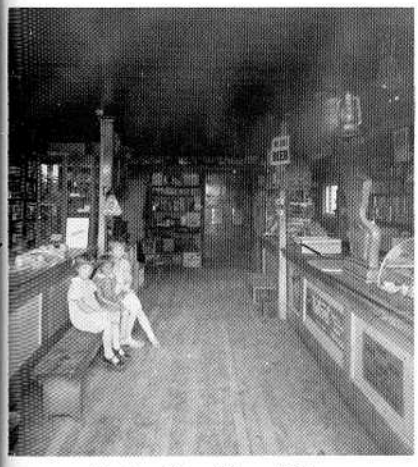
LOUISVILLE TOWNSHIP



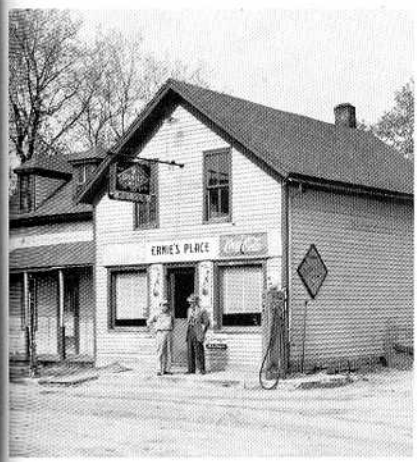


Birds-eye View of Huot

LOUISVILLE TOWNSHIP



Interior of Huot Store 1935



Huot Store nearly 100 years old

State of Minnesota
County of Polk

Upon receiving a petition of all the legal voters of township 151, range 45 in said county, asking that the same be detached from the organized town of Red Lake Falls, and be organized as a new town. We, the County Commissioners of said Polk County, did on the seventh day of January, A.D. 1879, proceed to fix the boundaries of such new town. The township to be named Louisville, for Louis Huot an early settler who had founded the village of Hout on the banks of the Red Lake River. The first meeting place was designated at the house of Louis Huot and the first meeting to be held one month from this date.

Dated at Crookston,
Polk County, Minnesota
January 7, 1879
Attested: A. Gunerault, County Auditor

Such was the beginning of Louisville township, Red Lake County, as it is today.

The first town board on record was Louis Huot, chairman, Alec Roberge and Onezime Noel and Benjamin Dolbec, with his beautiful artistic penmanship, served as town clerk. Some of their first duties were the laying out of various township roads.

In the year 1885 the supervisors were Alec Roberge, chairman, Simon Patnode and Alphonse St. Michel, with Benjamin Dolbec as clerk. Eustache Payment, assessor, Theodore Pepin, justice of the peace and David Coe, constable. Compensation for town officers was $1.50 per day and it was decreed that each land owner donate one day of labor on town roads for poll tax.

Road overseers were: Vital Major, Elyiar Derouin, Octave Montreuil, France Grenier, J. Jones, Theodore Pepin, Octave Beauchine, Louis Huot and Severe Derouin. A pound for impounding farm animals was established with Marcelle Yelle as pound master north of the Red Lake River and W. F. Cyr, south of the River. The meeting place was the school house in District #12 across the road from where Max Meyer lived for many years and where Erwin Wetenkamp, Jr. lives today.

Ten years later, on March 12, 1895, the supervisors were Octave Beauchine, chairman, Vital Major and Athans Beauchine, A. D. Berry, town clerk and Edward Huot, treasurer. At this meeting it was decided in favor of building a bridge across the Black River near where Henry Meyer lives today. Cost of the bridge was to be $120.00 for labor, $19.60 for rods and bolts, $21.44 for lumber, $1.05 for nails and spikes and $45.50 for delivery of supplies to the site. A. D. Berry was the builder.

On February 20, 1896, a special town meeting was held at the Huot store to vote on a bond issue to finance the building of a bridge across the Red Lake River at Huot. The amount of the bond issue was $1500.00 to be repaid $100.00 annually at ten percent interest. Results of the canvass of the votes by secret ballot were thirty in favor and fifty-one against the bond issue, so the bridge was not built at this time. It was built several years later by Polk County and was in place until 1966 when it collapsed and has not been replaced to this date, although it is badly needed.

The town board operated a ferry boat across the Red Lake River for many years at the mouth of the Black River before the bridge was built.

In 1905 the supervisors were Silas Raymond, chairman, Felix Beauchine and A. D. Reopelle, A. D. Berry as Clerk and Joseph Marcotte as treasurer.

In 1910 the supervisors were A. D. Reopelle, chairman, Alfred St. Michel and Arthur Huot. A. D. Berry served as clerk and Joseph Marcott was treasurer. Town

meetings were being held in the Grange Hall on the south side of section ten. Compensation of township officers was two dollars a day.

In 1915 town meetings were being held in the creamery building in Huot. This building was purchased by the township and became the town hall about 1920. The supervisors were Frank P. Grenier, chairman, Alfred St. Michel and D. O. Lizotte. Peter LaChance was town clerk and Charles Huot was treasurer.

The town hall was destroyed by fire in December of 1940 and a vote to rebuild the hall in Huot was taken in March of 1941. It was defeated by a vote of 63 to 59. The town meetings were then held in the basement of the church at Dorothy.

At a meeting at the LaHaise Hall in Dorothy on June 7, 1966, the town board of Louisville Township met with the school boards of Districts 1736 and 1729. The two school boards transferred the ownership of the school buildings and sites to Louisville Township. The school house in District 1736 was burned by vandals a short time later and the school house in 1929 was converted into a town hall and is used for township meetings.

At this writing in 1976 the supervisors are John P. Stich, chairman, John O. Hanson and Arley Schultz. Robert Larson serves as clerk and Chester T. Beyer as treasurer. Compensation of township officials is now $12.00 per day and fifty cents bounty is paid for pocket gophers and ten cents for striped gophers.

Louisville Township has a great deal of historical interest to Red Lake County as it was here, near Huot, that the Indians signed the treaty that ceded the land in the Red River Valley to the State of Minnesota. In pioneer days the ox cart trains forded the river at Huot. The first pioneer settlers who established homesteads in Louisville Township were French Canadian immigrants from the eastern provinces of Canada. Most of the early residents of Louisville were of French descent, but today it has become a melting-pot of people who can trace their ancestry from France, Germany, the Scandinavian countries and many others.

We the present residents of Louisville Township owe much to the early pioneers who through hard work cleared the land, built homes, churches, schools, roads, bridges and laid the foundation for the community as it exists today.

The rural schools have been consolidated and cease to exist, but for many years they were a very important part of our educational system. Many of our leaders of today, received their first instruction in one of our rural schools.

A cemetery is maintained close to the place where the Catholic Church was located near the village of Huot until about 1920. This church was moved to Dorothy and St. Dorothy's church and cemetery are now located there. The elevator in Dorothy is now closed after many years of operation because of the removal of the railroad. A locker plant owned by Harry Cassavant serves the people of the area. This building was for many years the site of the Hance Store operated from early pioneer days by James Hance and in later years by his son, Alfred. The Huot Store which dates back to the earliest pioneer days is still doing business with Mrs. Emma Huot as owner.

Louisville Township is a good place to live with its highly productive farm land and interesting scenery along our rivers. There are many opportunities for hunting, fishing, canoeing and snowmobiling, too.

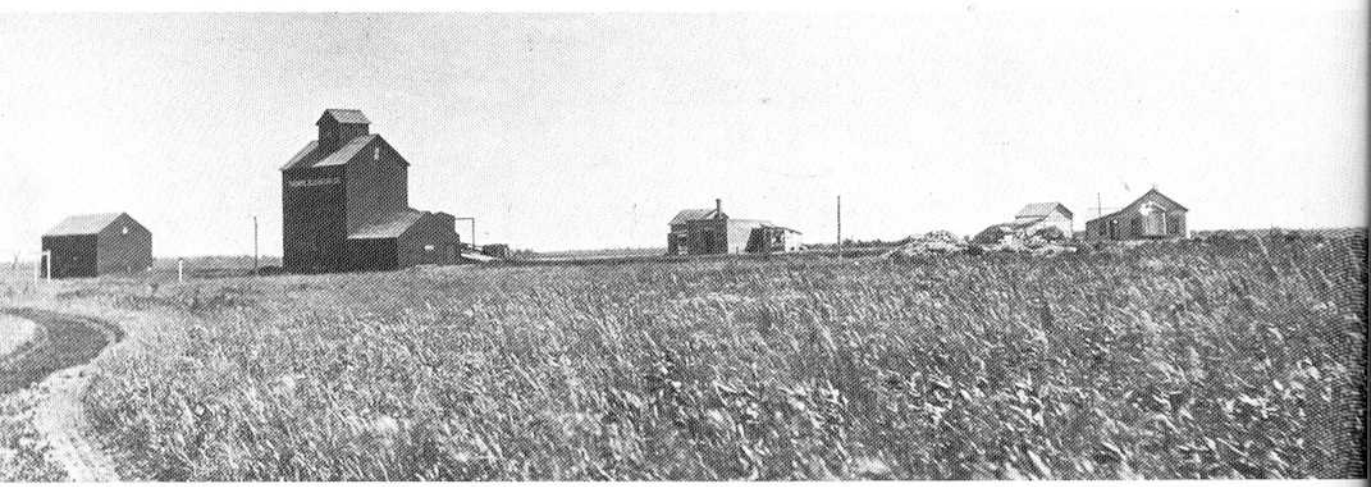
Present township officials are Supervisors, John P. Stich, chairman, Arley D. Schultz and John O. Hanson; Robert Larson, clerk; and Chester T. Beyer, treasurer.



St. Dorothy's Catholic Church at Dorothy



The Raymond family home in Section 11, Louisville



Birds-eye View of Dorothy



ST. DOROTHY'S CHURCH GOES BACK TO LOUISVILLE

The roots of St. Dorothy's Parish, Dorothy, go back to Louisville, where Father Pierre Champagne offered mass at the home of Louis Huot as early as 1880. At that time there were about 25 Canadian families located at Louisville, for whom Father Champagne offered Mass monthly.

Father Alex Bouchard, first pastor at Gentilly, soon took over the duties at Louisville and offered Mass in the homes until St. Aloysius Church was built in 1883.

Father Clement Gamache of Gentilly attended the Louisville Church from 1884 to 1888. During these years Louisville boomed with French-Canadian families.

Father Elie Theillon succeeded Father Gamache at Gentilly and attended the Louisville Mission twice a month, one Sunday and one week day, until 1919.

Rev. Eli Lemire, Pastor of St. Joseph's Parish at Red Lake Falls, saw need for a parish in the area west of Red Lake Falls and north of Gentilly and started the task of organizing a new parish in 1918. He began by taking up a public subscription which netted $6,000 in cash and 17 promissory notes amounting to $3,000 (most of them never paid). With this success, Father A. P. Lamy came as the first pastor at Dorothy in 1919, with orders to begin a church and rectory that same year. He purchased the site of eleven acres for $425.00 and started the buildings in September, 1919.

St. Dorothy's Parish had about 65 families initially. At first Father Lamy attended St. Aloysius Church at Louisville as a Mission but soon asked the residents to attend Mass at Dorothy. The Church at Louisville was closed with some hard feelings.

Father Edward Grimonprez succeeded Father Lamy as pastor of St. Dorothy's on August 17, 1920. He was faced with a staggering debt, so much so that Bishop Corbett ordered a special collection to be taken up in all the parishes and missions of the diocese to help St. Dorothy's. The collection netted $1,200.00 and encouraged the parishioners to make even greater sacrifices. These were difficult years as farmers found it hard to earn a living in the years after World War I and many left the area.

Worn by the labors of a struggling parish, Father Grimonprez' health began to fail and Father Ernest Bossus was sent from Baudette to help care for the parish and to serve the mission of Fertile. Father Bossus arrived at Dorothy on March 6, 1926, and was there less than a month when Father Grimonprez died on April 1, 1926.

Father Bossus' years at Dorothy were not pleasant because of the depression of the early Thirties. He was able to bring unity into the parish and saw it grow during the years of drought and depression from 40 families in 1925 to 80 families in 1935.

Father Bossus's sight failed in his last years at Dorothy but his eyesight was successfully restored by a cataract operation. In Thanksgiving, he built a shrine in honor of the Blessed Virgin on a knoll across the road from the Huot State Park. St. Dorothy's parishioners still gather annually for services at the Shrine.

Father Bossus retired in July of 1935 because of heart trouble. Father Louis Sullivan, assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Red Lake Falls, cared for St. Dorothy's Parish from the resignation of Father Bossus until Father Victor Cardin became pastor on December 13, 1935.

Many improvements on the buildings were made during the first years of Father Victor Cardin's pastorate. When he was appointed Pastor of St. Joseph's Church at Red Lake Falls in 1942, Father Cardin noted in the Parish Journal: "My brother Paul who succeeds me here will find a parish imbued with a fine spirit and a substantial plant."

Father Paul Cardin served St. Dorothy's Parish for a little over ten years. For the first time in the history of the parish, the debt was liquidated in 1944.

Father J. Warren Regnier became the sixth pastor of St. Dorothy's on June 28, 1952.

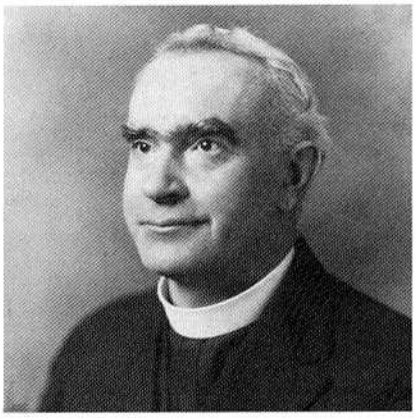
Father Arthur Lemire served as pastor at Dorothy from the spring of 1961 to the spring of 1963. He served at the same time as Director of Catholic Social Service Association.

A fire during the late summer of 1962 destroyed the bell tower and steeple on the church. After the fire, the steeple was removed and the exterior of the church took on a new look. The interior of the church was also painted for the first time. Bishop Laurence A. Glenn presided at investiture services in St. Dorothy's Church giving Father Lemire the title of "Monsignor" in the spring of 1963.

Father Gerald Foley, Director of Catholic Social Service Association, became the eighth priest to serve St. Dorothy's Parish in June, 1963. He has been active in the Red River Valley Historical Society, serving as president and vice president. He is presently Bi-Centennial Co-ordinator for the diocese of Crookston and serves as supervisor of Camp Corbett. His pastorate ended in 1975, when he was transferred to St. Anne's in Crookston. Father John O'Toole is the present pastor.

The history of St. Dorothy's Church is closely connected with the history of the entire community. The annual fall dinner has been widely known for years. In previous times, Dorothy was well-known for its annual benefit picnic and the three-act plays presented by the Dorothy Players.

Nothing has ever been easy in the parish at Dorothy. The area still has a pioneer quality in which hardship and struggle persist. St. Dorothy's is a small rural parish and its face changes as farms become larger and most of its youth migrate to the city. Current parish census shows about 65 families with a friendly spirit and a strong spiritual life.



Father Ernest Bossus

St. Aloysius Catholic Church built at Huot in 1883.





Huot shrine by Fr. Bossus

GAZETTE, Dec. 22, 1921

M. W. Drees of Dorothy has announced the formation of a company of artists who will be known as the Majestic Entertainers and are available for performances. Mr. Drees will take the lead in a thrilling farce comedy, "The Troublesome Book Peddler" and will give a reading, "The Face On The Barroom Floor." L. E. Kropp will perform sleight-of-hand tricks and escape from handcuffs.

DOROTHY DRAMATIC CLUB IN ITS TWENTIETH YEAR

"Arizona Gold, or the Dead Rancher's Secret," a thrilling melodrama in three acts will be staged by the Dorothy Dramatic club at Dorothy, Sunday and Monday evenings, May 11 and 12.

This performance will mark the twentieth year of amateur theatricals in Dorothy. They always draw spectators from a wide territory.

Don Gordon (Irving Beyer), a tenderfoot outcast of a wealthy eastern family abandons his erring ways on Ma Manning's (Roma St. Yves) dude ranch in Arizona. In love with ma's daughter Golden (Lillian Huot), he tries to save the widow's property, from the clutches of the crafty Jackson (L. L. Hance), local banker who is about to foreclose a mortgage on it.

Don's efforts bring him into conflict with Curley (Joe Grabanski), the rascally ranch foreman, who also is in love with Golden, and is in secret cahoots with Jackson to drive Ma Manning from her ranch. Don hopes to pay the mortgage by finding the ranch's gold mine, said to have been discovered by the widow's late husband, who had been mysteriously shot some time previously. Ole, (M. W. Drees) carries the comedy theme in his happy-go-lucky cooperation with Don, and gets the latter in trouble with the sheriff (Thane Beyer).

By dint of clever detective work, Don finds the gold mine, exposes the murderers of Jim Manning, and has the satisfaction of seeing the other two villains, Mrs. Harrington and Barbara (Sylvia Paquin and Gloria Drees) on their way to jail, much to the satisfaction of Ellen (Jean Beyer) Golden's chum.

M. W. Drees and others will give musical novelties between the acts. Gazette May 1, 1941.

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL AT HUOT

In 1966 after seventy-three years of operation, the Little Red School, District 1736, at Huot closed its doors. That spring a reunion was held at the school for former teachers, students and their families with about 200 people in attendance. It was hoped that this school would be preserved as a place of historic interest marking the pioneer beginning of education in this area, but in June of 1966 vandals set fire to the building and it was burned to the ground.

The school, built in 1892 on section six of Crookston Township, was later moved to Huot to accommodate more students. The first classes began in May of 1893 and were held for a six month period. Emma Sutter, the first teacher, received a salary of $35.00 a month. Twenty-seven pupils were enrolled, but attendance was poor, especially in the fall. The first board members were Athanase Beauchene, Octave Beauchene and Benjamin Dolbec.



District No. 12 about 1913: Lottie Lacoe, teacher. Louis Vickery, Henry Lumker, and *Front:* Annie Meyer, Clarence Meyer, Carl Thode, Olivia Delude, Henry Meyer, Louella Meyer and Helen Wetenkamp.



Little Red School District 1736



Robert Larson farm inundated in the flood of 1969

RED LAKE RIVER FLOOD — 1969

When the Red Lake River went on a rampage on April 10, 1969, and ice jams tore open the dike, the Robert Larson farm in Louisville township was inundated and several lives threatened. The story of the heroism of several youths, the lives saved, and the destruction of property, is retold here from the Gazette.

"The Robert Larson farm, built in a rather low area one mile southwest of Huot in Louisville township on the Red Lake River, had never before been threatened with total inundation by high waters. However, on Wednesday afternoon of last week, it became eminent that the water would rise higher than the permanent dikes banking the river near the Larson farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Larson, with the help of neighbors and friends, began the job of raising the height of the one-eighth mile dike about two feet in an effort to hold the water in the river channel. Five hundred sandbags were brought from Crookston.

On Thursday morning many from Red Lake Falls and 21 boys from Lafayette were called to the area to aid those who had been on the job most of the night. By noon the water had remained at a pretty stable level for about three hours. When it actually began to recede, the danger of flooding was thought over.

In the late afternoon, about 5:30 p.m., an ice jam broke upriver, and about six o'clock jammed four or five miles north of the Gentilly bridge. Immediately the river began a very steady rapid rise. Three carloads of boys, many who had been there previously, answered an urgent call for help. At 7:00 p.m., the water rose rapidly, about three feet in a few minutes, and the Red Lake Falls fire department was summoned. Ice tore open a section of the dike, and the onrush of ice and water about a quarter of a mile wide flooded dikes and the entire farm area. The workers who had been sandbagging barely escaped by running to the slightly higher ground of the home and to their cars on the road about 200 feet from the house. About sixty ewes and eighty lambs had to be abandoned.

Mrs. Willard Brunelle, with her five children, Michael, 12, Mary, 8, Pamela, 6, Diana, 4, Dannie, 1½, and Mrs. Joe Brunelle, grandmother of the children, had stopped at the Larsons momentarily with a supply of groceries. All except Mrs. Willard Brunelle were in the car when the dike broke. With the Brunelle car already in the water, teenagers who had just driven to the farm to help, took the five children and their grandmother into the car driven by Jim Hofius, and were on the way to higher ground when chunks of ice pushed the vehicle into the ditch. The boys immediately helped those who were trapped out of the car windows and onto the roof. Little Pamela Brunelle fell into the water. Jim Hofius, last in the car, somehow got out, swam to grab the child and brought her to safety. Swift water pushed the others from the car top. They managed to grab an uprooted floating tree and from there were miraculously rescued one by one. It was estimated that Mrs. Joe Brunelle and the children were in the icy water about twenty minutes."

For this heroic deed, the following young men later received the National Alert Youth Award from State Insurance Commissioner, Thomas C. Hunt, assisted by Mrs. Harold LeVander in the Governor's reception room: Michael Altepeter, Richard Altepeter, James Hofius, Clyde Fering, Rodney Fering, John Brummer, John Harren, Scott Brummer, Daniel Juhl, Douglas Kees, Dean LaChance, Michael LaCoursiere, Allen Page, Robert St. Marie and Michael Toulouse.

THE OLD CROSSING TREATY MEMORIAL

The Old Crossing Treaty monument, was erected by the United States government in 1932, in accordance with the terms of a bill introduced in the Seventy-first Congress by Congressman Conrad G. Selvig, of Crookston. It is located on the bank of the Red Lake River in full view from the West and from the North. Trees form a background on the other two sides. Shrubbery and pines have been added, which make the site attractive.

The bill passed by Congress provided that the title to the site be vested in the State of Minnesota. By action of the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners nine acres embraced in the site were purchased by Red Lake County and deeded to the State. A bill was passed by the State Legislature accepting the site, which has been named Old Crossing Memorial Park.

County historical societies of Red Lake and Polk Counties have officially designated three members from each society to form a board of managers which will have general charge of the park and monument. This will assure perpetuation of the "Old Crossing" tract where took place in 1863 one of the most important events in the history of the Red River Valley.

The monument is placed where the historic peace conference between the red man and the white man took place. The picturesque setting as described by the eye witnesses, the prolonged debates and discussions between the United States Commissioners and the Indian Chiefs, and the successful outcome are all events from which the artist-sculptor in designing the monument drew his inspiration. The monument serves not only to perpetuate this dramatic picture, but also to fix indelibly in the minds and hearts of all who see it the importance of this historic event.

Many monuments have been erected to commemorate the bravery of both the white men and the Indians in desperate conflicts between the two. Here at the "Old Crossing" is a monument which commemorates a peace pact. It not only commemorates this great event, but stands a silent witness to the fact that the peace is perpetual. As the descendants of these self-same Indians pause in its shadow they may well say our forefathers kept their faith, and be proud that this was done. As the white men come to this historic spot they will learn that here began the history of the northern section of the Red River Valley, for the event here commemorated made possible the opening of this vast area for settlement and development. The monument is a tribute to the leaders of both groups who made this treaty possible.

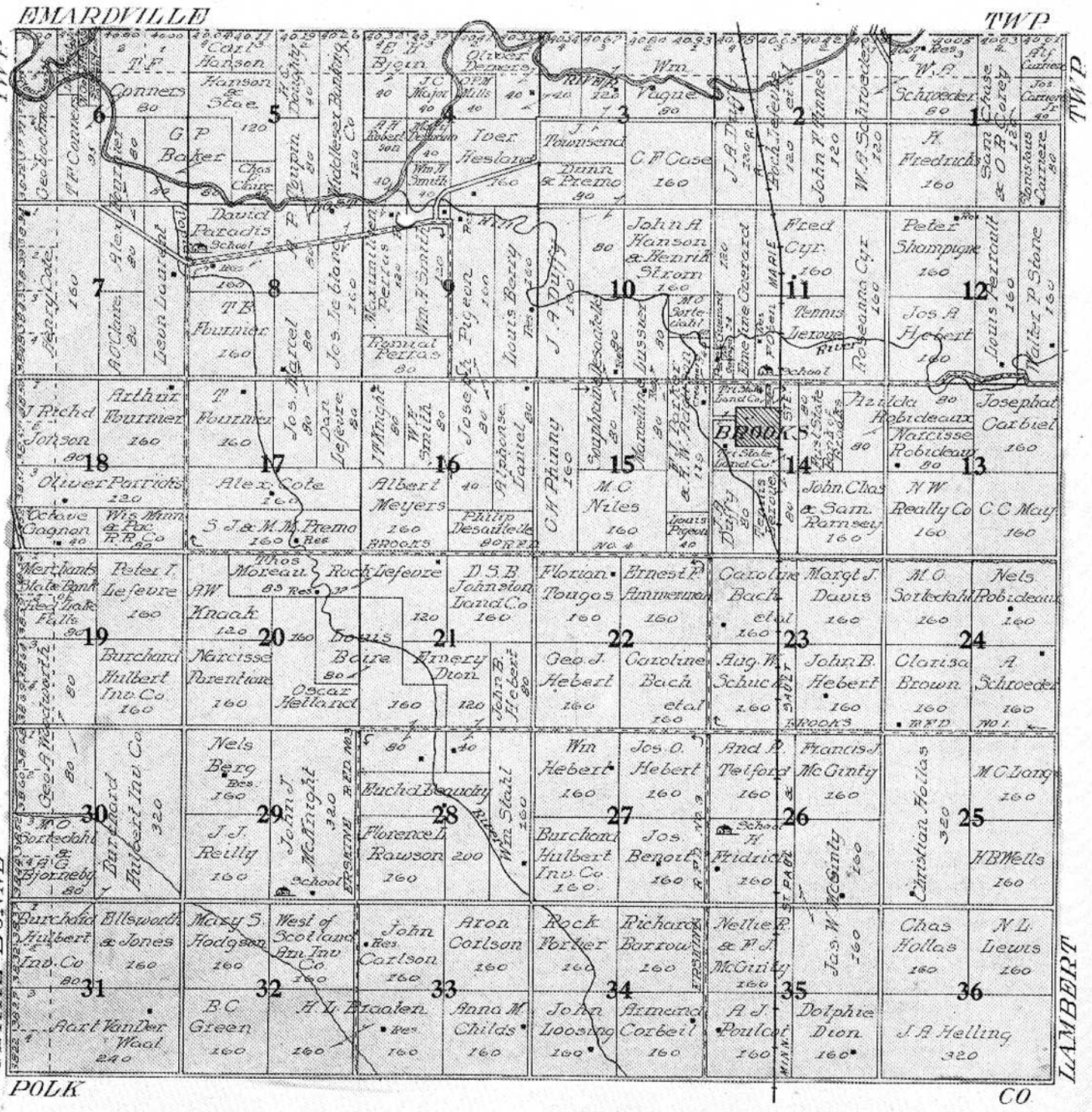


MAP OF TOWNSHIP 150 N., RANGE 42 W.

of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¼ inches to 1 mile

POPLAR RIVER TOWNSHIP



POPLAR RIVER TOWNSHIP

Poplar River Township was organized in 1884 and held the first town meeting on November 4. First officers elected were Frank Oban, Charles Cyr, and John Audette, supervisors; Olivier Meuier was elected the assessor; Lizzie Little, town clerk; and Rock Fortier, treasurer.

Poplar River lies directly south of Emardville township and was settled mostly by French Canadians. Brooks community was organized and settled in 1904 in Section 14, the northwest quarter.

Cyrille Lussier homesteaded in Poplar River township on Section 15 in 1878 and served as Poplar River township treasurer from almost the time it was first organized until his death in 1935.

The first school was located on the north side of Hill river and built in the late 1800's.

Another early settler was Joseph Pigeon who homesteaded in Section 9 in 1879. Joseph served as township chairman in early years, and as treasurer for School District 141 from 1903 until his death in 1934.

The Robidoux farm in Poplar River was first owned by T. L. Sletton in 1882. It was bought in 1890 by Narcisse Robidoux, Sr., who came from Montreal, Canada. Narcisse was secretary of the school board for many years. His son, Peter, served in various offices of the town board for forty-three years.

Other early settlers names on the records are Guerard, Perras, Toupin, Oban, Audette, LaChance, Cyr, Meuier, Poirier, Boire, Paradis, Premo, Fortier, Barrow, McGinty, Mercil, Fournier, Vague and Hebert.

All records of Poplar River were burned in the Brooks fire in 1918.

Present board members are Gilbert Genereux, Harvey Riendeau, and Paul Wilkens, supervisors; Lee Nielson, assessor; Dwight Robidoux, town clerk; and Clifford Noyes, treasurer.

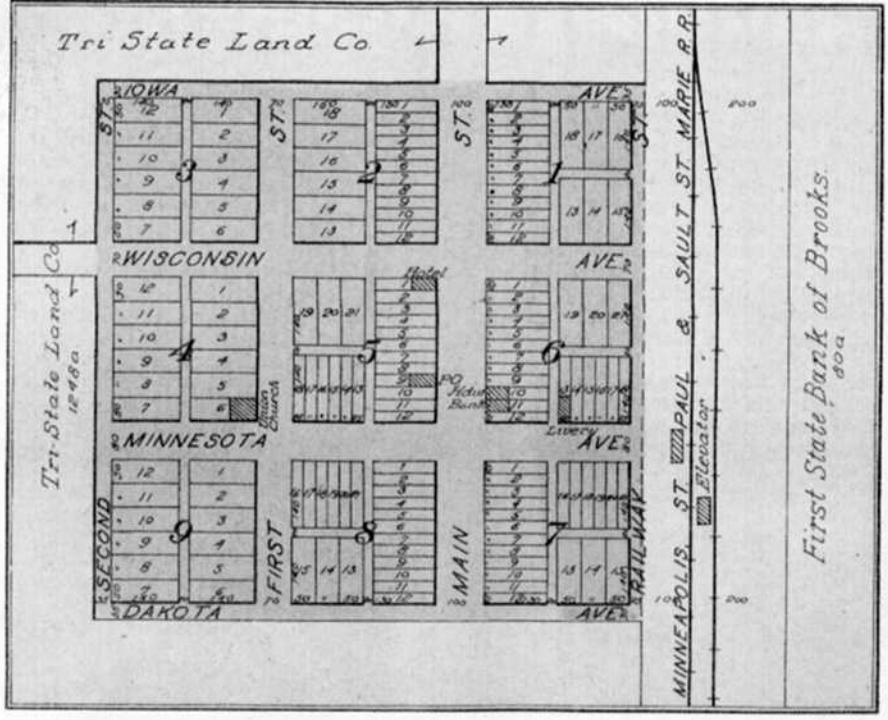


Poplar River School picnic about 1913





Joseph Pigeon homestead on the Hill River about 1879





Birds-eye view of Brooks shot from the elevator looking west.

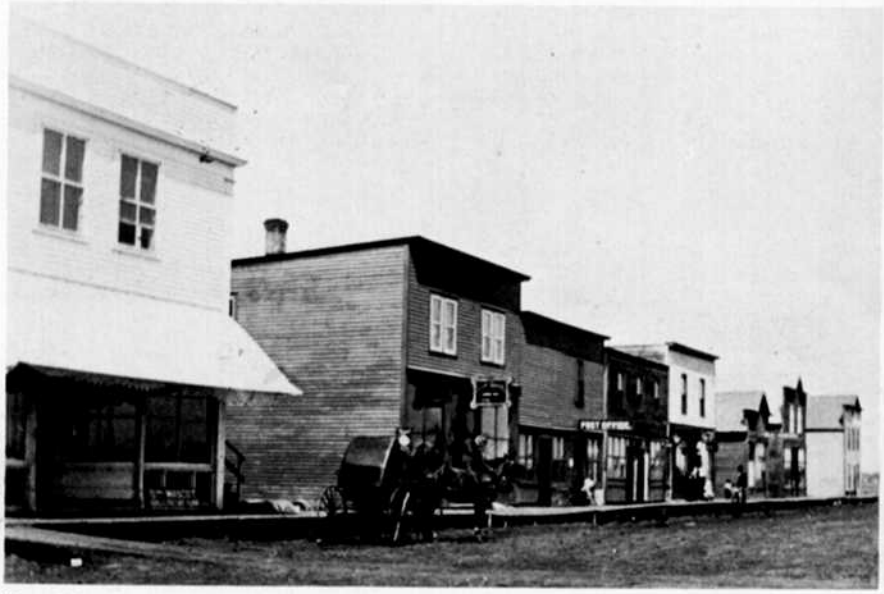
The Community of Brooks was present in spirit long before the first buildings were built on the original townsite in 1904. Traditionally, as with many other towns, Brooks' commencement was largely due to the coming of the railroad. Located along the Soo Line it rose rapidly and by the time the main business section of town burned on the main street in May of 1918 it had become a properous little farming community consisting of two general stores handling merchandise, a grocery store, a bank, hardware store, butcher shop, a blacksmith shop, a livery barn, lumber yard, two saloons, a community hall, and a good size hotel, to accommodate travelers and salesmen.

In 1926 the Brooks Cheese Factory was started by the Aurelius J. Parenteau family. It has remained the major industry of Brooks throughout the years and is still widely recognized today.

Serving area farmers' and residents' needs throughout the first half century, the Village of Brooks was governed by the Poplar River Township board. In 1955 the village was incorporated. Instrumental in its incorporation were Aurel J. Parenteau and Ronald J. Paradis who had to conduct a complete census of the Village and map out the area to establish city limits. Appointed at that time by the county auditor, Mr. Parenteau and Mr. Paradis served as the first official officers of the Village taking charge of scheduling elections first on the issue of incorporation and secondly on the election of officers.

Aurelius J. Parenteau served as the first mayor. He has since been succeeded by David Perreault, Emery LaCoursiere (who won by the flip of a coin because of a tie vote), Aurel J. Parenteau, Wallace Champagne, and Ronald J. Paradis throughout the 21 year history since its incorporation. After 21 years of operation, James Sabourin, who started as village clerk still serves at present as a council member. He is the only original member of the first organized board.

In 1973 a State Law was passed designating all incorporated communities throughout our state as Cities. So in 1976 the City of Brooks still remains a very properous little community serving area farmers and residents, hosting a Farmers Union Oil Co., Brooks Farmers Co-op Elevator, Brooks Credit Union, Paradis Store (Bryan Paradis, prop.), U.S. Post Office (C. R. Gagner, Postmaster, L. M. Mercil, Rural Carrier), Parenteau's Brooks Cheese Factory, Judy's (Olson) Beauty Salon, The Cozy Bar (Ronald Hince, prop.), A. I. Hamrum Accounting Service, Third Base Supper Club (Milo Larson, prop.), Perreault's Plumbing & Heating, Dick's (Delage) Gravel Service, Paradis Standard & Antiques (R. J. Paradis, prop.), Herb's Trucking, St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Rev. L. A. Wieseler, pastor), and Brooks Senior Citizens Homes, a housing complex. The present city population consists of 172 active community minded people.



West side of Brooks Main Street before the 1918 fire. Big Store, Bray's Saloon, Laniel's store and Post office, Lambert Building, LeRoux Saloon and Pool Hall, Demonaz Store and Hotel.



East side of Brooks Main Street



BROOKS

FIRE DESTROYS BUSINESS BUILDINGS AT BROOKS

Fire starting in a vacant building at rooks about midnight Thursday evening, urned eight buildings to the ground and aused a loss of about $26,000 besides iping out over half of the business section f the village of Brooks. Only one building as left standing in the entire block — the otel. The Kienast garage in the next block as untouched and was the only other usiness building standing on the westside f Main Street.

The Brooks band had played a concert n the street earlier in the evening and it is resumed that someone threw a cigarette n cigar stub through a broken window in e vacant building which was owned by ne Merchants State Bank of Red Lake alls and the stub ignited some refuse and arted the fire.

So rapidly did the flames spread that it as next to impossible to save any stock of rniture and several people barely scaped in their night clothes. The school achers, Misses Blanche Berthiaume, live Maas and Alma Guillemette, lost erything in the flames but the clothes ey were wearing.

Deymonaz Bros. lost their entire stock lued at $11,000 and on which there was t $3,000 insurance. Their building was wned by W. O. S. Pennington of Glenood, pioneer merchant of Brooks and n of President Edmund S. Pennington of e Soo Railway. The amount of insurance the building was not known but the ructure was valued at $5,000. H. E. Lantz st several hundred dollars worth of furnire in the residence apartments over the eymonaz store.

F. A. Honwaldt lost his restaurant build-g, equipment and household furniture. s loss was about $2,500 with insurance $1,400. A pool hall and barber shop wned by Nick Pfeffer, then in the army, t leased by Arthur Lambert, burned. The ss was about $2,000 with insurance of $600. The post office, drug store and residence rooms of A. Laniel, postmaster, made a loss of $2,000 with no insurance. Edwin Jacobson, suffered a loss of $800 when his harness shop burned but he had $600 insurance. The building was owned by Frank Deymonaz and valued at $1,000. It was insured. Some household furniture valued at $500 and belonging to Albert Moreau of Empress, Alberta, was stored in this building and was not insured. Mr. Moreau had just written Mr. Deymonaz to ship the goods but no way-freight was due until Saturday.

Paul Leroux who ran a general store suffered a loss of $4,000 on the stock with but $700 insurance. His building was worth about $1,500.

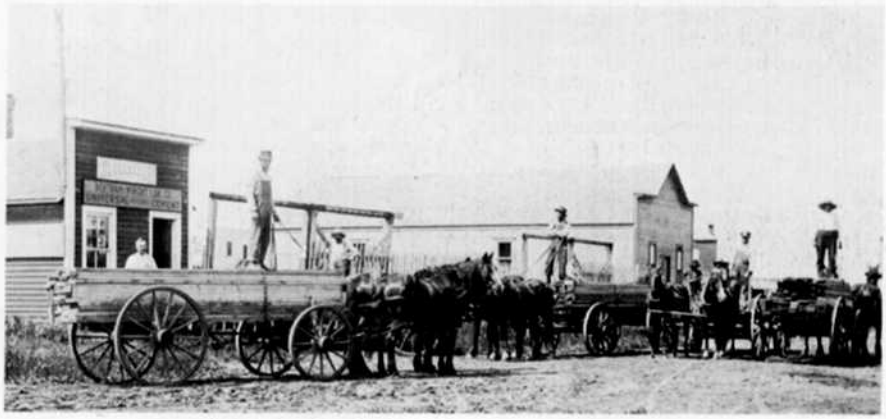
The vacant building owned by the Merchants State Bank was uninsured.

Ed. Rasmussen who lived above the Deymonaz building was able to save some furniture; Edwin Jacobson saved some harness stock, and Arthur Lambert and family a few clothes but this was all that was saved in the entire block.

The village of Brooks, being unincorporated, had no fire department and there was nothing to do but try to keep the flames from the buildings across the street. As it was, every pane of glass in the Perras hardware store and the First State Bank across the street, was broken by the intense heat. The Bertram-Wright Lumber Yard caught on fire from the sparks but prompt work saved this property.

The insurance rate was $5.35 per $100 for all the buildings that burned, and this high rate was the reason why more insurance was not carried. Many of the losers felt that they could not afford to carry more insurance but as one loser said, their losses have convinced them that they couldn't afford not to. A subscription list for the benefit of the sufferers was circulated in Red Lake Falls and other villages of the county and the business and professional men and farmers contributed liberally to the relief of the needy.

Brooks was left without a store of any sort and there was no place to purchase a single article of food or clothing. Deymonaz Bros. announced their intention of starting up in business again and until their new building was ready they located in the Brooks hall. The post office was removed temporarily to the First State Bank.
Gazette May 23, 1918.



Brooks Lumber Yard, J. E. Buskirk behind wagon 1916

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the early years of the twentieth century, groups of parishioners from St. Francis Xavier Church in Lambert and St. Anthony's Church in Terrebonne merged to form the parish of St. Joseph's in Brooks, the first mass was said on December 31, 1916 by Father Beaulieu of Lambert. The parishioners in the Brooks community were mainly French Canadians who came from Quebec via Crookston. The Germans and Irish emigrated from southern Minnesota in about 1915.

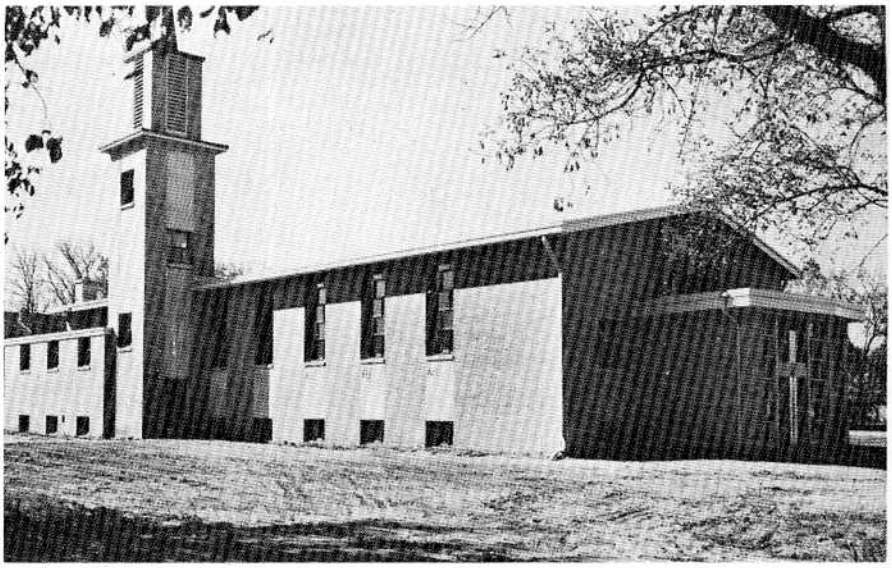
Father Arthur Beaulieu of Lambert was appointed to oversee the formation and organization of the parish and he also was to aid in building a church. He served as priest and administrator for several years and he performed the first baptism on February 20, 1916. He was finally made resident pastor on March 4, 1919.

On August 20, 1916 the parish officers held a meeting in Pfeffer's barber shop to set the wheels in motion for the construction of the church. The chairman of the congregation was Frank Oban with F. J. Deymonaz serving as treasurer, and Max Perras, secretary. It was decided to build the new church on land that had been originally deeded to Louis Derosier by by the United States government in 1882. The church dimensions were to be six feet wider than the Terrebonne church and sixty feet long, which was the length of the Terrebonne church. Peter Champagne, Narcisse Robidoux, and Fred Berberick were appointed to a committee whose task it would be to formulate building plans and also to determine the timber costs for the structure. Louis Berry donated $25 for the gravel to be used for the foundation. Other funds were obtained from assessments, bank loans, and loans from the Diocese in Crookston.

The St. Joseph's Cemetery was established in August 1918, and the main part of the building was completed in 1919. At this time they turned their attention to the construction of a sanctuary and a sacristy. The parish was assessed for this addition and later in 1920 a house to house collection was conducted to obtain money for the purchase of a bell, which weighed nine hundred pounds and cost a dollar per pound. It sang out in the tone "la" of the musical scale and was the finishing touch for the church which had been built out of the people's devotion and sacrifice.

In the fall of 1920, it was decided to continue their expansion to include a parish house on the corner of the lot. Early in the spring, a loan was taken out for the house to be built at a cost of $4,700.00 by A. Morin and Fred Miller on lots fourteen and fifteen of block eight in Brooks. In 1924 it was decided that the parishioners provide logs for a parish hall. However, these plans changed to a basement for the church when the foundation proved to be faulty. Work on the basement was done by volunteers in the congregation.

Late in May, 1929, Reverend Beaulieu died and was buried in Crookston, and in July, Reverend Victor Cardin was appointed pastor to serve until December, when Father C. J. Deshaies filled in for one month. In January Reverend Victor Cardin was appointed and served for two years. On January 12, 1931, Reverend Henry Rousseau, the assistant from the Red Lake Falls parish, was appointed resident pastor. Then on July 2, 1933, a great lively time began for Brooks with the arrival of Reverend Louis E. Proulx, just ordained from St. John's Seminary. There was to follow twenty-two years of colorful history, frequently with Father Proulx in the middle, or as some might say, "at the bottom of it all."



In 1955, Father Proulx left the parish to accept another appointment and he was replaced by Father Henry Carriere. At this time a new church was planned to replace the old one which needed extensive repair. After the removal of the old church, construction began in July 1956. The church was dedicated on April 11, 1957.

In January of 1972 Father Larry Wieseler came to Brooks and still is serving as Pastor of the St. Joseph's Parish.



Brooks Presbyterian Church

HISTORY OF BROOKS POST OFFICE

Now standing on the corner of Main Street and Minnesota Ave. the present building which houses the Brooks Post Office occupies the same lot that once held the large general merchandise store owned by a Mr. Pellington prior to the 1918 fire.

The origin of its history dates back to the commencement of the Village of Brooks in 1904 when Arthur Laniel was commissioned Postmaster on June 24th of that year. Prior to that time area residents were served from the farmstead of Cyrille Lussier. He attended to the surrounding community residents postal needs as Postmaster for more than 20 years.

Throughout this tenure as Postmaster, Mr. Laniel served a total of more than 45 years, being succeeded by his son Ralph in September of 1949. Ralph Laniel served as Postmaster for just over 15 years until his death due to ill health in November of 1964. The office was run by the Clerk-in-Charge, Pearl A. Laniel for 6 months until Clarence R. Gagner was appointed Postmaster on June 19, 1965, who has since served the office.

A. E. Sorenson served as the rural carrier from 1904 until about 1911 when Alf Berry became the carrier. Mr. Berry served as rural carrier for 37 years retiring in 1948. Emmitt Morinville served as a temporary carrier between 1948 and 1950 until Lloyd Mercil was appointed rural carrier in April of 1950. He has since served in that capacity having totaled 26 years of service.

History records that Arthur Laniel purchased the first property sold in the Village of Brooks on which to build his post office. Some years later the post office occupied a portion of the grocery store which Mr. Laniel also owned. The post office business was run concurrently with the store until 1958 when Ralph Laniel sold the grocery store to Ronald Paradis. Mr. Laniel then constructed the present post office building on its present site where it has since supplied the postal service needs for the people of the Brooks community.

BROOKS SCHOOLS

The three-room school building serving District No. 126 in Brooks was erected in the early 1900's and was the only three-room county school in Red Lake County. Catherine Berthiaume taught the lower grades in the 1920's and 1930's and held the record for longevity.

This school served the district until 1941 when a two-story frame structure was completed under a WPA grant. The new school had four class rooms, auditorium, stage, library, hot lunch room, and, one of the most important features, indoor plumbing. The school was also used for all community functions.

Teachers at the time of transition from the old school building to the new one in 1941-1942 school year were Elmer Dorn, Bernice Herold (Larson), and Mary Ford (Bonnett). Ruth Falardeau (Lindquist) was added to the staff the same year.

Members of the school board at this time were Floyd Dalton, A. J. Parenteau and



Brooks School Dist. 126 built about 1918.

Medore Mercil. The hot lunch program that got started in the old school in 1940-1941 with Mr. Lilly Desautel (Bourgeois) as its first cook, continued to be a great success and was the first program of its kind provided in Red Lake County.

On October 31, 1967 (Halloween), fire destroyed the two-story elementary school which housed grades one through eight. Teachers at the time were Val Gagnon (Strnad), George Derosier, Mrs. Dorothy Picard, and Mrs. Mae Wichterman. Spring kindergarten classes were offered the last few years prior to the fire under the supervision of Mrs. Rebecca Gagner. School board members at this time were Arthur Hagge, Anthony Schiefert, Arthur Hamrum, John Reinbold, Lloyd Mercil and Frederic Berberich.

After the 1967 fire, classes were held in the basement of St. Joseph's Church and ended with the school year 1969-1970.



Brooks school, built in 1940, burned on October 31, 1967.



BROOKS STATE BANK

George Robert Bourdon managed the Brooks State Bank, owned by his father, from 1920 to 1933. George had his bachelor's pad above the bank where he lived with his big dog who enjoyed bringing home bits of clothing off the women's wash lines. He just about broke George.

George had the first radio in Brooks and invited the teachers from Sarah Morin's Hotel to listen to the programs numerous times. Reception was poor or non existent and they began to doubt his integrity. On one occasion he found a nest of mice under the wooden sidewalk and motioned to the faintest of them to come over. When he acted as if he had just regurgitated them in his hand, she promptly threw-up all over the sidewalk.

George drove a stripped Buick with fancy side curtains. He took it to the Buick garage in Red Lake Falls to have it fixed and met their secretary-bookkeeper, Janet M. Zaiser. They eloped soon afterwards.



Brooks State Bank, George Bourdon, cashier

BROOKS CHEESE FACTORY

Formula: One capable, ambitious Frenchman plus one industrious, hardworking Frenchwoman equals one small town business success: The Brooks Cheese Factory.

Aurelius Parenteau, born at Drummondville, Quebec, Canada, was raised in a family with more than one hundred years of experience in cheesemaking. His grandfather, first of the family to leave France had been a cheesemaker for many years and his father owned his own factory in Drummondville. In 1920, Aurelius rented a cheese factory in Drummondville and operated it for three years. He then got the travel bug, and headed out to see the country. After his return to Quebec, he was studying a map and noting Red Lake Falls, remembered that he had relatives there and decided to make a visit. In the fall of 1923 he decided to make this area his permanent home and purchased his first cheese factory near Terrebonne.

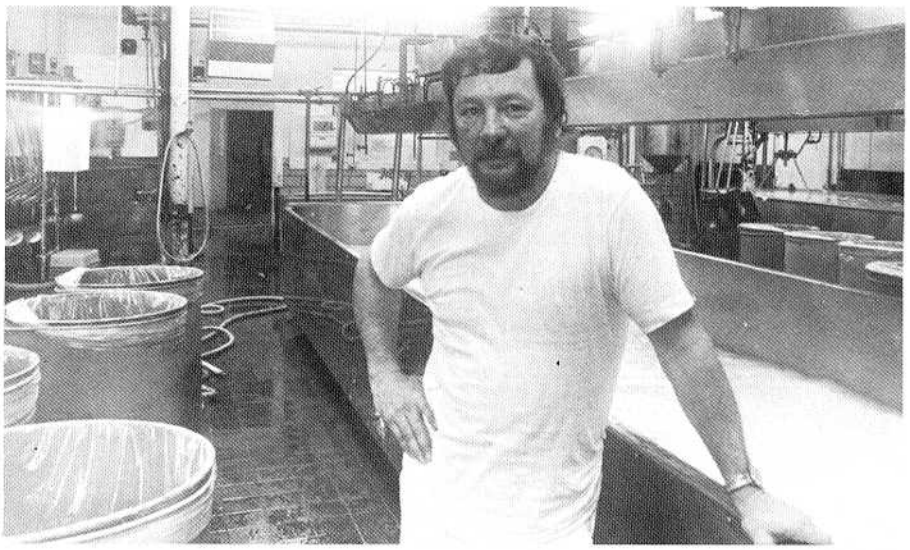
In 1924, Aurelius met Della Perusse and they were married in 1926. It was about this time that he sold his Terrebonne business and moved to Brooks where he had purchased and old creamery to be used as a cheese factory.

On the first day of business the factory bought and processed exactly three hundred and twenty-three pounds of milk and this made thirty-two point three pounds of cheese. This is a very small amount compared to the average of one hundred thousand pounds of milk and ten thousand pounds of cheese being produced per day at this time.

In the early days, all of the milk that was used was brought to the factory in milk cans by the farmers themselves with horse and wagon. About 1935, the first milk truck was purchased and used to collect the cans of milk from the farmers in the surrounding area.

Through the years the business continued to expand and more employees were hired to meet the needs of the increased production. In 1948 Aurel Parenteau joined his father in the business, serving as manager.

The fame of Brooks Cheese has spread beyond the surrounding area. The product has been shipped to all parts of the United States with a large percentage being purchased by the Kraft Cheese Co. which has plants in California and Idaho. One of the highlights of the Brooks Cheese Factory



Cheesemaker Aurel Parenteau at work in the Brooks Cheese Factory.

occurred in 1953 when Representative Harold C. Hagen of Congress presented some Brooks Cheese to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The President was photographed accepting the gift and this photo along with a thank-you letter from him appeared in the local papers.

In 1952 a whey drier was installed to make a by-product of one of the wastes of the cheese process. This dried whey is used as feed for calves, pigs and poultry. As the business grew it became necessary to enlarge and remodel the old creamery, so, in 1954 a new brick building was erected. The new forty by fifty foot structure was used to house the complete cheese manufacturing equipment, along with office space, part of which is used as a retail store. The next major change occurred in 1961 when the factory switched to complete bulk milk handling.

In 1961 a record breaking 2,470,716 pounds of cheese was manufactured by the plant from a total of 26,389,286 pounds of milk and 906,863 pounds of butterfat for which producers were paid $805,515.73. Wages paid to employees of the firm for that year totaled $103,145.61; 160,000 gallons of fuel oil were used; $15,481.00 was paid out in freight and $6,008.45 in electricity, contributing substantially to the economy of Red Lake County and the surrounding area.

Marc Parenteau joined his brother Aurel in the family business following their father's death from cancer in May of 1961 and the brothers continued in the fine business traditions established by their father.

The business continued to prosper and in 1964 it was again necessary to remodel and enlarge the factory to almost double its size. That year the factory was awarded a plaque by the Kraft Foods Co. for maintaining the highest possible quality in cheese-making.

1967 brought a temporary setback to the business when the National Farm Organization initiated a milk holding action which resulted in a shortage of available milk purchaseable for cheese-making. That same year the cheese prices became so low that even though milk was available it was hauled to Pelican Rapids for making butter and the Brooks Cheese Factory halted their production.

The factory resumed production in March of 1969 and although this was a shorter working year the total product output surpassed the record year of 1961.

The production average of the factory has averaged 100,000 pounds of milk or 10,000 pounds of cheese a day over the last five years.

On February 2, 1970 the factory made twelve vats of cheese in one continuous operation, the largest amount ever manufactured at one time in the history of the factory. The 225,000 pounds of milk required made over eleven tons of cheese (or 25,000 pounds). Cheesemakers, Aurel and Marc, worked in shifts starting at midnight and worked for twenty-four hours.

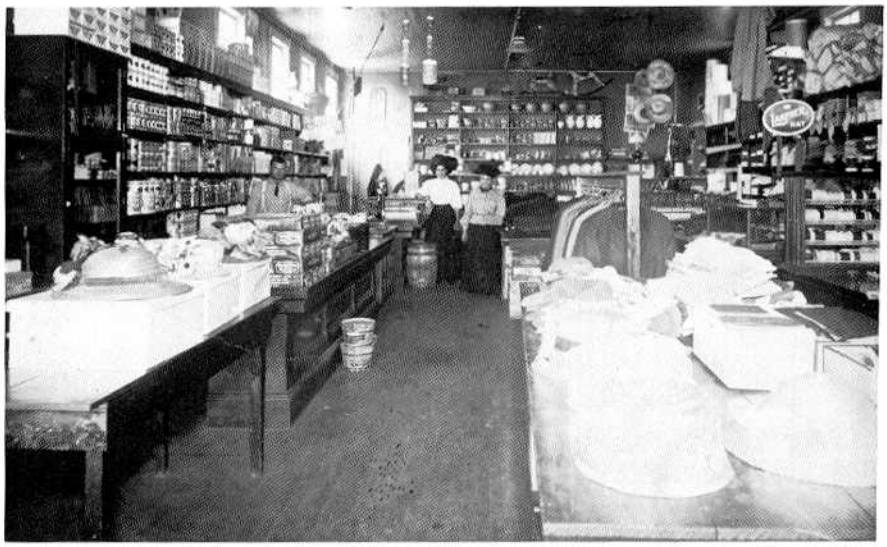
Another record was set on June 19, 1974, when 30,000 pounds of cheese was produced from 322,000 pounds of milk (161,000 quarts) in one day!

The factory has employed as many as twenty people including truckers, office workers and plant men during the peak season which is March through June since the early 1970s.

A third generation of the A. J. Parenteau family has also participated in the cheese-making as part time employees. Aurel's four sons and two of Marc's sons have worked at the factory during their high school years and in the summertime.

In the last half of 1975, circumstances prevented the factory from paying the prices necessary to retain its normal milk volume. Difficulty in reaching an agreement with NFO resulted in a marked decrease in volume.

Brooks Cheese Factory marked its fiftieth year in business in March of 1976.



Albert Moreau store 1914. Mrs. Peter Champagne and Mrs. Louis Perreault.



Adelore Paquin livery barn



Max Perras in his store, Brooks Hardware 1925

THE BROOKS SHRINE

The idea of building a shrine is not extraordinary. Human beings have always thought it right to honor God in such an external manner. It did take courage to construct a spiritual monument which could be seen by people of various beliefs and appreciated by them.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thibert lived on the northeast corner of Highways 92 and 59, and it was her devotion to the Sacred Heart that prompted Mrs. Thibert in 1950 to erect a small shrine on the corner with a little landscaping. However, the successful growth of shrubs and trees brought about the idea of a more attractive statue and the erection of a larger monument, the shrine we see today at the junction of the highways.

The Thiberts soon realized they had undertaken a very difficult task. The walls of the main enclosure extend a full 120 feet. The fount is surrounded with a sixty-foot wall. With 50 yards of gravel, 60 yards of stones, and 20,000 pounds of cement, one can guess the amount of work done here. All of it was constructed by Joseph Thibert with occasional assistance from his wife and young son, Parnell. It is not astonishing then to learn that the work took about three years. The modeling and molding is the work of Mrs. Thibert.

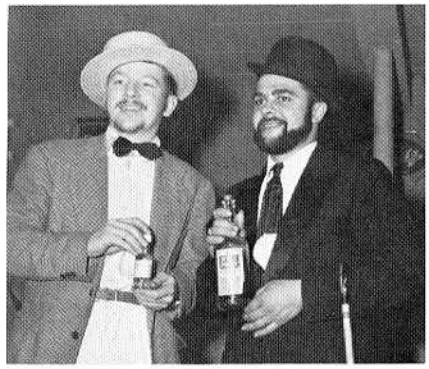


Soon realizing that plaster statues would not stand up under the rigor of our northern climate, they ordered marble statues from Cararra, Italy, through the Little Falls Granite Co., Little Falls. The previous year this company had donated the granite plaque inserted in the north wall near the main structure. The doves of porcelain were made by Mrs. Jeanne LaGrave, a French artist of this area.

Hundreds of tourists have visited the Brooks Shrine over a period of years, and will continue to do so.



Brooks Restaurant built by Wilbrod and Mary Boucher and Leah Noyes about 1905.



Mayors, past and present, Aurel Parenteau and Ron Paradis.

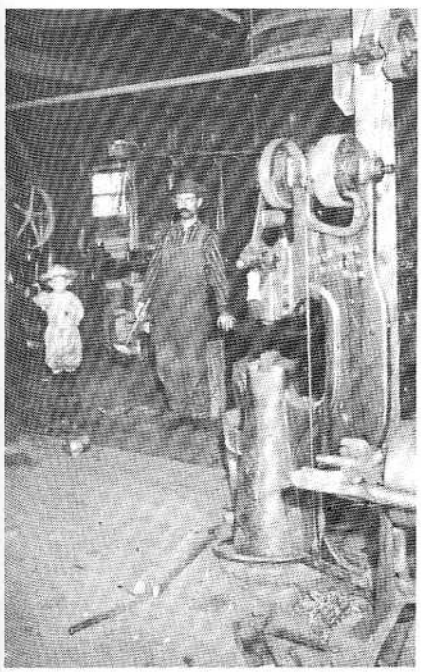
SENIOR CITIZENS HOMES IN BROOKS

The organization of the Senior Citizens Housing Corporation of Brooks met a grave need existing in the community. Plans and specifications were drawn up by Father Henry Carriere to be submitted to the Farmers Home Administration for approval and loans for the project were obtained the first part of 1967.

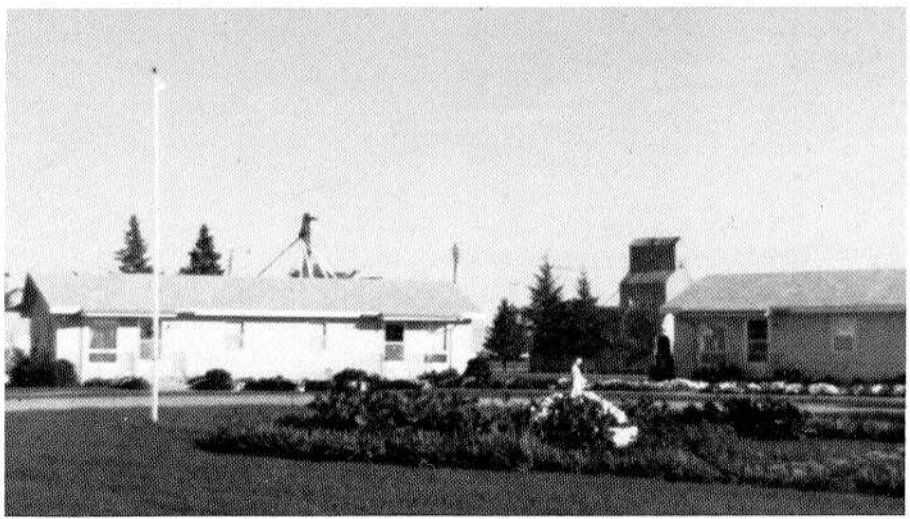
The first three double units were erected in 1968, the second three units in 1970, and a single unit complex built in 1972 to total seven duplexes or fourteen apartments for the retired elderly at a modest rental. The homes are built in a horseshoe shaped area east of the existing business district, and in the same location as the former First State Bank, hardware store and a garage.



Blast to Brooks annual celebration.



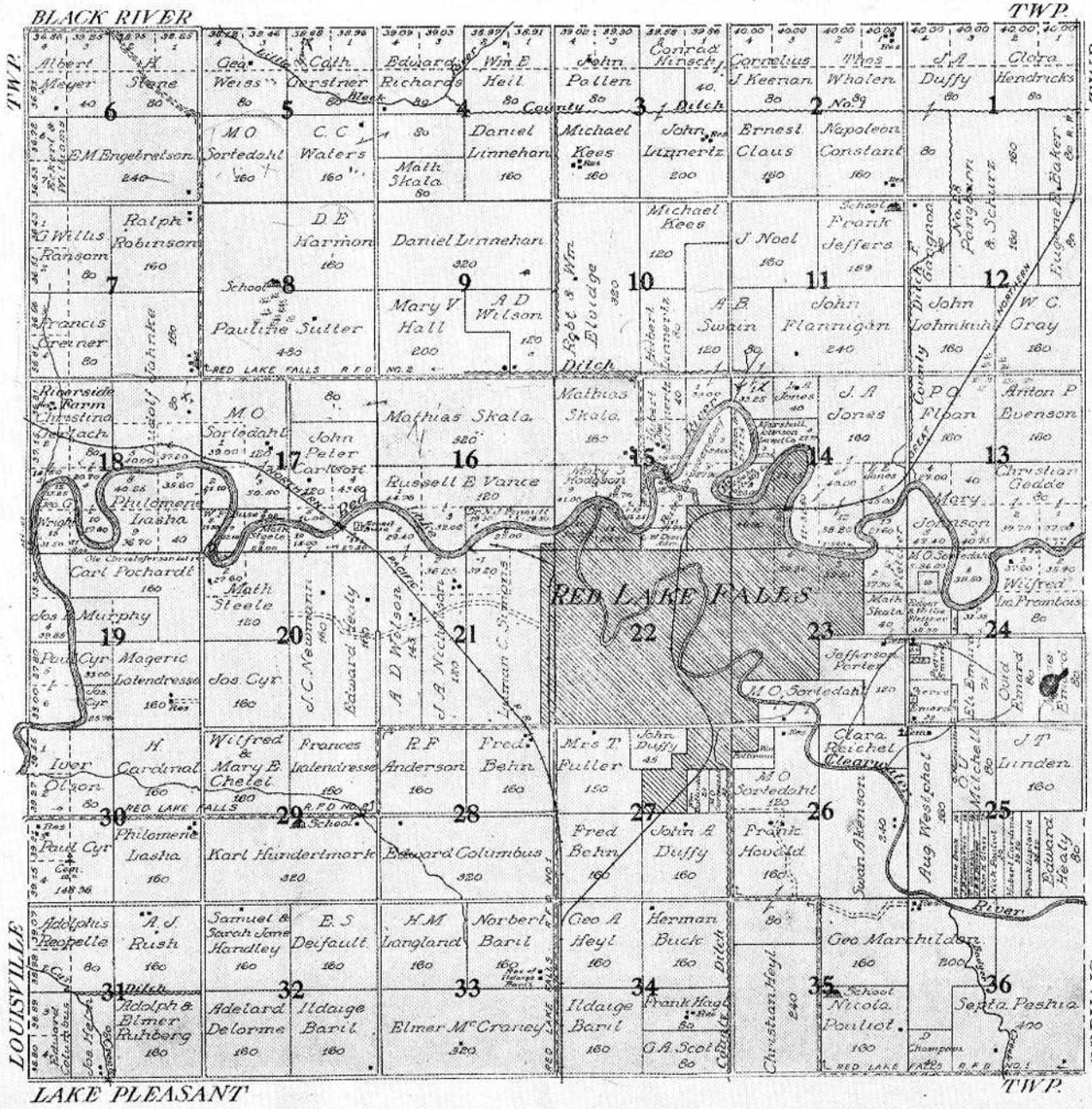
Clodemers and Leonel Gauthier, Brooks Blacksmith Shop 1907



MAP OF TOWNSHIP 151 N., RANGE 44 W. of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¾ inches to 1 mile

RED LAKE FALLS TOWNSHIP


BLACK RIVER TWP.
TWP.
TWP.
LOUISVILLE
GERVAIS
LAKE PLEASANT TWP.
RED LAKE FALLS
Red River
Red Lake River
Little Red River
Red Lake River Ditch
Ditch
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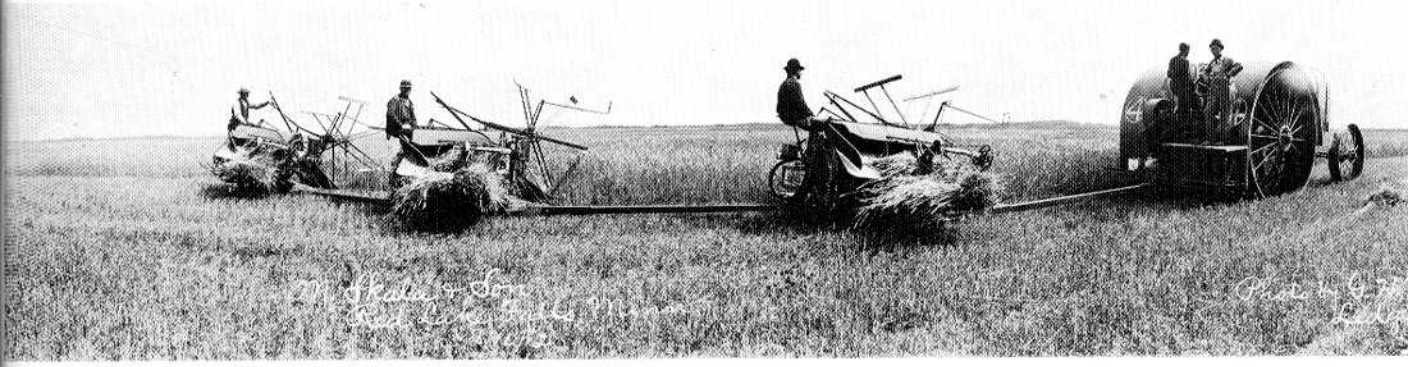


Matt Skala's big gasoline tractor (Big Four) purchased in May of 1912, was equipped to pull six breaking or eight stubble plows. Joe Skala was the driver with Richard Adler, John Johanneck and John Hirsch on binders.

RED LAKE FALLS TOWNSHIP

The first recorded meeting of this township was held October 10, 1879 for the purpose of recording two highways in the township. The township was then located in Polk County. The officers were W. W. Wilson, chairman; L. W. Gervais, Clerk; Isaiah Gervais and Peter Bottineau, supervisors. Obviously there must have been at least one meeting previously to elect these officers, but there is no record of it.

At an annual meeting held April 13, 1880, W. W. Wilson was re-elected chairman, Henry Gervais and Eli Lasha were elected supervisors, and Frank Hunt was elected clerk.

At a meeting held October 22, 1880, all section lines in the township were declared public highways, except 18/19, 17/20, 16/21, 15/22, 14/20, and 13/24.

On March 8, 1881, Thomas Belair was elected chairman, L. H. Gervais, clerk, and Eli Lasha and George Brunelle supervisors. A three-mill tax was appropriated for road purposes, and two mills for town purposes. Town officers received two dollars a day as salary. A previous poll tax was two days' labor. A man and a team of horses were paid three dollars a day, land labor one dollar fifty cents a day, and a man and a yoke of oxen were allowed two dollars for a ten-hour day.

At the election of March 14, 1882, Thomas Belair was again elected chairman, with R. N. Borden, clerk, and John Dwyer and Henry Gervais supervisors. Action was taken providing that township notices be posted at the state road crossing of the Red Lake River, at Eli Lasha's place in section 30, and at the George Brunelle place in section 27.

At the March 11, 1884, meeting bids were let for the construction of a bridge between Red Lake Falls and Lake Pleasant townships. Thomas Belair was the low bidder, with a price of $195. An application for township aid in the amount of $4,000 by the Duluth and Manitoba Railroad is recorded for the construction of a railroad from a point in Becker County to the village of Red Lake Falls. The application was signed June 4, 1884 at St. Paul by James B. Holmes, president, and Ernest Buse, secretary for the Duluth-Manitoba Railroad Company, and the corporate seal was attached. On April 10, 1886, records show that bonds were filed in aid of the Duluth Manitoba Railroad in the amount of $4,000, maturing in thirty years, and bearing interest of 6% per annum. A true and correct copy was sent to the office of the State Auditor of the State of Minnesota, signed by George LaBissionere, clerk.

Action was taken to permit cattle to run at large from November 1 to May 1 at a meeting held March 10, 1885.

Edward J. Schmitz, township clerk for twenty-three years, has some interesting comments on the recorded history. Entries made in 1888 suggest that many people had difficulty paying their taxes, although they ranged only from twelve cents to a high of six dollars eighty-two cents for the year. Mr. Schmitz says that Ildaige Baril served as clerk for the longest period, more than forty years, beginning March 10, 1981. Other clerks were L. W. Gervais, Frank Hunt, R. N. Borden, George LaBissioniere, Simon Paul, Francis LaBissioniere, Henry Grenier, Edward J. Schmitz, and Ed H. Schmitz.

Serving as treasurer over the years were Eli Lasha, Pierre Emard, Simon Sutter, John Linnertz, Sr., Jacob Linnertz, Harry Miller, George Schafer, John Schafer, and Jorgen Knutson.

Supervisors include the following: W. W. Wilson, Isaiah Gervais, Peter Bottineau, Henry Gervais, Eli Lasha, Thomas Belair, George Brunelle, John Dwyer, Joseph Belair, Jos. Marchildon, Pierre Emard, Francis LaBissioniere, Horace Gervais, George Marchand, Paul Cyr, Peter Mercier, Jeff Porter, John Marleau, Carl Gerlach, John Alsted, Mike Kees, Karl Hundredmark, John Flannagan, Thomas Whalen, George Nelson, E. S. Dufault, Anton Zins, Ferdinand Jahnke, John Kuld, Frank Musil, Fred Seeger, Clifford Longtin, Harvey Knott, Arnold Miller, Earl W. Kirschman, Robert Hance, Donald Lykken, Clarence Vatthauer, Emmet Olson, and Carl Harmoning.

The beautiful handwriting of some of the earlier clerks contrasts with the inability of some of the other officers even to sign their names. In several cases they signed with a +.

The first certificate of wolf bounty was issued to Arthur Demers May 2, 1900, and the practice continued into the twenties.

Meetings have been held in such places as the Central House, in Red Lake Falls, N. Pouliot Hotel, Montreal Hotel. "In the late 1800's," says Mr. Schmitz, "and even in my time, it was a practice to post township notices of importance to the residents of the towhship at three prominent places. In 1899 it was ordered by the board to post one notice at the post office in the village of Red Lake Falls, one at the Red Lake River bridge, and one on the telegraph post on the northeast corner of the Paul Berthon farm. That practice seems to have been discontinued, although I posted such notices during my earlier terms."



A Sunday afternoon gathering of Emmanuel Church members at the Carl Gerlach farm.

Mr. Schmitz notes that another duty of the township clerk was discontinued during the 1950's. Recording of births and deaths was transferred to the Clerk of Court for the County.

On March 2, 1953, a special township meeting voted to purchase fire-fighting equipment, to be operated by the City of Red Lake Falls firemen, since the city fire trucks were not permitted to answer calls outside the city limits.

The present board of Red Lake Falls Township includes Clarence Vatthauer as chairman; Cal Harmoning and O. E. Olson as supervisors; Edward H. Schmitz, Jr. as clerk and Jorgen Knutson, treasurer.

OLD BUSY BEE SCHOOL DISTRICT # 167

Old Busy Bee School, District #167, was located in the NE quarter of section eleven in Red Lake Falls Township. Early records found at the court house indicate the existence of another school in this same area in 1882-83, however, these records tell little else. Information dated 1897 shows John Marleau, John Dwyer and George Weiss on the school board.

Some of the earliest teachers at Busy Bee were Clara Richard, Anna Rosch, Marie Crompe, Edith Hanson, Nita Adler Nieland, Irene Schusser Zins, Alice Baker, Cecilia Hart, Gertrude Blaska, Blanche Berthiaume, Ursula Patnode Jolly, Opal Cornell, Anna Pinnsoneault Proulx, Agnes Johanneck, Freda Lehmkuhl, Elizabeth Kruse, Mary Jo Carmody, Marcella Platt Fernholz, Rita Westerman, Eunice Lambert Haupt, Leonard St. Mitchel, Ula Guillemette, Frances Marleau, Evelyn Longtin, Lucille Schmitz Desotel, Thelma Dailey and Musetta Normandeau.

"Memories of Busy Bee"

In the winter months it became the responsibility of every student to keep the entry-way filled with wood for the heating stove. At recess time, this became the first order of business with the eighth grade students acting as bosses and the younger students anxious for their turn to give orders. The huge stove with its heating jacket was a very important part of the school room. It was here that the students crowded together, toasting one side and then the other on cold winter mornings. Its warmth provided a place to dry mittens, thaw lunches, bake potatoes and heat soup that was brought from home. On one occasion (a nice sunny day) a few of the boys filled the stove to the top with wood when the teacher was out of the room. This created such a roaring fire that we all had to wait outside to see if the stove would explode! The result of this prank for the boys was a visit from and lecture by the school board — A disgrace in those days!

We were delighted when during the courtship of one of our teachers, Ida Longtin, her suitor, John Kees, came to call during school hours. It meant missing a few classes when she would talk with him in the entry-way! Of course, we never dared to tease her as that would have been disrespectful! Another teacher whose gentleman friend came to call just as school was dismissed for the day, found the tires on his model T Ford without air at the end of his visit! Another Prank!

Sometimes, even on the coldest days, the teacher would interrupt classes to have us dash outside for a quick run around the building. This would perk us up and air us out after sitting for a long while in the small and often crowded classroom.

The most special occasions, of course, were the Christmas programs and the end of the year picnics.

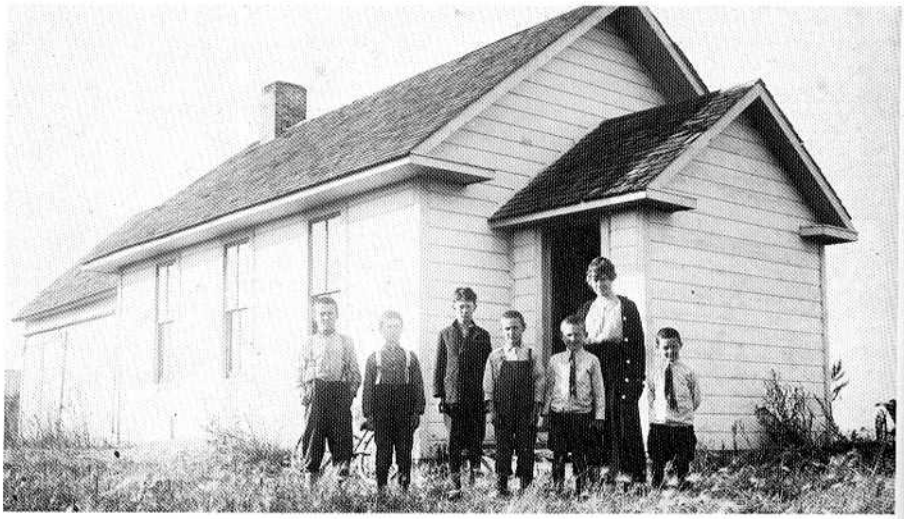
We had a good, well-rounded education at Busy Bee School, provided by very competent teachers.

The school house stood empty for some years following consolidation and was eventually purchased by Ed Schmitz, Sr. and moved to his farm.

Contributed by Mary Whalen Drees



District 167 Busy Bee School. Anna Linnertz, Neta Adler, (teacher), Theresa Hirsch, Leland Olson, Florence Kees, Louise Linnertz, three Rolf girls, Cecilia May, Mildred Gale, Annie and Josephine Linnertz, Gertrude Hirsch.



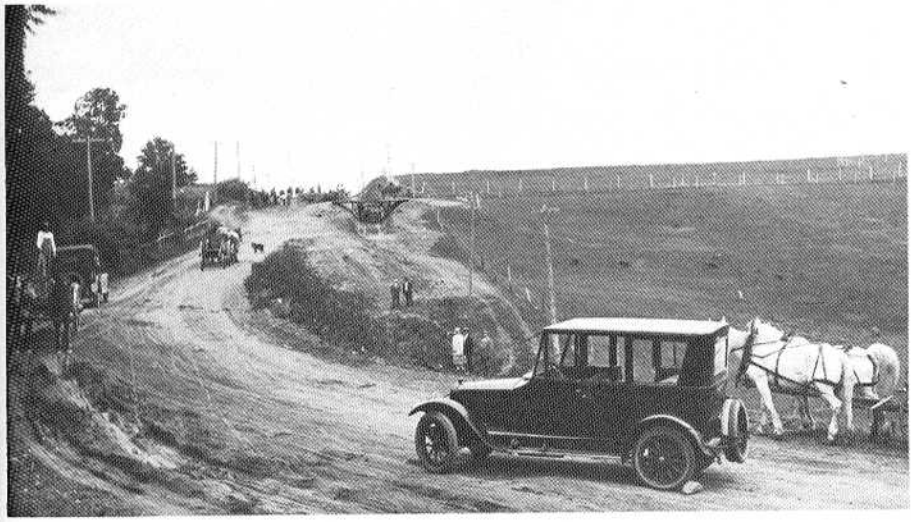
School District 40 located on the Karl Hundredmark farm in Section 29. Francis Keifenheim was the teacher 1914. Cyr and Miller families.



Log jam on the Red Lake River 1911 near Bache farm.



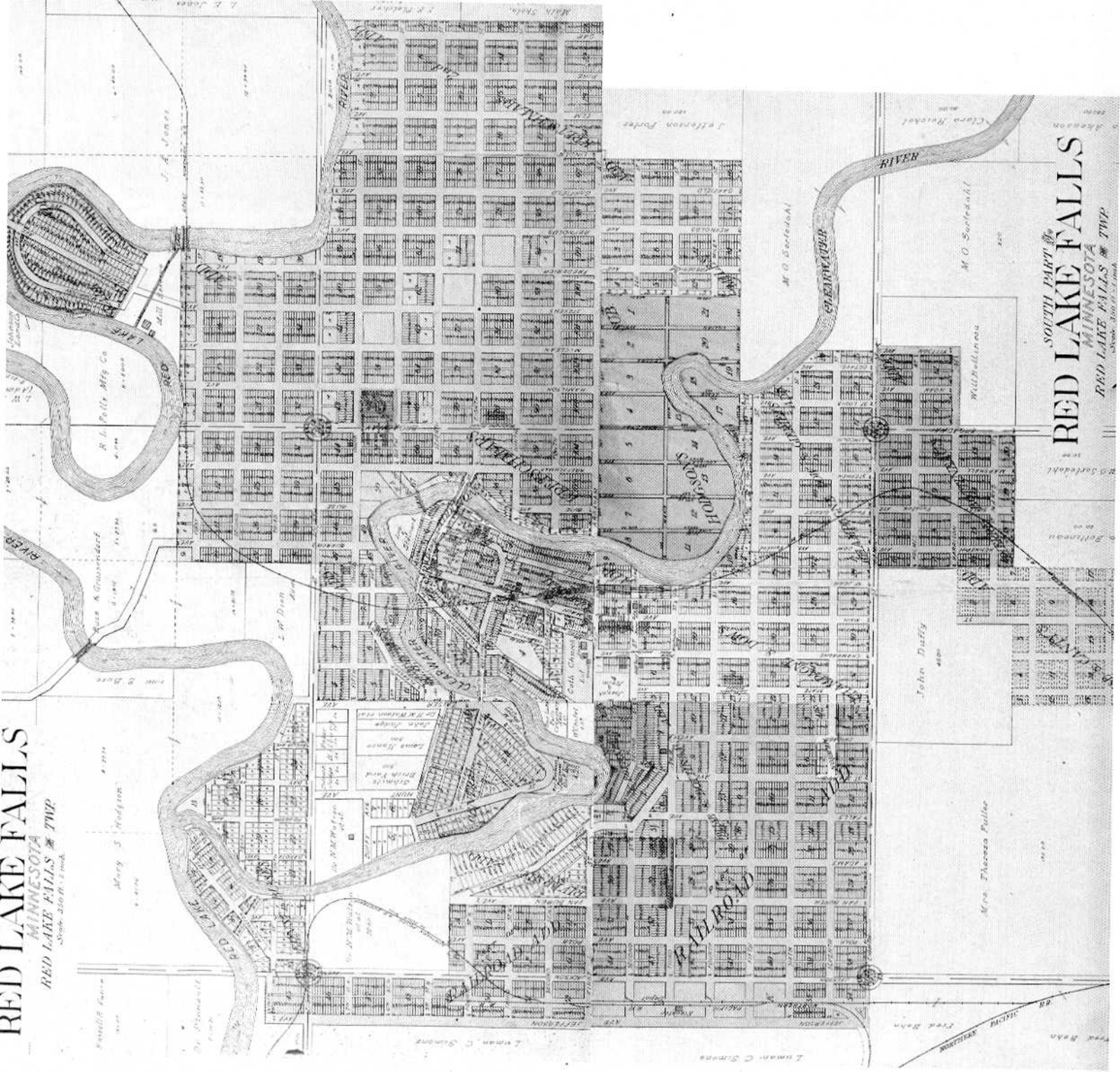
Repairing the Skala hill north of Red Lake Falls, the old Jefferson Highway about 1915. Zaiser Bros. were the contractors.







Timberlane Ski Area northwest of Red Lake Falls developed in 1958 on the banks of the Red Lake River, Red Lake Falls township.


RED LAKE FALLS
MINNESOTA
RED LAKE FALLS TWP
SOUTH PART
RED LAKE FALLS
MINNESOTA
RED LAKE FALLS TWP
CLEARWATER
RIVER
RAILROAD
HODGSONS
John Duffy
Mrs. Theresa Fuller
Luman C Simons
Mary S Hodgson
Rose & Grussendorf
R. L. Falls Mfg Co
Jefferson Porter
Claro Reichel
M. O. Sarledahl
Will Bellineau
Fred Bahn
NORTHERN PACIFIC R.R.

THE PIONEER DAYS OF RED LAKE FALLS

The stranger who, seeking a new home, ıters a sleeper at St. Paul in the evening ıd awakening next morning finds himself ılling along between the fertile fields and ell-built farm houses, and to the stirring wns of Red Lake County, can scarcely ıalize the difficulties that confronted those ther pioneer home seekers, who, not so ıany years ago, first settled in this land of ilk and honey. Where now are railways, ılegraph and telephone lines, graded ighways, drainage ditches and live towns, ıen stared them in the face only lonely, rass grown prairies, without even a ıagon track where the old "Pembina rail" wound its way to the northwest.

The first settlers in Red Lake, then a part f Polk County, came here in May, 1876, ıst twenty-six years ago. No railroad train hirled along and deposited them and ıeir household goods at a convenient sta-on, with waiting friends ready to welcome ıem to their new homes. They left St. Paul ith their families and the few things they ould carry loaded into wagons and the lumsy old Red River carts drawn by orses or oxen — sometimes a horse and ow, or cow and ox. For days they wended heir way just past little outlying settle-ments, through a wilderness of forests, swamps and marshes, wading rivers, camping out nights, the silence unbroken save by their own merry laughter and shouting, or the howl of wolves, or drumming of partridges in the woods. Coming at length to Crookston, the county seat of Polk, they found it an assemblage of eight or ten rude log houses and three stores girt 'round by stumps and woods. Walsh and Ross kept the best store there, and that was not a department store you may be sure. The territory east and northeast of Crookston was as yet unsettled. No townsite boomer had discovered Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire or Thief River Falls, and land in their present vicinity was at a discount. There were homesteads "to burn," and of the best kind, too.

Leaving Crookston, the home seekers followed up the Red Lake River, until, seventeen days after leaving St. Paul, arriving near the present site of Red Lake Falls, they decided that no better land could be found, and settled down.

The first colonists were French from Hennepin and Ramsey counties. These were Pierre Bottineau, then famous as guide, trapper and scout, with his sons: Isaiah Gervais, Joseph Belair, Thomas Belair, John B. Demarais, N. Pouliot, Pierre Audette, Benj. Gervais, Eli Lasha, Louis Paul, Paul Cyr, Elie Cyr, "Little" Joe Cyr, Edward LaBree, Joe Beaudrow, and a few others. J. B. Bottineau had located about seven thousand acres of land here on Indian script, including the present site of Red Lake Falls, but his title proving defective, the land was homesteaded by the incoming settlers who set to work at once, built log cabins and prepared to farm with the limited means at their command. Food was scarce then and tales are still told of living all winter on a barrel of flour and jack rabbits.

To the east the settlement extended only as far as Badger Creek where a man named Heroux held forth as an outpost of civilization. To the west in what is now Louisville, a few settlers made their homes. Those were Michel Brouilette, Louis Huot, Simeon Patnode, Lizene Patnode, David Corbin, John Gaylord and others. North of the Red Lake River was a wilderness of tangled bush and grassy prairie, peopled only by deer, bears, wolves and Indians.

The following year a few more settlers came. Conditions were not yet such as to invite other than the hardiest of pioneers. There was no mill at Crookston and to get their grist ground, farmers were obliged to travel with horse or ox teams way down to Caledonia, near Fargo, the trip taking six days at the least. A railroad track had been





Main Avenue looking north from Second Street about 1912. Brick Block built in 1897 is to the left, the Kaus Block on the right.

laid from Glyndon up to Fisher's Landing, but trains only ran on it in the fall, business during the rest of the year not warranting train service. Several times during the winters the settlers rigged up flat cars with sails, loaded on their grists, and ran them down the line to the mill by wind.

In 1878 quite a colony of French settlers came from Upper Canada including the Brunelles, Perraults, LaBissonieres, Marchildons, Marchands, Robillards, Latendresse, Ducharmes, Lizees, Legacys, and others. These settled south of the rivers. The Patnodes, Allards, Legacys, and others came from Fall River, Mass., and took homes east of Red Lake Falls between the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers.

This year Ernest Buse, then as now, a great worker, and one who has left his mark upon the world wherever he has been, came to Red Lake Falls, discovered the waterpowers, realized the benefits to be derived from them and from the junction of the two rivers, and with Xavier Sohler took up the townsite and as soon as possible afterwards platted it.

Here in the same year, at the foot of what is now Main Street, Mr. Buse with Otto Kankel, built a grist mill and saw mill, erecting a dam a short distance up the river, the remains of which can still be seen in times of low water. The turbine wheel used to run the mill was brought from St. Anthony, having seen good service before as it was the first wheel used to generate power in Minnesota, dating back to 1849. The old wheel still lies in our courthouse yard — a relic of bygone days.

The building of the mill brought other settlers into the vicinity. About the first comers north of the Red Lake River were John Carlson and Ole Christofferson. Others soon followed, the country north of the river being settled mostly by Scandinavians, while south of the river the French were, as they still are, in the majority. A few Germans and English thrown in haphazard completed the making of a very good community. Around the mill the prospective village of Red Lake Falls soon centered. Frank E. Hunt kept the first store, located near the foot of Main Street. A few years afterward a log school house was built in the same locality and the first school taught by Miss Mamie Zeh. Soon afterward, also, Carl Kretzschmar, a man of enterprise and capital, appeared upon the scene, and built the Northside roller mill and the Kretzschmar brick block, by these means drawing the embryo village to an ideal location on the bank of the Clearwater, platted by Mr. Kretzschmar and called Kertzschmar's Addition. Prices of lots in this new and really beautiful location at once soared to the clouds. All adjoining lands, good and bad, and lots sold at speculative prices to parties all over the United States and in Europe. Many persons bought lots at from $200 to $500 each which they had never seen and haven't yet, and wouldn't have taken as a gift had they ever set eyes upon them. The writer remembers a stranger who, coming to the town some ten years later to see the lots he had bought in the "boom" days, was taken by a local real estate man to a hillside overlooking a watery swamp far from the business part of town, and told that his lots lay "out there," but he couldn't get to them except in winter when it froze up.

A massive oak tree, still standing near the residence of J. W. Rodgers on the Northside, was fitted up with a platform in its top and steps leading to it, and all prominent visitors were proudly escorted to this eminence by the mayor, whence they might view the glorious advantages of Red Lake Falls.

The city might still be clustered about the Kretzschmar Block, were it not for the fact that into this Eden crept a serpent, or, rather, two of them, in the shape of a pair of confidence sharpers named Coffin, who inveigled the ambitious but unsuspecting Kretzschmar into a number of schemes for capitalizing a company, secured his signature to important papers and decamped, leaving him financially stranded. Sympathetic citizens attempted to treat the Coffins to a lynching bee, but the birds flew and never returned. To this day they are held in deepest detestation by the old residents.

In the meantime the country south and east of town had become well settled. At one time there was a settler on every quarter section in Lambert and Poplar River Townships — a state of affairs which has never since existed.

The early residents came ill provided with money or necessaries and eagerly welcomed the first opportunity to "prove up" by making loans at high interest on their homesteads. Ten percent loans were rare, the more common rate of interest being two percent per month and a bonus to the agent. The homesteaders could scarcely keep up the interest payments, so that when the principal fell due, the mortgages were foreclosed and their farms taken from them because "company lands."

Transportation facilities were still very poor. The railroad having reached Crookston, all wheat had to be hauled there for shipment. Distance of the haul varied from twenty to forty miles. A regular wheat road was laid out and traveled, "kittercornering" across sections and this became in the fall and winter a well traveled highway. Upon it at short distances apart, saloons and stopping places were established whereat the weary traveler might refresh himself. As a consequence, the convivially-inclined wheat haulers often became more heavily loaded than were their sleighs, and their teams soberly traveled home alone, hours or even days ahead of their masters. Despite the roughness of it all, those were jolly days when cares were borne lightly and hardships were endured without complaining.

Relics of those times may still be seen in the square stone fronted buildings along the road. There were saloons at Gentilly, "Roux's Coulie," Looha's place, Badger Creek and other points.

In 1882 St. Hilaire was platted, the railroad reaching there the following year. A train was run only once a week. Thief River Falls was also started about this time.

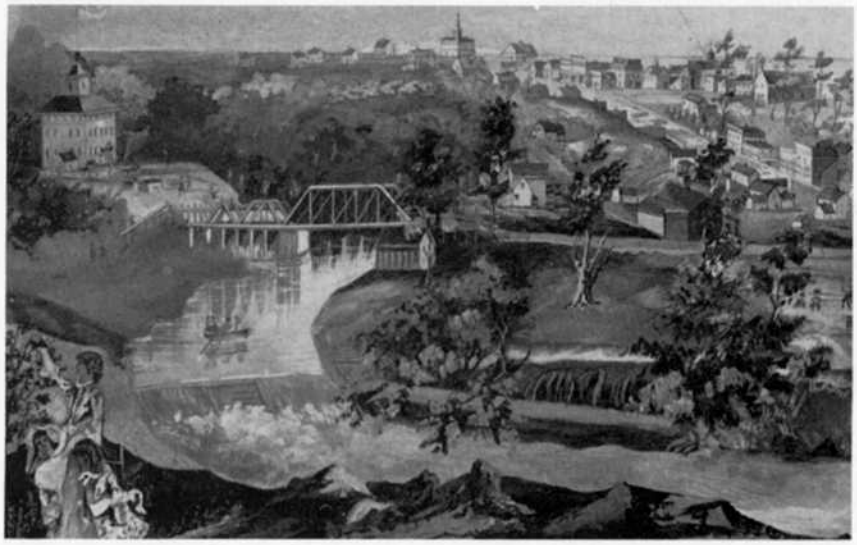
In 1886 the Northern Pacific built into Red Lake Falls, to be followed six years later by the Great Northern in 1892.

James B. Holmes, a promoter rather than a capitalist, was mainly instrumental in bringing the Northern Pacific into the city, and being desirous of making some money himself, located the depot at some distance from the rest of the town, platted the surrounding territory into "Railroad Addition" built several large store buildings and another mill near the depot and waited for the town to move. Happily he was in a great measure disappointed, and with the



ming of the Great Northern the city cen-
lized itself about Main Street and settled
wn to prepare for the prosperous future
at awaited it. The boom times were over.
lse starts and inflated beginnings have
een succeeded by a steady, real and
osperous growth, based upon the true
lvantages and opportunities offered by
e city and its surrounding territory. But
e thing was needed to complete the situ-
ion, that it become the central point and
unty seat of a county as prosperous as
elf. This happened in December, 1896,
d since then Red Lake Falls and Red
ke County have made great strides in
ogress. Their fame has spread through-
t the Northwestern states, and lo! many
angers, lured by no fictitious values but
real worth and golden opportunity, have
tered their gates to reap their bountiful
rvests and depart no more. What the
ture shall bring forth, who shall say? Yet
e past has its merry reminiscences and
man can say he is sorry to have lived in
ose early, stirring days.

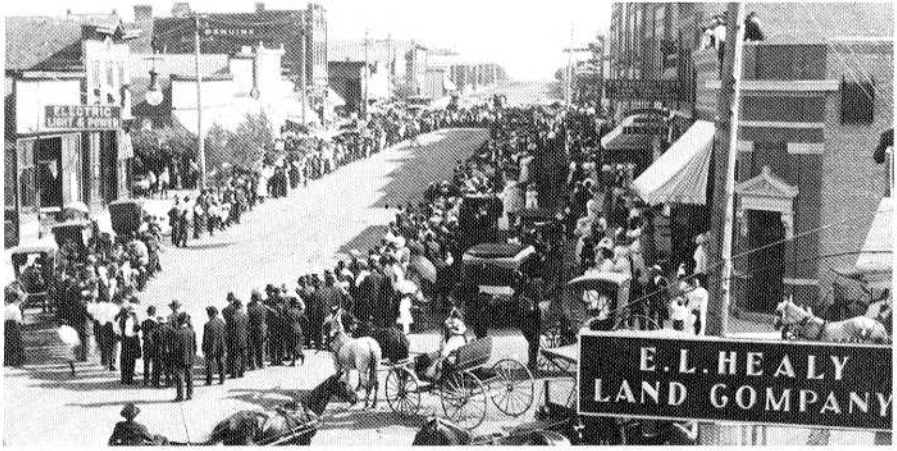
by Charles E. Boughton, Sr. 1902



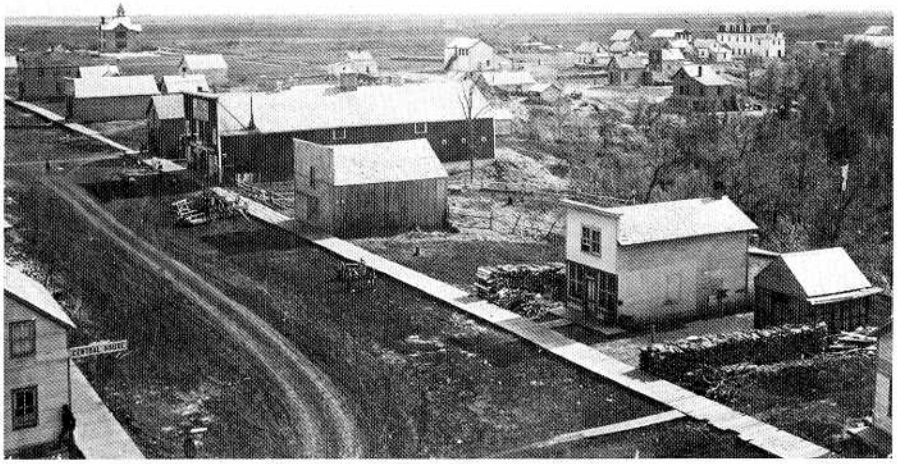
Red Lake Falls from Kretzschmar Avenue about 1880



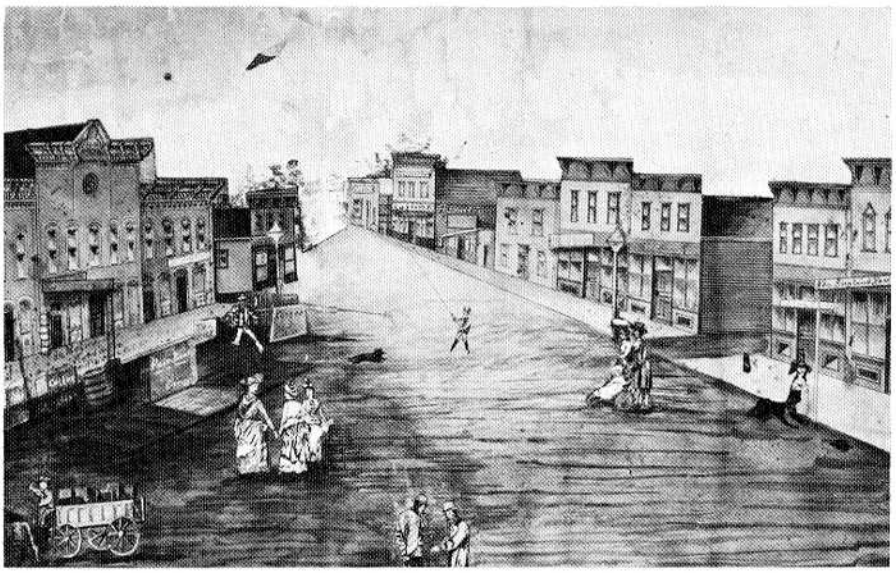
in Avenue 1890 looking northeast from First Street. Next to the Main Street Saloon is the City Meat Market. Three buildings down the street are a boot and
oe store, a drug store and a jewelry store.



Main Avenue, Fourth of July 1911



Champagne Avenue about 1890 from St. Joseph's steeple



North Side, Red Lake Falls, a painting by Rev. Ignatius Balluff. Carl Kretzschmar was the builder of the fine opera house (Brick Block) dated 1882. The Smith Mercantile Co. was housed on the main level and Taylor's Meat Market to the east. Other buildings were the Theo. Schmitz Hotel, Joe Helm's Pioneer Paint Shop and the M. Skala North Side Sample Room. J. N. Nimesgern sold groceries, fancy furniture and funeral supplies. A second opera house was constructed in 1898 on Hamilton and served for many years for community gatherings. To be noted with wonder and almost disbelief is that these buildings, and the bridges that led to them, should be there at all in 1882, just six years after Pierre Bottineau brought his first party of permanent settlers to this area and helped lay out the town.

RED LAKE FALLS IN 1976

Red Lake Falls was incorporated as a village in 1881 and as a city in 1898. Like the county for which it is the seat, it takes its name from Red Lakes and the Red Lake River. It became a well-established transportation trade center of northwestern Minnesota. Large lumbering operations occurred, but farming soon became the premier economic activity. Small tract farming was followed by the opening of large grain farms, and a sizeable milling industry also grew up. Because of the water power available from the rapids and falls, Red Lake Falls was at the forefront in this movement. Today only the remains of one old mill race remain as reminders of this early industry.

Throughout the twentieth century the City of Red Lake Falls has remained primarily a service and trade center for a large rural agricultural district. The importance of its role as the county seat cannot be denied, and recent years have seen the development of important industries, including one of Minnesota's first and largest mobile home manufacturers.

Red Lake Falls reached its population peak as early as 1900 when the United States census reported that 1,885 persons were living in the young city. Since that time a fluctuation of about 500 persons has occurred from census to census. By 1930 the city's population reached its lowest recorded level, 1,386 persons. Ten years later the figure was 1,500. For the next two decades this level was maintained, but early 1970 census results showed on increase to 1,603 persons. Population projections reveal that the 1978 level could reach 1,890 persons and could surpass the 2,000 persons mark in 1988. In 1975, however, the unofficial population count is just over 2,000.

There are currently about seventy-two separate business enterprises in operation, and a healthy business climate exists. Significantly, over fifty percent of Red Lake Falls' business enterprises have been situated in the same location for at least ten years, and twenty-five per cent indicate at least a twenty-year tenure.

Red Lake Falls is like an oasis in the desert; situated as it is, between the Clearwater and Red Lake Rivers. Local attractions have been developed to take advantage of the geography including the golf course, the picnic area, the swimming beach, and the continually developing Sportsman's Park area.

In order to encourage new industry the city built an Industrial Park located in the southwest part of the city. The water and sewer facilities and paved access roads for the 134 acre area were completed in 1974.

Red Lake Falls City Planning Commission adopted a comprehensive planning charter in 1970, designed to provide for orderly future growth and development in the city. A hallmark of the 10-15 year guideline for physical development was the passing of a city zoning ordinance that same year. In its far reaching effects, priority was placed on improving aesthetics inside the city; landscaping of business areas and park improvements being among those concerns.

Red Lake Falls City Council members 1976: Mayor, Vaughn Thorfinnson; Alderman First Ward, Herb Johanneck; Alderman Second Ward, Lawrence Philion; Alderman Third Ward, Edwin Etterman; Alderman at-Large, Roger Eckstein and Fred Violette.

Positions appointed by the mayor and approved by the Council: Clerk, Phil Cuno; Water Superintendent, Ray St. Marie;



City Council 1976. Roger Eckstein, Lawrence Philion, Ed Etterman, Herbert Johanneck, Fred Violette and Mayor Vaughn Thorfinnson.

Street Superintendent, Richard Knott; Park Superintendent, Noel Pearson; Manager Municipal Supply, Ken Hagl.

ERNEST G. BUSE

Ernest G. Buse came to the Red Lake Falls area in the year 1877. He was seeking a site that could offer water power for industry. Upon his arrival he found that the Indians he had spoken to had directed him correctly. He sighted twelve distinct water power sites along the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers, and decided immediately to settle and build a fortune to replace the one he had just lost.

Buse was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, on January 26, 1837, to Karl and Lisette Ohm Buse. In the year 1852, when Buse was sixteen, the family left Germany and came to America where they settled in Buffalo, New York. They stayed only two years during which time Buse was employed as a clerk in a shoe store.

The family came to Minnesota in 1854 with seventeen other families and settled about eight miles from Red Wing on Hay Creek. At this time the Sioux and the Chippewa were at war with each other and their warlike behavior along with wildness of the land finally scared ten families back to New York. Those who stayed weathered the Indian scares and the wilderness on their farms.

In 1857, the Sioux massacred some white settlers to the west of Red Wing and Indians all over western and northern Minnesota rose against the white settlers. These were terrifying times for the frontiersmen and their families. After the Minnesota River Massacre in 1862, Buse joined the settler's fight against the Indians. Armed by the government, Buse and the other settlers fought for more than two years to save their farms.

Finally in 1864, the settlers disbanded and Buse joined the Union army by enlisting in F Company of the Third Minnesota Regiment. While in the army, he was outfitted with old Belgian muskets and paid $13.00 per month. At the close of the Civil War in 1866, Buse returned to Minnesota intending to go into business. In a 1913 interview, Buse states that he joined the army only for excitement.

He ended up settling in Fergus Falls where he was the first settler and founder of that community. While living at Fergus Falls, Buse was the only white man for miles and found that although he was surrounded on all sides by the Sioux and the Chippewa, he was able to live peacefully enough because they were more interested in each other than in him. Later in 1868, Buse was joined by a brother-in-law, C. Grussendorf. The present town of Fergus Falls was formed out of the town called



ERNEST BUSE.

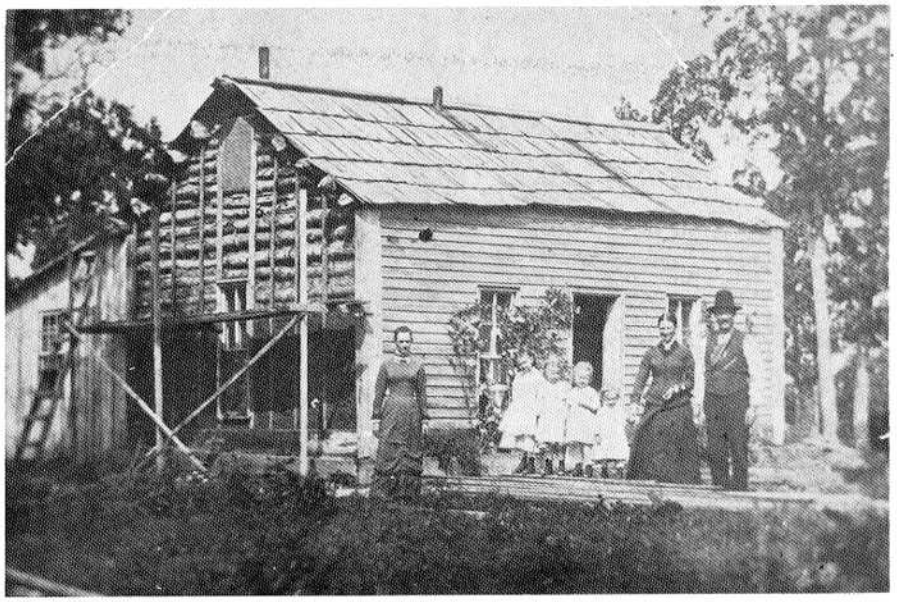
Buse, after its founder, and out of the acreage called Grussendorf's Addition, owned by Buse's brother-in-law. Eventually Buse owned 5,000 acres of what is now Fergus Falls, and was the possessor of a small fortune.

Successive economic disasters left Buse without land or fortune in the late 1870's. It began when the railroad came to Fergus Falls. Ernest Buse was contracted to build homes for the railroad personnel. He had started five homes and nearly had them completed when the area was stricken by grasshoppers. The economics of the area went into severe decline and Buse was forced to borrow $5,000.00 at 5% interest per month, which amounted to about 60% per year. The interest was compounded monthly, which raised the yearly rate to 100%. When the debt reached $20,000.00 he said in an interview, "They closed me out."

In about the year 1877, Buse left his ruined business in Fergus Falls and headed northward seeking new enterprises. Indians he spoke to along the way had described the Red Lake River area to him, and when he saw it, he knew they were right. When he arrived he found that the area was already occupied by some French settlers, including Pierre Bottineau, who had brought his family and some of the rest of the settlers in the year before. In the year that Buse arrived, Bottineau brought another group in from Canada including the Brunelles, Perreaults, LaBissonieres, and others. At this time, Pierre Bottineau's son, John Baptiste Bottineau, who was a prominent St. Paul lawyer, owned about 7,000 acres in the area, including the Red Lake Falls townsite. His title, however, proved defective and the area was opened to homesteaders. Buse, along with Xavier Sohler, immediately took up the townsite and platted it a year later. In the meantime Buse chose his own homestead and built the first residence of Red Lake Falls.

In the spring of 1878, Otto Kankel took a claim that later became Kretzschmar's Addition. Buse and he went into partnership and built a grist and saw mill, and they erected a dam upstream on the river. The wheel used to turn the mill was a 72 inch turbine which dated back to 1849. It had been used to turn a grist mill in St. Anthony, which was later part of Minneapolis, and was the first wheel to be used in Minnesota.

In 1882, Buse left Red Lake Falls and lived in Minneapolis for several years. After the death of his first wife in May of 1885,



The Ernest Buse residence built in 1877 was located on the hill of the present Red Lake County court house.

he returned to Germany for a visit. While in Germany he remarried and when he returned to this country in 1886, he went to Vancouver, British Columbia where he made and lost another fortune.

Buse invested in lots in Vancouver at $5.00 per lot. When the price rose to $50.00 per lot, he quickly sold out and invested $84,000 in a sash and door factory, a sawmill, and shingle mill.' Shortly thereafter the price of lumber dropped to next to nothing and the mills in the area had no choice but to close. With the mills closed, Buse went to Chicago on a business trip. In his absence, his insurance expired and the factory and mills caught fire and burned to the ground. Buse returned to find his property and wealth gone. It was then, in about 1896, that he returned to Red Lake Falls, where he still owned considerable property.

Ernest Buse is known also as the "Father of County Division," having apparently first fostered and initiated the movement in 1886 at a cost of $600.00 to himself. In later years he remained a prominent county supporter and furnished the first county courthouse. In 1904 he ran for sheriff in Red Lake County but was defeated, and he served as Red Lake Falls' first postmaster. In an interview from the year 1897, Buse extols the virtues of Red Lake Falls and its resource of water power. He genuinely believed that Red Lake Falls would become the source of power for all industry in Northern Minnesota.

Buse was married twice and had twelve children. His first marriage was in 1869 to Eliza Geenagle. There were eight children from this marriage: Eliza, who died in infancy, Ernest, who also died in infancy, Louisa, Pauline, May, Lillie, Alice, and Ernest. Buse's second marriage was in Germany in 1886 to Teresa Scholtz and they had four children: Walter, Olga, Teresa, who died in infancy, and Carl. (See Buse Family History).

Ernest Buse died in Lodi, California, on January 29, 1914. He is buried in Fergus Falls at the Oak Grove Cemetery. In the last years of his life, Buse was interviewed extensively about his frontier life and about his adventures. He recalled encounters with bears and with Indians, and he related his feelings about political issues. His statements show a modest man who tried to be realistic about his own abilities and about the experiences, both good and bad. Following are some excerpts from statements made in various interviews around the turn of the century.

An Indian encounter taken from Wheelock's Weekly, Thursday, December 21, 1899: "One day I went to town — Alexandria; it was fifty miles — to buy goods and do business, and on my way back home, in St. Olaf township, I saw all the farmers at work building a fort and throwing up breastworks. The settlers informed me that the Indians had broken out again, and that they had killed everybody in Fergus Falls. As my family was the only one that lived there, I was paralyzed. I put my horse to a full gallop, and the 15 miles were covered in a short time; but I found my family all right. I then went to an Indian tepee which was nearby and investigated the trouble. The chief told me that it was only between a Sioux tribe near Big Stone Lake and their tribe that the trouble was, and I need not be scared. He gave me his word of honor that he would let me know if I ought to leave."

A description of "better times" taken from the same issue of the Wheelock's Weekly: "In a short time all the trouble was over, and times were good, for money was not in the country. Every business man made his own money on a piece of paper or cardboard. That was all the money we knew of. A gold dollar was worth from $2 to $3 in paper. (Times were good). About once a week we would go to a dance. We would take a yoke of oxen and a sleigh, put plenty of hay in the box, take our fiddler along, all get in and off we would go to some neighbor's and have a good time. Ten or fifteen years passed, and we looked back and saw what a lot of mistakes we made in not taking better advantage of frontier times. In 1865 the Civil War and Indian troubles were all over, and now was the time to frontier again and strike for a prospect of a new townsite. So a pair of ponies were hitched to a covered wagon, and revolvers were strapped on and a pocket compass headed us for the northwest again. Everything went all right. (For times were good). No bridges were across the streams and no roads across the beautiful prairies, and only Indian canoes were on the lakes, but there were plenty of fish and fine game, ducks, geese and deer. Bear and wild cats, lynx and rattlesnakes. (Times were good)."

A description of Red Lake Falls taken from Wheelock's Weekly, December 21, 1899. "Red Lake Falls is in most respects like Fergus Falls, with unlimited water powers, that will make thriving cities. I remember when the first railroad was built from St. Paul to St. Cloud, a little station was built about two miles east of Minneapolis. It was not worthwhile going to Minneapolis, but water power told them different when it got started. Water powers have made Minneapolis and water powers make cities all over the world. Water powers have built Minneapolis from nothing to over 150,000. Water powers have made Fergus Falls from nothing to 6,500 in thirty years. Water powers have made Red Lake Falls from nothing to 3,000 in 19 years. If we could see twenty-five years ahead I think it would astonish us to see what electricity and water power will bring us."

Opinion on the Indian question, Wheelock's Weekly, December 21, 1899. "I have a little to say about our Indian reserves. If the government would allow three white settlers and one Indian settler on each section of land our Indians would be loyal citizens in less than ten years and Indian troubles would all be settled.

An Indian story from the Fergus Falls Daily Journal, Saturday, March 9, 1935. The quotes are taken from a 1913 interview. "There were not a great many Indians but they hunted and trapped all through here. The Sioux lived down towards Lake Traverse and the Chippewas up this way. The Sioux came up occasionally on their ponies to fight. I was on good terms with both and they would sometimes come to my house, where the Kaddatz residence now stands, to beg something to eat. The Sioux would ask me the whereabouts of the Chippewas and the Chippewa would ask me about the Sioux but I told them nothing, as I did not want to mix in their battles."

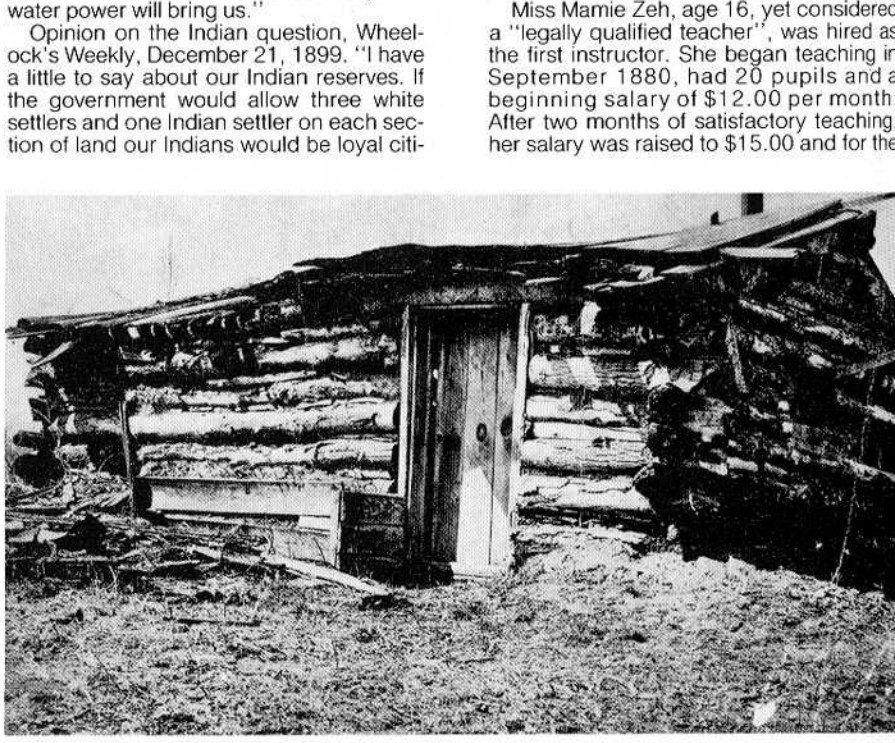
"There were two Chippewas, who remained as a sort of sentinels in what is now the eastern part of Fergus Falls. They stayed in a piece of woods and used to sleep between two logs. The Sioux caught one of them at one time and cut him to pieces."

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN RED LAKE FALLS 1880-1976

From the log shanty in 1880 to the modern school facilities found in Red Lake Falls in 1976, there is ample evidence that this community has maintained a supportive interest in education.

Red Lake Fall's first school was a small log house called, "Buse's Shanty", located, in terms of present landmarks, as down the hill and to the north of the courthouse. The decision to open the school was made at a special meeting held at Schreiter's store in Red Lake Falls on September 4, 1880. Otto F. Buse was the first chairman of the school board and Dr. L. Lemieux was the first clerk of the district. Adam Zeh, W. A. Schreiter and John Wilkens were among the first trustees of School District No. 15 in Polk County. Red Lake County was a part of Polk County at that time.

Miss Mamie Zeh, age 16, yet considered a "legally qualified teacher", was hired as the first instructor. She began teaching in September 1880, had 20 pupils and a beginning salary of $12.00 per month. After two months of satisfactory teaching her salary was raised to $15.00 and for the



Buse's Shanty, the first school house in Red Lake Falls.

last three months of the term she was paid $20.00 per month. A janitor was hired for 30¢ per week in 1880.

The needs of the village soon demanded improved quarters and in 1881 a building was erected on the site of the original townsite on Bottineau Avenue. In 1882 an independent school district was organized and a pretentious frame building was erected at a cost of $5,000.00. This building had four well lighted rooms and was located south of the present home of Dr. Jack Harris. This building was destroyed by fire in 1904. Until new facilities were built, classes were held in the opera house in the market square on the northside in Red Lake Falls.

The new elementary school built several months later was located on the present site of Hillcrest Nursing Home. This four-room, two-story brick building was named Washington School. In addition to the elementary grades, the Normal Training Department was located in this building for a time. This school was torn down in 1958.

In 1891, the board decided that more space was needed and a second school was built where the present Lafayette High School stands. This building was eventually used for a high school though at first it was primarily an elementary school.

The first actual high school was an experimental program organized by P. T. McNally in 1897-1898. Classes were held over what is now Thompson's Hardware Store. The first class was graduated in 1901. The three members were Josephine Kaus, Elizabeth McNerthney and Elizabeth Hunt.

In 1897, the county superintendent's records show that the Lafayette-Washington schools employed eight teachers and the average wage was $35.00 per month. Records from 1900 show that some of the teachers in the Lafayette-Washington School system were high school graduates but only one or two had attended college. It was not necessary for a teacher to be a high school graduate as long as he or she had passed a State examination.

A program was begun in conjunction with Lafayette High School in 1909 called a State Summer Training School. In this program, those wishing to teach rural elementary schools would read State specified books to earn credits toward their teaching certificates. This program was terminated in 1928.

A Normal Training department was started at Lafayette and graduated its first class in 1912. This one-year post high school program of training, prepared teachers for positions in rural elementary schools. This was a one-teacher department that included in its program a spring primary class conducted for about six weeks. These were the first primary classes held in Red Lake Falls. Sedate M. Brown was the first instructor in the Normal Training department. Others who each taught for extended periods included: Hulda Swedberg, Mrs. Stella R. Kelley and Mrs. Isabelle Gilbert. With the closing of many rural schools and the consolidating of school districts, fewer rural teachers were needed, thus, this department was discontinued about 1950.

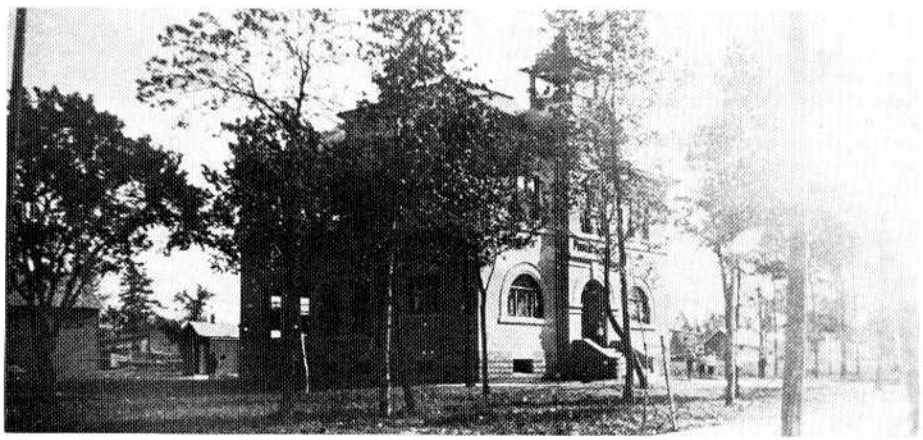
Tragedy struck the school system again in the spring of 1913 when the old Lafayette building burned to the ground. This building was insured for $1,500.00. After the fire, classes were held in the basement of the court house, in the Woodman Hall and in the basement of the Presbyterian



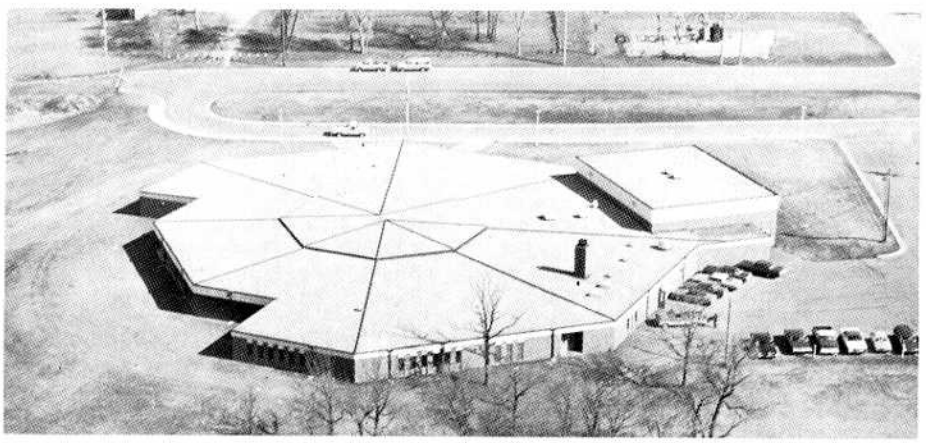
First Lafayette High School built in 1891



Lafayette High School erected in 1914



Washington School built in 1905



New Washington School completed in 1967

By September 1914 the two-story brick portion of the present Lafayette High School was completed, and classes began on schedule. Records show that this building and equipment cost $65,000.00. By 1914 standards, this building was large and very modern. It included an assembly hall which could seat 350 people and had 16 classrooms. Two general courses of study were offered, one preparatory to further study in college, and the other designed for vocational training.

In 1915, five teachers were employed in the high school. The total enrollment at Washington and Lafayette schools that year was 354.

Looking after this new building, its students and faculty, was Michael Pinsonneault. "Mike" was engineer, janitor and general caretaker both inside and outside the Lafayette building. He had the respect of both students and faculty, and was a friend to all. In 1937 the students dedicated the annual to him. After serving the district faithfully for 35 years, "Mike" was presented with a watch during commencement exercises in 1942. He retired in 1943.

Although school enrollment dipped somewhat in the 1920's and 1930's, it came back to 356 in 1940. By this time, however, 15 teachers were employed in the high school. Wages had climbed from an average of $100.00 per month in 1920 to $124.00 per month in 1940.

Through the years, the curriculum in the high school has changed in keeping with State Department of Education requirements, the needs of the community and the space available.

Early records indicate that agriculture was taught for a time and for a number of years, Latin was offered. In the 1950's this was replaced with Spanish.

Domestic science, now called home economics, was offered before the 1913 fire with Mary Holland the first instructor. These classes were curtailed until the new building was completed in 1914. Manual training, now called industrial arts, was also offered before the fire. James Culhane, the first instructor, held classes temporarily in Mead's garage until the new building was completed.

Following a survey conducted in the late 1920's, a need for more vocational training was evident and commercial courses were added to the curriculum. Typing, shorthand and bookkeeping were taught by Margaret Rude. Others who taught for extended periods in the commercial department were Mary I. Fallon and Betty Brecto. This popular program of training has continued to grow and to change in keeping with modern office practices. Currently, training is offered in the use of a variety of business machines.

In the early 1940's, art and music classes at Lafayette were first offered only to seventh and eighth grade students. Later, both of these programs were expanded. Training in instrumental music came first. Following the completion of the 1963 addition to Lafayette, training in vocal music has been offered. This addition also provided space for an art department that currently offers training in a variety of art mediums. Michael Moen organized this new department.

Classes in special education began in the late 1950's with Dessie Smith as the first teacher. This program has been expanded with classes currently held at both Washington and Lafayette schools. It is now known as the S.L.B.P. program.

Evening adult classes have been offered in Red Lake Falls for a number of years. Courses to be taught have been decided by community interest and have covered a broad range of subjects.

Extracurricular activities began in the early days of the high school. The senior class play in 1910 was "Hics Went to College". Lydia Gerlach (Mrs. Arnold Zutz) played the leading female role, and L. B. Koos, superintendent, directed the play. The setting was built by the senior class and the production staged in the movie theater. At least one class play was presented at the courthouse. There have been a variety of productions. There was a one-act play contest in 1914 in the new assembly hall at Lafayette. In 1923, an operetta, "The Bells of Beaujolais" was presented. J. A. Hughes, superintendent, directed Lafayette's stage productions for a number of years. Some others who have coached plays include: Fred Hacket, Arley Jonish, Lucille Brummer and James McConnell. Presently, Fred Sorensen and Rebecca Rinkenberger are directing the play productions at Lafayette.

Records indicate that there was a football team at Lafayette as early as 1904. "Bill" Ittner, who went on to become an All-American tackle at the University of Minnesota, was a member of that team. The old city fairgrounds, behind what is now the Detroiter plant, was the football field in those early days. In the early 1930s, the playing field was moved to an area on the present golf course. Next, an area near the Clearwater River was developed for a practice and playing field. This is now known as the ball park. It is well-lighted and is used for both football and baseball.

Beginning in 1925, J. A. Hughes assisted by E. F. Kiland, coached the football teams. In 1936 Russell Monson was hired to coach football. Previous to this time, faculty or administrators did coaching in addition to their other duties. This was not because they had special training or skills, but because they were interested in developing an athletic program for the sports-minded students at Lafayette.

Basketball began at Lafayette in the early 1930's. The building used at that time has now burned, but it was located on Main Avenue just south of the present Dodds Drug Store. E. F. Kiland (assisted by J. A. Hughes) coached these early basketball teams. When the Community Hall was completed in 1936, basketball moved to the hall and continued there until 1958, when the Lafayette gymnasium was completed. Russell Monson began coaching basketball in 1936. Orvin Richardson became the head basketball coach in 1938.

Track was the spring sport when there was sufficient student interest. J. A. Hughes coached those early track teams. Russell Monson began coaching track teams in 1937.

In 1937, George Christie, Robert Fellman, Warren Huot and Maurice Roy formed an active golf club. This foursome, coached by E. F. Kiland, took part in several golf meets. In 1958, golf was again organized at Lafayette with Roger Arvidson as the coach. Harold Spears began coaching golf in 1959 and continued in that capacity for a number of years.

In the early 1940's, Lafayette had organized tumbling teams for both boys and girls. Russell Monson coached the boys, and Rocelia Rud coached the girls group. These teams often provided entertainment during half-time at basketball games. In 1942, the girls team with Norma Beadles as its star, performed at a Y.M.C.A. circus in Grand Forks.

Baseball began as an organized sport in 1952 with Harold Kraft as its first coach.

In 1955, hockey on the high school level was initiated in Red Lake Falls. Superintendent A. R. Ehrnst coached this first team. An out-door rink located on the site of the present tennis courts was used until the present city arena was completed in 1964.

An extracurricular program in speech, once called declamation, has been available for Lafayette students for more than half a century. At first, only memorized orations and memorized humorous or dramatic readings were entered in contests. Later, extemporaneous speaking and original speeches were included. J. A. Hughes directed the early speech activities. From 1937-1943, Alice Cockerill (Mrs. E. F. Kiland) coached declamation, with assistance from Alfred Mathews in 1942. Presently Rebecca Rinkenberger and Cheryl Matzke are the speech coaches at Lafayette.

Lafayette had debate teams in the 1930's, coached by J. A. Hughes. For some years, one-act plays have been produced and entered in competition with other schools in district 31.

The Lafayette Band was first organized in 1931. Before this time, there was a municipal band that included many high school students. Robert T. Reynolds was the first director. The simple dark capes worn by the city band became the uniform for the group. Lauren H. Amdahl directed the band from 1936-1947 and in 1937, there were 44 members from grades four through twelve. The band played at ball games, took part in parades and played weekly concerts in the park in the spring and summer. In 1940, new purple and gold military uniforms were purchased. Baton twirlers, both boys and girls, added color for this early band. A pep band of 20 members was organized in 1945. In 1949, under the direction of E. P. Rockswold, there were 35 members in the concert band and 23 members in the pep band.

In addition to participating at many local functions, the band has performed at numerous special functions in the area. They have marched in parades at a long list of celebrations, including some in Winnipeg, Fargo, Grand Forks and Detroit Lakes. In 1951 they performed at the Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul. The band, plus various instrumental groups and ensembles, have, through the years, participated in competition with other schools in district 31 music contests.

In 1962, while Kenneth Larsen was the band director, the black and gold uniforms were purchased. There were 50 members in the band at that time. When Edward Dahle, the present director, took over his duties in 1966, there were 44 members in the concert band, 40 members in the junior band and 30 members in the beginner's band. In 1975, new purple uniforms with white and gold braid trim were ordered. At the present time the band has 222 members performing in various groups such as concert band, stage band (jazz), German band and brass choir. Of these students, 64 are in 5th and 6th grades and 63 are in the 7th and 8th grades.

Vocal music groups were organized at different times. A girls' glee club was directed by J. A. Hughes and later by Lauren Amdahl, who also directed a boys' glee club. Offerings in vocal musical training were increased with the additions to Lafay-

ette. Gerald Eggers, the first full-time vocal music instructor, directed the vocal groups in concerts and in contests for a number of years until he left the school system in 1975. Kim Mulvaney is the present director of vocal music at Lafayette.

Cheerleaders and pep squads have been active through the years, leading the cheering section at pep fests and at athletic events.

A Future Homemakers of America Chapter (F.H.A.) has been active since 1963. The local chapter is a part of the National F.H.A. organization and is sponsored by the home economics department. On several occasions, local members have been elected to district and state offices. Jean Hanson was the first chapter advisor. Doris Campbell is the current advisor, assisted by Marlys Anderson.

For a period in the 1930's and 1940's, the school carnival was an important activity at Lafayette. This was a one-night stand and an all-out effort to raise money to help support the extracurricular program. All available space at Lafayette and (after 1936) at the Community Hall, was used to provide entertainment for a small fee. In addition to the students, the normal training department, all the faculty and the administration had a part. Skits, minstrel shows and choruses varied from year to year, but the fish pond, boxing, wrestling and the refreshment stand appeared annually. After 1936, the program finale was a dance from 10 to 1 at the hall. Carnival proceeds ranged from $95.00 in 1933 to $275.00 in 1940.

In 1970, girls volleyball, track and basketball teams were organized. These teams, coached by Cheryl Matzke and Judy Jurgens, compete with other girls' teams in district 31.

Following the completion of the Community Hall in 1936, the schools used these facilities. Both boys and girls went to the hall for their physical education classes. The stage was used for plays, concerts, lyceum programs and for graduation exercises. The facilities in the basement were used for junior-senior banquets and for athletic recognition banquets. A number of proms and basketball games were held at the hall.

The first school bus to bring students to Lafayette was owned and operated by Theo. Clement who started in 1937 and transported high school students from the Terrebonne area. Mr. Clement continued to operate this bus route until 1957. During this period the district began to buy buses as the need developed, and hired drivers. In 1976, the school district owns and operates 12 buses with routes that traverse the district, transporting students from kindergarten through high school.

A noon lunch program began at Lafayette in the late 1930's. One hot food, such as cocoa or soup, was prepared in the home economics department and served in the assembly hall. A cook who worked a few hours daily did the preparation with student help in serving under the supervision of Alice Cockerill. This program has grown through the years. The lunchrooms and the kitchen now use nearly the entire north side of the basement at Lafayette, where two full-time and two part-time cooks are employed. There is a well-equipped kitchen and serving area at Washington school with two full-time cooks and one part-time helper preparing and serving the noon meal. Pamela Erickson is the present director of the lunch program.

Because the first records of the schools are sketchy, information about the earliest administrators and the dates of their employment are imcomplete. P. T. McNally is the first superintendent on record (1897) and is credited with organizing the high school. Some others who headed the schools in those first 25 years include; F. A. Whiteley, 1903; E. W. Chamberlain, 1904; L. B. Koos, 1910; Clyde Workman, 1913; Newton Speece, 1916; Walter B. Numbers, 1917; Leo DeLong, 1920; T. C. Ullereng, 1922; and J. W. McNeal, 1923.

When J. A. Hughes was hired in 1925, there were 12 teachers and 42 students in the high school. Early administrators taught classes, directed extra-curricular activities and performed numerous other duties not presently regarded as those of the superintendent. In 1935, with the guidance of Mr. Hughes, the senior class produced the first school paper. He was the advisor for the student staff who published the first annual in 1937 and for the first student council which was organized in 1940. In the spring of 1940, Margaret Meyer was hired as the first school secretary. When J. A. Hughes left the schools in 1950, after a record 25 years of service, a total of 20 teachers were employed, and there were 150 students enrolled in the high school.

E. J. Shukle was the superintendent from 1950-1955. He was followed by A. R. Ehrnst from 1955-1957. During this period, an increase in enrollment was projected and a need for more space in the near future was recognized. Studies were done; alternate plans and costs were considered. Finally, contracts were awarded and construction began on the gymnasium and classroom addition to the Lafayette building. Additional classroom space was planned for a future addition.

Harold C. Gulbrandson served as superintendent from 1957-1960 and Olger Olson from 1960-1964. These were years when there was extensive building, remodeling and moving at Lafayette. The new addition (completed in 1958) includes a modern gymnasium with a stage. There are locker and shower rooms for both boys and girls, a band room and a new industrial arts department. The entire series of classrooms on the west side of this addition was used by the elementary grades. The second addition to Lafayette was planned and constructed in 1963. This area included a new home economics department and additional classrooms.

When E. Dale Birkeland began his duties as superintendent in 1964, the elementary classrooms were becoming crowded, and a marked increase in the number of elementary students was projected. The need for a new building was recognized, but controversy regarding a suitable site prevailed. Studies were made and after some delay, a new elementary school was built on the north side at the end of Hamilton Avenue N.E. In 1965 and 1966, elementary enrollment increased greatly, making classroom space outside the school necessary. For about two years before the new building was completed, the basement of St. John's Church and the basement of the Community Hall were both used, with two classes held at each location. During the 1966-1967 school year, the total enrollment was 670. There were 24 high school and 11 elementary teachers receiving an average monthly salary of $508.00.

The new Washington school was completed in 1967 at a cost of $595,000.00. This spacious modern building is described as being library-centered. Six large rooms, each used for two classes, surround the library. In addition there are rooms for special classes and counseling, a music room, two kindergarten rooms, a nurse's station, a faculty lounge and office space. The gymnasium, also used as the lunchroom, adjoins a modern kitchen. When Washington school opened, William Jackson, the present principal, was hired as the district's first elementary principal.

Lowell D. Larson succeeded Mr. Birkeland as superintendent in 1969 and held that position until 1975. Modular scheduling, a relatively new concept in education, had been started in the high school and under his guidance, this plan was developed and modified to meet the local needs.

Through the formation of the East Polk-Red Lake County Vocational Center in 1969, additional areas of vocational training became available for high school students. E. J. Shukle was the first director of this program which was made possible through the cooperation of several school districts in the two counties. Winton Gackstetter was the program director during the 1971-1972 school year. At the present time, the Mentor, Oklee and Red Lake Falls schools are participating in the program with classes held in Red Lake Falls. Current course offerings include: automotive tune-up, automotive repair, recreational vehicles, health occupations, educational occupations, foods occupations, consumer homemaking and buildings and trades. Three full-time and two part-time instructors are employed. Jean Hanson has directed the program since 1972.

Because the records are sketchy and memories sometimes vague, this list of early high school principals is incomplete. The first principal on record is Eleanor Hanson in 1906. Other early principals include: Erma Lewis, 1908; Louise Twinam, 1909; Marie L. Smith, 1912; Otto Reinhard, 1913; Stephen Bakalyar, 1914; Charles Boyer, 1915; C. J. Ekren, 1917; Vera Curtis, 1918; Hulda Hanson, 1922 and August Ehmke in 1925. For many years, the duties of the principal were in addition to a full teaching schedule, with his or her classroom serving as the principal's office.

After the first twenty years, the high school principals have been: Edwin F. Kiland, 1926-1938; Mary I. Fallon, 1938-1943; Lauren H. Amdahl, 1943-1946; E. J. Shukle, 1946-1950; Joseph H. Haller, 1950-1972 and Dennis D. Wahl beginning in 1972. Mr. Haller holds the record for long service. During his tenure, teaching duties were phased out of his schedule, allowing him to devote more time to guidance and counseling. As a full principal, he had an office on the second floor of Lafayette. In the mid 1960s, his office was moved to the newly remodeled space on the first floor that had formerly been used as part of the home economics department. A full-time secretary was hired, and later a part-time secretary was added.

Hundreds of people not mentioned in this history, have played a part in charting the course of the schools, and in shaping the lives of the youth in Red Lake Falls. Those who have served on the school boards have given many years of dedicated service to the school district. Serving on the present board of Independent District No. 630 are Donald Boutain, Ronald J. Brule, Patricia Mersy, Robert G. Miller (chairman), Robert Poirer and Willard Purath (clerk).

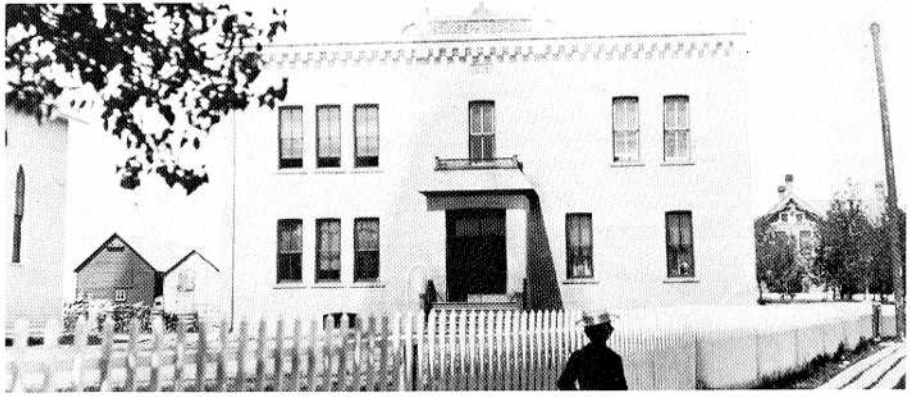
In 1976, Norman J. Chaffee is the superintendent of schools. There are 291 students enrolled at Washington school and

425 students at Lafayette. Eighteen teachers, a principal and a teachers's aid are on the staff at Washington school. At Lafayette, there are 34 teachers, a principal and two teacher's aids. These figures include a counselor at Lafayette, and a school nurse and a speech therapist who are shared with the Oklee schools. Four are employed full-time in the offices at Lafayette, and one secretary is employed at Washington school. Lafayette has three full-time and one part-time custodian; two full-time custodians are employed at Washington. Four full-time and three part-time employees work with the school lunch programs. The vocational program has a director, a clerk, three full-time and two part-time instructors. Bus drivers are hired on a part-time basis to drive the twelve district-owned buses. In 1976, Independent School District No. 630 has become one of the largest employers in Red Lake County.

In addition to the Washington and Lafayette schools, the district owns the brick building located on the corner of Champagne Avenue S.W. and 2nd Street, presently used for vocational classes. The insured value of district property is currently in excess of $2,000,000. The present annual operating budget of the school district is $1,160,013. From this total, $59,000.00 pays the salary of the superintendent and the two principals, and $511,821 goes for faculty salaries. The average annual salary for full-time faculty in the school system is approximately $11,750. From, "Buses Shanty", with one teacher in 1880, public education in Red Lake Falls has grown into a big business in 1976.

Much of the material in this history has come from school records. Some has come from the files of the Red Lake Falls Gazette; some has come from a copy of the Lafayette Eagle, published on April 13, 1967. The remainder of this information came from the countless local people who had some records and/or good memories.

Alice Kiland



St. Joseph's School 1913



New St. Joseph's School completed in 1952



In 1913 and 1914 classes were scattered all over town following a school fire. These fourth and fifth grades were housed in the Old Swedish Lutheran church on the river bank. Each pupil had two chairs, one for a seat and the other a desk. Heat was provided by a large stove. Some of these pupils were Lenora Febro, John and Ralph Sortedahl, Gladys Converse, Vernon and George Pushinsky, William and Clara Jackson, Leora Krueger, Clarence Pouliot, Rose Sieff, and Minnie and Walter Patnode.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

The earliest reference to St. Joseph's School comes from an article in the Red Lake Falls "Gazette" dated December 22, 1904: "One of the newest, yet most successful of the Red Lake Falls enterprises is St. Joseph's parochial school, a beautiful brick structure built by the congregation of St. Joseph's Church two years ago at a cost of nearly $8000.00. Since its establishment, the school has been very successful, and today nearly 300 scholars are enrolled there."

The school was built during the pastorate of Father Fayolle and, along with the regular course-work, featured classes in French, German, and other languages. Reference is made to "a most excellent music instructor" who had charge of the music department in the school, and to the fact that students attending St. Joseph's school were from all denominations.

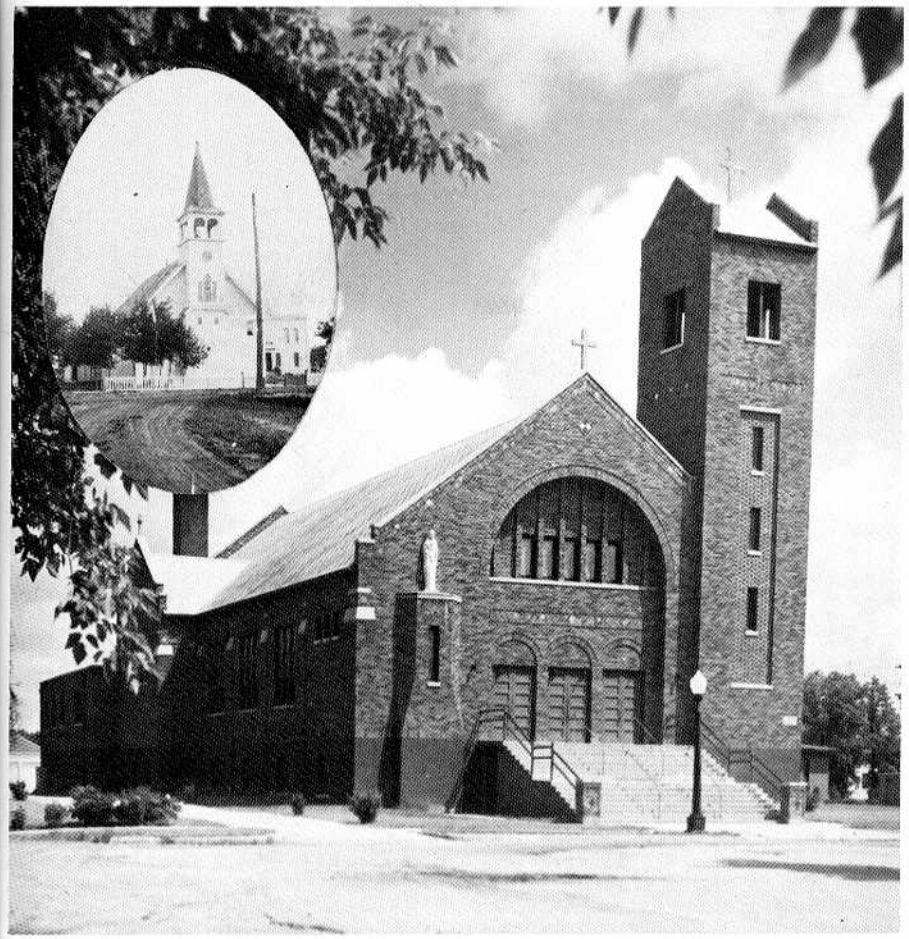
In 1917, an addition was built which provided living quarters for the sisters and allowed the use of four rooms as additional classrooms. High School courses were introduced and were offered until 1930. Gradually, the passing years took their toll on the building, and in 1952 the parishioners held a parish meeting and, together with their pastor, Father William Keefe, arrived at a decision to build a new school along with a new convent and rectory.

On May 4, 1952, closing exercises were held and nine days later a wrecking company began disassembling the 50-year-old school building. The cornerstone for the new St. Joseph's School was blessed by Bishop Schenk and laid in place on June 1, 1952, and by September 2, 1952, the school was ready for occupancy. Dedication ceremonies took place on September 28, with tribute being paid to Father Keefe, the pastor, to the many men volunteers who supplied much of the labor, and to the women for their many work projects and fund-raising activities.

St. Joseph's School is a fully-accredited academic institution for students in grades one through eight. In addition, it provides training in Christian values and liturgy, and accepts children of any faith heritage.

The Sisters of St. Benedict from Duluth and Crookston have been supplying the teachers since the school opened its doors. Lay-teachers are also presently employed.

Probably the best description of the work at St. Joseph's School can be found in the educational philosophy drawn up by the school faculty: "We believe that Christian Education at St. Joseph's School in Red Lake Falls means inspiring, directing, and drawing out of each student awareness of, and committed response to his or her God-given calling to wholeness.



St. Joseph's Churches

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

The spiritual care of the first Catholic families of Red Lake Falls dates back to the beginning of the city itself.

In the year 1876, there were seven families of French-Canadian descent who were cared for by Father L'Hivers, the first priest to come into the vicinity. He offered Mass in the home of Isaiah Gervais.

It was in 1879 that Father Champagne founded the parish of St. Joseph. He built a small frame house which was intended to serve as a home for nuns in the course of the development of the parish. The material and work for this project were furnished mainly by Pierre Emard.

Father Pierre Champagne returned to Duluth in 1886. The street going south from the front of the present church still bears his name.

The parish was served by Father Marcil for three years, during which time, a rectory in old French colonial style was built. It stood until 1919. The first building used as a church burned in 1887.

Succeeding Father Marcil was Father S. Arpin in 1889. He built a new church. After him came Father Fayolle who was pastor from July, 1894 until August, 1911. During his pastorate, the first convent and school were built and completed in 1902. The Sisters of St. Benedict from Duluth came to teach in the school. At this time the parish numbered 300 families, many of whom were to leave for the state of Washington at a later date.

Father August Beyne became pastor in 1911 and remodeled the rectory.

Father Eugene Lemire was assigned as pastor of St. Joseph's on December 6, 1914. His was a long and busy pastorate: 1916 — A sisters' home was erected; 1917 — The church interior was renovated and enlarged; 1919 — A new rectory was built; 1921 — The church interior was frescoed.

This church also burned and a new one, designed by a Benedictine priest from St. John's Abbey in Collegeville replaced it in 1929 under Father Lemire's administration. All of this parish work was undertaken at a time when the parish numbered about 250 families.

Father Lemire died on January 4, 1942, after 28 years of service to the parish and community.

It was during his pastorate that assistant priests were first assigned to this parish. The following names appear in the church records as assistant pastors: Father E. Grimonprez, E. J. Paquin, Victor Cardin, Henry Rousseau, Louis Sullivan, J. P. Flynn, W. F. Lemen and Paul Cardin.

One of these, Father Victor Cardin, was to take over the pastorate 15 days after the death of Father Lemire. This was in January of 1942.

A redecoration of the church was carried out in Father Cardin's pastorate, and was completed in May, 1948.

Assistant Priests in his time were Fathers Henry Monroe, Jerome Felion and Daniel Noah.

On March 1, 1952, Bishop Francis Schenk combined the parishes of St. Mary and St. Joseph. Father William Keefe, the pastor of St. Mary's Parish, became the pastor of the combined parishes under the name of St. Joseph.

Father Keefe undertook an extensive building program which included a new school, convent and rectory. The entire project was completed in October of 1952.

This project, the largest undertaking in the history of the parish, was accomplished through the hard work of many volunteers, the faithful contributions of parishioners, and the careful administration of Father Keefe. He also undertook a complete renovation of the church interior which was completed in time for the Easter season of 1964.

Assistant priests during Father Keefe's pastorate included Fathers Donald Archer, Edward Nistler, Stanley Bourassa, Gerald Noesen and Joseph Kieselbach.

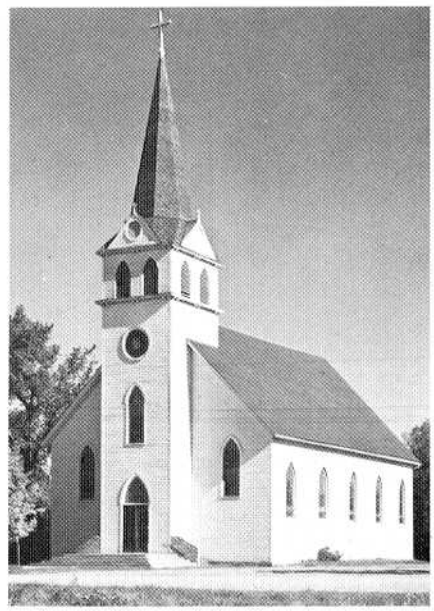
On June 24, 1971, Bishop Kenneth Povish reassigned Father Noesen to St. Joseph's as pastor. He currently holds that position. No assistant priest is assigned to the parish due to the shortage of vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese. The parish is comprised of 300 families in addition to about 45 guests at Hillcrest Nursing Home who come under the care of the local pastor.

Improvements in the past five years included a repainting of the interior and rearrangement of the sanctuary. A painting "bee" by parishioners accomplished the project. Other projects were a new five-rank organ, an addition of a mother's room and a reconciliation room in the church, new blacktopping on the parking lot and school playground, renovation of the parish hall, a redecoration of the rectory, and improvements in the convent.

The parish is administered through a parish council and has a parish school board and cemetery board. All board members have worked hard to implement the directives of the Second Vatican Council in all areas of parish life.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

In 1883, this congregation was separated from St. Joseph's Parish, which was predominantly French. On December 3, 1887, Reverend F.X.A. Stemper, Administrator of the Diocese of St. Cloud, appointed Rev. Bernard Sproll the first pastor of the new parish. He attended St. Hilaire and Euclid as missions. Reverend Ignatius Balluff took charge of the parish in 1889 to be succeeded by the following



St. Mary's Church

Benedictine Fathers: Rev. Lawrence Steinkogler, 1894-99; Rev. Ansgar Osendorf, 1900-06; Rev. Ambrose Lethart, 1906-14; Rev. Eugene Woerdehoff, 1914-17. During Father Ansgar's administration, a winter chapel was built and a stone foundation was laid under the church. The rectory was built while Father Eugene was pastor of the parish. Rev. John P. Funk succeeded Father Eugene in April, 1917, and in September of the same year, Rev. James Hawks succeeded Father Funk. Towards the end of the year 1918, Father Hawks died. His successor was Rev. T. G. Merrill. Father Merrill was succeeded by Rev. H. Pelger on February 19, 1922.

Father Henry Pelger was the spiritual leader of St. Mary's Parish for 29 years, the longest pastorate in the history of Red Lake Falls. A native of Holland, he was ordained for missionary work in British East Africa. After 13 years with the Uganda natives, he came to Crookston in 1917. On taking over his first pastorate at St. Joseph's Church in Ada, he made plans for the building of a new church there. His support of the government during the First World War and his interest in civic affairs won for him the esteem of the Ada citizens. Appointed to St. Mary's Parish in February, 1922, Father Pelger reorganized the religion classes and parish devotions. He spent his retirement years in St. Vincent's Home at Crookston after his resignation from the parish in October, 1951. Father Henry Pelger died at the age of 81. One of the frequent quips of Father Pelger was to point out his church as the "Catholic Church" and St. Joseph's down below as the "French Church".

Father William Keefe replaced Father Pelger in 1951. In 1952, Bishop Schenk decided the Catholic population of Red Lake Falls could sustain only one parish so St. Mary's was closed and its congregation became one with St. Joseph's parish with Father Keefe as pastor of the combined group.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The building which was formerly Bethany Lutheran Church is located on the north end of Main Street in Red Lake Falls. It has a rather interesting background as does the congregation itself. Mr. and Mrs. Al Hanson purchased it from the church in 1967 and have remodeled it into a charming home. They have utilized the basic structure.

This building was originally built for a church by a few Norwegian Lutherans in the year of 1904. It was built on the Clearwater River bank just east of the Great Northern depot and a little to the south. However, there were only a few families and as they were unable to maintain a pastor, the services were discontinued after a short time. The building was then used for basketball games and as a warehouse. In August of 1931, it was leased to the newly organized "First American Lutheran Church" and purchased by them in November of 1932. During this time, the few families that comprised the congregation were served by Pastor E. E. Domke who lived in Crookston and was pastor of St. Paul's American Lutheran Church there. In November, 1934, the building was moved to its present location where the congregation added the basement, chancel and narthex.

The little congregation worked hard and faithfully for the following fourteen years. It was quite a surprise to them when in May, 1948, they were informed at their morning worship that it was the last service to be conducted by the American Lutheran Church. The district president felt that sufficient time had elapsed without appreciable growth to warrant continuing services. The little group had a determination, however, and the total of 16 adults decided to contact Dr. Fjelstad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to seek its support. A survey was conducted of potential ELC members and this report was favorable enough for the ELC, with the aid of its Home Mission Department, to begin work here just one month after the last service of the ALC. Rev. G. S. Thompson of Thief River Falls was hired to conduct services every other Sunday at 8 P.M. This was generally the pattern of services until the summer of 1950 when Mr. David Vaaler was hired to work in their midst as student pastor. In November of that year, Rev. O. L. Bolstad, a retired pastor, joined the group. Also that year, the congregation adopted the name Bethany.

Rev. Bolstad remained with the congregation "temporarily" until July, 1952, and Ernest Stadum, a junior at Concordia College, spent the summer months here.

In January of 1954, the Home Mission Department loaned Bethany congregation the money with which to purchase the present parsonage. Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Runestad arrived in February and the first resident pastor was installed on February 21, 1954. An almost seemingly impossible feat had been accomplished by a few!

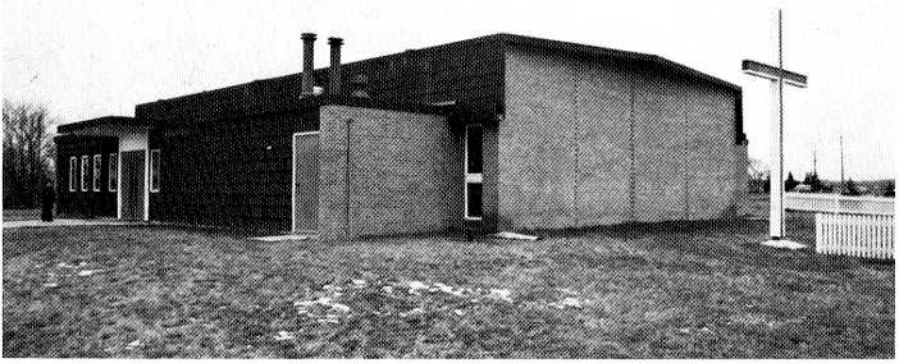
After just three short months of service here, Pastor Runestad passed away suddenly of a heart attack and once again the congregation was perplexed. However, Dr. A. E. Hanson, the District President at the time, had a special fondness for the group and secured a young Concordia student and his bride, Larry Dahlstrom and Connie, to serve for the summer. In October of that year, Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Berg came to serve the group.

Members were added more quickly now and Rev. Berg's slogan, "55 members to be added in '55", became a reality. The congregation was blessed by his continued service until May of 1961, which incidentally, also marked his "50 years of service in the ministry." Rev. Clinton Erickson was the resident pastor from July, 1961, until July, 1964, and the congregation continued adding members. March 1, 1965, Rev. James Boyd and his family moved here and joined the group. It was during his leadership that a new church was built on the east end of Red Lake Falls on Highway 32. It was constructed on a triangular piece of ground donated by George and Lenore Johnson. The church is built in the shape of a Greek cross. Paul Peterson, whose home was built just north of the church, donated and planted the trees and shrubs on the point just east of the church, adding much to the beauty of the location. Pastor Boyd and his family left December 31, 1968, to serve a parish in Menahga.

In June, 1969, Pastor Roy Seger and his wife, Mary, and daughter, Meredith, moved into Bethany's parsonage, following his graduation from the seminary. Some time later, they adopted a son, Michael. The Segers were with us for six years and during that time became an integral part of the community and church. In September, 1974, Pastor Seger and his family left Bethany to accept a call to the mission field in Bogota, Colombia.

Presently serving Bethany is Pastor David Putz. He and his wife, Erika, and daughter, Rachel, came here on January 1, 1975, from serving a parish in Gatzke.

Bethany has continued its growth over the years and presently there are approximately 80 families worshiping there.



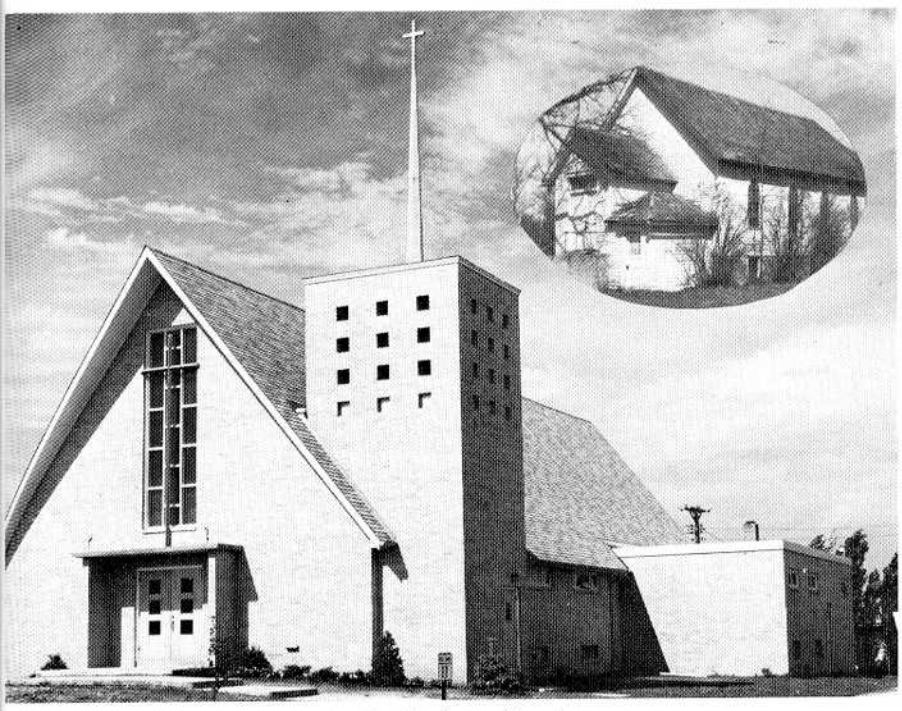
Bethany Lutheran Church

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The history of St. John's Lutheran Church is actually a history of two Lutheran churches; that of Immanuel Lutheran, Wylie Township, and that of St. John's Lutheran, Kretzschmar's Addition, Red Lake Falls. In 1958, during the pastorate of the Reverend Orville Poellot, the two congregations merged and became a fellowship with its house of worship in south Red Lake Falls. In the merger, they retained the name of St. John's Lutheran.

The foundation of our congregation and of Lutheranism within the area was laid in 1882 when a band of Lutherans who had immigrated to Red Lake County decided to meet for religious services in the home of a blind and retired pastor, the Rev. C. F. L. Risch. For five years there services were held, until the pastor moved away. Then in 1888, Rev. L. Wichmann of Ada helped organize Immanuel Church and the Rev. G. Drews was called as their first pastor. In 1901, a church was built near Wylie.

In 1903, a group of Lutheran families living in the vicinity of Red Lake Falls organized and adopted Articles of Incorporation separate from that of Immanuel under the name of St. John's Lutheran Church and asked Rev. Val Kern, Immanuel's pastor, to come and serve them. The following year, a church was built on the north side of Red Lake Falls. Both church buildings were remodeled in 1921.



St. John's Lutheran Church

The pastors lived in the parsonage near Immanuel Church until 1941 when a new parsonage was built in the city of Red Lake Falls near St. John's Church. In 1968, they purchased the John Maier residence at 702 Champagne Avenue S.W. where the pastor now resides.

The following pastors served the parish: The Rev. G. Drews (1888-92), The Rev. A. Kuring (1892-97), The Rev. C. G. Seltz (1897-1900), The Rev. V. Kern (1900-06), The Rev. O. Rhode (1907-11), The Rev. Herman Am End (1912-20), The Rev. Ed Widenhoefer (1920-25), The Rev. Paul H. Burgdorf (1925-40), The Rev. J. W. Stehr (1940-48), The Rev. Im. Bade (1948-53), The Rev. R. Boerger (1953-55), The Rev. O. C. Poellot (1956-59), The Rev. J. Rolf (1960-65), and the present pastor, The Rev. Roger Raebel, who came in 1966.

In December of 1957, both the Immanuel Congregation and the St. John's Congregation merged to form one congregation under the name of St. John's Lutheran Church. Although a building fund was started under Pastor Boerger in 1955, it was not until February 21, 1958, when the combined membership group met, that it was definitely decided to build a new church large enough to accommodate the merged congregations.

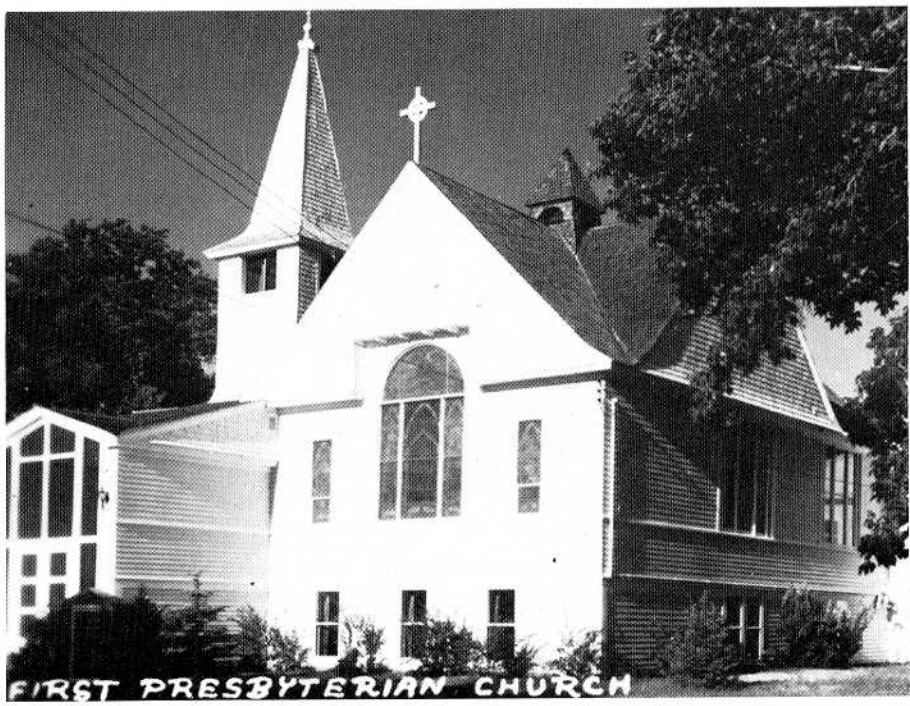
On March 25, 1958, the contract was signed with Mr. Leo Schoenrock of Garretson, South Dakota, for a brick church to be built on the church's property on the south end of the city of Red Lake Falls at the cost of $70,000. The architect underwriting the plans was Mr. Wm. Schaefer of Minneapolis.

Ground breaking services were held on the new church site on April 6th, Easter Sunday, and the excavation was begun on the 16th. The following week the basement footings were poured and the actual construction began. The construction then continued very rapidly and on August 24th, the Cornerstone Laying Service was held. The dedication took place on December 14, 1958.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY

In 1892 the decision to build a church was made. On April 18, J. D. Marshall was empowered to purchase lots not to exceed $300.00. The officers voted to buy property in Kretschmar's Addition on the North Side. Marshall, along with H. H. Zaiser and J. W. Rogers, was appointed to a building committee. Finances were in poor shape but money was borrowed and Edward Healy, Charles Bourdon, and S. M. Sivertson signed the notes. James Brady contracted to build the church for $1750.00. The main part of the church today is that building. Red Lake Falls was changing and growing and before long the business section moved to the "Hollow" and the people of the congregation wanted to move the church with the town. James Wyer deeded the new site, across from the Steinert Mill, on the corner where the highway bends eastward. In 1903, a decision was made to move the church. Moving to the new location was a difficult adventure. Because the bridge was built with overhead construction, the church had to be moved across the ice. The weight proved too much and the church went through the ice. There was considerable excitement and a crowd collected to watch as workmen extricated the unwieldy structure. The cost of the move and the necessary changes were so great that the women were asked to help in soliciting funds.

It was then that the first Ladies Aid was formed with Mrs. Gooding as secretary, and from that time on the women are credited with making contributions to the work of the church. Mrs. Marie Findeisen, Mrs. J. D. Marshall, and Mrs. Charles Bourdon were appointed the first committee of ladies to solicit the much needed money. It was in 1909 that a small house next to the church was purchased for a manse for $200.00. The women made the first payment of $50.00, they gave $100.00 toward the minister's salary, and $250.00 toward the cost of moving the church. Today the Aid is called the Women's Organization and is divided into three groups called circles. The entire group meets to work out budgets and programs of study. In 1940, the church property was condemned by the State Highway Department, and it became necessary to move again. The manse was sold and a house was purchased in the south part of the city. Lots were selected about a half block south of the corner on which the church stood. The business section of the city had changed to its present position and the church now is in about the central part of Red Lake Falls. During the tenure of Rever-



First Presbyterian Church

end James Grant, the church was enlarged and remodeled. In 1955, an architect was engaged and the result was a large additon at the rear of the church, a more complete kitchen, a nursery, Sunday School rooms, and a suitable and handsome entrance to the front. The total cost of $27,000.00 put the congregation back into debt. Pledges were made and four years later the church was again out of debt. There is always another task ahead, for it is in working together that the people of the congregation come to know and appreciate each other most fully.

Pastors who have served from 1887 to the present are Rev. Broit, J. S. McCarnack, Gust Drews, S. J. S. Moore, Andrew Walker, Herbert Knox, P. A. Schwartz, Lewis T. Hughes, Francis B. Stevenson, Rev. Richardson, S. M. Kelly, W. S. Evans, F. W. Hauser, Rev. Martin, R. H. Selway, Henry Lindholm, Merrill Nelson, James McCartney, Ernest Norquist, James Grant, Glen Atchison, E. A. Grueneich, Robert Villwock and Ron Geisman, the present pastor.

ST. JOHNS HOSPITAL

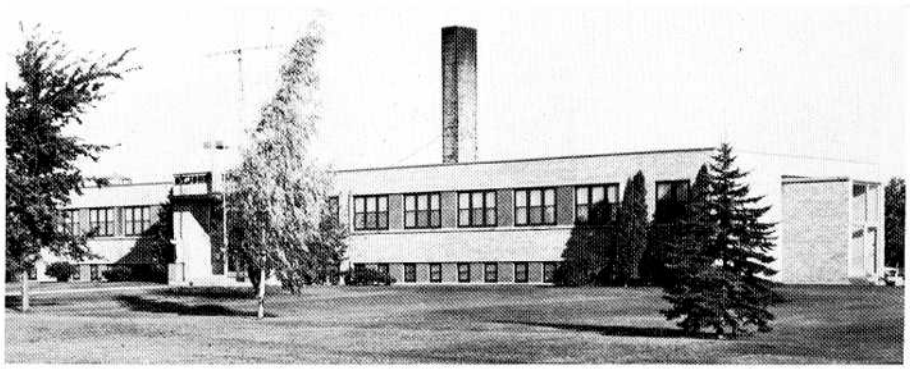
Discussion concerning the establishment of a hospital in Red Lake Falls started in 1944 when first contact was made with the Sisters of St. Benedict of Crookston, Minnesota, to see if they might be interested in building and staffing such a project. At that time the Sisters of St. Benedict had health institutions in Crookston and Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, and Dr. F. W. Petkevich was the only physician practicing in Red Lake County.

On May 29, 1945, the voters of Red Lake Falls passed an almost unanimous ballot to contribute the sum of $20,000.00 towards the development of a new hospital building for their community. The county also contributed an additional $10,000.00 towards this development. As time passed it was determined that an additional $20,000.00 would be needed and on November 4, 1947, this issue was put to the voters and again passed showing the interest the community had in such a project. On June 7, 1948, the City Council passed a motion to sell the necessary land needed to the Sisters of St. Benedict to construct the new building.

Msg. Victor Cardin and Sam Hunt were very instrumental in the original ground work to establish a hospital in this community and numerous correspondence was continually going between architects, contractors, health planning agencies and the State Department of Health. After much red tape the hospital finally became a reality and officially opened its doors on November 1, 1951. The original cost of the project was $350,000.00 of which approximately 45% was funded through Federal Aid Programs (Hill Burton — $154,000.00). The remainder of the project was funded through the Sisters of St. Benedict.

The designer of the building was Samuel Teel DeRemer of Grand Forks, North Dakota, with the contractor being Otto J. Eickhof and Sons of Crookston, Minnesota. The original hospital was designed as a twenty-four bed unit, which was reduced to twenty-three beds in 1971. Altogether there are nineteen adult beds and four pediatrics beds along with four bassinets.

Official dedication of the hospital was held at the Community Hall on October 21, 1951. Glen Fellman was the Master of Ceremonies. Bishop Schenk, Bishop of the



St. John's Hospital

Diocese of Crookston, was on hand to give the official dedication. Bishop Schenk also layed the cornerstone at the hospital earlier in July, 1951. Others on the program included Mayor H. B. Lane, Mother Blandina, Mother Superior of the Sisters of St. Benedict, Msg. Victor Cardin, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Red Lake Falls, L. N. Dale, local physician and president of the R.R. Valley Medical Association, Dr. J. F. Norman, president of the Minnesota Medical Ass'n, Dr. R. N. Barr, Chief Section of Hospital Service, Minnesota Department of Health, Dr. Helen L. Knudsen, Director of the Division of Hospital Services, Minnesota Department of Health and Honorable J. H. Sylvester, Judge of District Court, who gave the dedication address. Also on the program were the American Legion and V.F.W. Clubs who presented the colors. The Lafayette High School Band was on hand to play the National Anthem.

First administrator at St. John's Hospital was Sr. M. Pancratius. She later was followed by Sr. Benita, Sr. Charitas, Sr. Fidelis, Sr. Andrea and Tony Schmitz. Mr. Schmitz was the first lay administrator to serve at St. John's Hospital. The hospital was incorporated in May, 1966.

The first patient admitted to St. John's Hospital was actually admitted on October 31, 1951, the day before the official opening. She was Mrs. H. J. Morin who lived at Marcoux Corner. The first baby born at the hospital was John Gaven, Jr., at 6:35 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, 1951. In the first two years of operation the hospital had 186 deliveries with eight babies being the highest at any one time in the nursery. During the years of 1951 to 1969, the hospital experienced a low of two patients to a high of thirty-two patients in the hospital on any one given day.

In May of 1969, Red Lake Falls was notified that the two local physicians would be leaving the community on August 1 and thus the hospital was forced to close its doors on August 1, 1969. The last patient was discharged on July 28, 1969.

At that point the community and hospital made a valiant effort to recruit physicians to the community hoping that the hospital would not have to remain closed on a permanent basis. Through the efforts of an active community group with excellent community support and the support of the Sisters of St. Benedict, the Sisters agreed to continue operating the hospital on an interim basis hoping that the search for new physicians would be successful and short lived. During this period of time the hospital received no patients, but merely kept its business office open and employed a skeleton crew to maintain the facility. It also kept its state license current, which was issued by the State Department of Health, hoping that the crisis would be over soon.

In February, 1970, the good news broke over the news media that Dr. David J. Mersy would be coming to Red Lake Falls to start a practice and open a clinic in the community. With that the hospital reopened its doors on March 1, 1970 and since that time other physicians have joined its staff.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The first meeting of St. John's Hospital and Hillcrest Nursing Home Auxiliary was held on November 20th, 1958 at the Community Hall with Mrs. Gordon Steinert, President of the American Legion Auxiliary presiding. After an explanation of duties of a hospital auxiliary, Mrs. George Christie Sr. was appointed temporary chairwoman.

Evelyn Perras was elected first Hospital Auxiliary President and served in that capacity for eight years. Ninety women were in attendance at the first meeting which grew to approximately three hundred and fifty members from Red Lake Falls, Plummer, Dorothy, Brooks, Terrebonne and Oklee.

Sister Benita O.S.B., administrator of St. John's Hospital was desirous of organizing an auxiliary as there was a serious question as to whether St. John's Hospital would remain open. Sister Benita did not live to see the Auxiliary functioning to its full extent. She passed away March 17, 1960. The community suffered a loss in her death. She was a rare soul and was able to cheer and inspire all with whom she worked and nursed. Largely through her the Hospital Auxiliary was formed and many improvements were made at St. John's Hospital.

The Auxiliarians were active for eight years from 1958 through 1966.

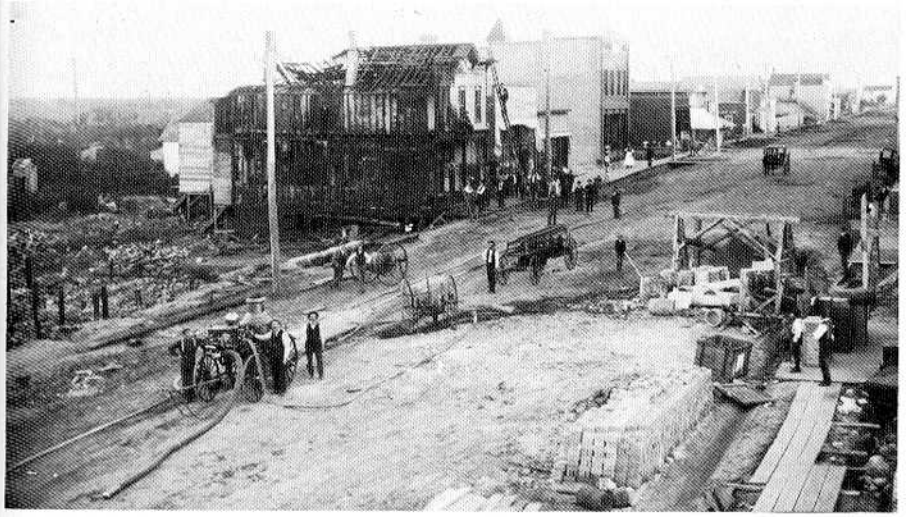
St. John's Hospital Auxiliary was reorganized in 1970 by Tony Schmitz, A.D.M. Administrator. Mrs. Lowell Larson was elected president of the organization.

The purpose of the Auxiliary is to promote health care in the hospital and through community services.

Some of the major projects through fund raising are the Staff Library at the Hospital, refurbishing the lounge furniture, and replacement of the kitchen stove. Other voluntary services are coffee cart, the striper program, special clinics and community services.

THE EARLY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The early fire department had a steam engine that pumped water for its hoses



Fire on the east side of Main in 1899 destroyed buildings between first and second streets.

from a cistern in front of the fire hall, located in the square just south of today's post office. Ed Troumbly and Bill Krueger were volunteers in charge of the fire engine for many years. When the fire bell rang, Bill, as Mr. Krueger was known, immediately grabbed two buckets filled with kindling, paper and coal from a closet off the lobby of the Grand View Hotel and raced to the fire hall across the street. The engine was pushed out, fired up and, it is said, within six minutes the steam would be up thanks to the dry kindling and quick response of the two men in charge.

RED LAKE FALLS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Records of the Red Lake Falls Fire Department indicate that formal organization of this group occurred in 1899. The fire hall in those days was located between the present post office and the VFW hall.

The first motorized vehicle, a 1921 Model T chemical truck, is still operational and owned by the department. Following the completion of the community hall in the 1930's, the fire department moved its headquarters there where it remained until a new fire hall was built in 1975. Both trucks were housed in the community hall with ample room for two cells used as the city jail.

A Rural Fire Association was organized in 1954 to provide service to seven member townships: Red Lake Falls, Terrebonne, Lake Pleasant, Louisville, Wylie and Browns Creek, and a part of Gervais. A new rural fire truck has been purchased with financial assistance from the city.

The new fire hall on Champagne Avenue provides quarters for four fire trucks, and the ambulance. There is a spacious meeting room, office, kitchen, sleeping quarters, showers and clean-up area.

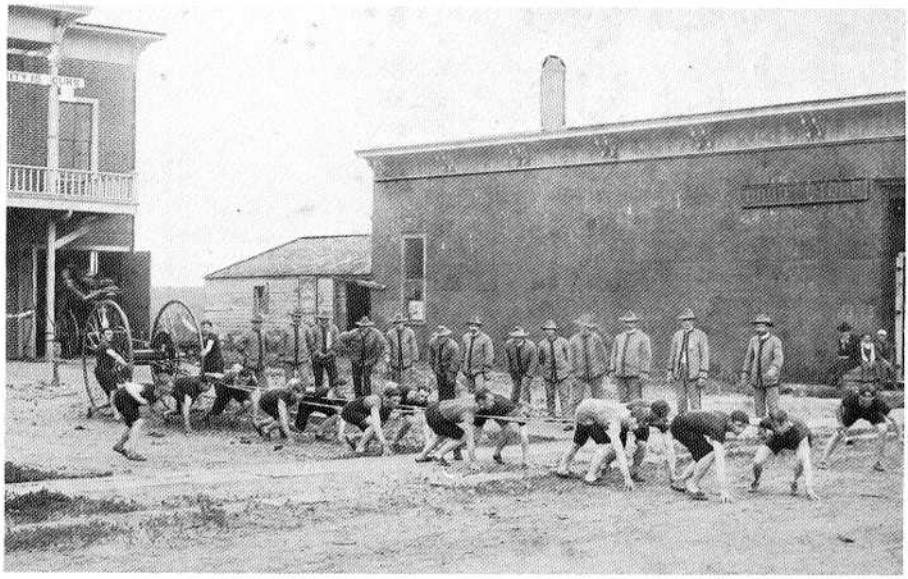
RED LAKE FALLS AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance Service was established in 1969 and a fully equipped vehicle purchased at that time for its use. Jerry Thibert was the first president, Mavis Arvidson, treasurer, and Shirley Swenson, secretary.

Approximately twenty-five persons enrolled for a twenty-eight hour training session in first aid and qualified for service. The training periods have been repeated every two years and the requirements lengthened to eighty-four hours of required study.

At present there are forty-four volunteers with two persons on duty for twelve-hour shifts around the clock. The ambulance averages eleven patients transported each month.

Present officers are Clyde Ellefson, president; Mike Majeres, vice president; Dorothy Altepeter, secretary; Mavis Arvidson, treasurer; and Bev Gilbertson, bookkeeper.



The old fire hall burned in 1926. The drill team is lined up for a practice run.

CITY PARKS

Red Lake Falls can boast of approximately 100 acres of parks and mini-parks scattered throughout the city.

The largest park acreage is the scenic Oak Knolls golf course situated in the southeast part of the city along the Clearwater River. The nine-hole course, maintained by the Golf Club, also features a comfortable clubhouse. It was also the first course in Minnesota to sport artificial greens.

Riverside Park complex has two areas, separated by Bottineau Avenue. The south side has a large picnic area, camping facilities and an enclosed tennis court. The north side, better known as the fairgrounds, is the site of the ice arena and combination football-baseball field, a natural bowl. Centrally located, Riverside park laces the awesome beauty of the Clearwater River.

Sportsman's Park, a rustic area at the confluence of the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers, has facilities for camping and picnicking; a rifle range and trap shoot, an archery range and a boat landing constructed by the Department of Natural Resources in 1974. This park also has a maze of paths through the wooded area for use as hiking, snowmobiling and motor bike trails.

There are also two areas designated as mini-parks, one east of Fairview Manor and one on the Northside at Sixth and Broadway. These are mainly used for neighborhood recreation.

The beach on the Clearwater River and the dam sites on both the Clearwater and Red Rivers are favorite fishing spots. The areas are maintained by the city for public use.

The Park Board, appointed by the mayor, has been in existence since the first park, Riverside Memorial, was established in the early 1920's. Presently serving on the board are Howard Johnston, Ed Cuno, Blake Peterson, Harold Borg and Lyle Longtin.

AMERICAN LEGION GUNDER AUSTAD POST 22

The American Legion Post in Red Lake Falls was formally organized at a meeting held June 13, 1919, with sixteen charter members, soldiers and sailors who served in the World War I. Dr. J. C. Wilkinson, captain of the medical corps, was elected chairman, and Mose H. Latendresse, first lieutenant with the 88th division, was elected secretary-treasurer. Eight more were added to the charter membership that named the following: Maurice Bray, David Cyr, Theo. M. Ducharme, Elmer Guillemette, Omer Guillemette, Gilbert Huot, R. H. Jackson, Jos. C. LaCoursiere, Henry Latendresse, Mose Latendresse, Peter Linnertz, A. E. Lucian, Louis Marchildon, W. J. Mathews, Fred Miller, Wm. Nie-

The American Legion of Red Lake Falls has contributed generously to community projects, and foremost, the Junior Legion baseball team and its successful summer programs.

Now 57 years old, with its ranks composed of the wartime veterans of four conflicts, the aims and purposes of the American Legion Gunder Austad Post No. 22 are still to care for the veteran, his widow and orphan, his community, state and nation.



A natural bowl is the setting for football and baseball games. The hockey arena is nearby and part of the Riverside Park area.



Gunder Austad, the first man from the county to give his life in World War I.



land, Andre Patnode, Walter Patnode, Jos. S. Perusse, Eldage Robillard, H. J. Trudeau, J. C. Wilkinson, Leslie Wilkinson, and H. J. Willis.

Secretary Latendresse made a statement for the records, "We are going to make a campaign to get every soldier and sailor in the county to join the Post. Annual dues are only twenty-five cents and no one can say that they haven't got enough money to join."

Just six months later in January 1920, the name of the Post was changed to the Gunder Austad Post No. 22 of the American Legion in memory of Pvt. Gunder Austad of Oklee, he being the first Red Lake County soldier to offer the supreme sacrifice for his country. At this same meeting, the Post also took action to inform city officials, and all clubs and organizations, of the imperative need of suitable quarters for public and social gatherings, recreation and gymnasium hall, and home for local fraternal organizations, and that a Community House should be provided in Red Lake Falls. So began the first steps for the building of the Community Hall. The basement was completed in 1929 with funds raised by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary who later sold the building and the land to the city of Red Lake Falls for completion with use of WPA federal funding in 1936.

The first World War II veteran to become Commander of the Gunder Austad Post was Willard LaPlante in 1946. The present Legion Club rooms were rented above the "Big Store," and later the entire building purchased and major improvements made throughout the years.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #22

On January 13, 1926, seventeen women met at the Lincoln Hotel for the purpose of organizing an American Legion Auxiliary. Charles E. Boughton of the local Gunder Austad American Legion Post spoke to the group and encouraged the formation of the auxiliary unit. By March 12 of that first year, a charter was issued to 29 members who were: Mrs. Charles E. Boughton, Jr., Mrs. George Bourdon, Mrs. C. E. Brunelle, Mrs. H. G. Gray, Mrs. J. A. Hughes, Mrs. Nick Helm, Mrs. Rudolph Helm, Mrs. Gilbert Huot, Mrs. Mary Harren, Mrs. John Hendrickson, Mrs. H. B. Lane, Mrs. Joe LaCoursiere, Mrs. Ray Linnihan, Mrs. Mose H. Latendresse, Mrs. Sam Miller, Mrs. Carsten Mead, Mrs. Sarah Morin, Mrs. William Nieland, Miss Cora Normandeau, Mrs. Dan Paul, Mrs. Clayte Paul, Mrs. Henry Paquin, Miss Marie Patnode, Mrs. Harvey Page, Miss Louise Payment, Mrs. Paul Schirrick, Mrs. R. W. Tollefson, Mrs. Harvey Trudeau, and Miss Hazel Zaiser. Mrs. H. B. Lane was elected first president and served two years in that capacity. In

1930 she was elected to the office of Ninth District President. One of the early and main projects that the auxiliary initiated was the raising of funds for the construction of the Community Hall building in 1927.

In 1948 Gunder Austad Post and Auxiliary Unit hosted its first District Convention in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the City of Red Lake Falls in a three-day event. In 1951 the unit observed its silver anniversary, at which fourteen charter members were honored and past presidents were given recognition.

In 1953, Mrs. Elizabeth Boughton became the second member of the local unit to be elected Ninth District President. Due to her early interest in the Girl Scout Program, Elizabeth urged the unit to sponsor the Girl Scouts in Red Lake Falls. This has been done each year since 1940. During her year as district president, a new unit was organized at Euclid, at which she presented the charter and installed fourteen new members.

The Ninth District Legion and Auxiliary Convention was again held in Red Lake Falls in 1964.

The third member of the local Auxiliary unit to hold the office of Ninth District President was Mrs. Betty Radeke in 1969.

In 1976 the Auxiliary will observe its 50th Anniversary of dedicated service to God and Country with a present record membership of 200 members.

VFW POST #5628

The Red Lake Falls Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5628 was chartered January 20, 1946 with one hundred members signed. Tom Payment and Nick Scheuring and several other WW I veterans made the necessary arrangements.

First officers installed by H. B. Rafteseth of Thief River Falls were Thomas Payment, commander; Lloyd Philion and Cyril VonWald, senior and junior vice commanders, respectively; Bruce Higinbotham, quartermaster; Medore Benoit, post advocate; Charles Tischart, chaplain; John Bendel, surgeon; Nick Scheuring, trustee; and Bernard Columbus, adjutant.

The Post operated a club in the former Harold Dupont building at the corner of Third Street and Main Avenue for two years. During the late forties and early fifties, the Post sponsored an independent hockey and basketball team and then started the park board program in the city.

Post members have always been active in Memorial Day services and as parking supervisors at past Red Lake County fairs. Light-a-bike for the safety of bicyclists in Red Lake Falls was a project sponsored by the Post in the sixties. Recently, flags and flag poles were donated to St. Joseph's parochial school and Hillcrest Nursing Home. The post also installed the flag poles. Hospital beds and wheelchairs are owned by the Post and are available for use at no charge.

The Post held a grand opening of a new VFW Club in Red Lake Falls in February, 1976.

Present officers are Clinton Theroux, commander; Jerry St. Michel and James Schmitz, senior and junior vice commanders respectively; Louis Longtin, adjutant; Ray Schmidt, quartermaster, and Alton Beauchane, post advocate. Wayne Violette is chaplain and Phil Cuno, service officer. Trustees are Harry Kjaer, Phil Cuno and Paul Heng. Other house members are Clarence Marcotte, Howard Johnston, Frank Presnel and Ken Stokke. Donald Fellman is surgeon.

VFW AUXILIARY

Charter members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary in Red Lake Falls on April 11, 1946 were Mildred Thibodeau, Frances Marcotte, Josephine Linnihan, Florida Kuld, Nathalie Columbus, Mary Drees, Anne Hanson, Arline VonWald, Laura Goulet, Margaret Tischart, Agnes Lambert, Dora Scheuring, Mary Jane Benoit, Antoinette LaChance, Palmire Sauve, Eva Whalen, Rose Paradis Payment, Vina Scheuring, Rosina Longtin, Elenore Philion, Agnes Nash, Frances Constant, Kate Musil, Emma Huot, Florence Cyr, Catherine Tischart, Betty Carl, Roseanna Thibodeau and Elaine Doughty.

Present officers are Pauline Theroux, president; senior vice president, Rose Thibert; treasurer, Pat Hagl; chaplain, Mary Drees, conductress, Harriet Loeffler; junior vice president, Janice Landman; guard, Della Henke; and trustee, Marilyn Wieland. Mrs. Elizabeth Sauve is the historian.

MILLS

The Industrial potential in Red Lake Falls created by the abundant water power sources on the two rivers was a major factor in the rapid growth of this community.

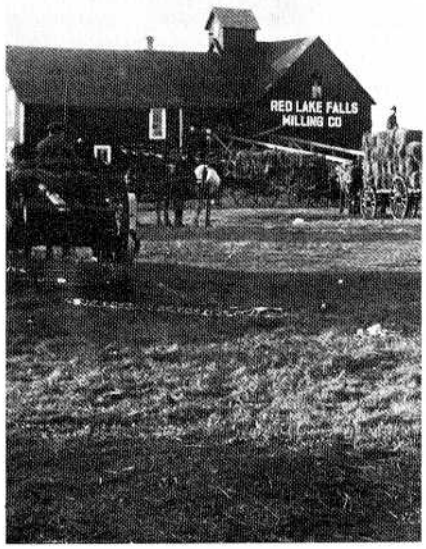
Ernest Buse in partnership with Otto Kankel built the pioneer mill of this area on the Clearwater River at the north end of Main Avenue in 1878. Kankel sold his interest in the business to Buse in 1880, relocating in the fertile area. Buse sold the mill in 1882 when he moved to Minneapolis.

Carl Kretzschmar erected the Northside Roller Mill about 1882 at the site on the Red Lake River which later became the power dam. This business became the Red Lake Falls Milling Co. in 1885 and was owned by Johnson and Marshall who manufactured "Mascot" and "Favorite" flour brands sold mostly in the eastern markets and Europe. The company which later owned the city electric light plant (see Northern States Power story) also operated a cooper shop in which all the barrels used by the mill were made.

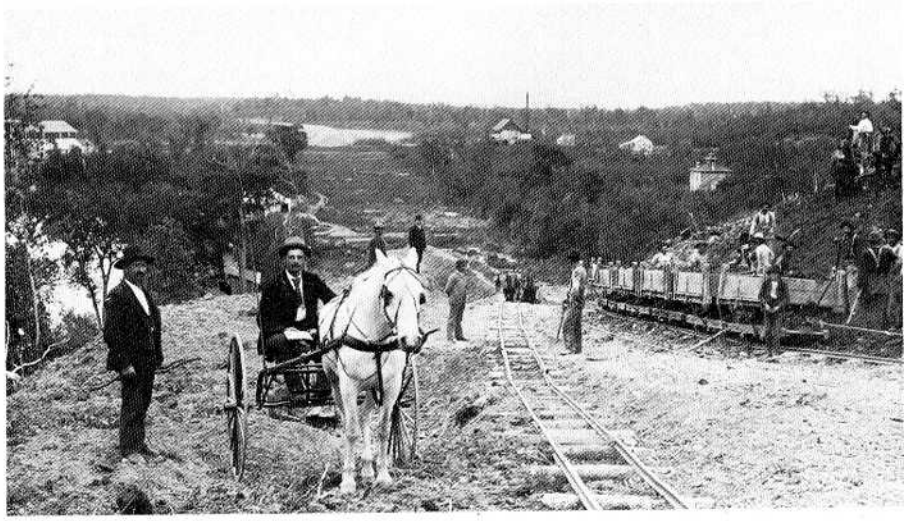
Near this same site two brothers by the name of Meehan proposed to start a sawmill if they could get financial backing in the amount of $3000. In those early days people would go to any lengths to encourage new industry and generous citizens put up the cash to be paid to the promoters when the mill began operation. The sawmill was completed, but saw only thirty minutes of action as the con-men immediately fled when the money exchanged hands. Production was halted and soon after the building was dismantled.

Another large dam and flour mill was located below the junction of the two rivers at the present site of the Central Bi-Products plant. This mill was owned by J. B. Holmes in 1889, followed by Gooding until 1901 when it was purchased by Healy and Bourdon. Partially destroyed by fire in 1908, the building and dam site were sold to the Red Lake Falls Water Power Co. in 1910.

Another sawmill and the first tow mill, located at the junction of the two rivers, and the Steinert Mill, established in 1911 at the bottom of the hill on Main Avenue, were other early industries utilizing the abundant water power of this community.



(More mill pictures on next page)

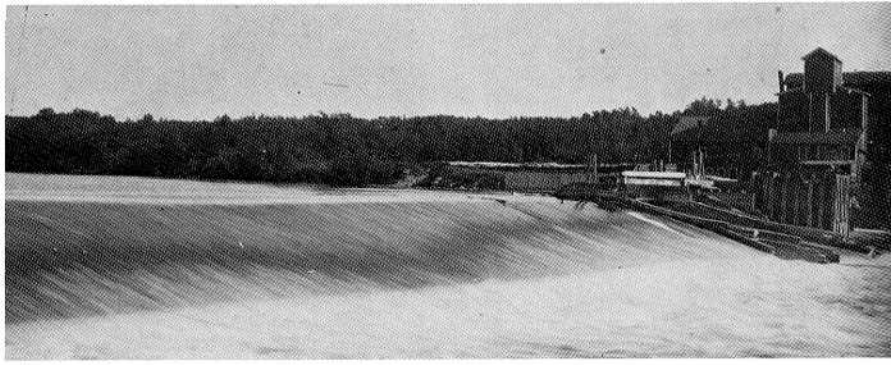


Building the road bed to the Red Lake Falls Milling Company.

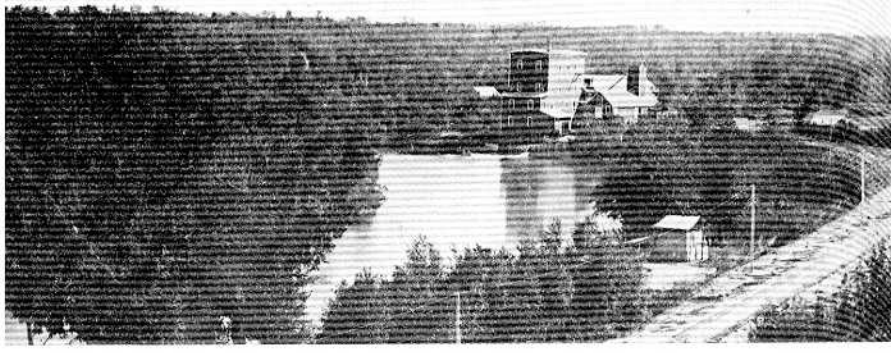


Steinert Milling Company
(see family history)





Healy Dam about 1904



Red Lake Falls Milling Company

POTPOURRI

PHIL SIEFF REMEMBERS RED LAKE FALLS

"It has been suggested that people have a tendency to live in the past. How well I remember Red Lake Falls, the most pleasant memories of my life. The Sieff family arrived there from Loney, Illinois in the year 1899. There were ten in all. Father, Mother, Louis, Joe, Jake, Sadie, Philip, Maurice, Rose, and Abe.

We were the only Jewish family in town. Most of the population were French of Canadian descent with names like: Pouliot, LaBissioniere, Gervais, LaTendresse, LaCoursiere, Hance, Manchildon, Paquin and others. The remainder of the population were German and Scandinavian.

The town was divided in sections. The uptown business area being the Main Street. Across the river and up the hill was the North Side, the Hollow, Little Canada, and Klondike.

The French kids were a strange lot. If you were part of a group it made no difference to them if you were unable to understand French — they carried on a conversation with a total disregard of you. It was not done purposely and the result was that you either learned to talk and understand French or you just didn't know what the conversation was all about. Incidently, we eventually learned the language pretty well.

Our father was a horse trader dealing in wild horses and mules that were brought in from Montana by the carloads. This really made Red Lake Falls a sort of Wild West town. It was not an uncommon sight and always attended by many. When a sale was held, buyers came from near and far — from surrounding towns, St. Hilaire, Thief River Falls, Warren, Argyle, Plummer, Fertile, and Crookston. It fell to the lot of brother Louie to rope and break in to drive and ride the wild horses, and he was as capable a bronco buster as ever lived. You can imagine the excitement, the bucking bronco going down Main Street trying to dislodge its rider. In later years race horses were added. The people of Red Lake Falls will remember two outstanding pacers, Signal Hal and Zoletta; they were winners at the fairs held in surrounding counties.

We owned a livery stable right on Main Street, which after a thaw in the spring became a bog. As the automobile came into use it was always unpredictable as to whether one could drive thru or not. Invariably after attaining a speed of 15 miles per hour, which in those days was considered speeding, some times they were successful and other times not. Always a group of bystanders would come forward to lend a heave ho and usually everyone would be covered with mud. It then resorted to a team of large draft horses to extricate the car to safety. The driver usually found a different roundabout way for his return.

A common sight was the LaCoursier herd of about 150 cows which were driven down the main street and out to pasture after milking in the morning and returned to their owner in the evening. How interesting to watch each cow leave the herd when it arrived at its owners home.

There was the annual log drive, where the men known as log drivers would guide the large logs down the Clearwater and Red Lake rivers to the saw mills for processing. When the log drivers, a really hardy tough lot, were in Red Lake Falls it was not an uncommon sight to see all hell popping and fights in the streets.

At that time a Mr. Swanson in charge of the drive would come to town with the wanigan to feed the men as it progressed on down the river. I remember a big event which drew large crowds was to watch the wanigan jump the falls at the Healy dam. The big free bean feed Mr. Swanson held in the yard at Belair's and the peanut festival for the kids where large sacks of peanuts were thrown in the air for the kids to scramble after.

Spillane's store was a hangout for kids. Old man Spillane had a line drawn where the kids were not permitted to cross. It was known as the coupe. He was so kind and friendly the kids were always asking for something soft, an orange, banana, or any item unfit to sell, which he always gave free when available.

Another favorite pastime was to tie a wire about six inches high across the wooden sidewalks, lying in wait for some poor unsuspecting soul to come along. How well I remember 'Whistling' Pete Peterson who worked in the printing office coming home in the dark whistling as usual until he tripped head over heels and let out an exclamation of four letter words. Of course the kids were no where to be found.

The swimming hold on the Clearwater river, down the hill behind Duffy's and Linnehan's house! What pleasant memories, especially of the game called Charlow Beef, where some of the boys would return to dress only to find their clothes tied in knots and the mosquitoes on the rampage. The culprits somewhere out of reach would yell 'Charlow Beef, the beef was tough, and the poor little devils didn't get enough' and then they would scamper for all they were worth.

The falls and the rapids at the Healy dam bring fond memories. A beautiful park and



Phil and Maurice Sieff

wonderful fishing where I got my first start with walleyes, pickerel, suckers, rock bass, and sheephead. Nowhere could there be found a more delightful area for picnics and gatherings.

The beautiful white winters where at times the thermometer reached as much as fifty degrees below zero. This did not deter the populace from skating on the Clearwater River and sliding on sleds and skiing down the many hills that were part of Red Lake Falls.

Red Lake Falls with the voluntary fire department. When the bell in the City Hall rang every one in town no matter what time of the day or night was out to see what was happening.

The Red Lake Falls band led by Clem Brunelle, having its practice sessions in the City Hall, a gathering place for kids even tho they were not members of the band, which incidently had a fine reputation. Baseball, with its rivalries with neighboring towns — St. Hilaire, Plummer, Brooks, Fosston, and especially Thief River Falls where the competition was so intense it was not uncommon to see a fight break out among the spectators. And when you remember baseball, don't overlook the farmers who lived between the rivers and had a team known as the Jack Rabbits.

Of much interest was the Great Northern passenger train with daily morning arrivals from Crookston, destination to Warroad and return in the evening. The Northern Pacific train at the other end of town, always unpredictable as to its arrival. You could always expect a gathering there to meet the coming and going of friends and relatives, or just plain curious to see who was arriving and who was departing.

Important people to remember in the life of Red Lake Falls. Mrs. Emma Marshall, the Postmistress (she really ran the Post Office). Dr. Watson, Dr. I. Lemieux, Sam Huot, the Findieson and Helms Automobile and Implement Dealers, a real rivalry resulting in an annual motorcycle race between Herb Findieson and Oscar Helm. Carston (Spike) Mead, a leading citizen involved in every phase of the community and John Duffy, the leading banker. Red Lake Falls! We will always be proud to call 'Our Own Home Town'!"

Sadie Sieff taught rural school at Delorme Station about four miles from Red Lake Falls. She rode horseback to school and often in weather that reached forty degrees below zero.

Abe worked as a switchboard operator in Red Lake Falls and later in Minneapolis when the Sieff family moved. Abe prided himself on his phenomenal ability to remember most of the telephone numbers of Red Lake Falls. Every year until his death Abe was a visitor in Red Lake Falls on Memorial Day, joining the veterans in Memorial Day services and visiting old friends.

Phil Sieff and Sidney Marchildon started the well-known S and M Tire Company in Minneapolis. After Mr. Marchildon sold his business interests, Maurice Sieff joined the company. Phil and Maurice have retired from the company. Phil Sieff, his wife, Verna Mae, and Maurice live in Minneapolis. Sadie Sieff Bangs lives in Seattle, Washington.

RED LAKE FALLS BRICK COMPANY

The Red Lake Falls Brick Company, owned and operated by John Schmitz and Company, was one of the important industries in Red Lake Falls about 1900. The company was established in 1889 by the Schmitz brothers, John, Joe, Herman and Henry, and later sold to John who continued to employ between thirty-five to fifty men. Up to two million bricks could be manufactured in one year and provided the materials for the construction of a high school in Thief River Falls, St. Joseph's Parochial School in Red Lake Falls, the Lemieux block, Kaus block, Borchers block and the huge electric light station among others.

Mr. Schmitz owned a large bank of the best clay in the state extending over two acres and twenty-six feet deep, located in the Klondike area in the northwest section of the city. The clay was exceptionally free of limestone and of good color.

The manufacture of brick was an interesting process that required more than average skill when taken from the bank, the clay was allowed to soak in water for twelve hours. It was then taken to the maulding machines which could mold six at a time in rapid succession. The soft bricks were then put on pallets to dry, requiring about four days to insure the best results. They were then ready for the kilns where they were burned for nine days. Mr. Schmitz had two kilns, each with a capacity of 325,000. The burning was quite an expensive process requiring 150 cords of wood to burn a single kiln. The bricks were then ready for grading, "select", "kiln", and "soft."

A heavy snowfall about 1905 caved in the drying racks and all the bricks were lost. This catastrophe plus competition in a neighboring town forced the Red Lake Falls Brick Company out of business, but fine buildings and homes in the city and the countryside still standing attest to the quality of the product manufactured and to the skill of the Schmitz brothers.

FIBRE PRODUCTS COMPANY

The Fibre Products Co., of Minneapolis has decided to locate their new $130,000 factory in Red Lake Falls. After several months of investigation and personal visits to this city as well as to Thief River Falls and Crookston, the officials of the company decided that Red Lake Falls offered them the best location and they have accordingly started work. Red Lake Falls people are jubilant at having secured this big industry which will doubtless become one of the city's biggest assets.

Thru the Red Lake Falls Commercial club the company was offered a ten acre tract of land in the western part of the city just south of the fair grounds. A committee consisting of J. A. Duffy, E. G. Buse and L. E. Healy have been busily engaged in acquiring title to the lots in the tract and have secured practically all that is needed. Fifty Red Lake Falls business men have subscribed for fifty $100 shares in the corporation as desired by the company, there being $5,000 stock held locally.

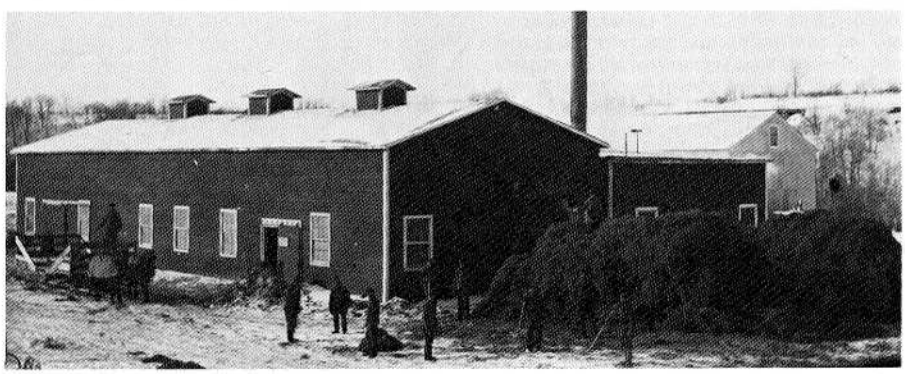
The Northern Pacific officials are expected to arrive tomorrow to start the construction of the spur tracks which will be built right up to the doors of the plant to eliminate drayage in loading and unloading.

The new plant will manufacture flax tow for upholstering, building felt or insulation board. An enormous amount of water will be required for the operation of the works and hence it was necessary to build near a river in order to obtain an unlimited supply. A pump house will be built on the bank of the Clearwater river a few hundred feet below and the water will be elevated to a 50,000 gallon reservoir. After the water is used in the process it will flow back thru a sewer into the river. — Gazette 1929.

THE GRAND VIEW HOTEL

The Grand View Hotel was built on the north side of the river sometime after 1882. In the 1890's when the Northern Pacific railroad came through town, the hotel was moved to the west end of town to be near the N.P. depot. The coming of the Great Northern Railroad serving Red Lake Falls with a daily train prompted a second move, to Main Avenue. A bar was added after the second move.

There was no indoor plumbing, water was hauled by a large tank in summer and in winter ice blocks were hauled from the river. Cooking was done on a large wood-burning range. The Hotel did its own laundry. At first bread was baked at the hotel, later it was shipped in from Crawford's Bakery in Crookston. Meals were served American style: breakfast from 6 to 9, din-



Old Tow Mill



Grand View Hotel

ner from 12 to 2, and supper from 6 to 8. Meals were 25¢, later raised to 35¢ and 50¢. The dining room seated twenty-four people. Saturdays and Sundays were quiet days, the rest of the week busy because traveling salesmen were in town. Most travel was done by train. A horse drawn bus met the trains and took passengers and their grips to and from the hotel. Salesmen often brought trunks of merchandise to display to their customers. These were shown in a building known as the sample room located behind the hotel.

In the spring and fall there were court sessions and these were very busy and exciting. The judge, court reporter and lawyers stayed at the hotel. Another exciting time was in the spring when the logs came down the river, the logs were jammed and the lumberjacks had a short layover before continuing down river.

The Grand View Hotel closed in 1919 and the buildings have since been torn down.

PROHIBITION

At a county option election Polk county went dry by a vote of 4,485 to 3,344. Twelve brewery distributing stations in East Grand Forks and two in East Grand Forks and two in Crookston will go out of business at once. Thirty-one saloons in East Grand Forks and twenty-one saloons in Crookston will have six month's time to go out of business. The brewery at East Grand Forks and one at Crookston continue the manufacture of beer but cannot sell it in the dry territory. It is reported that the office of the Kiewel brewery will be moved from Crookston to Red Lake Falls. — Gazette May 27, 1915

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Red Lake Falls bids fair to become the liquor supply station for all northwestern Minnesota and for North Dakota thru the workings of the county option law and the Indian country "lid." Every other county in the Red River Valley is going dry as fast as elections are being held but no petitions have even been started in Red Lake county. A good part of its rural population is Canadian-French and sentiment of the county is against saloon closing. Moorhead and East Grand Forks have already been put out of business as a distributing point. Breckenridge will be eliminated when Wilkin county goes dry, and the little town of Oslo in Marshall county will be out of business July 14 which will leave Red Lake Falls the nearest wet town to the North. — Gazette May 1915

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The thirsty will not go unsatisfied. Only a few hours after the 13 year dry spell ended, large quantities of the 3.2 per cent beer was flowing in Red Lake Falls.

The appointed hour was one of excitement. It was 4 o'clock Friday afternoon when one of the Kiewel Products Co. trucks rolled into this city, loaded with a good supply of that beverage that people have been talking about for a long time. Anxious customers jammed the local parlors and judging from the smiles it was evident that the brewers had not forgotten their trade.

Since the first arrival of beer in the city on Friday, the business has been brisk, according to reports. Both "off sale" and "on sale" license holders have been kept busy supplying the demand. Truck loads of the new beverage have arrived in the city practically every day since the new law went into effect. — Gazette April 13, 1933

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Red Lake county again started on a dry regime Monday night at 11 o'clock when the federal war prohibition act went into effect. Red Lake Falls has been the center of attraction for the thirsty in this part of the Northwest especially for the past two weeks. Saturday evening cars were parked on Main street for a distance of six blocks and on all the side streets. There was little disorder. This is the second time the county went dry, the first time being on August 13, 1918, when agents of the Minnesota Public Safety commission closed the saloons without warning. — Gazette July 15, 1937

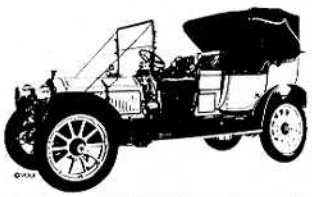
L. J. SAVARD BRINGS FIRST OWNED AIRPLANE TO RED LAKE COUNTY

Lorenzo J. Savard of this city is the first owner of an airplane in Red Lake county. Last week he motored down to the Twin Cities where he closed the final deal for the plane and returned to Red Lake Falls Thursday evening with a new Spanish Hasco Waco plane. The trip from Minneapolis to Red Lake Falls was made in 2 hours and 55 minutes, a trifle less time than is made by the fastest automobile that has been driven between the Twin Cities and Red Lake Falls.

Roy Bouchart, a licensed pilot of Minneapolis, accompanied Mr. Savard to this city with the plane. Since the arrival here on Thursday evening the plane has been up in the air several times each day. The new machine is a two-passenger bi-plane.

Mr. Savard has during the past year spent months at a flying school taking flying lessons and intends to use his new machine for commercial flying. Last week a number of passengers were taken up at Bagley and other surrounding towns. He expects to have the plane here for passenger flying on July 4th, when the big celebration is on. He intends getting an airplane photograph of Red Lake Falls in the very near future. Those who have been over the city in a plane state that Red Lake Falls presents a most picturesque view with the two rivers and wooded lands surrounding.

The American Legion and the city recently made arrangements for the purchase of the old fair grounds and a portion of these grounds will be scraped and graded for a landing field. Mr. Savard contemplates erecting a hangar at the fair grounds for his plane. — Gazette June 20, 1929





Paul Lizotte hauling kegs of beer. A. L. Roy is delivering whiskey in 1918.

AUTOMOBILE CLUB

In 1915 Red Lake county had 218 cars according to a report made by the then secretary of state, Julius Schmahl. In those days the motorists were banded together in an automobile club for social enjoyment as well as highway improvement. Almost every town had a club and several times a year there would be tours to neighboring places. Red Lake Falls' club at one time had 101 members and was thereby entitled to two delegates (with expenses paid) to the annual state of the Minnesota Automobile Association. The Red Lake Falls club sponsored a tour to Red Lake and the Indian Reservation which was highly successful tho strenuous undertaking. In order to make the round trip in one day the start from Red Lake Falls was made at 5 o'clock in the morning. The Oklee Automobile club one year had a nail-picking bee under the direction of A. P. Toupin, a horde of small boys combed the streets of Oklee for nails, glass and other puncture-causing articles. It was surprising the amount of such stuff that was gathered.

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There are 204 automobiles in Red Lake county exclusive of those bought since May 1. The board of equalization report shows there were 80 owned in the city of Red Lake Falls 11 in Plummer and 17 in Oklee. Very soon the number of cars owned by farmers will exceed those owned in the city and villages combined.

* * * * * * * * *

July 22, 1915. The Automobile club has this week been engaged in marking and putting up signs on all main roads leading to Red Lake Falls and to the surrounding towns. A uniform system of marking has been adopted with different colors for each road so that hereafter there should be no excuse for any person losing his way. The roads from Red Lake Falls to Gentilly, Fertile, Dugdale, Oklee, Plummer, St. Hilaire, Wylie and Dorothy have been marked by signs painted upon telephone poles or fence posts at every turn or road crossing. Blue and white signs with an arrow pointing the way to Red Lake Falls and the mileage to this city have been put up at proper places along the different routes so that weary travelers will be cheered by the knowledge that they are only a few miles from a good town. One hundred danger signs will be placed at different points throughout the county where trees or a turn in the road might hide approaching teams or automobiles from each other. — Gazette Sept. 7, 1933.

On Monday, May 6th, the date officially designated by the Red Lake Falls Automobile Club when club members would work on country roads about the city, several auto loads of enthusiasts went into the county. They were armed with picks and shovels and much determination to do good work. They smoothed out uneven places in the roads, heaved heavy stones from the highways and made other minor repairs. The day's activities passed off without events of special interest except the experience of the occupants of one car. These people "worked their way" to Wylie putting the road in repair as they progressed. Returning to town over the same road late in the day they got stuck in the mud. They put the brawn and experience in roadbuilding that they had annexed earlier in the day to good use and after a half hour's strenuous effort got the car on solid ground.

COL. AND MRS. CHARLES LINDBERGH VISIT RED LAKE FALLS

Colonel and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh paid a visit to Red Lake Falls. Flying here from North Haven, Maine, via Detroit, Mich., in a two passenger orange and black monocouqe they circled around the city and landed their plane on the E. W. Kirschman field one and a half miles west of Trunk Highway No. 32, about 5:45 o'clock Thursday afternoon, August 29, 1927.

In a short time after they landed the word spread swiftly around and by the time the plane was securely anchored, the highway was jammed with cars and a good sized crowd had assembled.

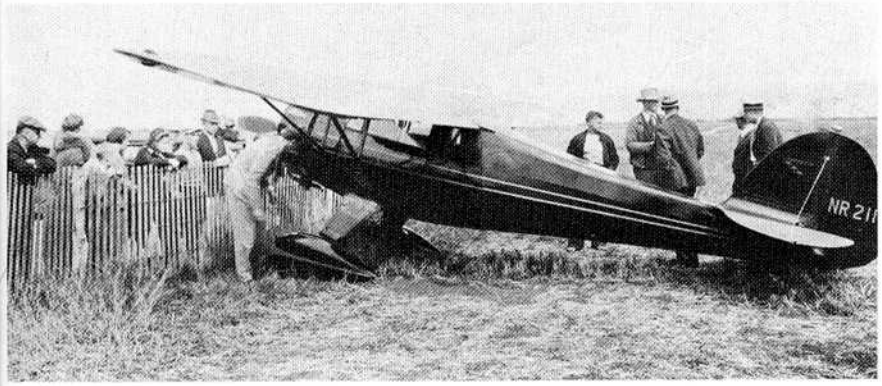
Col. and Mrs. Lindbergh were driven to the home of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Christie whose guests they were during their stay here. Mrs. Christie is his sister.

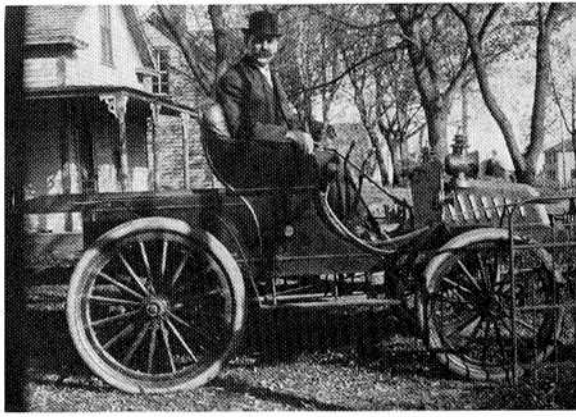
The Lindbergh plane was on the Kirschman field all day Sunday and Monday morning and during its stay here was under the watchful eye of Sheriff Carl A. Kankel who was assisted by Jos. C. Lacoursiere and others.

While here Col. and Mrs. Lindbergh met a few friends of the Christie family at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Healy. Sunday the aviator and his wife were taken for a drive to Huot Memorial park and Crookston.

Monday morning Col. Lindbergh spent some little time in inspecting and adjusting his plane after which he made a few flights with members of the Christie family and Sheriff Kankel as passengers, and shortly before 2 o'clock he and Mrs. Lindbergh climbed into the plane and headed for Little Falls.

The people of Red Lake Falls were most considerate of their desire for privacy and rest, and the Lindberghs appreciated this fact as well as the vigilance of Sheriff Kankel and his helpers in guarding their plane, the kindness of Mr. Kirschman and Mr. Ed Zins for the use of their fields and of County Engineer, R. W. Tollefson, who put up the fence around the plane. — Gazette Sept. 5, 1935





Samuel Gibeau in his 1907 Winton car

NEW YEAR'S BALL WITH JAZZ — 1917

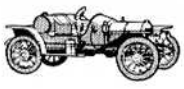
Red Lake Falls will be officially introduced to a jazz band on Monday evening, Dec. 31 at the gigantic New Year's ball to be given at the new Peoples Garage under the auspices of the entertainment committee of the Red Cross Society for the benefit of the Red Lake county soldier boys. The Red Lake Falls orchestra will be metamorphosized a good many times during the evening into just such a band.

The word "jazz" is of African origin we are told, and in the creole patois of New Orleans means "speeding up things." Jazz means ginger. To quote from the vaudeville critic, Walter Kingsley, "Jazz music is the delirium tremens of syncopation. It is strict rhythm without melody. Today the jazz bands take the popular tunes and rag them to death to make jazz. Beats are added as often as the delicacy of the player's ear will permit. It is an attempt to produce the marvelous syncopation of the African jungle. The highly gifted jazz artist can get away with five beats where there were but two before."

To play the jazz music the local orchestra will discard the string instruments and will have just the noise making kind — Butch Brunelle will beat the tom toms and traps, Lee Healy will wrestle with the saxophone, Bob Poirier will punish the clarinet, Omer Hall will stretch the trombone and Joe Harren will toot the cornet, and if the result isn't jazzy enough for the dancers we will be surprised indeed.

But listen, folks — that isn't all there is going to be at the New Year's ball. There will be waltzes, two steps, square dances — lots of them, one steps, polkas, schottisches, three steps, and fox trots. Val Dettling and Otto Zaiser will take in the money, Ernie Buse and Frank Jeffers will be floor managers. Dr. and Mrs. I. Lemieux will lead the grand march.

The reception committee will consist of Dr. and Mrs. I. Lemieux, Mrs. E. F. Marshall, , Mrs. Wm. Findeisen, Theo. LaBissoniere, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Schreiter and Mr. and Mrs. Jos. J. Helm together with the entertainment committee, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Christie, Miss M. E. Strunk and Miss Rebecca Hunt.



O. K. SALOON

Is the Place to Go for Choice

WINES,
LIQUORS,
CIGARS

J. E. BRAY

W. A. REICHEL

ARTIST
PHOTOGRAPHER

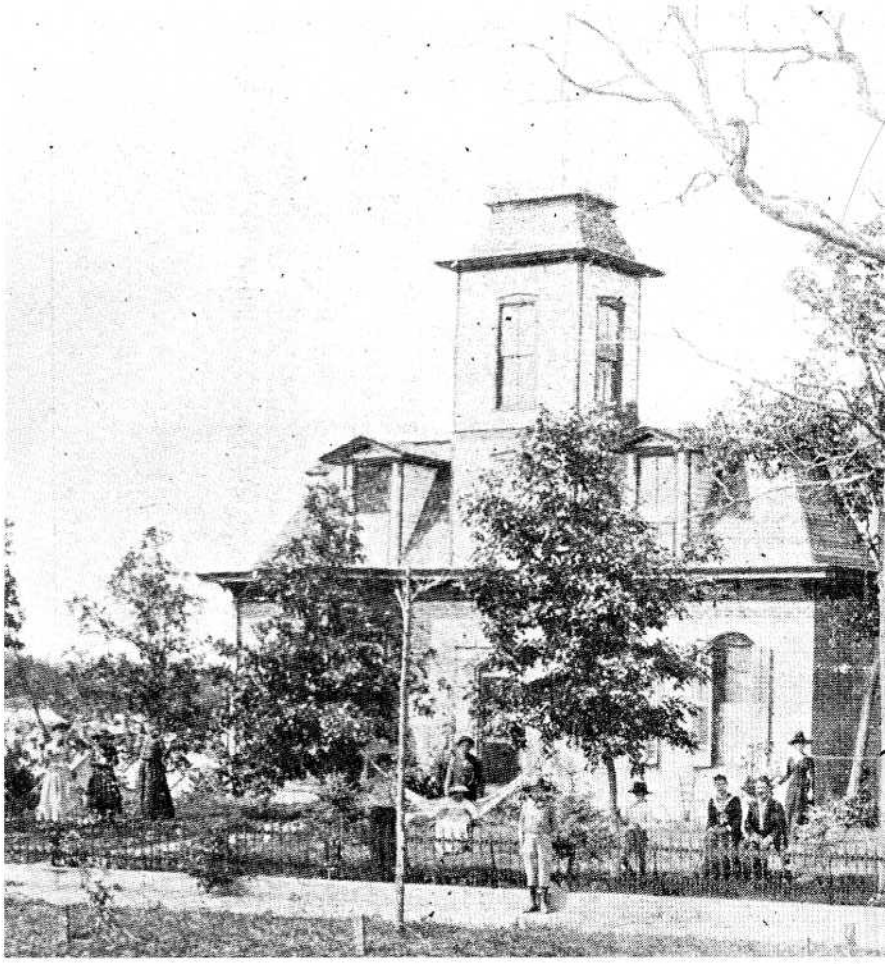
Picture Framing, Crayon and Pastel Work, Etc.

RED LAKE FALLS, MINN.

FRANZ F. FREUND

Bicycle
Repairing
and Painting

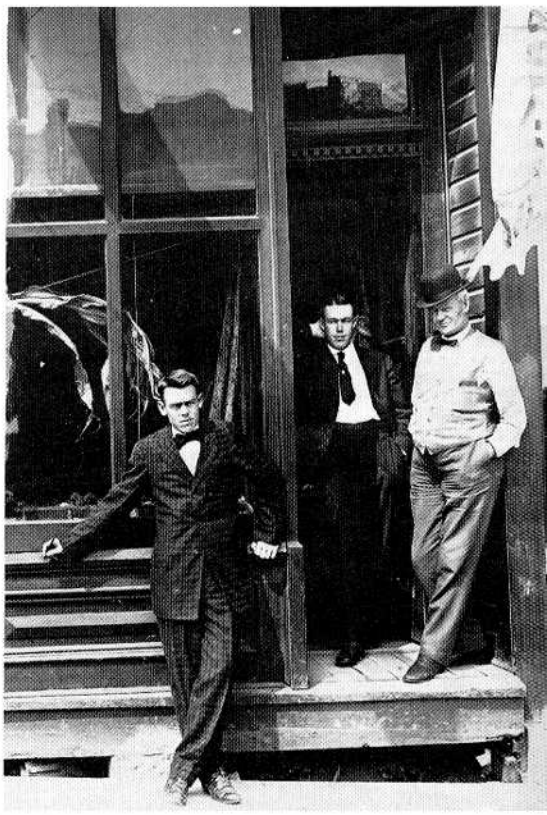
Agent for Columbia and Cleveland Wheels.
Wheels to Rent.



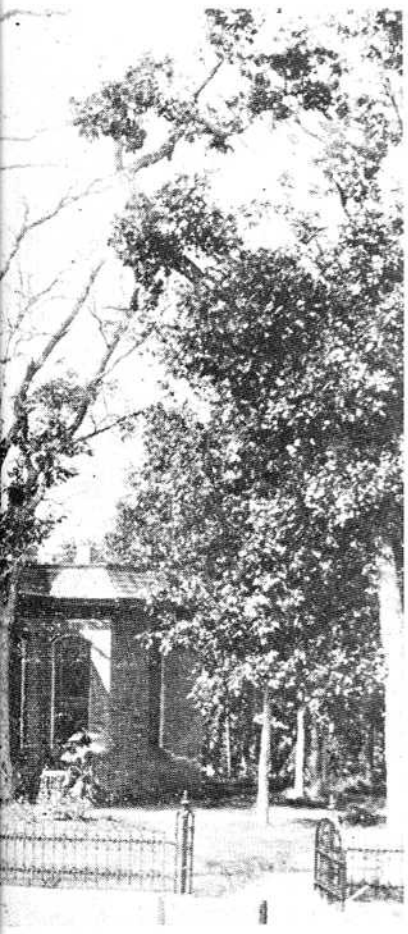
Schreiter residence built in the 1880's by Carl Kretzschmar. For years the house was unoccupied and named the "castle" by the children who "haunted" the place. On the Northside.



Joseph Helm's business established in 1882.
(See family history)



Healy Land Company. Ed Healy and sons, Lee and Vern.





M. Skala. DEALER IN

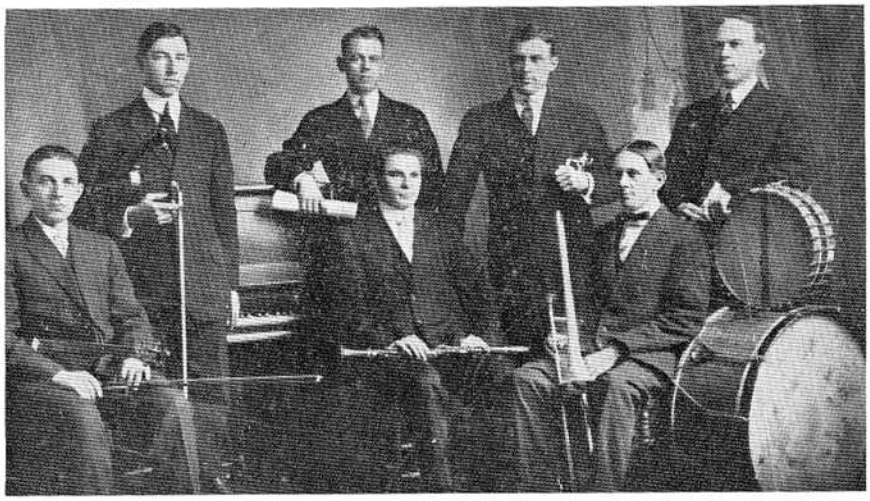
Fine Wines, Liquors, and Cigars

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

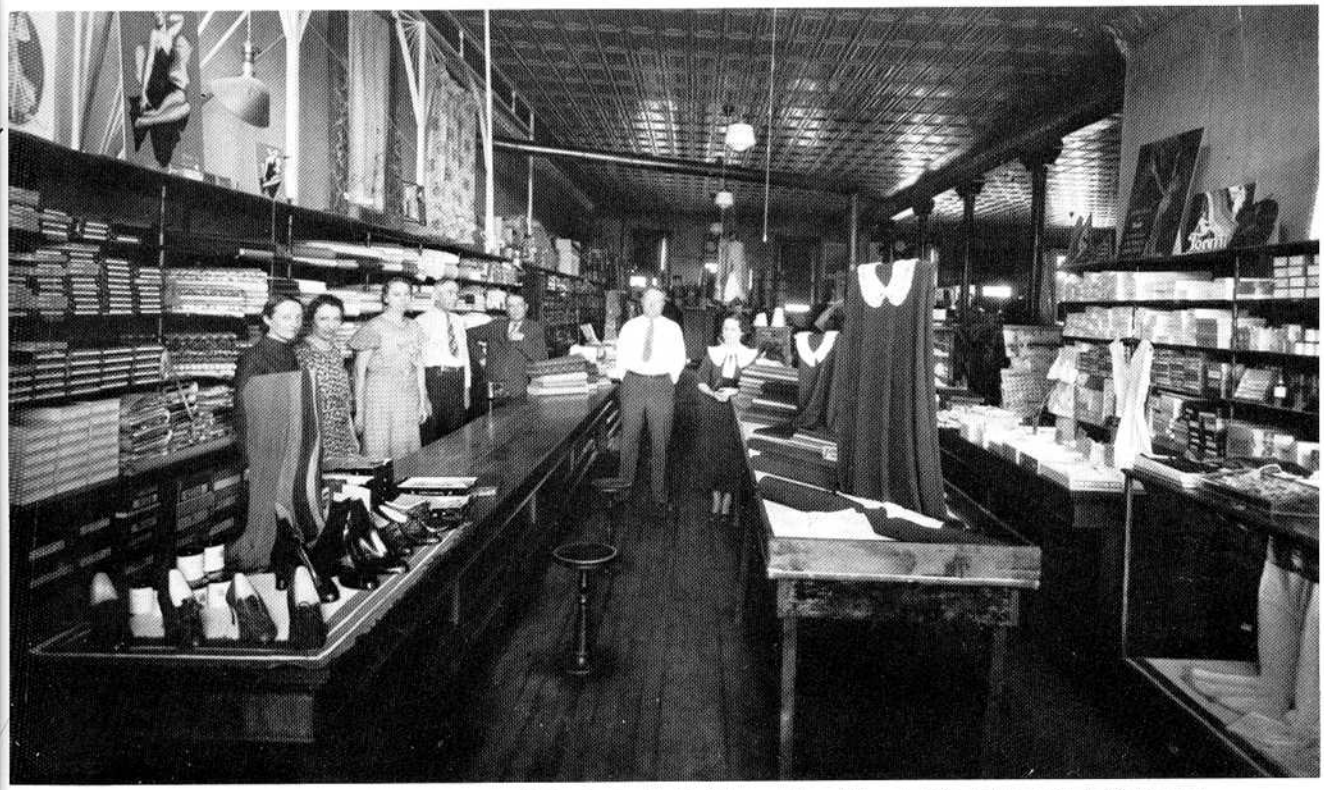
The best place to buy pure liquors for family and medicinal purposes. Old established and reliable brands only. Your orders solicited.

BROADWAY,

Red Lake Falls, Minn.



Red Lake Falls Orchestra 1915. Robert Poirier, Lee Healy, Clem Brunelle, Butch Brunelle, Theodore Garceau, Joe Harren and Omer Hall.



La Bissoniere's Store late 1920's. Employees Cecilia Bregier, Louise Berthiaume, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tischart, and Mr. LaB in the rear.

REGISTER OF BIRTHS, TOWN OF Red Lake Falls

Pioneer Press.

No.	DATE OF BIRTH. Month.	Day.	Year.	NAME, IF ANY.	SEX. (And Condition. as Twins, Illegitimate, &c.	COLOR.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF CHILD (TOWN OR CITY.)
1	Sept.	26	1876	Mary Martha Desmaris	French	white	Red Lake Falls
2	July	29	1876	Mary Geardine Patnaude	French	White	Red Lake Falls
3	Feb.	18	1877	John B. Hiroux	French	White	Red Lake Falls
4	apr.	21	1877	Annie Powliotte	French	white	Red Lake Falls
5	June	11	1877	Agnes Virgie Bottineau	3/4 French	white	Red Lake Falls
6	July	4	1877	Henry Jewl Lasha	French	white	Red Lake Falls
7	Jan	11	1877	Lettie Ellen Beaudro	French	white	Red Lake Falls
8	Feb	20	1877	Mary Geardine Odette	French	white	Red Lake Falls
9	Sept	2	1877	Charles Raiche	3/4 French	white	Red Lake Falls
10	Oct	20	1877	Charles Napolem Bourdeau	French	white	Red Lake Falls
11	Aug	25	1877	Annie Celestie Gervais	French	white	Red Lake Falls
12	Oct	1	1877	Louis Henry Barrette	French	white	Red Lake Falls
13	January	31	1876	Mary M. LaBrie	French	white	Red Lake Falls
14	Feb	26	1878	Annie Leys	French	white	Red Lake Falls
15	May	15	1878	Annie Jane Grandbois	French	white	Red Lake Falls
16	June	10	1878	Charles Fremette	French	white	Red Lake Falls
17	March	15	1878	Mary Vitaine Gervais	French	white	Red Lake Falls
18	May	28	1878	Rose Bellaire	French	white	Red Lake Falls
19	June	18	1878	Mary Jessie Dona	French	white	Red Lake Falls
20	March	19	1878	Victor Emanuel Patnode	French	white	Red Lake Falls
21	June	1	1878	William A. LaBrie	1/2 French	white	Red Lake Falls
22	June	18	1878	Joseph N Ducharme	French	white	Red Lake Falls
23	Aug	25	1878	Philly Lambert	French	white	Red Lake Falls
24	Aug	28	1878	Mary Dina Barrette	French	white	Red Lake Falls
25	Sept	13	1878	Mary Ellen Ducharme	French	white	Red Lake Falls
26	Sept	19	1878	Adolere Champoux	French	white	Red Lake Falls
27	May	27	1878	Rosanna Richard	French	white	Red Lake Falls
28	Nov	2	1878	Mary J. Labessiomiere	French	white	Red Lake Falls
29	Nov	9	1878	Charlotte Desmaris	French	white	Red Lake Falls
30	Dec	5	1878	Joseph K. Brunnelle	French	white	Red Lake Falls
31	Jan	27	1878	Armand Patnode	French	white	Red Lake Falls
32	Dec	23	1878	Louis Harry Gervais	French	white	Red Lake Falls

COUNTY OF *Polk* STATE OF MINNESOTA.

Full Christian Name of each Parent.	Birth-Place of each Parent. (Give the State or Nation.)	Occupation of Father.	When Regist
John B. and Delina Desmaris	Canada	Farmer	
Cyrile and Celina Patnaude	Canada	Farmer	
Joseph and Felicite Hirvey	Minnesota	Farmer	
Nicholas and Lucy Pawliotte	Canada	Farmer	
Peter and Martha G. Bottineau	Minnesota	Farmer	
Elie and Annie Lasha	Minnesota	Farmer	
Joseph and Sarah Beaudro	Minnesota	Farmer	
Leon and Caroline Odette	Minnesota	Farmer	
David and Sophia Raiche	Minnesota	Farmer	
Peter and Carry Bourdeu	Minnesota	Farmer	
Henry and Maria Gervais	Minnesota	Farmer	
Norbert & Josephine Barrette	Canada	Farmer	
John B. & Sarah LaBrie	Canada & Missouri	Farmer	
Benoit & Christiana Cyr	Canada	Farmer	
Prospere & Jane Grandbois	Canada	Farmer	
George and Delina Frennette	Canada	Farmer	
Benjamin and Henrietta Gervais	Minnesota	Farmer	
Thomas Jr. and Sophia Bellaire	Minnesota	Farmer	
Frank and Celina Dona	Minnesota	Farmer	
Simon and Philomene Patnode	Minnesota	Farmer	
Adolph and Emma LaBrie	Wisconsin	Farmer	
Onezime and Catharine Duchanne	Canada	Farmer	
Michael and Sarah Lambert	Minnesota	Farmer	
Norbert and Josephine Barrette	Canada	Farmer	
Joseph and Philomene Ducharme	Canada	Farmer	
Adolph and Mary Champoux	Canada	Farmer	
Thaddy and Emily Richard	Canada	Farmer	
Francis and Adeline Labissonnie	Canada	Farmer	
J.B. and Delina Desmaris	Canada	Farmer	
George and M. J. E. Bramette	Canada	Farmer	
Moses and Philomene Patnode	Canada	Farmer	
Louis Henry and Sarah Gervais	Minnesota	Farmer	



BUSINESS SCENE '76

DMH COMPANY purchased Alma Trailer Sales in 1961 and through continued growth and expansion presently employs approximately 150 full time persons with an annual payroll at peak employment of about a million and a half dollars. Over 17,000 units have been produced to date. Corwin C. Woodard is president.

CENTRAL BI-PRODUCTS The Red Lake Falls Rendering Plant was built on the Red Lake River in 1938 and sold to Central Bi-Products in 1962.

RAFDORS, INC. established in 1968 manufactures rafters for DMH and mobile home entries. LeRoy Audette, owner. **CAMERON & SULLIVAN ASSOCIATES, INC.** is the distributor for the entries.

RED LAKE FALLS SILO CO. in operation since 1962, formerly Westman Silo established in 1950. Eugene Radeke, owner.

WHITESTONE DECOR PRODUCTS manufactures and wholesales statues, plaques and figurines. Established in 1973 by Herbert Johanneck.

PETTERSON FUNERAL HOME established in 1954 by Ralph and Mae Petterson is the only mortuary service in the county.

RED LAKE FALLS CLINIC The new building, located adjacent to the hospital, was completed in early 1974 and is staffed by Doctors David Mersy, Eric Mukand and Greg Magnuson.

MICHAEL H. SPEARS, DDS began dental practice here in 1969.

EUGENE STELTER, DVM opened his veterinary clinic in 1957.

RED LAKE FALLS GAZETTE

Red Lake Falls' weekly newspaper, the Gazette, was established in 1883 by Olie and J. B. Holmes and sold to Philip A. Kaufer in May 1892.

Another paper, the Red Lake Falls Era, preceeded the Gazette but when it started or ended is not known. Only one copy dated August 10, 1882, has been preserved. During the 1898 presidential campaign, another periodical appeared, The Red Lake County Courier, established by Edward F. West in October 1898 as a Republican newspaper. Two months later, Frank Jeffers and C. E. Boughton took over this paper and switched its political sway to the Populist Party.

The Gazette continued to be published and was sold in 1916 to George W. Christie and Horace W. Cutten, a partnership. Cutten left the Gazette in 1949, and following George W. Christie's death in 1956, the editor was George Christie, Jr.

In 1967, Earl Anderson began the Record Printing Company. The two papers were consolidated in 1968 when Gazette publisher, Mrs. George Christie, Sr., sold to Harold Nelson. Nelson retained the Gazette until he sold to Miles Aakhus in 1971, bought the paper back and finally in July 1973 sold to F. Currie Tibbetts, the present publisher.

KRUTA AND MULDOON ATTORNEYS The first office was opened by Jaroslov Kruta here in 1968. He was joined by William Muldoon in 1970.

NEIL (PETE) PRENEVOST began his accounting practice here in 1952.

The **RED LAKE COUNTY STATE BANK** was established in Red Lake Falls June, 1933 when the charter of the Farmers State Bank of Middle River was moved to this community. O. P. Gjerdingen, O. B. Gjerdingen and Lorri Gjerdingen purchased the controlling bank stock in January 1966. O. P. Gjerdingen is president, Ray Perras, vice president.

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN of Thief River Falls opened a branch office here in 1974. Beatrice Larson is branch manager.

The two local **BARBERS** are Leonard Lizotte and Bob Schafer. The community is served by five **BEAUTY SALONS,** Proprietors: Josephine Bendel, Dianna Senn, Joe Dennis, Margaret Adelman and Doris Pahlen.

VOGUE CLEANERS owned by Adelore and Lucille Cota since 1971 was established by Ben and Gertie Johanson in 1940.

BENDEL PLUMBING Leo Bendel has been a plumber here since 1934.

PEPPERMINT SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER opened for business in late 1975. Eckstein's Department Store, owned by Roger Eckstein, and Super Valu Supermarket, managed by Ken Brady, are located here.

HARTZ STORE Tom and Myrtle Tydlacka

purchased the Hartz store from Albert Halvorson in 1948.

The **COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION** organized in 1938 and purchased the stock of the former Skala General Merchandise Store on the north side. Kenneth Stokke is the present manager.

HELM APPAREL In 1956 Lois Helm purchased the Robertson Style Shop from the E. G. Robertsons who had operated the business in the Max Ingber building for thirty years.

HANSON'S DEPARTMENT STORE owned by Eunice and Goodwin Hanson was purchased from Ken Tischart in 1972.

DODDS DRUG CO. In 1954 Robert Dodds purchased this business from H. B. Lane who had been the local pharmacist since 1921.

THOMPSON HARDWARE Marne and Shirley Thompson acquired this store from the Bjerkes in 1966. Formerly Hunt's Hardware.

WILCOX FURNITURE AND APPLIANCE CO. The Wilcox family has been in business here since 1934. Their present store is one of the largest of its kind in northwestern Minnesota.

A branch of **MONTAGUES FLOWER SHOP** of Crookston opened for business in 1974 with Esther Cota as manager.

VIOLETTE'S MEAT MARKET was purchased from Maurice LaPlante by Fred Violette in 1972.

Mrs. Louis Proulx opened her **HOBBY SHOP** in late 1975.

HOWARD E. JOHNSTON'S INSURANCE AGENCY was started by him in 1954. He also operates a gravel business.

In 1968 the **RED LAKE COUNTY AGENCY** was founded by Norris Thune. Lewis Pfann became manager and president of this insurance business in 1973.

A new business on Main Street this year is the **RON T. PAULING INSURANCE AGENCY** located in the former Champeau building.

The **MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE** which has been in operation since 1934 is managed by Ken Hagl. In 1974 a second off-sale bottle shop was added at the Chateau Bottineau Motel.

SULLIVAN'S, a supper club, was opened in 1971 by Jerry and Emmy Sullivan.

The **AMERICAN LEGION CLUB** opened for business shortly after World War Two. Kent Spears is the present manager.

The new **VFW CLUB** began operating in late 1975.

BLACKIE'S PALACE CAFE and card room was opened for business in 1970 by Lawrence "Blackie" Casavan.

Harriet Violette has operated the **FALLS CAFE** since 1966.

In 1975 Francis and Sharon Lizotte became the owners of the **JEWEL CAFE,** formerly operated for over fifty years by "Kaiser" Savard.

Barb Bushee is the manager of the **TASTEE FREEZE** which is owned by Stover and Tretter. This business was started in 1958 by G. A. Benson.

THE SPOT tavern and cafe on the north side has been owned and operated by Harry and Carol Kjaer since 1972.

MURPHY'S CAFE also on the north side is owned by Chris and Mary Drees.

THE CHARTREUSE MOOSE RECREATION was opened this year by Bob Philion.

HOFIUS OIL CO., owned by Dalton and Leona Hofius, has operated as a bulk oil business selling Standard Oil products since 1966.

Ron Neiland has been the owner of the **STANDARD OIL STATION** since 1975.

Al Hanson became the **MOBIL BULK AGENT** in 1969 and Jim Boutain the owner of **JIM'S MOBIL** in 1972 when he purchased it from Harvey Mercil.

Harley Casavan recently became the operator of the service station on Highway 32 called **HARLEY'S SERVICE.**

THE FARMERS UNION OIL CO. (CENEX) in business since 1935 has been managed by Bob Tongen since 1968.

The **HEALY LAND COMPANY,** established in 1901, is the oldest business in continuous operation by one family. The company deals in real estate and insurance and is owned by Martin and Anne Healy.

THIBERT CHEVROLET AND BUICK CO. in business here since 1940 was founded by George Thibert and is presently owned and operated by his son, Roger Thibert.

Dorris and Georgia Miller own and operate **MILLER FORD SALES AND SERVICE** which they purchased in 1960.

The **FALLS EQUIPMENT CO.** which sells farm equipment and machinery was established in 1970 by William and Marian Krueger.

Dwight and Betty Thibert own the **THIBERT SPORTS CENTER,** a business they started in 1964.

TOWN AND COUNTRY MOTORS established in 1971 is owned by Dave Nelson.

A branch of the **WILSON BROS. CO.** of Thief River Falls which sells automotive parts opened in 1966. Merle Brevik is manager.

George Proulx's **ARCTIC INN,** in business since 1971, sells and services snowmobiles.

BARRY'S WELDING AND MACHINE, INC. owned by Barry Schultz opened in 1974, the first business established in the new industrial park.

CHATEAU BOTTINEAU MOTEL was built in 1972 by Paul and Ethel Petersen. Present owners are Duane and Marlene Berger.

The **FARMERS UNION GTA ELEVATOR,** built in 1965, is managed by Steve Olson.

The **OAKS MOBILE COURT AND LAUNDERETTE** was purchased from the Rollie Herolds by Dave and Betty Benson in 1969.

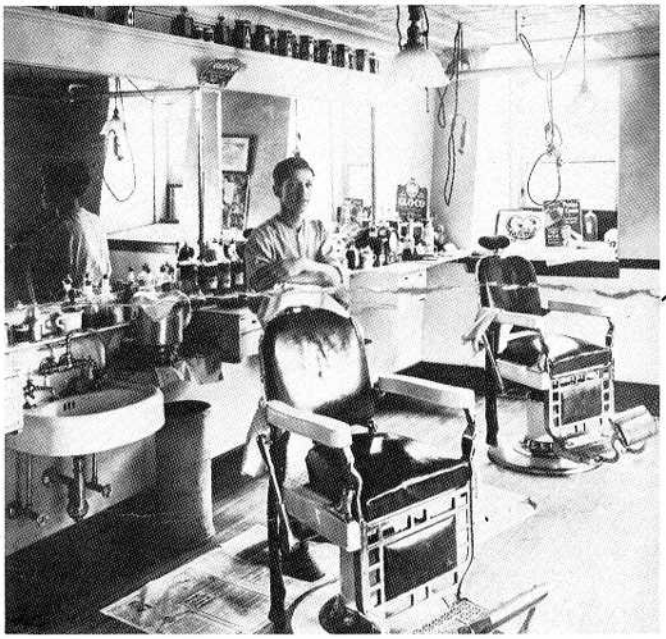
OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CO., managed by Duane Whyte, started business in 1971.

A long established business, **ROBERTSON COMPANIES** lumber yard is managed by Joel Schmitz.

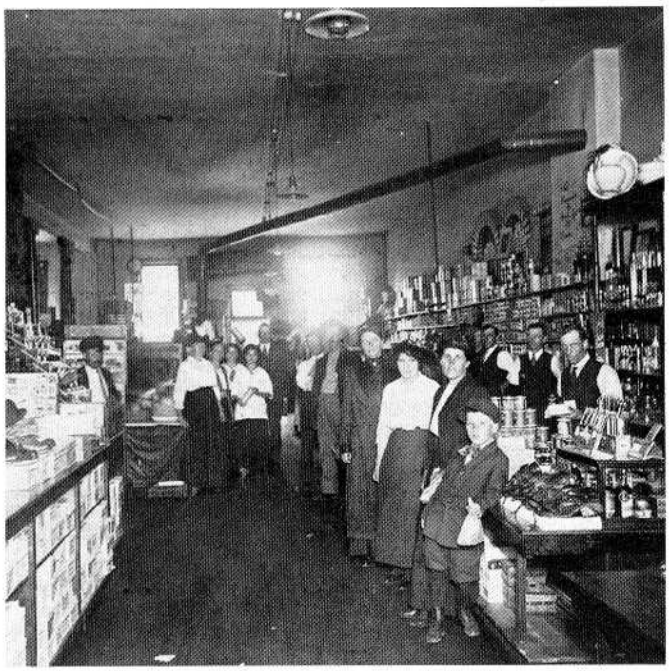
LEO CARRIERE'S NURSERY and **LARRY ECKSTEIN'S GREENHOUSE** are recent additions to this city's growing list of business enterprises.



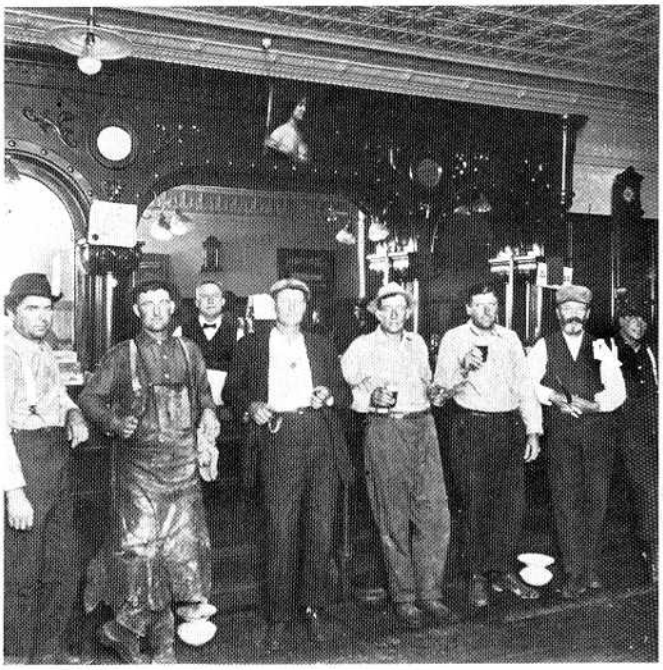
Joseph LaPlante Meat Market 1925



Miller's Barber Shop 1925
Wallace (Pete) Miller Age 17



LaBissoniere Store interior



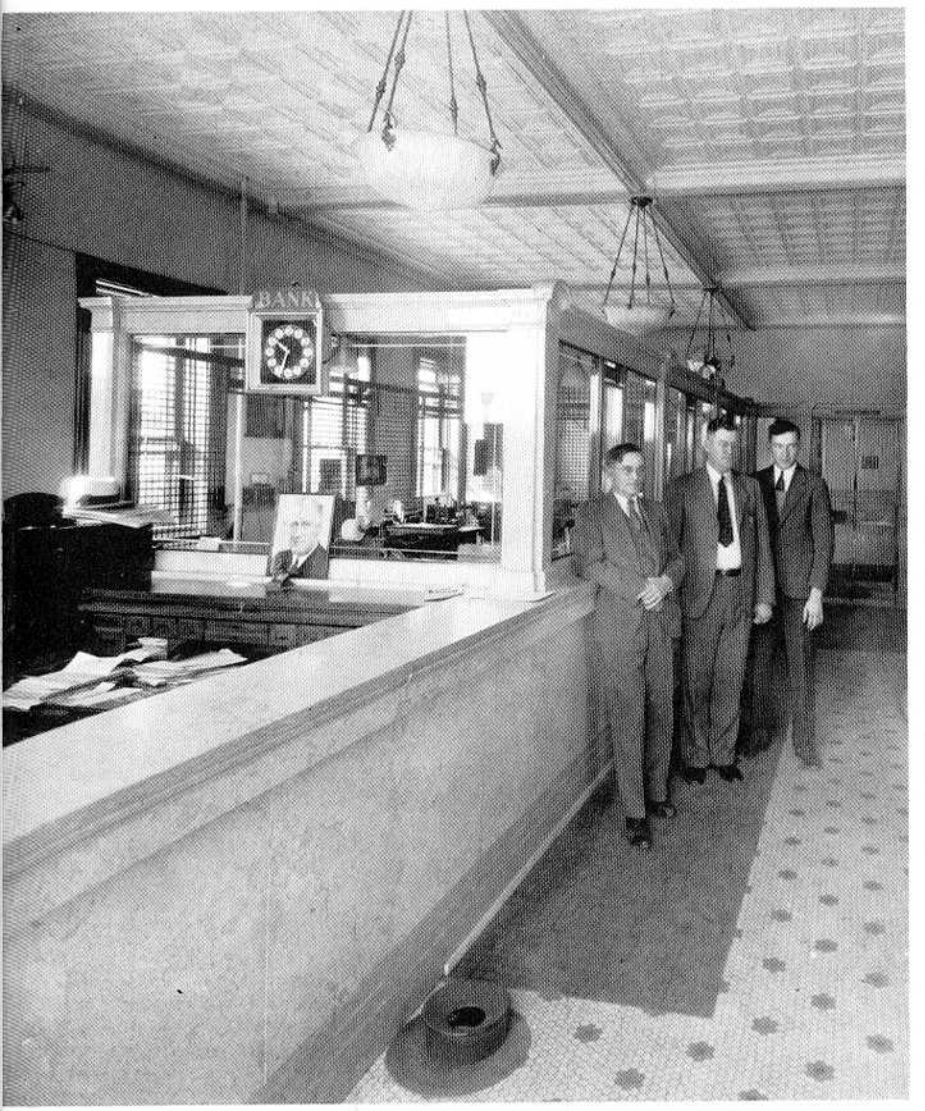
Deutschman Saloon North Side about 1910

CENTENNIAL '76

Red Lake Falls will note one hundred years of existence in 1976, the anniversary of the first party to arrive in this area led by Pierre Bottineau.

The event is observed in a grand and glorious manner July 3, 4 and 5 with reunions, dances, concerts, ecumenical church service, parade and fireworks, threshing bee and the dedication of the Pierre Bottineau burial site. The downtown area in Red Lake Falls is a living museum and beards and centennial costumes very much a part of the scene.

The publication of the history of Red Lake County coincides with the Centennial celebration in Red Lake Falls and the bicentennial observance of our country's birth.

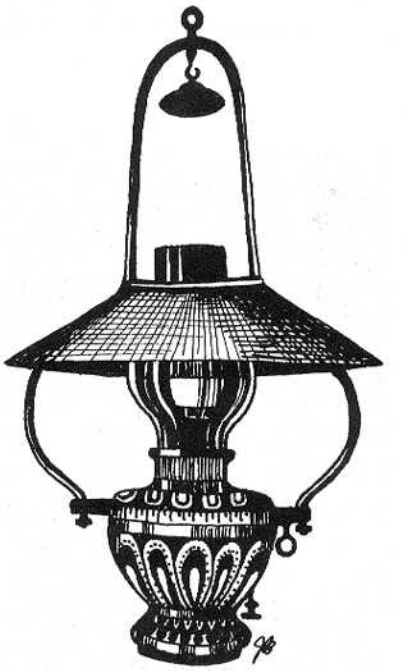


Red Lake County State Bank 1934. Walter Johnson, Clarence Orr and Ray Perras.



Sorting mail in the Red Lake Falls postoffice in 1921. M. O. Sortedahl, postmaster.

The Red Lake Falls Post Office was established on March 25, 1878 in the part of Polk County that later became Red Lake County. Ernst Buse was the first postmaster. Other postmasters have been Frank Hunt, Carl Kretzschmar, Oliver Holmes, Fred Taylor, Emma Marshall, A. L. Reichert, Martin Sortedahl, Raymond Linnihan, Celestine Proulx and the present postmaster Al Buse. Al is the grandson of the first postmaster, Ernest Buse, who also was one of the first settlers of the area.



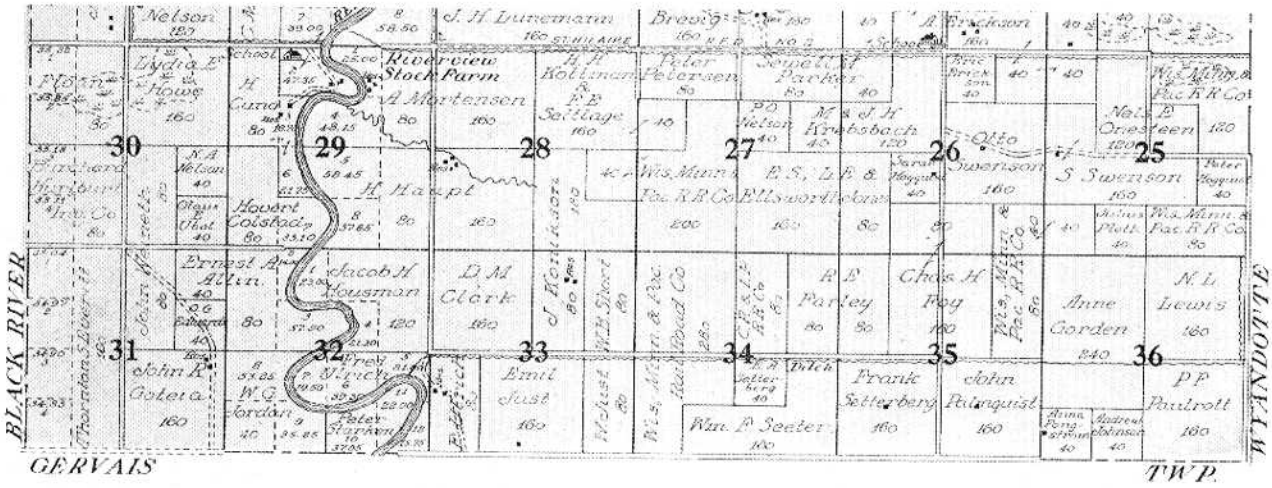
MAP OF

TOWNSHIP 152 N., RANGE 43 W.

of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¾ inches to 1 mile

RIVER FALLS TOWNSHIP



RIVER TOWNSHIP

River Township was once a part of River Falls Township in Pennington County. With the division of the two counties, the south portion became known as River Township, consisting of twelve sections, as compared to twenty-four sections in River Falls.

The members of the two town boards met in St. Hilaire on April 17, 1911 for the purpose of dividing the assets held jointly by the two towns. One-third of the balance on hand, $97.75, was allotted to River Township and $195.50 to River Falls. River got four road scrapers and one split-log drag; River Falls, eight road scrapers and two split-log drags; the one road grader was to be shared by the two townships. Present at this meeting were J. S. Roy, R. L. Hauge, A. P. Sandberg, William Cuno, John Konickson, and Walter Swanson, supervisors of the two townships, and the two clerks, A. S. Anderson and Olaf Nelson. The first officers in River were Walter Swanson, William Cuno and John Konickson, supervisors; Olaf Nelson, clerk, and John R. Gotea (Gauthier), assessor. Poll tax was set at one day per year for each adult male citizen in the township; road tax, one dollar per $100 assessed valuation.

On May 1, 1913, the board met to examine sealed bids for a road job; the bid of Albert Seaverson was accepted at a cost of seventy-four cents per rod, eight rods wide. No mention was made of the dis-



Log house on the Gauthier homestead built in 1887. John R. Gauthier, Mrs. Math Vesey, Mrs. Roselyn Gauthier, teacher, Lydia Fletcher and Phil and Alice Gauthier.

tance in length, but Mr. Seaverson netted the (huge?) sum of $355.75. During the years 1912 and 1913, the total paid for road and bridge was $1055.10; one entry was for a very meager 19¢.

The board met at the homes of various board members and occasionally at the school house. Home owners were paid $5.00 for the use of their homes as a polling place. The town hall was built in 1928, at a cost of $125.10; this included $4.00 labor to paint the exterior. It was destroyed in an early morning fire in 1970; since then a building on the John Ulrich farm serves as the official town hall.

Besides the original officers, the following have served on the town board: Paul Thyren, Carl Swanson, John and Andrew Mortenson, John Hogquist, F. S. Erdmann, Miller Peterson, Clarence Konickson, P. G. Gustafson, Ernest Hinrichs, Glen Haugen, Russell Gustafson, Arthur Swanson, Axel Johnson, John Ulrich, Fredolph Swanson, George Hesse, Edgar Peterson, Herman Burstad, Henry Burstad, Gust Larsen, Paul Anderson, George Haupt, Henry Konickson, N. A. Nelson, William Hesse, Walter Gustafson, Roy Steitz and Carl Gustafson — with an apology for any omissions. Some of the above served as constables and justices of the peace, offices which were later discontinued. Paul Thyren was elected clerk in 1915 and held that office for 60 consecutive years, until 1975. Clarence Konickson has been a supervisor since 1938.

Present board members are Glen Haugen, Clarence Konickson, and Fredolph Swanson, supervisors; John Ulrich, treasurer, and Roy Steitz, clerk. At the 1970 census, the population of River township was 90.

Prior to 1925, the children attended one of three schools, one in District 133 in River Falls. The other two were located on the west side of the river, one in River Township and the other in Gervais. The children attending these two schools walked to the river, rowed across in a boat and walked the remainder of the distance to school. During the winter months, they could cross the frozen river on foot; each spring they had a brief vacation from the start of the ice break-up until it was again safe to use their boats.

The new schoolhouse in District 236 was built in 1925 and ended the necessity of crossing the river twice a day in order to attend school.

The first teacher in the new school was Leona Allen. Other teachers listed in the records were Lillian Norman, a Miss Votava, Verna Ettner, Gabrielle deCatelina, Laura Almquist and Melba Rogge. The last year the school was in use, there were but two students in attendance, John and Cecelia Haupt.

Gust Konickson purchased the schoolhouse building a few years ago and remodeled it for a family home.

EARLY DAYS IN RIVER TOWNSHIP

Because of hard times and slavery conditions in Sweden, our parents, Solomon and Christina Swanson, came to America. Leaving Smaland, Sweden, on May 1, 1883, they arrived in New York on May 21 and went to Boone, Iowa where they had friends. Work was scarce, but mother found work in a boarding house for $2.00 a week and father got a job shoveling gravel for the railroad for $1.35 a day.

That fall they came to Crookston and then moved on east where they homesteaded on a farm southeast of St. Hilaire. Two brothers, August and Otto, had located there the year before. Father walked to St. Hilaire for groceries and this was an all day trip. There were many families in our area and we shared our joys and sorrows. Our father would take a load of wheat to the flour mill in Red Lake Falls and would bring home twenty sacks of flour which would last a year.



Mr. and Mrs. John Konickson, Alvin, Mabel and Clarence, about 1914. Four generations of Konicksons have lived in this house. The first section of the house was built between 1890 and 1900 and the left side of the house and porch were added later.

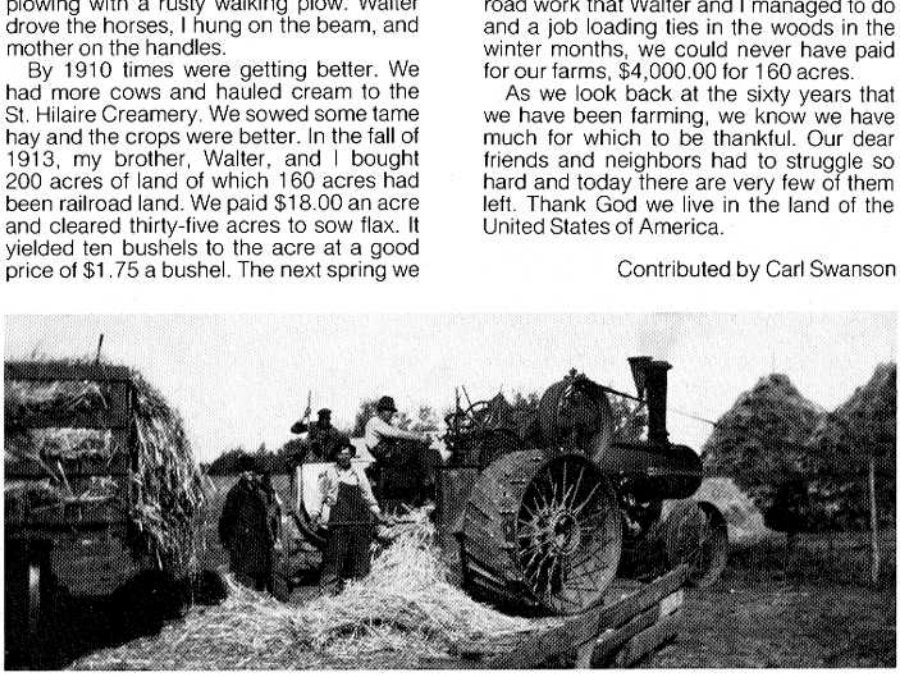
In 1900 and 1901 our father was taken ill. Although he received medical help, he did not improve so one day in the summer of 1901, the neighbors took him in a covered wagon to St. Hilaire and put him on the train to go to the Crookston hospital. He was there two months and then came walking home. While he was gone, our mother, Walter, who was twelve, and I, only eight years old, decided to do some plowing with a rusty walking plow. Walter drove the horses, I hung on the beam, and mother on the handles.

By 1910 times were getting better. We had more cows and hauled cream to the St. Hilaire Creamery. We sowed some tame hay and the crops were better. In the fall of 1913, my brother, Walter, and I bought 200 acres of land of which 160 acres had been railroad land. We paid $18.00 an acre and cleared thirty-five acres to sow flax. It yielded ten bushels to the acre at a good price of $1.75 a bushel. The next spring we cleared more land so now we had 100 acres to put into flax and wheat, but there was so much rainfall that particular summer, the crops drowned out. In 1916 we had 100 acres of wheat but cut only forty acres as the bulk of the crop was ruined by rust.

The spring of 1918 looked promising so we farmed more land putting in the crop on father's land first. It was an extremely hot day when we began to harvest the grain. We changed horses every three hours though father tried to tell us that we were cutting the oats too green. At six o'clock that afternoon a bad hail storm struck and destroyed a strip two miles wide and five miles in length. Then the storm came back and left five inches of rain. That was the end of the harvest. In 1919 due to the rust, we had less than half a crop. Without the road work that Walter and I managed to do and a job loading ties in the woods in the winter months, we could never have paid for our farms, $4,000.00 for 160 acres.

As we look back at the sixty years that we have been farming, we know we have much for which to be thankful. Our dear friends and neighbors had to struggle so hard and today there are very few of them left. Thank God we live in the land of the United States of America.

Contributed by Carl Swanson



Threshing on the Fredolph Swanson farm, 1915.

MAP OF TOWNSHIP 150 N., RANGE 43 W.

of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¾ inches to 1 mile

TERRE BONNE TOWNSHIP





St. Anthony of Padua Catholic church built in 1895 during the pastorate of Father W. T. Roy. The large garden was his handiwork.

TERREBONNE

The prosperity and growth of the community of Terrebonne, like that of many other promising villages in the early part of the century, did not continue when it was by-passed by the railroad lines. The following article from the Red Lake County Courier dated December 19, 1901, describes the community at that time and gives an optimistic view of the future.

"One of the most progressive and promising inland towns in northern Minnesota is the village of Terrebonne located on the Clearwater river, ten miles southeast of Red Lake Falls. Terrebonne is a French name, and when translated into every-day English, means 'good earth,' and is not a misnomer, for the best land in Red Lake County is tributary to this sprightly village. Some day a railroad will come through, and Terrebonne will become an important center of activity.

Its principal industry is its flouring mill which is running continuously night and day, and is turning out a grade of flour which is in such active demand that Messrs. Kankel & Ziegler, its hustling proprietors, are unable to supply it as fast as called for.

The mill is a custom mill and makes a specialty of exchanging the manufactured products for wheat. Its capacity is 75 barrels per day and its patrons testify that there is no better flour made than its product.

Messrs. Dupont & Sons, who have resided in the township of Terrebonne for the past twenty years and have been until recently engaged in farming, have a nice store building 28 x 60 feet, sheeted with steel, heated with furnace and well filled with a fine stock of general merchandise, and are doing a very satisfactory business.

Albert O. Hanson, an old time Crookstonite, is the village blacksmith and is kept busy at his anvil attending to the needs of his patrons. A flourishing camp of Woodmen is established there and its membership is increasing so rapidly that it bids fair to make it an unanimous proposition before they relax efforts at recruiting.



This 1914 photo shows the Clement Cheese Factory which was located a mile west of Terrebonne on the present highway 92.

Besides the village proper, one half mile south of its location is another small group of buildings among which is a small store and stopping place kept by A. Wolf, and a few residences. The church, which is a very nice appearing building is located at this point, and also the school house. The school has two departments with an enrollment of 85 pupils under the charge of Prof. M. E. Todd, with Mrs. Arthur Laniel as teacher in the primary room.

One mile west of the village is a cheese factory owned and operated furing the season by H. Clement."

It is interesting to note that in the 1902 article, the village, as we know it today, was at that time not considered Terrebonne proper. The original Terrebonne, built near the Clearwater River, included the Lajeunesse Hotel, LaPointe Blacksmith Shop, Barrette's Harness Shop, Dupont's Store, the flour mill and a few residences.

The Uphill Terrebonne was also growing. In 1902 Dr. W. O. Tessier, a physician, and O. Tessier, an attorney, built a store and hotel combination near the church, Wilfred Gervais had built a blacksmith shop, and the school District No. 79 was located here. Frank Jeffers was one of the earlier school masters. Professor M. E. Todd and Mrs. Arthur Laniel came a while later.

By then the proper Terrebonne and the suburb Terrebonne with a few residences, had reached its peak of growth. The lovely church, Lizotte's Superette, and a few homes comprise the Terrebonne community of today.

Because the early records of Terrebonne Township were not able to be found, dates of the township organization and early officers are not known.

Serving on the present township board are Thomas Gagner as chairman; Leslie Foldoe and Myron Reck as supervisors; Richard J. Sauve as clerk and Donna Paradis as treasurer.

CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Strikingly situated on a small rise along Highway 92, six miles east of Red Lake Falls, is the Church of St. Anthony of Padua, with a cemetery adjoining the church property and two beautiful shrines, always illuminated at night.

Terrebonne was founded in the spring of 1879 by French Canadians from Montreal in the province of Quebec. Fifty-three tickets were purchased for this journey, some of the families settling near Gentilly and some in Terrebonne. At that time there were no other settlers, Indian or White, around the Terrebonne area.

Father Pierre Champagne of Red Lake Falls established a mission here in 1879 and sang the first Christmas Midnight Mass in the home of Desire Robillard. During the course of two summers and one winter, Mass was said in the old house of Louis Cadieux, the first house to be built in the community. In 1882, Father Champagne built a church on a ten-acre plot given by Mr. Cadieux for that purpose. The cemetery was established that year, later enlarged in 1916 and again in 1933.

Rev. G. T. Dugal became the first resident pastor of Terrebonne in 1883 and lived with the Louis Cadieux family until the first rectory was finished in 1883. The first marriage was that of Francois Boissonneau and Joseph Paquet on July 31, 1883. The first burial is recorded that same year for Rose Anna Perreault, and the first baptism administered by Father Dugal in Terrebonne was Thomas Juneau in June. For awhile when the church was without a pastor in 1884, Terrebonne was served from Red Lake Falls by Father J. H. Marcil on alternate Sundays until Rev. Vaudry came in September 1884. He stayed until March 1885 and Father Marcil came again in July 1887.

Rev. Eli Theillon came in that month and remained until November 1888. He was succeeded by Rev. Louis Feige. In 1890, Terrebonne received the first visit of a bishop when Right Rev. James McGolrick of Duluth came to administer confirmation. At this time all of northern Minnesota was in the diocese of Duluth. That same year, Father Feige enlarged the church.

Father Feige left in 1892 to become the first resident pastor of Lambert. He was succeeded by Rev. W. T. Roy. By 1895, the Terrebonne parish was prosperous enough to build a new and larger church. Father Roy left in 1901 and there were various succeeding pastors: Rev. B. Pujos, Rev. C. Dube, Rev. L. J. Fournier, Rev. A. Tapin, Rev. J. M. Barras, and Rev. S. Veilleux.

On December 31, 1909, the diocese of Crookston was formed and Terrebonne became a part of this diocese. Rev. C. Bossus served the parish from 1911 through 1912 and during this time decorated the sanctuary and the ceiling himself. Rev. P. LeFloch was here from 1912 to 1917, and he built a new rectory in 1917 for about $3,000.00. In 1912 the articles of incorporation for the church were written.

Father LeFloch's successors were Rev. C. O. Trudeau and Rev. J. H. Perrin-Laurent who had a basement put under the church in 1921. In 1922 Rev. Samuel Bouchard came and served the church until 1930. Major changes were made by him in 1923 when he hired a stonecutter who, with the help of parishioners, under his instructions, cut the fieldstones and made the present foundation.

The two outdoor shrines, one in honor of the Sacred Heart and the other of the Blessed Mother and St. Bernadette, were erected and donated by Father Bouchard. Since 1957 these two shrines have been illuminated.

Father Ernest Paquin came to the Terrebonne church in 1930 and served the parishioners until 1955. Rev. Louis Proulx came in June of that year and served until 1969. In the winter of 1957, the men of the parish removed the main altar and constructed a modern one. The side altars were also removed and a new crucifix made and installed on the back wall behind the altar.

In 1969 Terrebonne became a mission and began being served by Rev. Henry Carriere, the pastor of Brooks. Rev. Larry Wieseler came in 1972 and is serving the parish at the present time. In 1973 the interior of the church was given a full remodeling.

In 1912 there were about 127 families in the parish and it cost $1,000 a year to maintain the church. In 1973 there were about 77 families in the parish and it cost about $16,000 to maintain.



TERREBONNE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

DISTRICT 80 — PRAIRIE QUEEN

Prairie Queen was indeed "Queen of the Prairie." The opportunities derived from attending school in this district fashioned our successful occupations and lives which were formed by the fundamentals learned in this school. As we now look back nostalgically, we had the best offered to us in every way.

"Lecher Potatoe," which interpreted means that potatoes could not even be raised in that area, but we could only "lick them" with relish! This was really a misnomer for our land, as it became one of the most productive and attractive spots in the country.

Before 1897, school was held in a log building situated on the northwest quarter of section 21, across the road from the Maurice Cote farm. Henry McAnulty, Carl Schusser, Agna LaFontaine, Coranna Toupin, Amanda LaFontaine, Katie McCord, Ida Bjorge, Clara Berg, Ina Linnihan, Lena Tschirhart, Clara Newton, Florence Cyr, Julia Toban, Nellie Berg, Ida Poessel and Helen Rosch were some of the teachers there. Robert, Leah Quesnel Theroux, Mable, Dora and Elsie Quesnel were some of the pupils.

The very first school building before records were kept was a log building on the northwest quarter of section 21. In later years a frame building replaced the log school and today it is still standing. When District 80 became consolidated with the Mentor School, the building was bought by Daniel Naas and is used for grain storage.

According to first records from the year 1897, the following people were school officers: W. A. Hatton, Eli Parrault and Sam Bourier. The second set of officers were: Eli Parrault, Jos. Laurent and Leon Laurent. The teacher was Katie McCord.

In 1901 the term began on August 19th and November 21st. Stephen Quesnel was director. The pupils enrolled were: Dora Sabourin, Leah Quesnel, Lona Desotell, Angelina Desotell, Ernest Desotell, Walter Sabourin, Maggie Blondin, Florida Beaudry, Mabel Quesnel, Joseph Sabourin, Emma DeMann, Ada Hatten, Ida Perreault, Lizzie Demann, Alexine Sabourin, Emma Blondin and Elsie Quesnel.

In 1954 the last school clerk was Ralph Quesnel and the last teacher, Edna Casey.

DISTRICT 81 — BEAUGERLEAU

Beaugerleau, Beau Gerlot, Bogolo; many variations in spelling, interpretations and reasons for the school name. In this story we will stay with the most commonly



Prairie Queen School



Beaugerlot School

sed in the early days, Beaugerleau, which neans "Pretty Bell," named for the chimes f the school bell which could be heard for niles around. A pretty sound indeed!

The original building, a frame structure, vas south or across the road from the ewer and better two room structure built f stones and mortar. It was too well built, owever, and immovable when Highway 2 was rebuilt in 1953. Thus, it had to be azed and the Wildwood school building vas purchased and moved to this location rom Gervais Township. District 81 (or 1734) was consolidated in 1967 with the Red Lake Falls school where the pupils are ransferred by bus. The building and prop-rty was purchased by Bennie Piche and he building has been remodeled into a ovely home. The earliest records on file 1907) tell us that Anna Jolly Sauve was he teacher hired for the fall term of four months, beginning September 2nd and hired for the five month spring term begin-hing February 1st was H. F. Andersen, County superintendent. The school offi-cers were Louis Perreault, Clerk; Bernan Derosier, Director; Joseph Laurent, Trea-surer.

(1903) Minnie Swanson, one of the first eachers, rode a pony to school from her home across the river; (1904) Charles Moler was the teacher; (1905) Henry McAnulty was County Superintendent; other teachers in this district were Viola Longtin, Minnie Vanderwaal, Albert LaCourse and Mae Clement, the last teacher.

DISTRICT 27 — BADGER

Records from 1897 indicate that for the winter term, enrollment was 35 students and Anna Jolly Sauve, the teacher. The first officers of the district were Moses Ducharme, Michael Quesnel and Hector LaCoursiere.

The last teacher at Badger School was Hazel Luxenberg. In 1953 due to the construction of Highway 92, the school was moved across the road from Terrebonne township into Lake Pleasant. During 1964, District 27 became #1730 upon its consolidation with Red Lake Falls Schools and this building, no longer used, was bought and remodeled by Melvin Kalbakdalen and used for a guest house.

TERREBONNE DISTRICT 79

The first building with two rooms housing two teachers and sixty to seventy pupils was situated south of present Highway 92. In the early 1930s, a more suitable structure was built as a WPA project, a block or so north of the same highway. Upon consolidation, this building, which is now owned by Ernest Paradis, was converted into a very nice home.

According to the first records kept, the officers in 1897 were Alcide Perusse, George Lisce, and Joseph Laundry. Among the teachers at district #79 were Grace Bagan, Victoria Beauchene, Kate Berthaume, Marie Boileau, Emma Sauve Prenevost, Rose Sauve and Erba Pouliot. Mae Clement taught here for twelve years and Josephine Taggetz was the last teacher.

In the 1930s, for a short period of time, a new district was formed south of Terrebonne called the Roosevelt School. A few of the families attending this school were the Walter Duponts, George Rocks and the Albert Gagners.

JOINT DISTRICT 36 (LaBELLE)

Records from 1901 show that the first officers in district #36 were Mrs. Sarah Quesnel, Frank Wegner, and James Jones. The original school burned about 1914 and that year the pupils were bussed to District 80 until a new building was erected. The new school was in use for many years until the district consolidated with the Mentor school in 1953. Some of the earlier teachers were Agna LaFontaine, Minne Vanderwaal, William Borchers and Freda Ittner.

Some of the county superintendents serving these schools were H. F. Andersen, Henry McAnulty, Albany DeForge, Lou Green, Erba Pouliot, Albert LaCourse, Mrs. Albert LaCourse and Mary Whalen Drees.



Two-room Terrebonne school, 1908. Grace Baggen and Florence Columbus, teachers.

THE TERREBONNE MILL

A spectacular fire on the night of July 4, 1954, ended a long history of flour making in the Kankel family that began with two brothers, Otto E. Kankel and Karl A. Kankel, who emigrated from Germany in 1870.

In 1884 Hannibal Ames built a roller mill for grinding grain on the Clearwater River just north of Terrebonne, Minnesota. The mill operated for three years until 1887 when it burned. It was rebuilt the following year by Ames and later purchased by Henry Hennemuth and Richard Ohm. Hennemuth and Ohm continued in the mill until 1894 when Charles O. Kankel and Charles F. Kankel, who were cousins and sons of the two immigrant brothers, purchased the Hennemuth interest. John Zeigler bought the Ohm interest. Later Zeigler sold to Chris Juhl who in turn sold his interest to Charles O. Kankel.

This mill was three stories high and had a basement. It measured forty feet by forty-two feet. The machinery was of the latest pattern, and the flour was of excellent quality. The dam was constructed of rock and crib work, about one hundred and seventy-five feet in width, and furnished with a twelve foot head and a fifty-six inch turbine wheel. The mill at this time had the capacity of a hundred barrels per day and was run to full capacity night and day.

Following the destruction of this second mill, also by fire in 1915, Charles O. Kankel and Joseph W. Ste. Marie, partners, built a third mill. The second mill had burned in January and rebuilding began in May. The third mill became operational on Thanksgiving Day of that same year. Because money was needed to rebuild, Kankel and Ste. Maire sold shares of stock and changed the name from the Terrebonne Roller Mill to the Terrebonne Milling Co. As the business prospered these shares were repurchased by the co-owners.

The third and final mill was a very large structure three stories high with an attached warehouse. In later years the warehouse was enlarged and a garage was added.

The millsite itself was a very beautiful place. At this spot in the river there was an island which was called pig island because a large number of pigs were kept there. Later the island was cleaned and used as a park where large picnics and gatherings were held.

The grain that was processed in this mill was crushed with huge rollers instead of a millstone. Once a year, usually in early summer, these rollers had to be hauled to the Twin Cities to be repaired.

The mill operated the year around and up until 1931 depended solely upon water power. The water from the river was forced through a millrace by a dam on the river. As the water passed through the millrace it turned a giant waterwheel which turned the rollers.

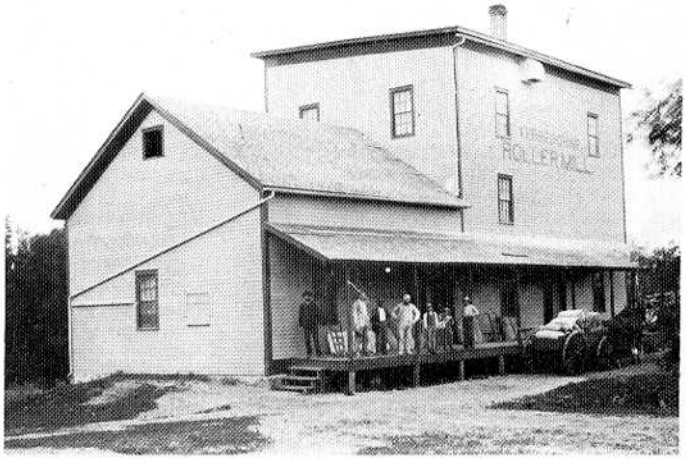
In 1931 the water level in the river became so low that the mill was only able to operate part time and it was then that the partners decided to install a diesel engine.

In the early days the mill and the house had access to some electric power which was furnished by a generator. It was not until 1941 that the R.E.A. lines were installed.

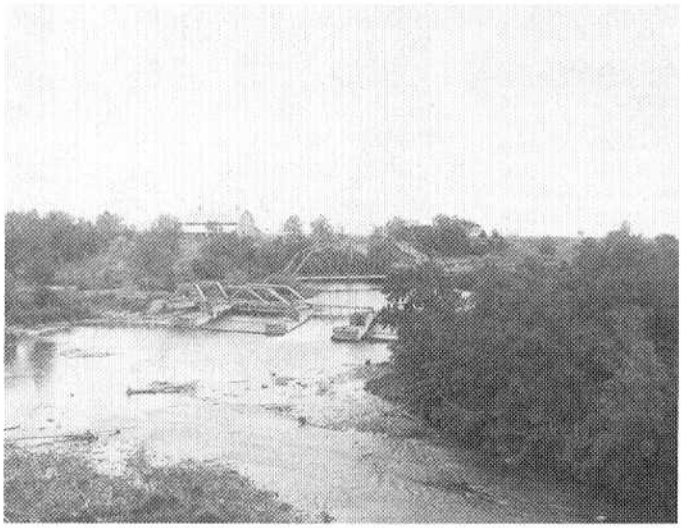
Located near the mill in the early 1900's was a general store and an eating place. The general store was operated by Mr. Moreau and later by Mr. Dupont. The eating place was operated by Mrs. LaJaunesse. The farmers who came from a



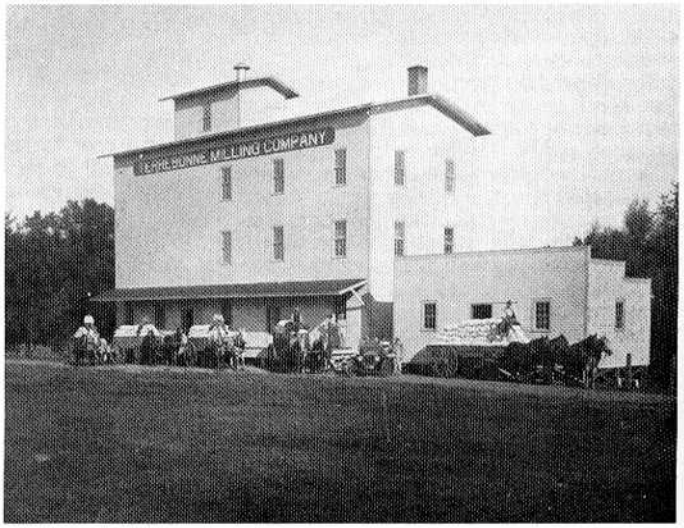
Building the dam on the Clearwater River.



Terrebonne Roller Mill prior to 1915.



The dam and bridge behind the Mill.



Terrebonne Milling Co.

long distance away with horse drawn wagons often traded at the store and bought their meals from Mrs. LaJaunesse. They sometimes slept over night in their wagons.

All hauling of grain and flour was done by wagons and teams of mules or horses until 1920 when a Reo truck was purchased. When flour was to be shipped it was hauled by wagons or trucks to the nearest railway line, usually at Red Lake Falls or Mentor.

The mill processed and shipped thousands of barrels of flour overseas during World War One and World War Two. It took approximately three bushels of wheat to make a hundred pounds of flour. The best quality flour produced was the LaBelle brand, an enriched flour. The second quality was called Snoball. They also made bran and whole wheat flour and a cereal called Buddies Breakfast Food.

It is interesting to note that during the depression years the mill operated around the clock, even employing a night miller. Because of the economic situation, the farmers hauled their own grain from very long distances to be ground into flour for their own use or to trade their grain for flour.

Competition from the large milling companies following World War Two brought a decline in the need for the smaller local mills. Thus, when the fire in 1954, which was caused by combustion, leveled the Terrebonne Mill, it signaled an end to a business made obsolete by time and progress.

This information was gathered from family records and from an interview with Mrs. Joseph W. Ste. Marie (Emma), an eighty-four year old family friend who came to live at the millsite as a bride in 1914 and spent all of her married life there. Prepared by Tracy Kankel

The following is a list of real estate owners in the Township of Terrebonne in the year 1891. Joseph Beaudin, Joseph Marsonette, Remi Cote, Julius Girard, Cyrille Beaudin, Raphael St. Marie, Louis Cadieux, Ames Bros. and Smith, Mary M. Ames, Eveline Sauve, Thomas Crompe, Josephine Mageau, Joseph Laurent, Alcide Perusse, Edward Faille, Elizabeth Malette, J. B. Surprenant, Hermidas Clement, Thomas Allard, Giles Lizee, Laurent Granger, Joseph Cote, E. J. Hodgson, Moises Thibert, Fanny Carleton, Michel Marlow, Louis Godbout, J. L. Cassette, Napoleon Genereux, J. E. Gauthier, Delphis Champoux, Ovila Rock, Leon Rivard, Michel Champagne, Neree Gaudette, J. B. Fournier, Ed Clement, Alferie Perusse, Chas. Cyr, Leon Laurent, Andre Prudhomme, J. Therrien, Regis Gagnon, Angelina Beausoleil, Chas. Montreuil, Ephraim Morinville, Pierre Ponthrillant, Desire Robillard, Joseph Ducharme, Leandre Daoust, Louis St. Yves, Adelard Laurent, John Clement, Edouard Juneau, Theo. Laurent, Isaac Fournier, Thos. Perusse, Alexis Fournier, Bruneau Derosier, Emelia Gervais, Geo. Labissoniere, P. B. Champagne, Jos. Stone, Celina Desautel, E. Archambeault, Jules Brouillette, L. Marchand, Napoleon Marchand, Francis Labissioniere, Cenat Brouilette, Theo Majeres, J. Dondonneau, Ed Columbus, G. I. Columbus, Alfons Lacombe, Celina Celina Sabourin, John Anderson, Pascal Toupin, Sr., Pascal Toupin, Jr., Samuel Rock, Jr., Adolph Cantin, Mederic Lanctot, Eli Archambeault, Antoine Payment, Julien Payment, Ovila Rock, Dolor Toupin, Henry Payment, Holmes and Brown, Henry Toupin, Louis Dondonneau, Chas. Fargett, John Quesnel, Michel Quesnel, John Robillard, E. Robillard, Arthur Dufresne, Elizabeth Quesnel, Wheeler and Nelson, Jos. Sauve, Francis Noyes, Telesphore Joly, Michel Marleau, O. Berthiaume, Jos. Leblanc, Jr., Jos. Dupont, Theophile Malette, Jos. Vallie, Alphonse Bisson, Louis Mercier, S. Sabourin, J. B. Toupin, Jos. Martel, Florian Nigg, Julius Martel, Onezime Bruneau, Zephirin Bruneau.



Joseph Laurent built one of the most unique barns in Minnesota in the late 1880's. The Laurent farm was, at one time, awarded second prize in the J. J. Hill farm district contest. The 72' by 72' barn received the most attention. Mr. Laurent had seen a picture of the structure in a magazine, built a miniature replica and then the barn itself. It still stands on the Kalinoski farm northwest of Terrebonne.



Regis Gagnon homestead, 1896. Louis and Willie St. Yves, Mrs. Regis Gagnon and baby George, Regis Gagnon, Mrs. Louis St. Yves, Emma and Edward St. Yves.



Log home of the Stephen Quesnell family, 1887. This structure was built from logs hauled from Maple Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Quesnell, Marceline, Stephen's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Quesnell, children Rose, Robert, Willie, Sarah, Celina, Elizabeth and Caliex, Stephen's brother.



Father Veullieux, 1912.



The original Robillard home and their first car, a hupmobile, 1915.

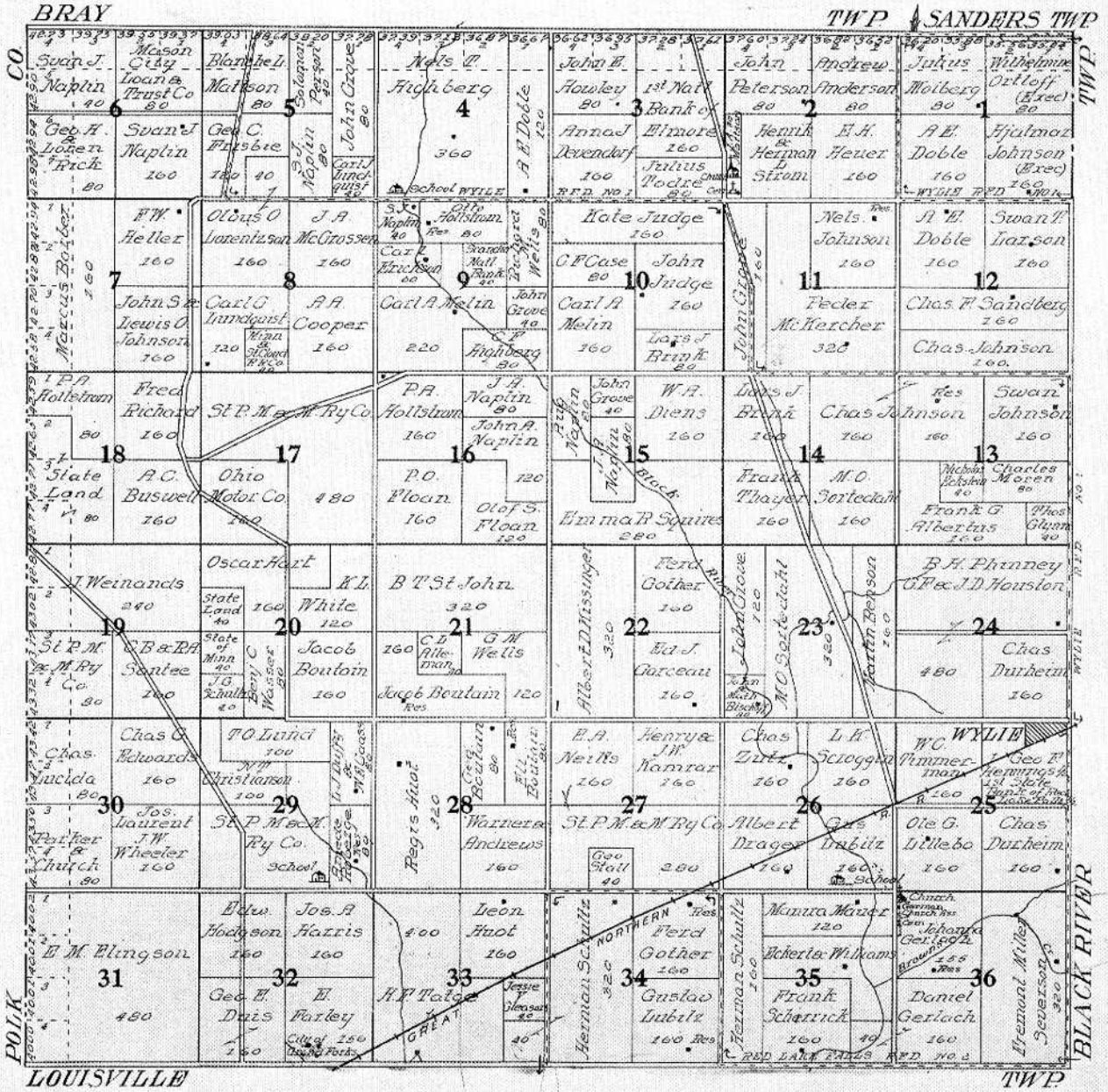


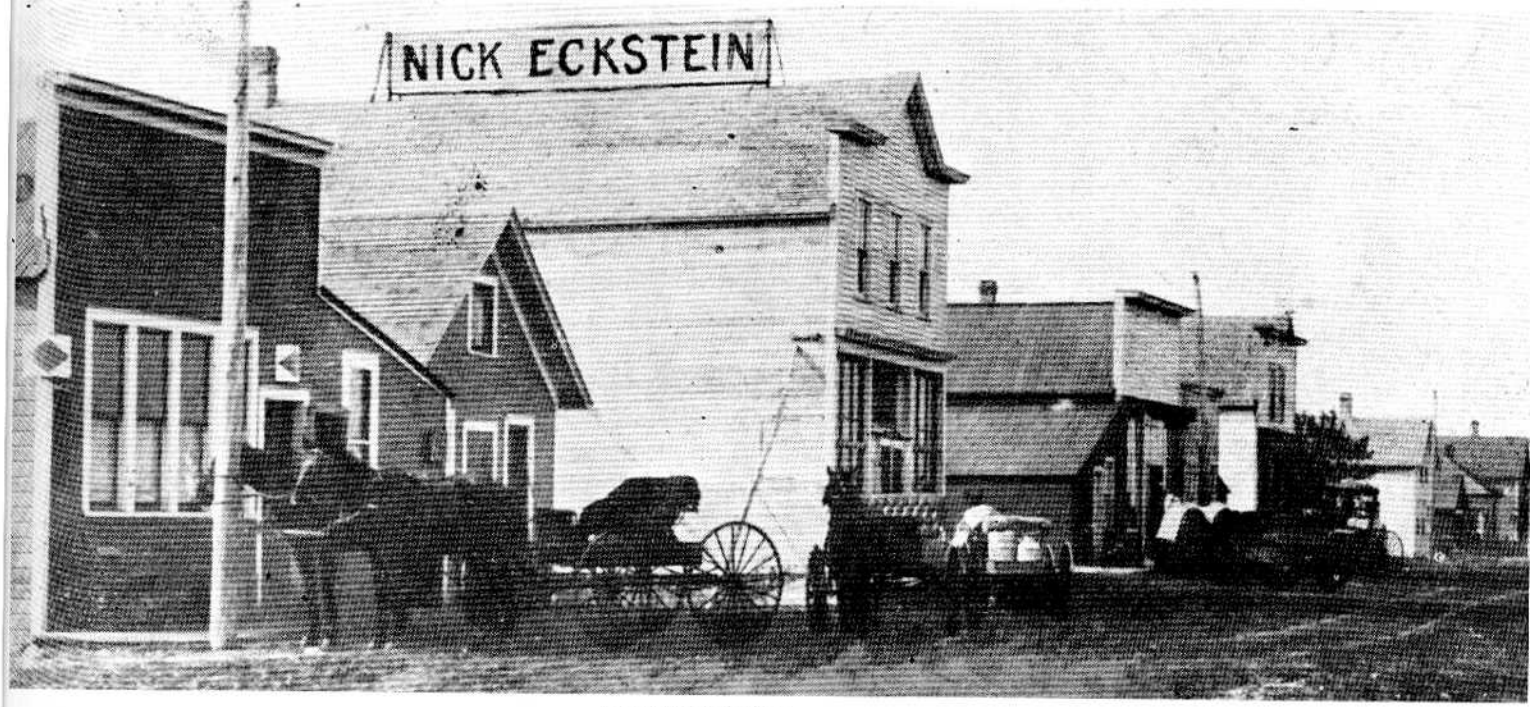
MAP OF TOWNSHIP 152 N., RANGE 45 W.

of the 5th P. M.

Scale 1¼ inches to 1 mile

POLK CENTRE TOWNSHIP





Street Scene at Wylie

WYLIE TOWNSHIP

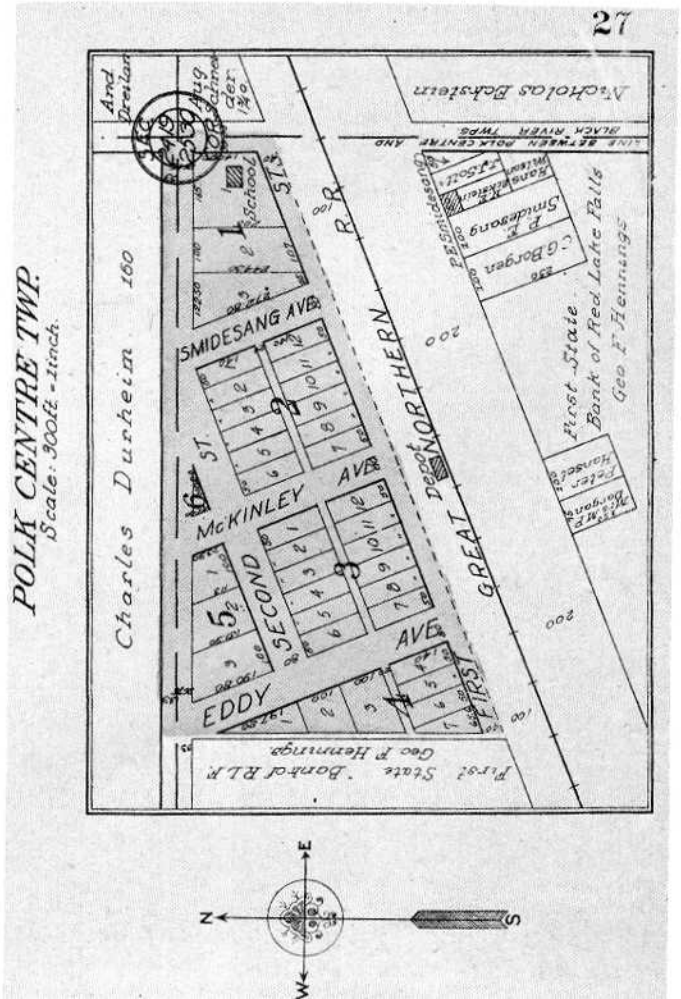
A meeting of the board of supervisors of Polk Centre township, Pennington County, and the board of supervisors of Polk Centre township, Red Lake County, was held on May 18, 1911, for the purpose of dividing all assets of the township and to form new separate units of government. Previous to 1911, the entire township had been a part of Red Lake County. Red Lake got the short end of the split and the new Polk Centre, Red Lake County, was only two by six miles in area, a size shared by two other new townships to the east, Brown's Creek and River. Most of the board members present were residents of the Village of Wylie.

The following new officers were elected: Ferd Gother, chairman; Leon Huot and Charles Zutz, supervisors; Thor Smidesang, clerk; P. E. Smidesang, treasurer; Richard Gother, assessor; C. G. Gerlach and Anton Anderson, Justices of the Peace; C. G. Gerlach and Richard Gother, constables; Nick Mauer, overseer of the roads in District I; and Albert Landa, overseer of roads in District II. The judges were Charles Zutz, Leon Huot, and Ferd Gother. Later about 1913, the small township took the name of Wylie from the village.

At the turn of the century the community of Wylie was a hustling village and the center of all business and social activities of the township. It was located on the main line of the railroad from Crookston to Thief River Falls at a time when the latter was just another inland settlement.

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Eckstein established a store in 1890, and when fire destroyed it in 1902, it was replaced with a two-story structure stocked with dry goods, groceries and variety items. The upstairs of the store was used for a community hall where dances were often held.

Besides the Eckstein general merchandise store, there were two more grocery establishments, one operated by Mr. Smidesang and the other by the Rosmos Brothers. Smidesang had been in business





Peter Hansel Blacksmith shop and home in Wylie. *Standing, Left to Right:* Louis and Peter Hansel, Mannie and Anton Anderson.

in St. Hilaire. In seeking a better location he had considered both Thief River Falls and Wylie, but it appeared to him that Wylie had the better possibilities and that is where he located.

The Rosmos store building was also used for a courtroom in 1902. The store was started in 1898 by the older Rosmos and in 1912, the younger brother became a partner. Pete Smidesang started his store in 1886. Later the name was expanded to Smidesang and Sons. Still later the business was taken over by the Gothers. There was a harness and shoe store started by Chris Borgen. He also ran a successful cobblers business.

The Leppert Brothers, Sam and Fred, operated a hardware store and lumberyard and Fred Leppert was also the local barber. Wylie businesses seldom closed and were open seven days a week.

The town of Wylie boasted three elevators: Hanson and Barzen Elevator, the Wylie Cooperative, which also handled the Wylie Livestock Association, and a branch of the St. Anthony Milling Company run by S. J. Swanson. Peter Hansel was the village blacksmith, and was considered one of the ablest workmen of the area and county — nothing was too intricate for him, and he could engineer almost anything in his shop. Jack Swollanberg was the stonemason. There were two cream stations, one run by Anton Anderson, and another run by Richard Gother. The hotel was run by Maurice Dargon and Andrew Letvig was the well driller.

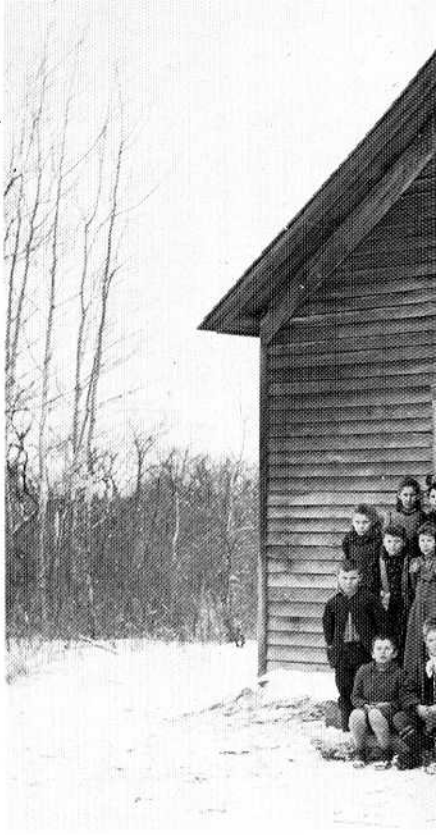
The bank was started as an experiment in the fall of 1901, but became a big success. C. N. Bourdon was the bank president. S. J. Swanson was an assistant cashier in addition to running the elevator, and he was also a Justice of the Peace and Judge in the courtroom at Rosmos Store. His name also crops up in relation to the Board of County Commissioners and the Wylie Town Board.

The cheese factory was owned by Ted Fournier and met with disaster on May 23, 1912 when it burned to the ground. The origin of the fire was thought to be in the boiler which had been fired up the previous day in preparation for the new season of cheesemaking. The factory was never rebuilt.

The train came through Wylie and service was provided for passengers and freight to and from Wylie twice each day. Mail was also carried by train and at various times the post offices were at the Rosmos Store or at Nick Ecksteins. The section boss was Tom Drielan. In 1903, rural mail service was established and a watchmaker, Anderson, became the first mail carrier. In 1904, Henry Schneider was appointed mail carrier and held that job until 1936. Several years later, the post office closed.

There were three schools in Wylie Township. The largest school, located in the village of Wylie, is still standing. In 1902 the school had over fifty students and the teacher was Professor Todd, a well-known educator in the area. There was also a school in Section 26, presently used as a township hall. The school in Section 29 is also still standing, though it is in poor condition.

Presently serving as board members in Wylie township are Victor Gaber as chairman; Donald Huot and Harvey Casavan as supervisors; Louis Zutz as clerk and Kenneth Wieland, treasurer.

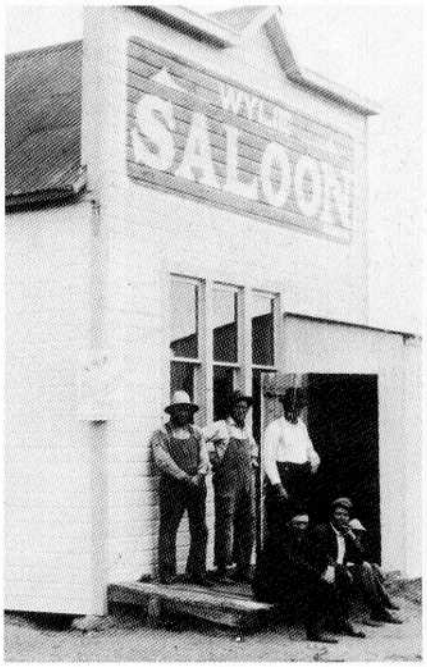


School District #17 in the 1890's. Ida Koke, Mrs. Joe Salley, was the teacher.



Wylie School about 1900. Professor Todd was the teacher.

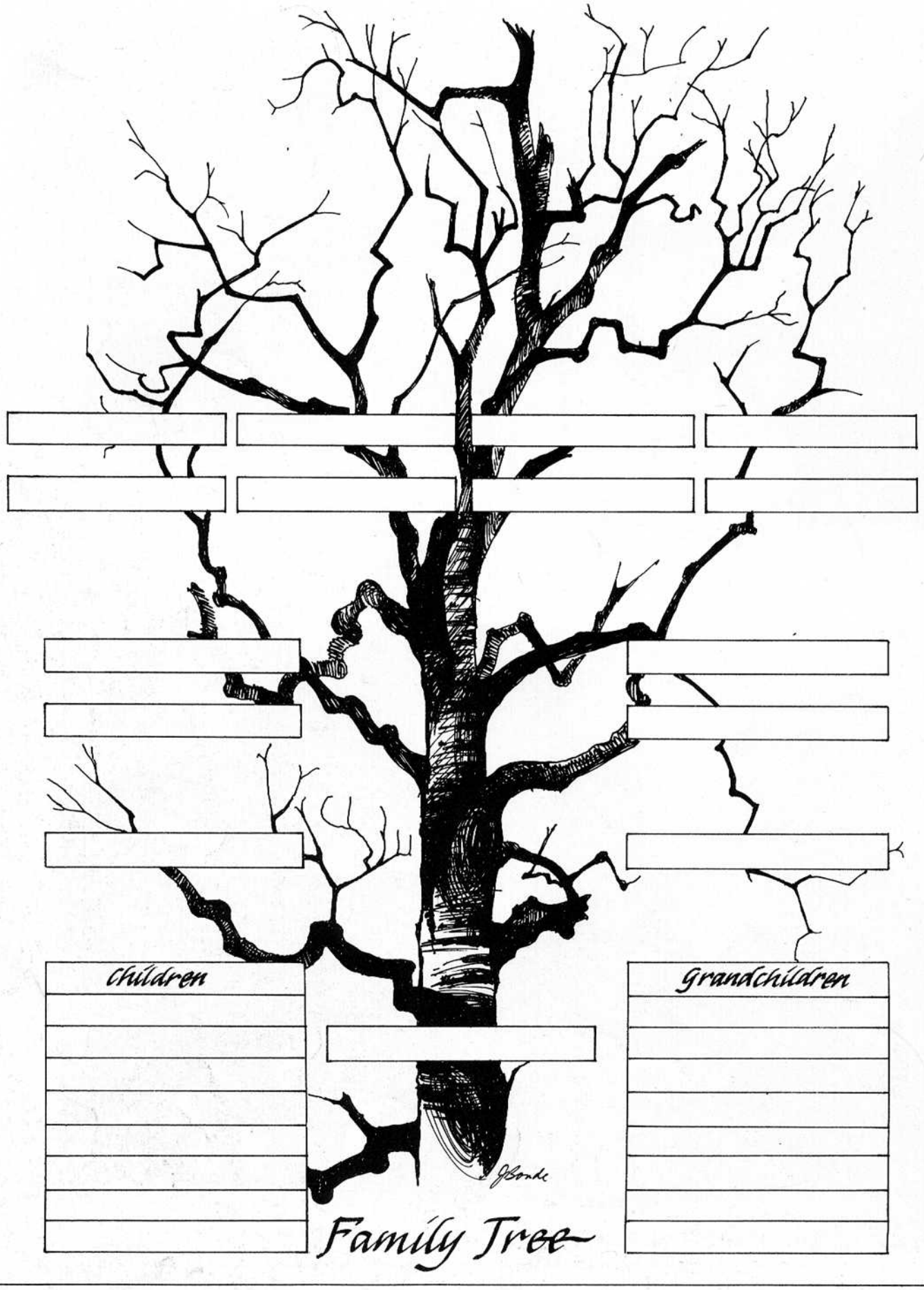




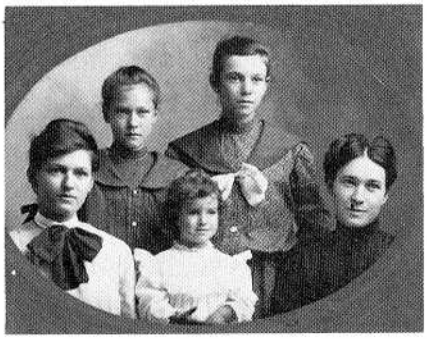
Wylie Saloon



School District #124 in 1899, known as Black River School and presently serving as the town hall at Wylie.


Children
Grandchildren
Family Tree

THE FAMILY ALBUM



The Adlers, Aneta, Mae, Cora, Lucille and Martha.

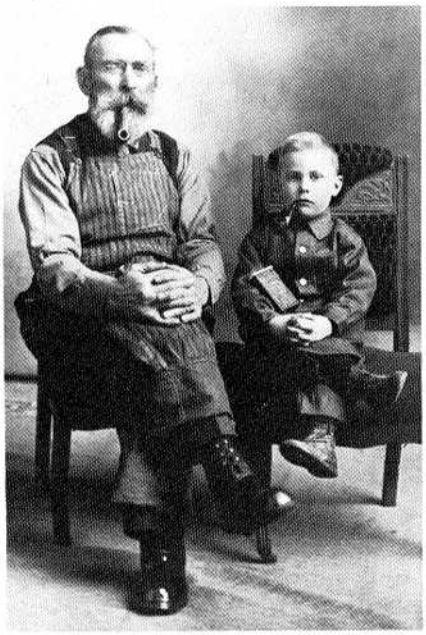
RICHARD ADLER

Richard Adler and Margaret Walter were wed in August of 1881 at Fergus Falls and moved the next year to a farm near Wylie. As pioneer settlers of the community, they lived there for twenty years on the acreage now called the William Kuehn farm. Six children were born to them: Edward, Martha Deutschman (Mrs. Paul Schirrick), Mae (Mrs. Walter Columbus), Cara, Aneta (Mrs. William Nieland), and Lucille (Mrs. Theodore Ofstedahl).

In 1904 the family moved to Cambridge, Maryland, where they lived for five years. Upon their return to Minnesota they lived on the North Side of Red Lake Falls. Mr. Adler was a teamster for a few years hauling lumber between Red Lake Falls and Crookston.

Richard Adler had been born March 1852 at Leiderdorf, Germany. At the age of eighteen he enlisted in the German Army as a member of the Kaiser Franz Garde Grenadiers, Regiment Two and was honorably discharged in 1873. Later he fought in the Franco Prussian War. In April 1880 he came to America landing at Ellis Island. He first settled near Fergus Falls on a farm now occupied by the State Hospital. Here he met and married Margaret Walter, daughter of John and Margaret Walter, who were also to come to Red Lake Falls as pioneers in 1882.

Richard died in 1925 and his wife in 1934.



Moses Allard and grandson, Al Buse.

MOSES ALLARD

Moses Allard, born in 1832 at Churubusco, New York, married Modess Patnode. Of this marriage ten children were born: Sam (1860), Joe (1875), Delia (Minor), Addis (Longtin), Maria (Patnode), Amilia (Miller), Margaret (Alex Patnode), Elizabeth (Boileau), Agnes (Paul), and Molly (Buse).

Moses Allard came to Red Lake Falls in 1881 and settled in Gervais Township. He farmed for some years and then moved to Red Lake Falls where he became a carpenter and bridge builder. He died at Allard, Washington, in 1929 at the age of ninety-seven.

Joseph M. Allard was a manufacturer of candies in Red Lake Falls around 1902, making sometimes a hundred pounds a day. He married Margaret Brady, daughter of the James Bradys. They had two daughters.

JOHN BAPTISTE AMIOT AND CELINA BOUTHILLIER AMIOT

John Baptiste Amiot was born in Montreal, Canada on March 24, 1852. Although the names of his parents are not known, his sisters and brothers were Rosana, Gresielia, Gidia, Meriza, Virginia, John, Floreani and Albert. John B. Amiot's wife, Celina Bouthillier, whom he married in 1875, was also born in Montreal on August 19, 1852. Her parents were Joseph and Alerie Bouthillier.

In 1878 John and Celina Amiot moved from St. Lurahan, Montreal, to section 12, township of Gentilly, Polk county, which is now the boundary of Red Lake County. Their first home was a three room log cabin, one room of which was used only as a summer kitchen.

The homestead was located on the sand ridge used as a trail by the indians and the ox carts to be known as the Pembina Trail. The indians at that time used the slough on the farm as a rest stop and watering spot as they traveled from the north to Devils Lake, North Dakota. An elderly indian woman traveling with her people, died when they were camped at the farm and was buried there. Her grave is still visible.

In the early homestead days, farmers were situated on each quarter section of land. Oxen were used for plowing and field work and horses for transportation.

In 1899 John Baptiste died from pneumonia at the age of forty-seven. His wife, Celina, continued to farm with the help of their chilren. Celina had a large home built in 1911. The cost of this ten-room home at that time was $3,000 and had a full basement and a large attic. The home today is in excellent condition and is owned by Edgar Amiot. Celina Amiot lived to be nearly eighty-one years old and died in 1934 at the home of her son, Oscar, in Louisville township.

John B. and Celina had thirteen children:

Rosina (b. 1877 — d. 1953) married Silas Raymond. Their children: Arbelle (b. 1901), Theodore (b. 1902), Laura (b. 1903), Alder (b. 1905), Marna (b. 1908) and Joe (b. 1909).

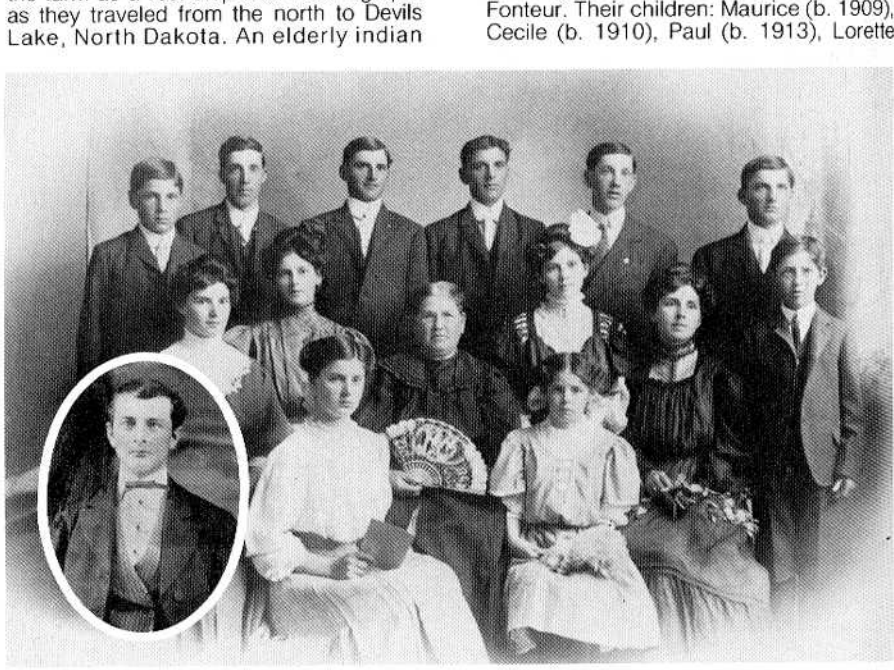
Corina (b. 1880 — d. 1954) married a Mr. Peltier and their children were Willie (b. 1901), Emery (b. 1902), Erwin (b. 1903), and Raymond (b. 1904). Following the death of her first husband, Corina married a Mr. Fortier and their children were Louis (b. 1909), Lawrence (b. 1910), Agnes (b. 1912), Florence (b. 1913), Irene (b. 1915), Madeline (b. 1916), Andrew (b. 1918) and Mary Jean (b. 1921).

Joseph (b. 1881 — d. 1970) married Olive Fortier. The children born to them: Delia (b. 1905), Theodore (b. 1907), Arthur (b. 1908), Olivine (b. 1913), Napoleon (b. 1916) and Anna (b. 1923).

Domina (b. 1882 — d. 1961) married Clarinda St. Michel. Their children: Dona (b. 1909), Noah (b. 1910), Doria (b. 1912), Mable (b. 1914), Reina (b. 1917), Leo (b. 1919), Irene (b. 1921) and Meddie (b. 1923).

Delima (b. 1884) married Louis Mercil. Their children: David (b. 1908) and Alex (b. 1911).

Albina (b. 1885 — d. 1947) married Tines Fonteur. Their children: Maurice (b. 1909), Cecile (b. 1910), Paul (b. 1913), Lorette



The family of John Baptiste Amiot (inset). *Back Row:* Armand, Joe, Domina, Francis, Oscar, Adrian. *Middle:* Corina, Albina, Mrs. Benoit, Rosina, Delima and Isidore. *Front:* Alda and Celina.

(b. 1916) and Bernadette (b. 1924).
Francis (b. 1887) and wife Elizabeth Audette had seven children: William (b. 1909), Edgar (b. 1913), Leah (b. 1914), Homer (b. 1916), David (b. 1919), Fred (b. 1929) and Viola (b. 1930).
Oscar (b. 1888 — d. 1955) married Algina Tougas. Their children: Alma (b. 1914), Richard (b. 1916), Madeline (b. 1921) and Donald (b. 1930).
Adrian (b. 1890 — d. 1966) married Josephine Vaudrin. Their children: Louis (b. 1915), Victor (b. 1917), Patrick (b. 1918), Henrietta (b. 1920), and Thomas (b. 1925).
Alda (b. 1891 — d. 1962) married Henry Brule. Their children: Baby (d. 1913), Doris (b. 1915), Adolph (b. 1916), Nora (b. 1917), Elmer (b. 1919), Leonard (b. 1920), Stella (b. 1924), Rita (b. 1928) and Beatrice (b. 1929).
Armand (b. 1894 — d. 1960) married Liza Corbin. Their children: Lyod (b. 1917), Bert (b. 1918), Eli (b. 1920), Dewey (b. 1921), Harry (b. 1922), Ursula (b. 1923), Theresa (b. 1925), Marvin (b. 1927), Clarence (b. 1928), Rolalie (b. 1929), Elaine (b. 1931), Leodore (b. 1932), Victoria (b. 1933), Armond (b. 1936) and Roland (b. 1941).
Isidore (b. 1895 — d. 1964) married Diane Poirier. Their children: Lorraine (b. 1921), Genevieve (Jean) (b. 1923), Marcella (b. 1929), Darlene (b. 1930), Jerome (b. 1932), Bernice (b. 1933), Madonna (b. 1939) and Georgianna (b. 1941).
Celina (b. 1897) married Henry Martell. Their children: Francis (b. 1917), Daniel (b. 1919), Ellen (b. 1921) and Benedict (b. 1922).

ISIDORE AMIOT AND DIANE POIRIER AMIOT

Isidore Amiot (b. 1895 — d. 1964), son of John B. Amiot and Celina Bouthillier, and Diane Poirier (b. 1901) were married in 1914. They made their home on a farm in Gentilly township, located on the ridge. Besides farming, Isidore was a carpenter for over twenty years.

Isidore and Diane raised a family of eight children: Lorraine (b. 1921) married George LaPlante. Their children are Roland, Janice, Bonnie, Doyle, Pam and Cathy (twins); Genevieve (Jean) (b. 1923) married Ed. J. Schindler. Their children are Judy, Germaine, Jerry, Dorothy, Anna Mae, Alan, Mary Lou and John (twins) and Roger. Marcella (b. 1929) married Ed Roman. Their children are Connie, Neal, Debbie, Denise and Eddie Jr. Darlene (b. 1930) married Vincent Schenk. Jerome (b. 1932) and his wife Beverly have three children: Michael, Richard and Denny. Bernice Patricia (b. 1933) married Eugene Schindler. Their children are Vivian, Andy, Mark, Joan, Patty, Mike, Daniel, Jim, Karen, Linda and Darrell. Madonna (b. 1939) married Roy Hamett and their children are Dennis, Bryan and Cynthia. Georgianna (b. 1941) married Leon Marsh and their children are Steven and Gregory.

Diane Poirier Amiot married James Landecena in 1967 and they make their home in Ontario, California.

OSCAR AMIOT FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Amiot moved to the farm presently owned by the Donald Amiots in February, 1914. They had been married on October 20, 1913, at Lambert. Oscar Amiot was born in Gentilly Township on the present home site of Edgar Amiot on August 12, 1888. His parents were J. B. Amiot and Celine Bouthillier. He had six brothers and six sisters.



Amiot-Tougas wedding 1913. Florian Tougas and Celina Amiot, attendants.

Mrs. Amiot was born Angelina Tougas in Red Lake County on November 22, 1890. Her parents were Charles Tougas and Celina Yelle, who first farmed a few miles north of Terrebonne. They later moved to a farm south of Brooks which is presently owned by Ludger Tougas. She had two brothers and three sisters.

As far as we have been able to determine, the house on this farm was built sometime between 1860 and 1865. It was a stop-over area for travelers between Red Lake Falls and Crookston. At one time, three different families lived here. One family operated a livery stable in the basement barn, another had a blacksmith shop where our garden is now located, and the third family ran the saloon and store in part of the house. The false front, designating a place of business, is still part of the roof line of the house.

Originally, an old wooden bridge was used to cross Cyr Creek which winds through the yard. This was part of a trail which ran through our yard, then southwestward toward Gentilly. A steel bridge was built later to replace the wooden structure. The county road from the east crossed the bridge and then turned west in our yard. With the advent of cars, the traffic became much faster and many a car missed the curve in the yard and hit the trees or the house. Many years later, the county straightened the road and no longer did the traffic pass through the yard.

Oscar Amiot owned and operated a steam engine and threshing machine for many years, having a threshing run in the neighborhood. He bought his first combine in 1946.

Mrs. Oscar Amiot boarded the country school teachers for twelve years, while Mr. Amiot served many years on the school board. Mr. Amiot's mother stayed with them for two and one-half years before she died in May, 1934, at the age of 81. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Amiot lived on this farm from 1914-1951 when they retired and moved to Red Lake Falls to the home where Mrs. Amiot still lives. This house was built by Nap Pouliot. Mr. Amiot died August 17, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Amiot had four children: Alma, Richard, Madeline, and Donald. Alma married Fred Patnode, who is now deceased, in 1932. They farmed in this area before moving to Washington in 1935. They spent most of their married life in Port Angeles, Washington, where Alma still resides. They have two children, Jerome and Samona, who are both married. Jerome lives in Washington and Samona is in Portland, Oregon.

Richard Amiot married Bertha Beaudry in 1936 and they also farmed for a few years before moving to Washington in 1944. Their oldest son, Allen, died of leukemia in 1943, when they were living on a farm north of Terrebonne. Richard and Bertha now reside in Port Angeles, Washington. They have two children, Gordon and Marilyn, who are both married and living in Port Angeles.

Madeline Amiot married Bernard Remick in 1939 and they lived in Red Lake Falls until 1948 when they moved to Oklee. Bernard operated an auto agency there until 1953 when they moved to Erskine. Bernard was associated with Garden Valley Telephone Company. In 1957, they moved back to Oklee where Bernard was an insurance agent and later was associated with the bank. In 1964, the Remick family moved to Montana and now live at Libby, where Bernard is in the banking business. They are the parents of seven children: Ronald, Douglas, Sylvia, Andrew, Suzanne, Dwight, and Craig. Sylvia is married and lives in Oregon. Ronald, Douglas, and Andrew are married and live-in Montana. The other three children are still at home.

Donald Amiot is engaged in grain farming. He married Kathleen Dufault in 1951 and they live on the family farm. Kathleen's parents are Daniel Dufault and Alice Regeimbal of rural Crookston. The Don Amiots have five children. Bonita is married to Valdin Buchmeier and both teach in St. Cloud. Debra graduated from Bemidji State University as a social worker. Curtis is a junior at Bemidji State. Ramona is a junior and Kevin is a sophomore at Lafayette High School.



Don Amiot Family

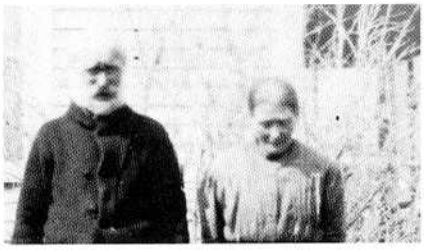
ALVIN AND BARBARA AMUNDSON FAMILY

Alvin and Barbara Amundson moved to Red Lake Falls in the fall of 1965 from Claremont. He began teaching at Lafayette High School that fall and is teaching there at the present time.

Alvin was raised on a farm near Downer. He graduated from Barnesville High School and Moorhead State College. Barbara was raised near Baker. She graduated from Barnesville High School and then worked in an insurance company in St. Paul for two years before their marriage.

Amundsons have been active members of the First Presbyterian Church. They purchased the former Jack Tischart home in Red Lake Falls in 1968. They are the par-

ents of three children: Lynette, born in 1962; Paul, born in 1965, and Heidi Lynn, who was born in Red Lake Falls in 1974.



Adele Andersons

ADELE ANDERSON FAMILY

Adele Anderson, with his two sons Gustaf and Otto Fred, and two daughters, Hilda and Adele, arrived from Sweden in 1888. The boys attended a country school, located on what is now the Jim Zimpel farm. The girls married and moved away, one to Canada and the other to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she was employed as a seamstress.

Adele's future wife had been a domestic in Mr. Anderson's palatial home in Sweden and came direct from Sweden to Gervais Township in 1888 where she married Adele. They began housekeeping in a log cabin which was later replaced by a nice frame house in 1915. The threat of slavery and a change of government in Sweden, probably forced the Andersons to leave their country when they did, taking only what they could. Mr. Anderson passed away in 1923 and Mrs. Anderson in 1928.

The boys continued to farm until they were in their eighties, Gust closer to ninety. Otto Fred (Fritz) passed away in 1957 and Gustaf in 1965 at the home of their niece, Mrs. Donald Peterson of Albion, Michigan.

VICTOR ANDERSON FAMILY

Victor Anderson and Huldah Anderson (same last name) arrived in Cadillac, Michigan in 1889 from Linkoping and Korintorp, Osbro, Sweden respectively. They were married in early 1890. In 1897 they moved to Minnesota for family tie reasons (Huldah's sister Hanna lived here) and settled on a farm in Gervais township, now owned and occupied by their oldest daughter, Segrid.

The family consisted of five children: Godfrey, who died in infancy, Esther who died at the age of three, Harry born in 1893, Segrid born in 1890, and Agnes, born in 1898. Harry passed away in 1946 and Agnes in 1973.

Segrid and Harry attended the country school known later as the Wildwood School, with Mrs. Jeffers (mother of Frank Jeffers) as the school teacher.

In 1899 the family moved to Red Lake Falls so that the children could enjoy better educational advantages. Mr. Anderson was employed by the Marshall Milling Company for a period of ten years until the mill burned down. In 1909 the Andersons moved to their farm in Gervais where he was engaged in farming till his death in 1918. Mrs. Anderson passed away in 1947.

Mrs. Anderson and her daughters were charter members of the First Presbyterian Church of Plummer. Segrid and Agnes attended Moorhead State Teachers College and Agnes graduated from the Fort Wayne Business Institute in Indiana. She was later employed by the Crane Co. of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Harry was employed at the Theo LaBissoniere Department Store in Red Lake Falls and also by Jack Tischart in the grocery and shoe department. He was also employed by the REA.

FAMILY OF ARNOLD ARLT

Arnold Arlt was born in 1925 to Mr. and Mrs. August Arlt in Gervais township, Red Lake County. He grew up on farms in this area, and attended eight years of grade school at rural "Wildwood," District 208.

Arnold attended three years of high school in Plummer and, prior to his senior year, was drafted into the navy in October of 1943. He served two and a half years on the west coast and in the Pacific. Service in the navy included Seaman Guard Training and duty at Farragut, Idaho, Radio School in Boulder, Colorado, Landing Craft School at Coronado, California, and service aboard the APA Catron Troop Transport, carrying Japanese prisoners from the captured islands. He also carried and landed troops on the invasion of Okinawa. During his navy service he took a high school equivalency course and was able to receive his high school diploma with the graduating class of 1946.

Arnold attended Coyne Electrical School in Chicago and worked with Ted Mills of Thief Riverlls during the time the R.E.A. was coming into the rural area. He spent several years farming in the Gervais and Emardville townships, was employed at the Plummer Creamery, and is presently employed by the State Department of Agriculture.

In 1947 Arnold married Wilma Greenwald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Greenwald. They have three sons. Gary attended high school in Plummer and two years at the Junior College at Thief River Falls. He enlisted in the navy in 1968 and served four years of duty on the west coast and aboard the Destroyer Bossel as Radioman. His service included two tours of duty in the action in Vietnam. He married Marcy Robertson in 1971 and they are now living in San Diego, California.

Leslie and Lowell (twins) attended grade school and high school in Plummer. They have been working in construction and carpentry work since their graduation and are now employed by Howard Construction of Plummer.

Lowell Arlt married Cindy Magers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Katscke, in October of 1973 and they are living at Plummer.

Leslie Arlt and Mary Martell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Martell, were married in June of 1974. They have one daughter Rebecca, and are living in Plummer.

AUGUST ARLT FAMILY

August Arlt and his brother Ben came to Gervais Township from Glencoe in the early 1900's. They came with their widowed sister to farm the land she owned which is now the Fredrickson farm. She came to raise her family, and later returned to Glencoe.

He met Mattie Gustafson at a house party to which he had been intentionally invited at the Charley Christenson home. He said "it was love at first sight," and he and Mattie were married in 1912 by Pastor Stelz, Sr. A son Irvin was born in 1913 in Gervais Township. They returned to Glencoe where their second son Arthur was born in 1915. A short time later they returned to Gervais and lived on the Rassmusen farm where their first daughter Evelyn was born in 1917. Their second daughter Alice was born in 1920, then Elenora in 1923, Arnold in 1925 and Lloyd in 1928.

They lived on the Haslet farm for some years and again moved to the Gustafson farm, which had been divided between the two former Gustafson sisters. The old log house was moved, and August had a room added to it. There they lived out their years. Mrs. August Arlt died in 1950 and August passed away in 1960. All the Arlt family survives.

Irvin, now retired, lives with his wife Gladys in Newton, Iowa. Arthur with his wife Irene (Seibel) resides at Morgan. Evelyn married William Ulrich and they live in Rive Township. Alice Konickson (Cormican lives in Euclid. Elenora married Norman Aanenson. They live at Halstad. Arnold and his wife Wilma (Greenwald) live in Gervais Township and the youngest, Lloyd and his wife Rosemary, live in Coon Rapids.

ROGER AND MAVIS ARVIDSON

Roger Arvidson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Arvidson, was born in 1925, at Wadena. Mavis Schultz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erdman Schultz, was born in 1933 in Louisville township, Red Lake county on the same farm where her father was born.

Mr. Arvidson graduated from Wadena High School and Carleton College, Northfield, after which he taught at Welcome for one year. Following this, he attended St. Cloud State College for one year and then began teaching and coaching in Red Lake Falls in the fall of 1949. During his years in



August Arlt Family



Roger Arvidson Family.

Red Lake Falls, he has taught in the science field, was assistant basketball coach for approximately nineteen years, and was also head track coach. He instituted the driver's training program at Lafayette High school in 1951, which he is still teaching.

Mrs. Arvidson graduated from Lafayette High School and has been employed at various places in Red Lake Falls including Hunt Bros. Co., Lafayette High school, St. John's Hospital and the Red Lake Falls Clinic. She is presently employed at the East Polk-Red Lake County Vocational Center in Red Lake Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Arvidson were married June 9, 1956, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wylie. They have three children — Bruce, Mark and Janelle, all of whom are attending school in Red Lake Falls.

Roger and Mavis Arvidson were both instrumental in organizing the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance Association; both serve on the board of directors, and remain active members of the committee.

ONEZIME (PETE) ASSELIN AND PARMELIA HINCE ASSELIN

A resident of the Oklee area from the early 1880s until his death in 1943, Onezime (Pete) Asselin came to Minnesota from Warick, Quebec, Canada, his birthplace. His parents were Cyprian Asselin and Celene Henri. Onezime homesteaded 160 acres in section 2 of Lambert township and his brother, Cleophas (Clifford), settled on the adjoining quarter. This farm is located just a quarter of a mile west of the village of Oklee and has been expanded to include 320 acres. Onezime farmed and lived on this land his entire life.

On January 7, 1902, in the town of Lambert, Onezime married Parmelia Hince, the daughter of Louis Hince and Angelic Gobeil. She had been born and raised in Lambert township. To this couple were born ten children, seven of whom are still living: Joseph (b. 1905); Thomas (b. 1916); Bernice (b. 1923) married Raymond Wicks; Mayme (b. 1918) married Leander Berberich; Cora (b. 1909) married Max Rossignol; Lucille (b. 1919) married Marvin Strande; and Celene (b. 1912). Those deceased are Walter (b. 1907 — d. 1971); Harvey (b. 1911 — d. 1964); and Rose (b. 1903 — d. 1960) married Charles Lessard. Parmelia Asselin died on June 30, 1973.

Onezime and Parmelia Asselin saw the town of Oklee grow. They furnished room and board for the railroad crew when the track and bridge were built in 1910 and Oklee's first banker boarded with them. Before Oklee was built the Asselins sometimes traveled by horse and buggy to McIntosh to do some trading and to Terrebonne to have their wheat made into flour.

In 1915 Onezime had a serious accident which left him crippled. A hayrack fell on him injuring his neck and leaving him with a paralyzed arm. They farmed with the help of their oldest son, Joe, and many hired men. They did grain farming and had dairy cattle. Because Parmelia needed much help with her many household duties, many of their relatives made their home at the Asselin's throughout the years. At the time of her death, Parmelia owned a section of land. The homestead land and buildings had always been in the same name until Parmelia's death in 1973 at which time it was willed to Bernice, the youngest daughter. Bernice, her husband Ray Wicks, their son Jeff and her brother, Tom Asselin, live on the farm in the family home. The house has been remodeled several times, many other buildings added, and improvements made. Joe and Doris Asselin have made their home on this land since 1939. Also Michael Wicks, his wife Lorna and daughter Danielle, have had a home on this land since 1971.

The Lost River has been dredged and many trees have been cut, changing the appearance of the land since it was first settled.

LAWRENCE AUDETTE

Lawrence Audette and Noella Lasha were married in St. Dorothy's church on June 20, 1933. They farmed in Louisville township until 1950 when they moved to Red Lake Falls. Both were active in Farmers Union work and sell insurance. Noella was appointed to the state centennial committee when Minnesota celebrated its centennial in 1958. Lawrence has worked for the Red Lake Falls Silo Co. for 28 years and part time for Wilcox Service.

They have six children: Lou Ann (Mrs. A. Rode of Coos Bay, Oregon); Lawrence Leroy of Red Lake Falls; Judy (Mrs. Hugh Morrison of Selkirk, Manitoba, Canada); Laurie (Mrs. Larry Filipinski of Algonquin, Illinois); Terry (Mrs. Gary Weiss of Red Lake Falls); and Mary Jo of Lincoln, Nebraska.



Onezime Asselin family. *Top Row:* Joe, Tom, Mayme, Cora, Walter and Harvey. *Front:* Celina, Bernyce, Onezime, Permelia, Lucille and Rose.

LEROY AUDETTE FAMILY

Leroy Audette was born to parents Lawrence and Noella Lasha Audette in 1936. As a boy he attended country school for eight years. He moved with his parents into the city of Red Lake Falls in 1950. He attended Lafayette High School and worked part time as a delivery boy for LaBonte's Grocery Store. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and spent 28 months in Japan as an aerial photographer. Following his discharge in 1959, he returned to Red Lake Falls and opened "Lee's Studio" in the Lincoln Hotel building. He worked full time at Alma Trailer Company, now DMH Company, for about ten years. In 1970 he decided to go into business for himself manufacturing mobile home entryways and mobile home rafters.

In 1962 Leroy married Carol Johanneck, daughter of Raymond and Gladys Peterson Johanneck. Carol is also a lifelong resident of Red Lake County. The business, hunting and fishing opportunities, and family were the major reasons for settling down in Red Lake Falls. The Audettes have four children: Rebecca, born in 1963, Daniel, 1966, Stephen, 1967 and Diana in 1969.

Leroy has been an active member of the Red Lake Falls Flying Club since it was organized.

NORMAN AND NORA AUDETTE FAMILY

Norman Paul Audette, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Audette, was born October 21, 1914 at Huot. On July 29, 1936 he married Nora Brule, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brule at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Gentilly. Nora was born June 28, 1917 in Gentilly.

After their marriage, Norman worked at the Fargo Foundry till 1942 when they returned to Gentilly and helped Mrs. Henry Brule, now widowed, on the farm. Norman later bought land from Charles Patnode and from Doc Twete in Gervais Township. Norman was very well known for his talent for painting homes. Besides farming, he also did carpentry work, worked for six years at the Crookston Sugar Beet Factory and for six years for D.M.H. in Red Lake Falls. He also worked for Schmitz Construction Co.

Norman took great interest in community affairs and was on the Gervais Township School Board, on Federal Credit Union Board, and was also County Assessor for Gervais Township. When Norman was hired to paint homes, Nora often helped him, a job she still retains today.

Norman and Nora had four chilren: Reynold, born in January, 1938; Jerry, born in May, 1939; Colleen, born in June, 1942; and Karen, born in May, 1951.

Reynold married Pat Goetz and they have two sons, Reese and Scott. They live in Kalispell, Montana but he is working temporarily on the Alaskan pipeline until the line is completed, then he will return to well drilling in Montana.

Jerry married Maryls Kalbakdalen and they had four children: Monica, Michele, John and Jimmy. Marlys and Jimmy met an untimely death in 1971 in an automobile accident. Jerry later married Debbie Evanson and they have another son, Jason.

Jerry owns and operates his own trucking business. They live in Mentor.

Colleen married John Malwitz and they have two sons and a daughter: Willard, Warren and Melanie. John purchased Norman's land in 1969 in Gervais Township. Colleen works for Louis Pfann at the Red Lake County Agency.

Karen married Jay Guillemette and they have a son, Scott. Jay was elected Red Lake County Treasurer in 1974.

Norman passed away from a heart condition (that struck him in November of 1968) on December 7, 1972. Nora still lives in the home that he built for her in 1962. When John Malwitz purchased the land, they retained the buildings.

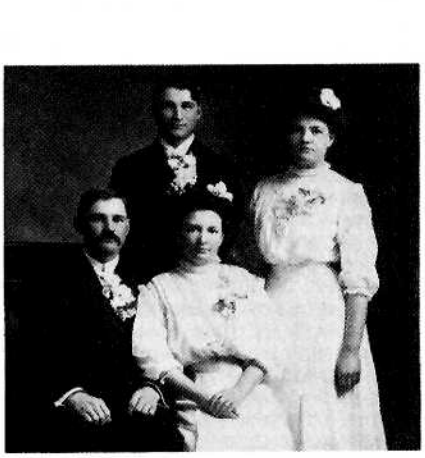
ZOTIQUE AUDETTE — NELLIE BOUTAIN

Zotique Audette, son of Pierre Audette and Emilie Roi, was born in Louisville Township on February 10, 1882. Nellie Boutain was born March 20, 1882 to Jacob Boutain and Mary Parent about eight miles north of Dorothy. On November 26, 1907, Zotique and Nellie were married at the Catholic Church located at Huot, a mission church served out of the Gentilly parish. A ferry was in operation at Huot at that time for the crossing of the river.

After the couple married, they lived on a farm about five miles northeast of Crookston where their first four children were born: Adeline died when three weeks old, Clifford, Wilfred, and Eli. In the fall of 1913 they purchased eighty acres three miles northwest of Huot and as the years passed by, more acres were acquired. It was at this location that Florence (Mrs. Harvey Normandin), Leonard, and Lester were born. All of their children attended the former Huot school which was located about a mile west of Huot. About the year 1960, Leonard purchased the farm from his father. His wife, the former Henriette Amiot and her daughter, Pauline, (Mrs. Henry Steer, Jr.) are still residing there today. Zotique Audette died April 21, 1963 at the age of 81 and Leonard died in February of 1973.

Clifford married Anna Mayhew of Red Lake Falls and Wilfred married Annette Vaudrin of Gentilly and are living in Red Lake Falls at the time of this writing. Eli married Mabel Amiot of Gentilly, and Lester married Leah Normandin of Gentilly. Florence's husband and Leonard's wife were also from Gentilly.

At the time of this writing, Nellie, who is 93 years old, is living at St. Vincent's Rest Home in Crookston.



Zotique Audette-Nellie Boutain Wedding



Pierre Audette-Emilie Roi Family

ANTONIO AND VITALINE BOUCHER BACHAND

All of the Bachands living in this part of Minnesota are direct descendants of my grandfather, Alfred Bachand, and the story of this family was told to me by my father and mother, Antonio and Vitaline Bachand.

Alfred Bachand was from a family of twelve children, six boys and six girls, who lived in the area of Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Alfred was an adventurer and his dream was to go west, so as a young man he left his family home and came to Hennepin County in Minnesota. It was there that he met and married Zelia Martin, a school teacher who had also been born in Quebec, and to them a son, Antonio, was born.

The little family came north to Lambert Township where they took a homestead and it is on this farm that Alfred's grandson, Onezime Bachand, lives today.

Alfred and Zelia had four other children, Wilfrid, Anatole, Bella and Germain. Wilfrid died in Red Cliff, Alberta, the year of the flu epidemic and Anatole who was sickly died as a young man; neither had ever married. Bella married Amos Coderre who was from North Dakota and they made their home in Forget, Saskatchewan. Germaine became a Benedictine nun and lived most of her life at St. Scholastica's in Duluth.

Antonio who was born in 1879 was only fifteen years old when his father, Alfred, died. Because he was not old enough to support the family it was necessary for Zelia, his mother, to again work as a school teacher. Several years later Zelia married Mr. Daoust and they lived in Lambert Village where they operated a Commercial House (hotel). Mr. Daoust died only a few years after their marriage and in later years Zelia married Simon Bernier. Zelia and Simon moved to Red Lake Falls where they lived in a house that stood north of the Catholic Church and she lived in this house until her death in 1937 and it was then purchased by George Wagner and moved from that site.

Antonio, usually called Anton, married Vitaline Boucher, daughter of Simon Boucher and Leva Bergeron, who was born in June of 1884. Her parents had come from St. Ursula, which is near Montreal in the province of Quebec.

Following their marriage in October of 1902, Anton and Vitaline moved to a farm that is often referred to as "the old Dona Varin place" located along the Lost River in Lambert Township.

My mother, Vitaline, told me of the many "scares" she had when it was necessary for my father to be away working for days at a time. Many men traveling on foot along the river and in the woods would come to the house asking for food and some would ask to come in. She would tell them that if they would stand away from the door she would give them food and never once did anyone harm them or steal anything.

Three sons and a daughter were born on this farm, but one son died at birth. From this farm the family moved to Brooks where Anton operated a hotel which became known as the Morin Hotel.

In 1913 (or 1914) they moved to Red Cliff, Alberta, Canada where Anton, his brother Wilfrid and a friend, Frank Deymonaz, built and operated a garage. They also owned a car which was used to transport people from Red Cliff to Medicine Hat, one of the larger towns in that area. My sister, Maybelle (Proulx) was born when the family lived here.

By 1917, World War One was threatening and England was drafting Canadian men. This situation left the city without men and industry, so Antonio gathered his family and their belongings and returned to Lambert township in Minnesota. Because of the economic situation in Canada it was impossible to sell their property and Antonio had but forty dollars and train fare for his family when he left Red Cliff for the old Bachand homestead in Lambert.

The lack of money made life very difficult at times. The machinery was old, the buildings in disrepair and their old log house had a leaky roof. To add to the difficulty, the homestead lacked a well and their only source of water was the river. But Nature was good to them as the creek was spring fed and unpolluted and the water ran cool and clean. Winter, however, presented a more difficult situation as it was necessary to keep an open hole in the ice to have available water for the family and the livestock. Sometimes, after a blizzard, it was also necessary to remove a large drift of



Alfred Bachand Family

snow to find the waterhole.

To add to these hardships, my father had a heart condition which disabled him at times and left the work and responsibilities solely to my mother as the children were not yet old enough to handle the heavy work.

I remember, too, when my father would haul wood in the winter by bob-sled. He would be gone about eight hours and would stuff a sandwich in his pocket for lunch. The bob-sled was much lower than a wagon and it made this heavy task easier for him.

Antonio and Vitaline lived in the little log house until 1925 when they built a new home which was the pride and joy of the whole family. They lived here until 1957 when they moved to Oklee and in 1968 they became residents of Hillcrest Nursing Home. Antonio died on September 19, 1970 at the age of ninety-one and Vitaline was eighty-six when she died on January 29, 1971.

From the marriage of Antonio and Vitaline were born seven children; one son died at birth: Alfred (b. 1905) married Leona Gibeau in 1928; Onezime (b. 1906) married Mae Turgeon in 1936; Emma (b. 1911) married Joseph Hince in 1930; Maybelle (b. 1914 — d. 1975) married Celeste Proulx in 1941; Laura (b. 1916) married Emile Nadeau in 1942; Dennis (b. 1920) married Elmina Paquin in 1947.

ONEZIME A. BACHAND

Onezime A. Bachand, son of Anton and Vitaline Bachand, was born in Lambert Township in 1906 in a frame house built by E. Doaust in 1881. He lived with his parents until 1935 when he married Mae B. Turgeon, who was also born in Lambert Township. Mae was born in 1912, the daughter of Anton Turgeon and Rose Anna Poulin.

Some years following their marriage, they bought the farm land from Anton and Vitaline Bachand and settled there.

Onezime and Mae raised a family of five children: Charles, David, Elizabeth (Mrs. Richard Rolfson), Michael and Margaret.

Charles, David and Elizabeth went to country school in the township for several years until the district was consolidated in 1952 when they transferred to the Oklee Public School. Charles, David and Michael graduated from the Oklee High School, Elizabeth and Margaret graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in Crookston. Elizabeth graduated from St. Benedict's College in St. Joseph; Michael graduated from North Dakota State University in Fargo, and Margaret graduated from St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis.

Charles, David and Michael have formed a corporation and are farming together. They also do aerial crop spraying.

Since their retirement, Onezime and Mae rent their land to their sons' corporation.

Charles F. Bachand (b. 1936) married Carol Jean Boucher (b. 1942) on July 14, 1962 in Oklee. Carol's parents are Melvin Boucher and Maria Robidoux. Charles and Carol were both raised in Lambert Township and graduated from Oklee High School. Since their marriage they have owned and operated a farm located at the Old Lambert townsite. Their five children are Michele (b. 1963), Anthony (b. 1965), Mary (b. 1967), Karin (b. 1968) and Kimberly (b. 1971).



Charles and Carol Bachand

ARNOLD BACHE

Arnold Bache was born in Sindal, Denmark in 1892. He came to the United States in 1913, going to Viking, South Dakota, where he worked for an Irish family and learned to speak English. He also worked on a ranch in Montana.

In May, 1917, he entered the army and was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, as a blacksmith. He had learned this trade in Denmark, and his work at the army base was keeping mules properly shod, a great many mules being used in the army at that time.

Upon his discharge he returned to South Dakota and became a citizen of the United States at Yankton. He farmed near Marshall, Minnesota until 1924, when he married Nellie Luxenburg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Luxenburg. They moved to Lake Pleasant township in Red Lake County, and in 1934 they purchased a farm in Gervais township and made this their home.

They had four children: Adella Lundeen, living in Minneapolis; Ione Olson in Noyes, Minnesota; Thomas, who died in 1960; and Robert, who is a cardiologist at Durham, South Carolina.

Arnold Bache died in January, 1965, and Nellie now lives at Fairview Manor in Red Lake Falls.



Arnold Bache

JOSEPH AND ESTHER LINDBERG BAKER

In 1945, Joseph and Esther Lindberg Baker purchased the Lindberg family farm and moved there from Bensenville, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, with their children, Joseph, Jr. (age 16), William (age 15) and twins, Dorothy and Darlene (age 9).

Joseph, from Cottonwood, Arizona, was married to Esther in June of 1926. Her parents, the Christian O. Lindbergs, were early settlers in Deer Park Township.

Farming was a new experience for all of the family, except Esther, who had been raised on this farm. They approached their new lifestyle with vigor and enthusiasm and became actively involved in the church and community, and the chilren attended the Oklee school.

In 1951, the Bakers moved to So. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Joseph became employed at Bucyrus Erie and Esther in the Civil Service Nursing Division of Milwaukee County. They are now both retired.

William is married to Elinor Burmeister and they are the parents of eight children. Darlene married James Radtke and they have three children. Dorothy married Dr. Max Lindquist and they have three sons. Joseph, Jr. is unmarried and involved in the entertainment world as a singer.

A third generation descendant of Christian O. Lindberg plans to make his home on the family farm, as William Baker, a grandson, has purchased the land from his parents.

ILDAGE BARIL

Ildage Baril was born in 1868 at Ste. Elizabeth, Quebec, Canada and came to Red Lake County in 1882 settling on a homestead southwest of Red Lake Falls.

Ildage married Odile Dufault who was born in Quebec and came with her family to the Gentilly area when whe was five years old. Odile died in 1932.

The Barils were the parents of ten children: Mary (Mrs. Gilbert Marchildon), Diana (Mrs. Earl Columbus, died in 1969), Adrian (died 1971), Cecelia (Mrs. Alfred Fournier), and Doria (Mrs. Emmett Hill).

All the Baril children attended St. Joseph's Catholic School. They walked to school from their farm home in the morning but had a unique accommodation of train service for the trip home after school. The Great Northern Local passenger train traveled six days a week between Warroad and Crookston, the Northbound due in Red Lake Falls at 10:15 A.M., and the Southbound due at 4:20 P.M. The train was so accurate time-wise that watches could be set by it. Fortunately, the school was near to the depot so the children could catch the train for a pleasant trip home, made especially so by the friendliness of Steve Whitney, the regular conductor.

The Baril home which was a quarter mile south of the junction had been vacant for several years past and on Halloween night in 1975 it was burned to the ground.

Ildage, one of the pioneer settlers of Red Lake County, died in 1940 at the age of seventy-one. For forty-six years he served as clerk of Red Lake Township, a record of continuous service in Minnesota. He also served as Deputy Sheriff in Red Lake County and was a cattle buyer for several years.

Of the four living daughters of Ildage Baril, two live in Red Lake Falls; Mrs. Mary Marchildon and Mrs. Alfred Fournier. Sister Bennett and Sister Eugenia became mem-



Baril Family 1917. *Top:* Adrian, Arthur. *Middle:* Sr. Eugenia, Mary, Joseph, Diana and Sister Bennett. *Front:* Theophile, Ildage, Doria, Odile and Cecelia.

bers of the Order of St. Benedict, Crookston, in 1916. Sister Bennett received specialized training in the medical field and has served as Administrator of hospitals in Detroit Lakes, Crookston, and Brownsville. She is now retired and living in Crookston. Sister Eugenia's field is music which she has taught in several Catholic Schools. She is now teaching part time in Red Lake Falls. Doria (Mrs. Emmett Hill) has lived in Lee, Massachusetts for many years.

ART AND MAYME BARIL

Arthur John Baril, son of Ildage and Odelia Dufault, married Mayme Marie Clement, daughter of Xavier and Philomene Clement, on January 15, 1924. They farmed south of Red Lake Falls for twenty-four years until 1948, when they purchased a home in Red Lake Falls and resided there until their deaths.

Art was employed by Hendrix and Johnson Implement Company for a number of years. He served on the Board of Education of District 630, township board, Farmers Union board and was very active in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls.

Mayme will be remembered for her unique sewing ability. She especially enjoyed sewing for her grandchildren when they were little, and then making the wedding gowns for her granddaughters as they grew up.

Five children were born to Art and Mayme: Pauline (Mrs. Arthur Guillemette) and Dale of Red Lake Falls; Mona (Mrs. James LaBonte of Grand Forks); Tim of Townsend, Wisconsin; and Phoebe (Mrs. John Phelps) of Bowie, Maryland. Art passed away on June 2, 1972 and Mayme on October 13, 1974.

THEOPHILE AND MYRTLE BARIL

Theophile and Myrtle Demann Baril, both natives of Red Lake County, were both born in 1905. Theophile, better known as "Tuff," was the youngest son of Ildage and Odele Baril; pioneer farmers of Red Lake Falls Township. He attended St. Joseph's and Lafayette schools. He was employed by John Savard at the time of his marriage to Myrtle Demann, youngest daughter of William and Hattie Demann. The Demanns lived in Lake Pleasant township and Myrtle attended the rural school there before her parents moved into Red Lake Falls. She then went to Lafayette and the Teacher Training Department and taught in rural schools.

After their marriage in 1927, the Barils lived in Red Lake Falls except for a short time during World War II when Tuff worked in the iron mines and the family lived in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. He was also hired as a painter in the Naval Yards at Bremerton, Washington.

Returning to Red Lake Falls, he was employed by the Red Lake Falls Municipal Liquor Store and as manager of the local American Legion Club establishment for several years.

Tuff and Myrtle were the parents of five children who attended the local schools and were active in music and sports.

Myrtle resumed her education along with her children and then taught in Gary, Minnesota and Thief River Falls for ten years. During this time the Barils lived in Thief River Falls. In 1970 they returned to retire in Red Lake Falls and Tuff died the following year after several years of poor health. Myrtle continues to make her home here.

Their children are: Barbara Jean, married to Charles Roehl and living in Rock Springs, Wyoming; Richard married to Valerie Theroux living in Hopkins, Minnesota; James who is married to Bonnie Bishop lives in Gunnison, Colorado and Jack and Colleen Wager Baril make their home in Cumberland, Wisconsin. Susan and Kenneth Reynolds are living in Red Lake Falls. There are fifteen grandchildren.

DALE AND JEAN MALWITZ BARIL

Dale Baril, son of Art and Mayme Baril, married Jean Malwitz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Malwitz, on February 15, 1951, in Red Lake Falls. They lived in Milwaukee for three years before returning to live in Red Lake Falls, where they have since made their home.

Dale has been employed at the Red Lake Falls Post Office for seventeen years, and Jean is completing her tenth year as head bookkeeper at Lafayette high school. Dale and Jean have been active in the American Legion and Auxiliary, serving as commander and president respectively, along with other offices; Oak Knolls Golf Club, St. John's and St. Joseph's Churches. Dale is presently treasurer of St. Joseph's Church and Jean is treasurer of St. John's Lutheran Church. They are the parents of four children: Bonnie, now Mrs. Michael LaCoursiere of Bloomington who is a cosmetologist; Kathie, Mrs. Douglas Knott, teaches second grade in Plummer; John, a student at Northland Junior College in Thief River Falls and Kent, a student at Lafayette high school.

PEDER BARSNESS

In 1868 in Sogn, Norway, Peder Barsness was born. He immigrated to America when he was eighteen years old settling in Dane County, Wisconsin. In April 1892 he was married to Anna Johnson and they lived in Dane County for six years before moving to Madison, Minnesota. There they lived for twelve years before moving to Louisbury, Minnesota where they resided for two years.

In 1912 they moved to Red Lake County where they purchased 320 acres of land, six miles northeast of Oklee. The father and Adolph, the oldest son, came first so they could be there when the cattle and horses arrived shipped by freight. The mother and the other children, Melvin, Peder, and Clarence and daughter, Myrtle, came by train but stopped at Farwell, Minnesota to visit Grandma Johnson and Uncle Ole Johnson. They spent a couple of weeks there, then came on to the new village of Oklee. The children remembered Melby Brother's Store and Vigen's Hardware Store.



The land had not been cultivated for many years and there was a lot of work to be done before it could be planted in the spring. They arrived in the month of March when the snow was deep and it was difficult to get settled. The men started clearing the land of brush and trees and picked rocks from the fields as soon as the snow was gone. They were able to put in the crops on time.

There were two one room buildings on this land. The family used the larger building for living quarters and the smaller one was used for a stable.

During the first summer, they built a five room house with Martin Hoas and Olaf Haaven were the carpenters. The larger living quarters were a great improvement from the small house where seven people had been eating and sleeping. They had

ved here two years when Lovina was born
1914.
This farm was located one and a half
iles from school, and four and a half
iles from the Salem Lutheran Church
here all the children were confirmed
xcept Adolph, who was confirmed at
ouisburg. Rev. O. Kolstoe was pastor in
ose early days.
Mr. and Mrs. Barsness and two sons
ave now passed away. A grandson Allen
wns and operates the Old Barsness farm.

EVA BARTHOLOMEW

Eva Herold, one of nine children, was
orn at Fertile, Minnesota on March 4,
885. Her childhood in the late eighteen
nd early nineteen hundreds is a story of
e hardships and happiness of pioneer
ays. Eva's family traveled much by horse
nd wagon over dirt roads from farm to
rm, where they would build and cultivate
r a time and then move on in search of a
etter place. Eva's parents, John and
vangeline Herold, met and were married
t Hartley, Iowa, where John was farming.
ater, John took a homestead on a pre-
mption at Fertile where the family lived in
small wood frame house that had only a
irt floor. The house had only one room
ith a ladder leading up through a hole in
e ceiling to a loft where the children
ept. Being very young at the time, Eva
umbled and fell through the hole in the
pstairs floor, striking her head on the
dge of a pail at the bottom of the ladder.
he lay unconscious for about three weeks
efore awakening. Doctors were called
ery seldom in those days. The pioneers
ad to have faith in God's will. In later
ears, whenever Eva's brothers wanted to
ease her, they would remind her that the
eason for her behavior was the blow she'd
eceived on her head as a child.
She also had another close call at about
e same age. It was customary for the
rmers to let their cattle run loose to graze
nd to send the children to round them up
t milking time. One evening when Eva was
bout four years old, she went with her
lder sister to get the cows. On their way
me at dusk, the children thought they
eard their mother calling them so they
nswered back. She kept calling and they
ept answering until suddenly they realized
at it was no human cry they were hear-
g, but the cry of a panther. Eva said that
those days there were many wild ani-
als such as bears, wild cats, bob cats and
olves in the area around Fertile.
From Fertile•Eva and her family moved
ack to Hartley, Iowa, for a short time and
en to Benton Harbor, Michigan where
er father farmed and raised fruit trees.
he remembers that the children also
ised rabbits. Rabbits and fruit trees don't
ix well, so their father didn't have much
uccess with his orchard. After leaving
Michigan, the family moved to Walnut
Grove, Minnesota where Eva had a little
iend whose last name was Ingalls.
Whether she was a relative of the Ingalls of
ittle House on the Prairie, no one knows.
he Herold family remained at Walnut
Grove long enough for Eva to grow to
omanhood and marry Truman Bartholo-
ew. After Eva's marriage, her parents
ade their last move to Bartlett, North
Dakota, where they settled and lived the
st of their days.
When Truman and Eva were married he
ad been farming near Walnut Grove and
e young couple remained on the farm for
e next four years. During this time, two
laughters, Cecill and Mary, were born.
When Mary was about a year old, Truman sold everything and moved to Olewein, Iowa, where his sister lived. They arrived in Olewein with only $40.00, but Truman found a job in the railroad yard almost immediately. After working only a week, he had an accident which laid him up for a month and caused him much misery in later years. During this time of recuperation, the railroad paid him $40.00 a week, no small amount in those days!

The first four years the family lived in Olewein were difficult. Getting settled into a new way of life and the tragedy of losing an infant son at birth was a terrible blow. The baby boy had bled to death because the doctor was careless in tying the umbilical cord. His negligence was cause by his extreme fatigue due to caring for diphtheria patients day and night in Olewein where there was an epidemic and many people were dying. Eva understood the circumstances and did not carry any resentment towards the doctor even though she grieved for her baby. A year afterwards, another son, Harold, was born to Eva and Truman.

The Bartholomews lived in Olewein for thirteen years, working and saving every penny so that Truman could realize his dream of owning his own farm again. Eva cared for her children and her aged mother-in-law and took in laundry which she scrubbed on a wash board to help make enough money to fulfill Truman's dream even though she had no desire to return to the farm. Before coming to Olewein, her entire life had been spent doing all the back breaking jobs necessary on a farm of that era. She'd picked cucumbers for the canning factory, shocked grain, did farm chores and field work and plowed with a walking plow. But when Truman decided to buy land in Red Lake County, she uprooted her family, packed her belongings and moved back into the old farm work routine.

Eva was 42 and her youngest child 16 when her brother, Henry Herold, lost his young wife in childbirth. Eva took his ten day old daughter, Bernadette, into her home and into her heart to raise as her own daughter. A new baby was an added responsibility to her already heavy work load, but Eva always helped those who needed her.

As the years went by, life on the farm remained a never changing routine of dawn to dark labor. However, the family did grow and change. Cecill married George Hanson and they had a son. Mary wed James Ridge and bore a son and a daughter. Harold never married but remained at home helping his parents with the farming and did sheep shearing to earn extra income. In 1944, when Bernadette was fifteen, Truman had a stroke and died within a week.

Bernadette married Martin DeHaan in 1948 and at that time Harold sold his cattle and sheep with the intention of making his home in Oregon where his sister Mary lived. That winter he worked in a sawmill and Eva made her home with Mary. With spring, however, came the urge to return to the farm and they came back to Minnesota. Most of Eva's farm chores were eliminated after the sale of the livestock, but she was endlessly busy raising ducks, geese and chickens and canning, cleaning and sewing. Harold did some farming, mowed ditches for the county, had a trap line and did sheep shearing.

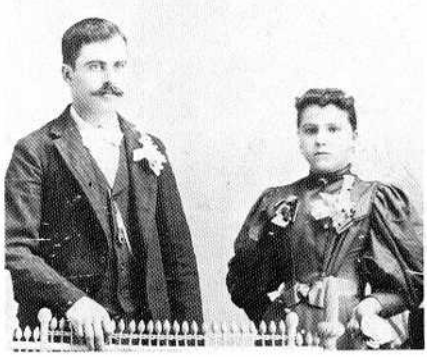
In the summer of 1950, Eva and Harold returned to Oregon to see Mary who was terminally ill with cancer. They stayed about a month and then returned home only to receive the notice of Mary's death a short time later. The next ten years of Eva's life were spent keeping house for her son, caring for the poultry and raising a huge vegetable garden. She kept her garden beautifully cultivated and free of weeds. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren always enjoyed visiting and hearing her tell stories of bygone days. Bernadette and Martin's children loved to visit Granny and Harold. He loved children, too, and liked to show them how to fish in the creek or make a whistle out of a twig. Sometimes he'd play the guitar for them. In 1960, Cecill became stricken with cancer and died in October. Losing her husband and children was almost more than Eva could bear, but her trials were not over yet. In September of 1961, Harold also became a victim of cancer, leaving Eva without a family except for her adopted niece, Bernadette. She remained on the farm until age and illness made it impossible for her to live alone. She left the home where she had lived for forty-four years and moved to a small house on the Martin DeHaan farm. The independence and fortitude that kept her going through all the tribulations of the past remained and she continued to garden and keep house for herself while enjoying the closeness of her remaining loved ones.

On February 12, 1976, at age ninety-one, Eva Bartholomew died. She was a resident of Red Lake County for fifty-four years, a real pioneer and a grand lady.

FELIX BEAUCHANE

This is an account of the early life of my father, Felix Beauchane, based on what he told us of his young life. He was born January 15, 1867 to Joseph and Rosellie Trotties Beauchane at St. Marie, a small community near Trois Rivieres, Quebec. It was a very crowded area with no room for young people to start farming. His brother Octave had left Quebec to come to Minnesota in the early 1880's. He homesteaded 160 acres of land in Louiseville Township in Red Lake County and was living there alone. Young Felix went to work in the logging camps of Canada to earn money for train fare to the United States. At the age of 17 he had enough money. At that time his brother Napoleon and three cousins decided to come to Minnesota with him to join Octave. When the five young men arrived in St. Paul, two of the cousins decided to remain there and look for work. They never returned to Canada, and Felix never heard from them again.

When Felix and Napoleon arrived in Crookston by train, they had no way to let Octave know of their arrival but, knowing



Felix Beauchanes

that the homestead was 12 miles northeast of Crookston, they put their packs on their backs and started across country. It was in the spring of the year and they had to walk many extra miles, going around sloughs and brush. They did come upon a settler who kept them overnight. They started out the next morning and reached their brother that day, very tired and very happy to get together. Octave had built a log house on the ridge, just next to an Indian trail which was part of the Pembina Trail.

Felix remained with his brother, opening land and raising cattle. Their brother Napoleon and cousin Omer went out to work and later established homes.

After a few years, Octave sold the farm to Felix and bought a farm along the Red Lake River some four miles away in Polk County. Felix remained a bachelor on the homestead until 1896 when he married Marie Lizotte. The Lizottes had come from Madawaska, Maine, and settled in Louisville Township, Red Lake County, a mile and a half from where Felix lived. My mother was only six months old when her parents came to Minnesota. Six children were born to Felix and Marie. Rose, the oldest married William Roi and they too, always lived in Louisville Township; Medy married Rose Dufault and they also lived in Louisville Township; Victor married Ruth Briden. They farmed until a few years ago, when he retired and moved to Crookston. Leo joined the Marist Brothers in 1921, and took the name Brother Leo Stratonic. He has lived in the East ever since. He taught school in Lowell and Lawrence, Massachusetts, Wheelines, West Virginia, and in New York City. He was treasurer of St. Ann's Academy in New York City until his retirement a few years ago. He now lives in Thynsboro, Mass. Another daughter Yvonne was born to Felix and Marie but she died at the age of three. In 1919 they adopted two children, Alton who lives in the Red Lake Falls area and Alice, who married Lawrence Raymond, also of Red Lake Falls.

I, Viola, married Orphier Vaudrin. We lived in Gentily Township for thirteen years after we were married. We then bought a farm four miles west of Red Lake Falls where we are still living with our oldest son Larry. We have another son Dwain and two daughters, Carol Jean and Monica. All three are married and live in the Minneapolis area.

Felix always farmed with horses and never owned or drove a tractor. He opened new land by grubbing trees and doing all the work with horses. In the early 1900's he bought the adjoining 160 acres. He always had a lot of cows to milk. As there was no milk route, all the milk had to be separated and they sold the cream. From a herd of goats, my father trained a Billy goat to run a horse-power engine that rolled the cream separator. This was a method he used until the 1930's when the whole milk was picked up on the route. When the first goat got too old, Father just trained another younger one.



Felix and Marie sold the farm to their son Victor in 1943 and bought a house in Red Lake Falls where they lived until their deaths. Felix died March 16, 1956 and Marie on June 12, 1956.

Felix served on the school board and was elected township officer the first time in 1905, a position he held until he retired and left the farm.

Besides being a homemaker, my mother was a seamstress and sewed for several people as far away as Red Lake Falls. She also carded and spun a lot of yarn. She would mix the goat's wool with the sheep wool to make very tough yarn for men's socks and mittens. She also made numerous quilts, all stitched by hand.

The Beauchane farm is located twelve miles west of Red Lake Falls and three miles west of Huot. We all went to school at the Huot school one and one-half miles away. We walked the distance morning and night except in the late fall after the field work was done and we could use the horses until the spring work was ready to start.

Victor still owns the farm. There are no more buildings left. The old log house was still there until a couple years ago when someone burned it down.

FRED BEHN

The Fred Behn family came to Red Lake Falls in February, 1902 from Gordonsville, Minnesota with seven children, ages one through twelve. The oldest child, Fred, Jr., became ill and passed away in July of that year and another son, Gustaf, was partially blind. The family lived at the Hotel a month and then moved into their farm home just west of the city limits. They had seven box cars of animals, cattle feed and seed grain. Moving was a hardship because of the extreme cold and deep snow. Two children were born in later years, Marie and Bertha.

The Behn house was large and the family was especially sociable. Lots of families would drive out after church services and have dinner with them since they lived so near town and the railroad. Many hobos walking on the tracks were welcomed, fed and lodged in their barn.

Mr. Behn passed away November 8, 1929 and Mrs. Behn on July 23, 1930. There were thirteen children, seven of whom lived to be adults. There were fourteen grandchildren, forty great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren. Deceased are Fred, Gustaf, Lena, Rudie, Augusta, and Marie. The survivors are Mrs. Minnie Hausman, Mrs. Johanna Kroll and Bertha. This history was submitted by Mrs. Johanna W. Kroll of Proctor, Minnesota.

JOSEPH BELAIR

Joseph Belair, born in New York State, and Lillian Belair, his wife, born in Osseo, Minnesota, came to Red Lake Falls to make their home in 1891. They had pioneered to this area several years earlier with a party of French people in a timber wagon, but had returned to Osseo for a couple of years before coming here to make their future home.

Joseph Belair served as Chief of Police of Red Lake Falls, owned a second-hand furniture store, was a public auctioneer, and County Coroner during his lifetime.

The Belairs had a family of twelve children and the only survivor is Orilla Watson of Bellingham, Washington.

Many of the people in this area were of Canadian ancestry, and there were social gatherings such as card parties, dancing, singing and dinner parties. The Belairs belonged to a group called "The Waterloo Gang."

THE JOHN BENDEL SR. FAMILY

The John Bendel Sr. family originally came from Madison, Minnesota, where their first eight children were born. In 1910, they moved to Leo, near Greenbush in Roseau County. The three last children were born there.

The family moved to Red Lake County in 1914 and the former Pete Zins farm now the Jacob Vander Weg farm. The children attended the rural school District Number 88. Some of the teachers were: Mildred Fletcher, Mae Adler Columbus, and Clara Kilburg. We very well remember the horse and buggy rides to St. Mary's Catholic Church on Sundays. Another memorable occasion was a Fourth of July celebration at the John Lemkuehl farm, now occupied



Bendel Family. Balsey, Joseph, Carl, Francis, John Sr. with Florence, Mary, Mrs. Bendel, with Clarence. *Front:* Sabina and Clara 1912.

by Gordon Knott. The celebration was done up in great style with fireworks, games, foodstands, ball games, and an evening barn dance.

We moved to the city of Red Lake Falls in 1918. The youngsters attended St. Joseph's Grade School and Lafayette High School.

Frances, born in 1897, (Mrs. William Constant) had four children: Edward at home, Willard of Babbitt, Lloyd of West Fargo, and Marian (Mrs. Patrick Harold) of East Grand Forks. William Constant passed away in 1965.

Balsey, born 1899, worked in automobile factories in Flint, Detroit, and Pontiac, Michigan. He served in United States Army in World War II at Camp Adair, Oregon. He married Anne LaRoche. They have two children; Jerry at home and Barbara (Mrs. Larry Rohn) and a granddaughter, Lisa, of Thief River Falls.

Carl, born 1900, worked for the Minneapolis Bridge Company for many years and served in World War II in a Construction Battalion (Sea B's) in England. He married Margaret Schmidt and has one son, Carl Sr. of Buffalo. Carl Sr. passed away in 1948.

Joseph, born in 1901, worked in Pontiac, Michigan, in an automobile factory. He passed away in 1928 at Pontiac.

Mary, (Mrs. John Fitzgerald) was born in 1902. In 1922 she went to St. Paul where she worked as a milliner for many years. They have three daughters and two grandchildren.

Sabina, born 1905, worked for several years at the Weiberg Bakery, and married Roy Remick. They have five children and twelve grandchildren. They moved to Jefferson City, Montana in 1943 where Roy operated the city bus line for about ten years. He now works for the State of Missouri with the blind.

Clara, born 1907, taught in rural schools for thirteen years in Red Lake and Ottertail Counties. She also worked at the Red Lake Falls Clinic for ten years, and for Red Lake Electric Cooperative for seventeen years. She taught her first year in 1929 at District Number 88, a school she first attended as a youngster.

Florence, born 1908, taught four years in rural schools of Red Lake County and played in the Red Lake Falls Municipal Band. She married Wallace Miller and worked the past six years as an aid at Washington Elementary School. They have two children, Marilyn of St. Paul and James at home.

Clarence, born 1911, passed away at age of fourteen years.

John, born 1913, served in World War II in the Medical Corps in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, and Germany. He married Ione Helm of Red Lake Falls. They have a son, Robert. He is a plumber by trade in West Allis, Wisconsin, where they reside.

Leo, born 1914, served in World War II on an oil tanker in the Mediterranean, Pacific, and Atlantic waters. He is also a plumber by trade. Leo is a great sportsman and enjoys fishing and hunting. They own a cottage up at Rocky Point on Lake of the Woods. He married Josephine Berg, who is one of the local beauticians.

John Bendel Sr. passed away in 1934 at the age of sixty-four years and Mrs. John Bendel passed away in 1953 at the age of eighty-one years.

LEO AND JOSEPHINE BENDEL

Leo Bendel spent most of his lifetime in Red Lake Falls. He started learning his plumbing trade in 1934 from another "Old-timer" Milt Converse, working with him until Milt died in 1934. Those were the days when everything was done mostly with hand labor and wages were one dollar a day. Leo started a business for himself until World War II when he enlisted in the Navy. On his return home, Leo's brother, John, worked with him in the plumbing business until John moved to West Allis, Wisconsin. The business still operates from the workshop attached to a home the Bendels built in 1950.

Leo married Josephine Berg on December 29, 1947.

Josephine came to Red Lake Falls and started a beauty shop in June 1940, and has been in the same location back of the Lizotte Barber Shop ever since. The shop was the fourth one at the time. Things have changed — a shampoo and fingerwave was less than a dollar and a permanent was four dollars or less — if on special. Then we used the old permanent wave machine — electricity provided the curl heat with the aid of moist pads. There was also the machineless, a method using a chemical pad dipped in water to provide the heat. Then came the cold wave — with one difference, the rods were made of wood instead of the plastic that is now used. It would be interesting to know what changes lie ahead in the next 200 years.

BENDER-RAHIER FAMILIES

Frank Bender came to Equality township from Plainfield, Wisconsin in 1896 to try to better himself. He homesteaded a quarter section, cleared the land, built necessary buildings and managed a productive farm. He married Rose Wichterman of Plummer in July, 1900. Four children were born to this couple. Alpha (Mrs. Wilfred Rahier) and Alice (Mrs. Hans Vake) are still living.

Alpha Bender married Wilfred Rahier in January, 1922, and lived on the homestead in Equality township. Wilfred was the son of Joe and Mary Rahier who came to Red Lake County from Effie in 1914, along with their other children, Ralph, Addie and Carrie. The Joe Rahiers lived on several farms in the community and Mrs. Rahier is presently a resident of Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Four children were born to Alpha and Wilfred Rahier: Earl who died in infancy, Rose (Mrs. Maynard Mandt) of Oklee, LeRoy on the home farm, and Ethel (Mrs. Bud Emmer) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Wilfred Rahier died in March, 1972, Alpha Rahier lives with her son, LeRoy and family.

LeRoy married Janis Larson of Borup and does grain and dairy farming together with his son, Gary. Janis spends nine months each year teaching fifth grade at the Oklee school. One child, Nancy, died in infancy. A daughter, Sheryl Rahier Olson, lives in Thief River Falls and has a son, John. Gayle Rahier works at home, and Debbie Rahier attends Oklee High School.

JOSEPH CHARLES BENOIT

Joseph Charles Benoit was born in Weedon, Montreal, Canada, on April 8, 1865. He was the son of Charles and Lucy Forea Benoit. At the age of fourteen, he came with his family to the United States where they lived in Springfield, Massachusetts for three and a half years. In 1882 they came to Poplar River Township and homesteaded on a farm near Brooks.

In 1891 Joseph took a homestead near his parents' farm and received his deed from President Benjamin Harrison. He married Florida Corbeil in January of 1895. Her parents were Francis and Delia Chatel, also homesteaders in Poplar River. Joseph and Florida had ten children: Albert (b. 1896 — d. 1896), Emma (b. 1898), Geneva (b. 1899 — d. 1918), Coronna (b. 1901 — d. 1903), Ernest (b. 1902 — d. 1903), Armond (b. 1904), Arthur (b. 1905), Medore (b. 1909 — d. 1975), Lorina (b. 1910) and Regina (b. 1913 — d. 1914).

Two boys, Albert and Ernest, and two girls, Coronna and Regina, died before school age. Geneva died at the age of nineteen during the flu epidemic of 1918. Emma married Ernest Huot (see history); Armond married Lydia Laurant (see history); Arthur married Mary Jane Sauve and



Joseph C. Benoit Family

their children are Francis, who died in Viet Nam, and Sharon, Mrs. Steve Gibson; Lorina married Philip Dupont and they live in Moxee City, Washington. Their children are Phillip, Jr., Joyce, Patricia, George and Leroy. Medore married Mrs. Violette Beaudry.

ARMOND N. BENOIT

On July 12, 1904, Armond Nels Benoit was born in Red Lake Falls. He is the son of Joseph and Florida Corbeil Benoit. He attended grade school in Red Lake Falls and in his early days worked for the Great Northern Railroad and the Brunelle Grocery. He attended Sather Business School in Crookston and got his first start in banking in 1928 at the First State Bank in Red Lake Falls where he was assistant cashier. He worked at this bank until it closed in 1932. After managing a Peterson-Biddick branch firm here for a year, he became a disbursement officer of the Red Lake and Pennington county Emergency Relief Administration. He joined the staff at the First State Bank in 1936 and worked there for thirty-two years until his retirement. Armond also served on the City Council for several years.

Armond married Lydia Laurant on July 23, 1928. She was the daughter of Dona and Cerisa Trudeau Laurant. Born to this union were six children: Beverly (Mrs. Edward Beyer) of Moorhead, Robert of St. Paul, Donna of Red Lake Falls, Cecile (Mrs. William Kelley) of Minneapolis, Duane of Pine City, and Sandra who died as in infant.

Lydia Benoit died on June 13, 1959. Armond Benoit married Emma Gorte of Crookston in 1963.

MAURICE BENOIT

A history of my parents Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Benoit of Louisville Township reflects many of the individual and collective characteristics of the people who have built the community of Red Lake County in the last one hundred years. As I briefly retell the story of my parents who have spent all of their lives in Red Lake County, I will try to suggest some of the aspects of their lives, their history, their values and commitments which appear to be shared in varying degree by other members of the community who together have made Red Lake County what it is today.



Maurice Benoits

The family history of my mother and father could easily demonstrate the two main tendencies in the personality of the French of North America. The Lefaivres on my mother's side, who came to Minnesota from Montreal, reveal a desire for stability through the family, the acquiring of property and the preservation of French-Canadian traditions. My great-great-great-grandfather Paul Lefaivre, who came to Minnesota in 1856, left his son, Pierre, and returned to Canada. Pierre began to establish himself in the Minnesota community of Buffalo by marrying a French Canadian and then demonstrated his loyalty to his newly adopted homeland by serving the North in the Civil War. After five years of absence from Buffalo, Pierre returned to move his family to the Gentilly area which was to open to legal settlement around 1873. One of his sons, Octave, my maternal grandfather, moved from Gentilly to the Terrebonne area where he married Emma Bisson in 1890. The fifth and sixth children born to this family were twins, one of whom was my mother Georgianna, the other George. In 1909 Octave moved his family to Gervais Township somewhat closer to Red Lake Falls. Lucy and Paul, sister and brother to my mother, still live on this farm.

While family history on my mother's side reflects a strong desire to "settle down" and belong to a newly formed community, my father's family history suggests more of an unsettled and restless quality.

In 1671 Martin Benoit stepped off a boat from France onto the shores of Port Royal, Acadia, today Nova Scotia. There his family prospered for two generations until it was removed from Acadian soil and dispersed among the English settlers of New England in the hopes that it, like so many other French families would finally assimilate to English ways. The Benoits who survived the initial dispersal of the Acadians walked and paddled from New England to Louisiana or north to Quebec. In the 1805's we pick up the trace of Benoits in Sorel, Quebec. From this family, members spread into the New England States to farm and work in the newly constructed mills. My grandfather, Aimé Benoit, traveled from Sorel, Quebec to Massachusetts and points west until he arrived in Minnesota where he settled along the river in Red Lake Falls. There he and his wife, Elizabeth Dondoneau, had nine children. Grandmother died, the children were dispersed, and grandfather traveled and did what work he could.

My father, born in 1907, was raised from age nine by his sister Lucy Benoit Cassavant of Louisville Township.

In 1932 my parents married and in 1937, having saved $700, made a down payment of $500 on a quarter of land in Louisville Township that was selling for $5,000. Like so many of their generation and of the one preceding them, my parents were what French Canadians call "faiseurs de terre", makers of land. Of the 160 acres purchased, 72 were in timber, the remainder contained low spots and stones. There was no well and not a useful building. In order to erect a house and barn for the first year, my father bought twenty-eight huge cotton trees at $1.00 each which, before they were sawed into lumber, squared off at eighteen inches each He sawed the lumber, selling one third of it to buy cement and nails. By the fall of 1937 my father and mother had built a house and barn and were able to accept the help of twenty-seven neighbors who came to shingle the two buildings. Between Christmas and New Year's of that same year my father dug a well by means of a shovel, pail, and ladder. Water was drawn with a bucket until Joseph Skala offered my father a pump which could be paid for when he would have the money.

In subsequent years, over fifty acres of the land was cleared by hand, ditches were made, stones picked, trees planted and new buildings erected. The first years were difficult and, without the community spirit of neighbors and relatives who loaned machinery, help, and money, the individual hopes and aspirations of my parents could not have been realized.

In 1942 my mother inherited a farm from her family and the money, when this land was sold, made the down payment on a "B" John Deere tractor, two-bottom plow, a drill, a six-foot combine and a ten-foot cultivator. 1946, the year when my parents bought another farm, marks the time when the financial difficulties of their lives began to ease.

Besides making a living for themselves on their farm, my parents raised three children: Elizabeth of Milwaukee, Clement of Toronto, Canada, and Virgil of Burlington, Vermont. In 1975 the work of my parents as farmers in the Minnesota Red River Valley was recognized and my parents were honored to be chosen Valley Farmer of the year for Red Lake County. Like so many others of their generation, my parents have come to be extremely close to the land on which they have made their home, a land which has given them an individual way of life while satisfying their need to belong to a community whose values they share; a land and community which have never ceased to offer them the freedom of individual expression basic to being human.

Contributed by Virgil Benoit

DAVID BENSON

David Benson and Elizabeth McDonnell were married in Minneapolis in February of 1965 and moved to Red Lake Falls in 1967. David was the son of Glenn and Ruby Benson of rural Erskine, and Elizabeth was from St. Cloud.

Shortly after they moved to Red Lake Falls, their first child, Stephen was born on July 10, 1967.

On April 15, 1969, the Bensons purchased Oak's Mobile Home Court and Laundromat from Rollin and Mary Herold. They continue to operate that business at this time. In the fall of 1974, they moved their residence from Red Lake Falls to Red Lake Falls Township where they presently live on the banks of the Red Lake River, one mile from the city.

On March 18, 1975, their son, Trent, came to them from Korea. He was born October 7, 1971. A daughter, Melanie, born April 16, 1969 arrived from Korea on April 22, 1975.

The Bensons are members of the Commercial Club and the Red Lake Falls Jaycees. They are also members of Bethany Lutheran Church.

MONTE BEREND

Monte Berend was born and raised near Vergas, Minnesota and graduated from Pelican Rapids High School in 1956. During a three year tour with the United States Navy he married Lyla Peterson of Pelican Rapids. Upon return from the Navy he attended Fergus Falls Junior College being a member of the first class to attend that school.

The Berends moved to California in 1962 where Monte worked for the California Highway Department in San Diego, Riverside County Highway Department, Riverside, California, and the United States Air Force, March Air Force Base. In 1970 Monte and Lyla moved to Chicago with their son, Dean, born in Newport, Rhode Island, and daughters; Dawn born in Pelican Rapids, Dori born in Fergus Falls, and Dana born in San Diego. In the Chicago area he was employed by the Federal Water Pollution Control Agency. Superior, Wisconsin was the next stop where Monte worked for the Wisconsin Highway Department. From there the Berends came to Red Lake Falls in 1971 where he serves as Red Lake Highway Engineer, a position he still holds.

RALPH R. BERG

In November, 1938, I married Polly Cwikla, and in the spring of 1943 we came to Oklee from the North Mud Lake Agassiz area. Here we purchased a 160-acre farm in Lambert township, two miles west of Oklee, and started a diversified farming operation. The farm is a Lost River frontage farm with the buildings on the south of the river, so we named it Sunny Side Farm.

Our three sons, Donald, Roger, and Vernon, were born and grew up here. They had many fun hours on this winding Lost River, both summer and winter, and graduated from the Oklee High School, a very good school in a nice clean small town in eastern Red Lake County.



Back in 1951, Polly, Donald and I started a band and we broadcasted weekly over station KTRF, a program sponsored by the Oklee merchants. This group expanded to a four-piece dance band with the title of "Ralph and Polly's Melody Aces." Polly played the guitar and sang western songs. Donald played the saxophone and trumpet and I played the accordion. The fourth player on the drums varied from time to time. We played for Saturday night dances in northwestern Minnesota until 1969 when Polly became ill with leukemia. In June, 1974, she passed away at the age of 57.

I continue to operate the farm alone. Fortunately, my neighbors are amazingly good, and, with my three sons, comfort and help me.

HERMAN I. BERGER

The Bergers came to Plummer in August 1937, where Mr. Berger had accepted the position as Superintendent of the Pershing High School in the Plummer School District. He served in this position until May 1950. He began his Superintendency with what appeared to us to be a fantastic salary of $1800 per year.

Being Superintendent during these years presented many problems. During the war years there was a shortage of teachers and Mr. Berger generally found himself teaching any subjects for which a qualified teacher could not be found. Together with a teacher shortage, the school was also faced with an increasing enrollment and shortage of space. The Brooks high school age students attended the Plummer School. All athletic events and school activities were held in the Plummer Hall. A mill levy was passed in 1950 to add needed space to the overcrowded building. Board members at that time were: Victor Medchill, Paul Schoenauer, Lars Hoga, M. J. Fallen and David Ostby. Mr. and Mrs. John Greenwald were custodians.

At the time of our coming to Plummer the family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Berger and daughter, Carol. Two children were born during our stay there, Ruth Marie in 1939 and Helen Jeanne in 1944. Ruth Marie passed away in 1948.

Mr. Berger passed away in May 1950 and was succeeded as Superintendent by Mr. Bjornson.

Mrs. Berger remained in Plummer one more year, teaching 5th grade at the Oklee Public School under Mr. Carl Quist, Superintendent. She and the two children, Carol and Helen, returned to North Dakota in 1951.

JOSEPH BERGERON FAMILY

Joseph Bergeron (b. 1861 — d. 1931), son of Francois and Dina Bergeron was an early homesteader in Lambert Township. He came from Canada in 1883. In the early days he contracted to haul supplies to lumber camps. Joseph was active in school, church and township affairs. In 1884 he married Marguerite Lambert (b. 1869 — d. 1945), daughter of Francois Lambert and Caroline Belland. They had eleven children: Albert (b. 1887) married Valida Fournier in 1924; Eugenie (b. 1892 — d. 1975) married Peter Bergeron in 1913; Dennis (b. 1896 — d. 1972) married Betty Schall in 1930; Antoinette (b. 1897) married Ed Gibeau in 1925; Marie Rose (b. 1900) married Art Dufault in 1927; Alphonse (b. 1902); Evelyn (b. 1903) married Sam Gibeau in 1928; Alexine (b. 1904) married Walter Turgeon in 1929; Mary (b. 1899) married George Phillippion in 1926; Cecilia (b. 1905); and Elmer (b. 1911).

ALBERT J. BERGERON

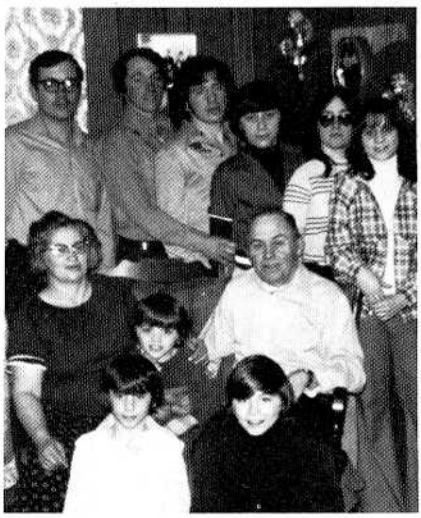
Albert J. Bergeron married Valida Fournier in 1923. She was the daughter of Isaac Fournier and Marie LaCoursiere. Albert and Valida were grain and dairy farmers in section 23 of Lambert Township on the farm which is now owned and operated by their son, Willard.

The Bergerons had five children: Willard (b. 1927) married Donna Mercil in 1947; Morris (b. 1928 — d. 1973) married Shirley Boutian in 1956; Bernadine (b. 1933) married John Suprenant in 1953; Rena (b. 1937) married Larry LaCoursiere in 1957; and Donald (b. 1938) married Muriel Acker in 1963.

Valida died in January of 1971 and Albert makes his home with his daughter, Bernadine, in St. Francis, Wisconsin.



Albert J. Bergerons 45th wedding anniversary.



Willard Bergeron Family

WILLARD BERGERON

In November of 1947 Willard married Donna Mercil, daughter of Louis Mercil and Louise Champagne and they presently make their home in Lambert township on the farm where his father, Albert Bergeron and his grandfather, Joe Bergeron, also lived.

Willard and Donna have nine chilren: Duane, Harlan, Dale, Lloyd, Mary, Connie, Randy, James and Todd.

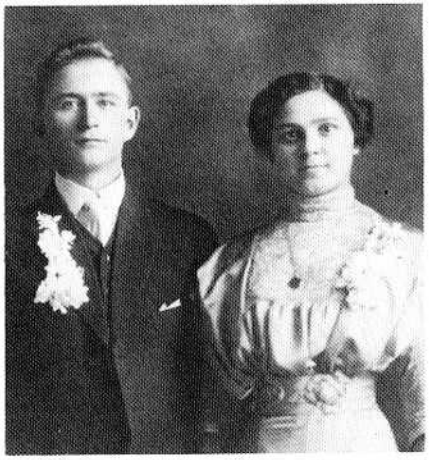
URGELE BERGERON AND MARY GOULET BERGERON

Urgele Bergeron and his wife Mary Goulet came from Canada in 1877 and settled in Lambert township where they farmed.

The children born to them: Clara (Gagnon); Louis who married Rose Gibeau; Blanche who married Armidas Lambert; Antoinette (Cormier); Regina; Albert who married Mabel Gilbertson; Leona who married Joe Pellerin; Laura who married Bill Dougherty; and Peter who married Jane Bergeron.



Urgele Bergeron Family



Peter and Jane Bergeron

PETER BERGERON AND EUGENIE (JANE) BERGERON

Peter and Jane Bergeron were pioneers in business in the community of Oklee as well as life-long residents of this county.

Peter Urgelle Bergeron was born in August of 1888 in Lambert township, the son of Urgelle and Marie Goulet Bergeron. Peter helped on the family farm until he was fourteen when he then left home to work as a cook in the lumber camps of northern Minnesota. He was appreciated for his culinary skills and in his later years would jokingly recall how he had to "sit on his bread to keep it from rising too high."

Eugenie (Jane) Bergeron, born in March of 1892, was one of the eldest of eighteen children born to Joseph and Margaret Lambert Bergeron, farmers in Lambert township.

Peter and Eugenie moved to Oklee following their marriage in October of 1913 and opened a soft drink parlor on Main Street. A year later they moved down the block and opened a general merchandise store.

Peter and Jane were an important part of the growing community. He was well-known for his generosity and willingness to work on village and church projects and when the St. Francis Xavier church building was moved to Oklee from Lambert he was among those who helped. He also served the church as a trustee and served on the school board for thirty-two years, beginning in 1916. He served as mayor and councilman, was president of the Oklee Community Club and in 1964 he was cited by the Club for 50 years of service to Oklee.

Peter's quiet humor and friendliness brought many people into the store and as the village grew so did their business as Jane worked along side her husband to make it a success. Several changes were made in the original store over the years, and in 1936 they expanded the store to include their former living quarters. Then a large apartment was built over the store to accommodate their family of six children.

At the age of eighty-one, Peter died on May 10, 1969. His wife continued to live in the apartment until her death in April of 1975. Peter and Jane lived to celebrate their 50th and 55th wedding anniversaries.

Six children were born to Eugenie and Peter, beginning with Arthur, their first born. Eleanor was the second child, followed by another son, Napoleon Vern. Mae Genevieve was the fourth and Ernest was number five. Irene Cecilia was the last child born to the Bergerons. Education was a very important part of this family and four out of the six children became teachers.

Arthur and his wife, Lorraine Malwitz of Red Lake Falls, have two children and six grandchildren and reside in Rochester. Art has retired from his position with the Chrysler Corporation, but they continue to care for foster children in their home. This dedication to foster children earned them the title of "Foster Parents of the Year" for the state of Minnesota in 1973. In his retirement Art also has become a substitute teacher, his specialty being in the automotive field.

Eleanor is married to Paul Patnode, also formerly of Red Lake Falls, and they have raised five children. The Patnodes live in Bemidji where Eleanor teaches in the parochial school and Paul is employed by the Nash Finch Company. Eleanor was a teacher before her marriage and returned to the profession several years ago.

Napoleon Vern, known only as Vern, died suddenly in April of 1975. His widow, Eva Mae (Theroux) a former Red Lake Falls resident and three of their eight children live in Oklee. Vern had continued his father's business in the grocery and meat store until ill health had forced him to retire several months before his death at the age of 56.

Mae died in April of 1974 at the age of 53 following a lengthy illness. Her careers included teaching in the United States and on the island of Guam, field secretary for the College of St. Teresa and funeral director. She and her husband, Ralph Petterson, formerly of Erskine, worked together in the Petterson Funeral Homes in Red Lake Falls and Oklee where Ralph still carries on the businesses. Ralph and Mae had three children, Jay, Marc and Leslie.

Ernest married Eileen Bergin of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and is a teacher in Melrose where they presently live. Ernie and Eileen have five daughters. Ernest is a graduate of St. John's University and taught several years in Oklee before moving to Melrose where he is Department Head of the Social Sciences.

Irene is married to Joseph Grahek of Ely where they live with their four children. Irene went to Ely as an elementary teacher, later worked as a newspaper reporter and presently is employed as executive director of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Ely. Her husband is employed by Reserve Mining Co. of Babbitt.

NAPOLEON VERN BERGERON

Napoleon Vern Bergeron was born in Oklee, October 13, 1918, the son of Peter and Eugenie (Jane) Bergeron. Following his graduation from the Oklee Public School in 1938, he worked with his parents in the Bergeron Grocery Store, a landmark on Main Street in Oklee since 1916. Pete and Jane were in the grocery business for sixty years and raised six children in the apartment above the store. Vern, their second son worked as a butcher and clerk with his parents.

Vern spent most of his life in Oklee. He was drafted in 1941 and served as an Aviation Cadet in the U.S. Air Force. He worked a short time in Detroit, Michigan after his discharge, returning to Oklee to go into business with his parents. After the death of his father in 1969, he continued the grocery business until February, 1974, when he sold the business because of failing health. Vern died unexpectedly at his home on April 15, 1975, at the age of 56.

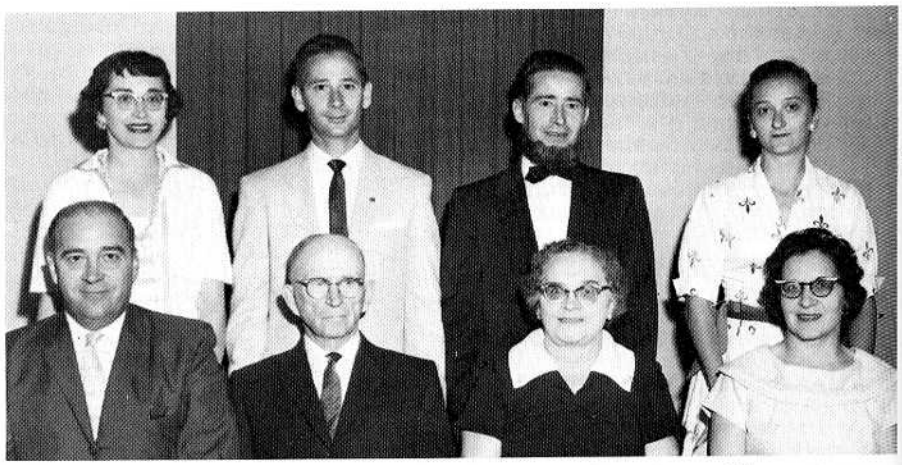
Vern will always be remembered by his friends and customers for his quick wit and humor. It was always there, at home or work . . . he always wore a smile.

He was a member of the Oklee City Council, Commercial Club, Lions Club, American Legion, The Knights of Columbus and had been active with the Boy Scouts.

Vern married Eva Mae Theroux on July 8, 1946, and they had six girls and two boys: Mary Kathlene (b. 1947), married Robert Lindquist. They have three children, Tom, Jeron and Ann and live in Litchfield. Charlene (b. 1948) married John Larson, they have one son Adam and live in Crookston. Renee (b. 1950) lives in Minneapolis; JoAnne (b. 1951) married Bill Church, has one son Tim, lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Francis (b. 1953), a meat cutter at Violette's locker and lives at home as do Kevin (b. 1959), Jane (b. 1960) and Carol (b. 1967).

Eva Mae Theroux Bergeron was born January 7, 1921 at Terrebonne, the daughter of Joseph and Leah Theroux. The family moved to Red Lake Falls where she graduated from Lafayette High School and the Normal Training Department. She was a teacher in Red Lake and Polk County schools.

Eva Mae was one of the early members of the Oklee Social Club and the Christian Mothers, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, ARC, St. Anne's Society and the Theresa Guild of St. Francis Xavier.



Peter Bergeron Family. Mae, Ernest, Vern, Irene, Arthur, Peter, Jane and Eleanor.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Berget

ALBERT AND TILLIE BERGET

Albert Berget was born at Renville, in Redwood County in 1891 and came with his family to Roseau County at the age of fourteen. Tillie was born in Mayville, North Dakota. Tillie and Albert were married at Thief River Falls in 1916. Albert spent seventeen years working with a dredging crew in the states of Iowa, Indiana, Mississippi and Florida and for five of these years, Tillie did the cooking for the crew.

In 1927 they purchased the farm of Halvor Reindal in Equality Township. When their only child, a son, Levurne, reached school age they moved to the farm. Their first car was a Model A Ford bought in Stratford, South Dakota in 1928. Albert drove it back to the farm.

On January 1, 1943, their son, Levurne, was united in marriage to Berniece Skelly at Grand Forks.

From 1938 to 1948, Albert and Levurne were engaged in mink farming. In 1956 Albert sold his livestock and put the land in the soil bank so they spent several years on the farm in semi-retirement. In 1966, Albert and Tillie celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the Clearwater Lutheran Church with many friends and relatives present.

Albert served on the town board and the school board for many years. Both he and his wife have been active in church work and continue to take part in church activities. Because of their location close to the rural school in their district, the teachers boarded at their home for a number of years.

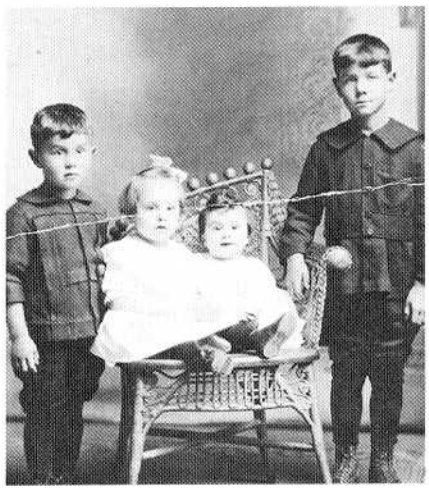
In 1969 they sold their farm to Lowell Enerson and family and moved to Oklee where they reside at present.

LOUIS BERNIER AND PARMELIA LESSARD BERNIER

Louis Bernier, son of Simon Bernier, married Permelia Lessard, daughter of Edward Lessard and Valeria Elard, in 1909. Permelia had come to the Lambert township area with her parents when she was ten years old in 1896.

The first four children born to this union died; other children born later were: Ed (b. 1914) married Celia Carriveau; Leo (b. 1916) married Opal Brewer; Zelia (b. 1920) married Earl Brown; Emma (b. 1918) married Roy Depta; Marie (b. 1922) married Reynold Huff.

Three years after her first husband's death, Permelia married Adelore Boucher. They had one son, Wilfrod. Permelia now resides at Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls.



Leo, Zelia, Emma and Ed Bernier

ALBERT D. BERRY

In 1852 Albert D. Berry was born at Champlin, New York. He lived at Rochester, Minnesota until 1878 when he came to Red Lake County and homesteaded in Louisville Township. Here he married Miss Clarintha Roi on February 26, 1882. There were eight children born to this family, two of whom survive, Mrs. George Marcotte of Red Lake Falls and Mrs. Ed Reopelle of Arizona. Two children died in infancy and four sons passed away in later years, Adelore, Orel, Joseph and Alphonse.

Albert D. Berry was town clerk of Louisville Township for seventeen years and held school district offices. He had some education in medicine and did much apprentice work as a veterinarian, becoming well-known throughout the community for his specialized services. He passed away in 1936.

Mrs. Berry was born at St. Marriete, Quebec, Canada on January 23, 1856 and came to the United States in 1881. She passed away in 1942.

ALLEN AND SANDRA BERTILRUD

Allen and Sandra Bertilrud came to the city of Red Lake Falls, from Warren, in October of 1974 when Allen accepted employment in the Red Lake County State Bank as loan officer. They currently reside in the Oaks Mobile Home Center. Born and raised on a farm south of Greenbush, Allen graduated from Greenbush High School and attended Moorhead State University and the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. On the ninth of December, 1967, he went to the Fort Lewis Washington basic training camp for the United States Army. After completing Medical Corpsman School in Fort Sam Houston, he transferred to Fort Knox, Kentucky to serve at Ireland Army Hospital. Vietnam was next on the agenda in November of 1968 where he served as medic for a reconnaissance platoon for the 1st Cavalry Division. After the service he met Sandra Dokken and married her on the 23rd of November, 1972. Finally in the year 1974 Allen received his diploma from University of North Dakota, Grand Forks in Business Administration.

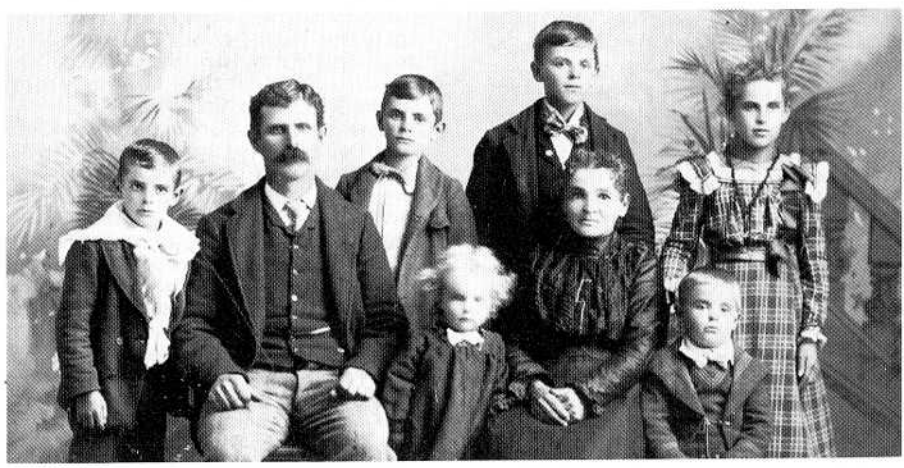
Sandra, however, was not sitting idle along the wayside during these years. She grew up and attended high school in Roseau and also college at Bemidji State University where she graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. She taught at Warren for four years and left behind some pretty fond memories.

Life has not slowed down for the Bertilruds since they moved to Red Lake Falls. Sandra is presently teaching a section of the first grade at Washington Elementary School and is involved in several organizations. Allen and Sandra are members of the Bethany Lutheran Church. Allen is a member of the Commercial Club and treasurer of the Lions Club. Alan accepted a direct commission in the Minnesota National Guard in August of 1972 and is the Installation Commander of the Crookston National Guard Armory.

CHESTER W. BEYER FAMILY

Chester W. Beyer was born in 1896 and raised at Lake Benton, Minnesota. As a young man he moved to Munising, Michigan and worked as a mechanic and met Beatrice G. Lampi, who had been born at Madison, Wisconsin. They were married in Lorain, Ohio in 1920 and lived there for a few years before moving to Los Angeles, California where they lived for six years.

Chester's father had been involved in real estate and had accumulated several



Albert D. Berry Family 1899

pieces of land in different parts of the state. Chester's mother was left with these parcels of land after the death of his father, and since many of them were costing money for taxes and upkeep and bringing in nothing, the family decided to distribute the property among the children. Chester and his brother, Fred, got some land in Wylie township of Red Lake County. Fred wasn't too interested in the land, he loved California, but Chester wanted to see it and they decided to stop and check on the land while on a visit to the World's Fair in Chicago. Chester didn't like California at all. The depression was just over and, while he had jobs all the time, this wasn't the life he wanted.

C. W. Beyer, his wife Beatrice and their children, Chester Thane, 11 years old; Irving, 9; and Jean, 5; moved from Los Angeles to Red Lake County in the fall of 1933. The farm had been rented for quite a number of years and wasn't taking care of itself, so they came here intending to fix up the buildings over the summer and put the farm up for sale. They ended up liking it here so much that it was never offered for sale.

Snow came the 20th of October in 1933 and didn't leave until spring. They had a chance to winter some of the neighbors' young stock and horses in their barn. This gave Chet a few chores to do besides taking and bringing the children from Dorothy school.

They had wonderful neighbors, all very helpful. Some had horses and machinery; Chester was a good mechanic and hard worker. They all worked together until the crops were in. Chester and his family had plenty of good outdoor exercise and really enjoyed their home in the North.

Chester was interested in the cooperatives; Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, and Farmers Elevator. He was one of those instrumental in getting Rural Electrification started, was a director for several years and served on the AAA in different capacities, and was on the School Board many times.

Chester and Bea Beyer's children went to school at Dorothy through the 8th grade. They were determined they should go on the school, so were going to drive them to Red Lake Falls. They contacted Mr. Hughes, Superintendent and a car-school bus arrangement developed. Because of an eye injury, Chester was denied a chauffeur's license, but Beatrice got her chauffeur's license and drove the bus, taking along students from other districts enlarging their vehicle until finally they were driving a 9-passenger Dodge. By then other districts were putting on buses and a big bus took over. Their children all finished high school and were instrumental in helping others to finish too.

The boys, Thane and Irving, joined the Air Force and, upon returning, married. Thane married Jean Huot, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Huot. Irving married Adeline Weiss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weiss. They both continued farming with their father. Jean went on to Macalester College where she met and after graduating, married Rev. George Weinberg of Berwyn, Illinois. They now live in Lansing, Michigan where he is pastor of Mount Hope Presbyterian Church.

Chester W. Beyer died in 1960. Mrs. Beatrice Beyer resides on a farm near Dorothy and still enjoys the wide open spaces.

CHESTER THANE BEYER

Chester Thane Beyer, son of Chester W. and Beatrice Beyer was born in Lorain, Ohio and traveled to Los Angeles, California, with his family at the age of six, before arriving in Dorothy when 12 years old. He attended school in Dorothy, then Lafayette in Red Lake Falls and college in California.

Chester served 3½ years in the U.S. Air Force. Lieutenant Beyer was missing in action for a time in Yugoslavia and honorably discharged in 1945. Chester was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

He farmed with his dad, Chester W. Beyer and brother, Irving W. Beyer. Chester married Jean T. Huot, daughter of Ernest I. and Emma Huot, and continued to live on the home farm until 1957 when they bought the Nick Drees farm. They are the parents of twelve children: Vicki, deceased; Gregory and wife Celeste have a child Tanya. Gregory served with the U.S. Air Force in Alaska after completing four years at the U.S. Air Force Academy; Debra married Ken Forness and lives in Harlow, North Dakota with children, Adam and Amy; Barbara graduated from University of Minnesota, Crookston; Curtis is a student at St. John's University; Christine is a student at the University of Minnesota, Crookston; Neil; "Chip" Chester Paul; and Timothy are students at Lafayette and Lori and Robin students at Washington and Sara at home.

Chester was on the school board of the Dorothy school, serves on the Louisville Township board as treasurer, is a member of the Selective Service Board, and has served on the County ASC Committee. The Beyer family has a dairy farm. Mrs. Beyer has been Key leader of the Pembina Trail 4-H Club for over ten years.

Chester passed away in April, 1976 following a lingering illness.

IRVING W. BEYER

Irving Beyer was born December 28, 1923 in Lorain, Ohio, the son of C. W. and Beatrice Beyer, and came with his parents to a farm in Wylie township in September 1933. They had lived for six years in Los Angeles, California. Irving attended school in Dorothy through eighth grade and graduated salutatorian from Lafayette High School in 1941. He farmed with his father in Wylie township, enlisted in the Army Air Force and received a medical discharge in March 1943. He married Adeline (Addie) Weiss in 1944. They continue their farm business, White Gold Farm, in Wylie township to this day.

Addie, the daughter of Fred and Mary Weiss of Browns Creek township was born February 25, 1924 at the farm home. She attended rural School District 43 through the eighth grade and graduated from Lafayette High School in 1941. After attending Normal Training in Red Lake Falls for one year, she taught in rural School District 124 for two years.

Their children are: Cheryl (Mrs. Gary Peterson), Steven, who married Phyllis Emery, Nancy (Mrs. Dennis Haglund), family residing and farming at White Gold Farm in Wylie township, Patricia (Mrs. Steven Huot) and Julia, student at Lafayette High School. The Beyers are active in the Foster Home Care Program. Over the years for varying lengths of time, fourteen children have lived with them. Presently they care for Judy and Hollis Schantzen.

Irv's and Addie's pride and joy are their eight grandchildren — Kristi, Paula and Katherine Peterson; Jennifer Beyer; Susanne, Steven and Sara Haglund; and Benjamin Huot.

Irv is present board chairman of Red Lake County Commissioners and always active in church and county organizations. He was County Chairman DFL; County Chairman NFO; Wylie township supervisor 1948-1970; Secretary-treasurer, Red Lake Falls Rural Fire protection Association 1953-1970; Sunday School Superintendent and Chairman of Voters Assembly, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wylie; Supervisor Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District 1968-1971; Maverick candidate for State House of Representatives 65th Legislative District — 1960, receiving highest number of votes in Red Lake County for that office.

He is presently: Director of Red River Valley Milk Producers Association; Director of Red River Valley Milk Producers Pool; Vice Chairman of Regional Corrections Center, Crookston; Member of Northwest Regional Development Commission; Chairman of Joint County Ditch Board; Member of Red Lake River Basin Study Commission; Vice chairman of Northwest Resource Conservation and Development Board; Member of Red Lake County Hillcrest Nursing Home Board, and Member of Red Lake County Welfare Board.

Addie, a member of St. John's Ladies Aid, has served as chairman, secretary and treasurer of that organization at different times. As a member of Busy Janes Homemakers Club, she has served as chairman and secretary, and has served as a 4-H leader for a number of years. Presently, much of her time is spent as secretary and bookkeeper for her husband.

"We're still making history. We have places to go and things to do. Thank you 'persons' kindly."

ANDRE BISSON

Andre Bisson was born August 16, 1840 at St. Remi, Canada. In 1861 he married Miss Clemence Chatel of St. Isadar, Quebec. Her birth date was January 1, 1837. The couple resided in Canada until the year 1878 when they moved to Massachusetts, where they lived until 1889 when they came to Red Lake County taking a homestead in Gervais town.

Ten children were born to this family and the six known are Elzear, Adelard, Ephrem, Arthur, Mrs. Octave Lafaivre, and Miss Albina Bisson.

Andre lived to be eighty-six years old and his wife eighty-three years.

MAURICE AND HELENE SEYKORA BJORGAN

Maurice and Helene Seykora Bjorgan came to Red Lake Falls three months after they were married in 1962. Both are from Becker County where they graduated from the Ulen High School. Their family includes their four daughters: Maureen, Gayleen, Michelle, and Lynelle. Their home is located in the Klondike area.

The Bjorgans came to Red Lake Falls because of employment opportunities offered by the Detroiter Mobile Home Factory which had then been in operation for only a few months. Maurice has since been employed there and is also a city building inspector. He is a charter member of the local Jaycees chapter, a member of the local planning commission, and has been a volunteer with the ambulance service since its beginning. Helene was employed by the

Soil Conservation Service for four years and for the past six years has worked for the local schools as a bus driver. She was one of the first local women drivers. Helene has been active in the Girl Scout program and presently serves as Neighborhood co-chairperson. She is also an active member of the County Fair Board.

The Bjorgan family is very active in the Bethany Lutheran Church.



Mary Boucher, Marie Boucher, Wilbrod Boucher, Dorothy Lambert and sons, Terry and Reinold.

BOUCHER-LAMBERT HISTORY

My Grandpa, Wilbrod Boucher, was born on January 12, 1878 in Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada, the son of Joe Boucher and Marie Paquin. His parents homesteaded in Lambert Township when he was about two years old. He had four brothers and three sisters. As a young man he worked in the lumber camps.

My Grandmother, Mary Langlois, was born in Chester Township on February 4, 1888, the daughter of William and Angeline Langlois. Mary's father came from Quebec and her mother was born in Massachusetts. She had one brother, William Jr., and three sisters, Adeline, Leah and Rose. Her parents farmed and her dad also did carpenter work. My Grandma tells of how they had to walk through a swamp in order to get to school and of the times that they didn't have shoes so they didn't attend school regularly. When she was a young girl, her family went back to Massachusetts where she had to work in factories to help support the family. A few years later they decided to come back to Minnesota and farm again.

At the age of seventeen, Mary Langlois married Wilbrod Boucher on November 5, 1905, in Lambert Township. They operated a hotel and restaurant in Brooks for some time. Grandpa also worked on the railroad for a number of years and later decided to farm. They rented several different farms in Lambert Township until they bought what is now the Wallace Nelson farm which they sold to Mr. Nelson upon retiring in 1960 when they moved to Oklee.

Mary and Wilbrod were blessed with eight children, of which six still survive. They are Wallace, Lawrence, Aristide, Delia, Mabel and Dorothy, who is my mother. Grandpa Wilbrod died in 1967 at the age of eighty-eight. He was the last surviving member of his family. Grandma died in 1971.

My mother, Dorothy Boucher, married Dewey Lambert on October 8, 1946 in Oklee. To this union seven children were born; Terry who is living in Eagan with his wife and two children; Reinold who is living in Virginia with his wife and daughter; Bonnie, who is married to Steve Paquin, lives in Lambert Township with their son; Michael who died as an infant; Dean and Donna who are attending the Oklee schools; and myself, Margaret. I am a senior at Oklee High School.



Mary Bergeron, Terry Lambert, Blance LaBelle, Reinold, Dewey and Dorothy Lambert.

My Dad worked at the Chrysler Factory in Detroit, Michigan, for three years. He spent two years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. My Parents lived in Lambert Township for about a year and a half and then moved to Oklee where they have lived for twenty-seven years.

My Dad is the son of Amidas Lambert and Blanch Bergeron who were married in 1904. They were blessed with nine children; Regina who died at the age of eight, Walter who died at nine months, Leona, Lawrence who died in 1972, Lester, Dorie, Leonard, Dewey, and another Walter who was named in honor of his deceased brother.

My Grandparents farmed in Lambert Township for forty-five years. I never knew my Grandpa Lambert because he died in 1949, nine years before I was born. My Grandma remained on the farm for a few years until she was remarried in 1952 to John LaBelle. They lived in Little Fork for a couple of years where John worked as a carpenter and then came back to Oklee to make their home. John passed away in February of 1970.

Grandpa Lambert (Amidas) was the son of Antony Lambert and Matilda Paquin who were both from Canada. They homesteaded in Lambert Township where they had five children: Alfonce, Xavier, Joe, Zelia, and Amidas. My great-grandparents' homestead was handed down to my Grandpa who handed it down to his son, Lawrence Lambert. It is now the Mike Bachand farm.

My Grandma's (Blanche LaBelle) parents were Urgell Bergeron, who came from Montreal, Canada, and his wife, Mary Goulet. They were married in March of 1895. My great-grandmother, Mary Goulet, came from Quebec with her parents when she was thirteen years old and she was married at the age of fifteen. Urgell and Mary had five daughters: Clara, Blanch, Rose, Antoinette and Leona, and four sons: Louis, Matesh, Peter and Albert. They lived in Lambert Township all of their lives where they farmed for a living.

I have to laugh when my Grandma tells me of how the kids used to get out of doing their work. They would go down to the river and swim when their dad was away because they knew that their mother was afraid of water and wouldn't go down to the river to get them!

ARMIDAS BOUCHER AND EMMA COTE BOUCHER

Armidas Boucher was born in Lambert township on March 10, 1882, the son of Joe Boucher and Marie Paquin. His birth was the first recorded in Lambert. Armidas married Emma Cote, daughter of Henry on February 6, 1912. Born to this union were six children: Norman (b. 1920); Henry (b. 1913); Harvey (b. 1917); Melvin (b. 1915); Mae (b. 1926) married to Robert Griffey; Doris (b. 1928) married to Peter Mrozek.

Armidas lived most of his life on the farm where he was born. He died in February of 1953 and his wife, Emma, in January of 1972.



Back: Norman, Henry, Harvey and Melvin Boucher. *Front:* Mrs. Boucher, Doris, Mae and Armidas 1942.

MELVIN BOUCHER AND MARIA ROBIDOUX BOUCHER

Melvin Boucher (b. 1915), the son of Armidas Boucher and Emma Cote, married Maria Robidoux (b. 1918) on November 16, 1937 at Brooks. Maria's parents were Napoleon Robidoux and Laura Fournier.

Melvin and Maria were both born and raised in Red Lake County and since their marriage have lived all but seven years in Lambert Township. They are presently engaged in farming with their son, Michael.

The Bouchers' three children are: Joanne Marie (b. 1940), Carol Jean (b. 1942) and Michael James (b. 1953).

JOSEPH ED BOUCHER

Joseph Boucher was born June 10, 1889 in Lambert township. He was married Feb. 23, 1914 to Diane Reopelle of Joliet, North Dakota. She was born May 6, 1895. Both their parents came from Canada to make their living in Red Lake County.

They began farming on wooded land and cleared the woods, using hand tools and horses. Seven children were born to Joseph and Diane Boucher: Del in 1915, Eunice 1917, Joseph S. 1919, Leonard E. 1923, Clarence 1924, Maurice 1926, and



Joseph E. Boucher Family

Paul 1928.

It was hard making a living in the 1930's. Since many of the banks closed during the depression, borrowing money was very difficult. When creameries closed during the winter months, farmers kept only one or two cows for milk and butter for their own use. Butter was also sold for things they could not raise on the farm. The family members took turns churning the butter in a three gallon churn. Butter was sold to merchants for 16 cents a pound. Wheat was sold for "flour money." Flour sacks were used to make underclothing, and denim work clothing was all made by hand.

The washing machine had a wringer on it and wash boards were put to good use. Water for washing was hauled from the well and heated on a wood range. A trip to town was made in a hand made cutter drawn by horses.

In 1935 it started to get better as the President saw to it that people got work on W.P.A. and other jobs and farmers got better prices for farm products.

"My husband died Aug. 30, 1958, and I'm left alone to remember the past."

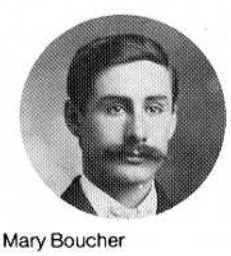
BOUCHER, PETER AND MARY LOUISE

Peter Boucher, one of the pioneer settlers of Lambert Township, was born in the vicinity of Montreal, Canada and came with his parents to Red Lake County when he was seven years old. At that time the nearest town was Crookston and the only means of transportation was by foot, horses, and oxen.

In 1904 Peter married Mary Louise Bergeron, a native of Manteno, Illinois, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, which was then located in Lambert Township. The Bouchers farmed there for many years. In 1947 they retired from farming and moved into the village of Oklee. Peter died in 1951 and his wife in 1973. The present owners of the Boucher farm are Mr. and Mrs. John Peoples.

Three children were born to Peter and Mary Louise: Omer, Aldia, and Joseph. Joseph married and after living for a number of years in Oklee moved to Red Lake, Minnesota where he now resides. Omer was employed for many years by Tom Toulouse in the Dray Line and Sanitation Department. He was also employed by Frank Cyr and Thomas Melby. Omer and Aldia continue to live in Oklee and they enjoy the pleasant neighborhood on Governor Street.





Peter and Mary Boucher



Elizabeth Boughton

BOUGHTON FAMILY

Charles E. Boughton, Sr. was born in Waupaca, Wisconsin, in 1867. His ancestors had settled at New Haven, Connecticut, about 1620.

He went with his parents to Becker County, Minnesota, in 1887, and became a school teacher. He later entered the law department of the University of Minnesota, graduating with the class of 1892. In June of that year he began the practice of law in Red Lake Falls.

Mr. Boughton was married in 1895 to Miss Rosa Zeh, who had come to Red Lake Falls with her parents when she was a small girl. The Boughtons had one son, Charles E. Jr.

Quoting from a 1901 issue of Northern Minnesota Publication: "In 1898, Charles E. Boughton, Sr. became connected with the Red Lake County Courier, a popular local newspaper, and he is one of the editors of that sheet. He has made a good showing as a criminal lawyer, having lost but one case out of thirty-five tried during his term as County Attorney of Red Lake County. He was a counsel for the county division committee, and conducted the fight before the supreme court, which resulted in a victory and the organization of Red Lake County. He was appointed the first county attorney of Red Lake County."

Charles E. Boughton, Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War I and served in the Panama Canal Zone. After he graduated from the St. Paul College of Law in 1920, he became associated with his father. In 1922 he was elected county attorney and was re-elected in 1926 and served until 1931. Gov. Floyd B. Olson appointed him Judge of Probate of Red Lake County to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Joseph Perreault. From 1922 with some interruptions until 1974 he served the community as city and county attorney.

Charles E. Boughton, Jr. married Elizabeth Tousley of St. Paul in 1921. In later years she worked with him in the law office as secretary. Both Charles and Elizabeth were highly respected citizens of the community, being active in the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Masonic Order, Order of Eastern Star and Girl Scout Council. Elizabeth served a year as 9th District American Legion Auxiliary President and held state offices. For many years, "Charley" was in demand as a speaker of considerable wit. Elizabeth died in 1967.

They had one son, Charles E. Boughton



Charles E. Boughton

III, who is now a projects engineer with IBM in Rochester where he resides with his wife, Eleanor. He has one daughter, Barbara.

Charley and Elizabeth also had a daughter, Elizabeth (Betty) who graduated from the University of Minnesota and became the fifth woman in Minnesota to earn a certified photographer's degree. She and her husband, Tom (Warren T. Hanson), live in Bemidji where they operate their own photographic studio, one of eleven nationally qualified commercial studios. They have two children, Thomas Charles, eleven and Elizabeth Christine (Buffy), age seven. Betty's father makes his home in Bemidji with them.

BOURDON FAMILY

Great grandfather, Narcissus Bourdon was born at the junction of Lake Champlain and the Canadian border. His wife was an Irish girl named Rhoda and had two sons, Joseph and John. Great-grandfather Bourdon lived near Grandpa Bourdon until his death at the age of 96. The family moved to Ripon, Wisconsin in the 1800's and then moved to Olmstead County and settled on a homestead between St. Charles and Dover. Joseph married Jane Robertson who was born in Scotland about 1840. They had two sons, Charles Nelson and Robert.

An Irish railroad contractor named Mike MacNamara, an old friend, talked Joseph into going to North Dakota to build railroad grades for Jim Hill who was building the Great Northern Railroad. They went to St. Paul, talked to officials of the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, railroads owned by Jim Hill, and decided to give it a try.

They soon got their teams and outfits together and trailed north to Red Lake Falls, a location the railroad people recommended as a winter headquarters for both roads. Joseph homesteaded a place on the Red River, west of town and built a home for the old folks and placed the sons in school. In the spring the whole family moved by box car to the end of the railroad line and started building grade for Jim Hill. When Charles was old enough, he went to the grading camp and drove teams for his father while Grandma Bourdon did the cooking for the crew, and when winter storms came in the fall, the company moved the family to Red Lake Falls for the winter.

Charles later went into partnership with Wm. Ralph (mother's brother). He





freighted supplies to the logging camp and Wm. Ralph did the logging and decking on the river. They also formed the Ralph and Bourdon City Dray Line and transported freight from the Great Northern Depot to the Northern Pacific Depot. They put up ice for the breweries in town and owned a farm where they put up feed for the winter for the grading teams.

Charles married his partner's sister, Martha Ralph, who was born in Ontario, Canada, March 8, 1868 and had moved to Red Lake Falls with her parents from Ontario, when she was fifteen or sixteen years old. She later taught at the Patnode School (between the rivers) where Charles attended classes for a time before they married on December 21, 1887.

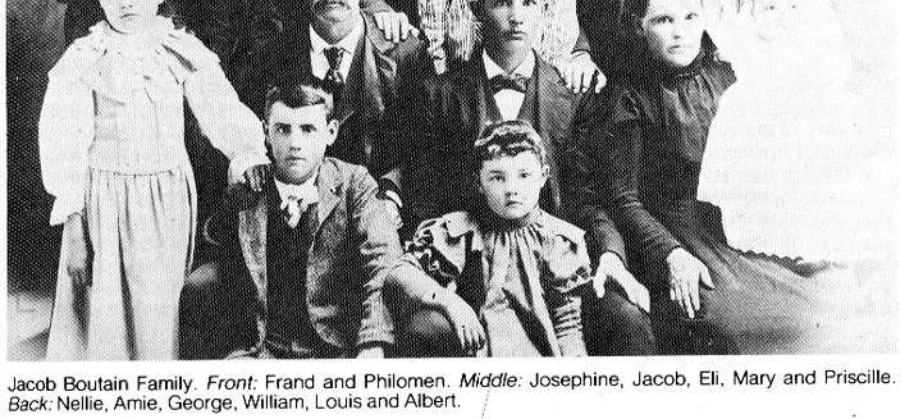
Seven children were born to them: Alice Bourdon, born in 1888 and died two months later; Ethel Jane Bourdon, 1891, 1972; Hazel Elizabeth, 1893; William Ralph, 1894; George Robert 1897, died 1960; Charles Henry (born 1899) and Martha Jeanette (born 1902).

JACOB BOUTAIN — MARY PARENT

On November 25, 1843, Jacob Boutain was born of Jacque Boutain and Marcelline Fortier, and on August 6, 1855, Mary Parent was born of Godfrey Parent and Mary Houle in Charles City, Iowa. About the year 1870, Jacob Boutain and Mary Parent were married in Charles City, Iowa, and lived there for the next ten years where he was working in a brick kiln. About the year 1880, Jacob and Mary, with their three children, Amie (Mrs. Regis Huot) who was nine years old, Eli at four years old, George, 2 years old, and Louis born April 15th of that year, started out for the newly opened territory in northern Minnesota using a covered wagon. They were accompanied by his parents and several brothers bringing along cattle, horses, pigs, and chickens. Along with these they also brought along enough provisions for the journey.

They traveled the trails to Crookston where they crossed the river and thence northeast until they reached the old Pembina Trail which they followed north to approximately eight miles north of Dorothy. Here they located other members of the family who had already homesteaded in that area. It was too late in the year to be able to build their own house so, for the first winter, they lived with other settlers and, in the following spring, they built a log house. March 20, 1882 a daughter, Nellie (Mrs. Zotique Audette) was born. Frank was born on January 29, 1884 and the family moved about five miles south where they settled on the now existing line between Red Lake and Pennington Counties. Five more children were born at this location. They were William, Josephine (Mrs. Charles Olson), Philomen, Priscella, and Albert. At the time of this writing, only Nellie and Albert are living.

Farming was the main source of living, although it was on a very small scale at that time since they had to do most of the work by hand and with oxen. Later on when horses became more adaptable and when the older boys grew up, they acquired a steam engine to provide power for the threshing. Indians were a common sight in this area and were often hired to help with the harvest.

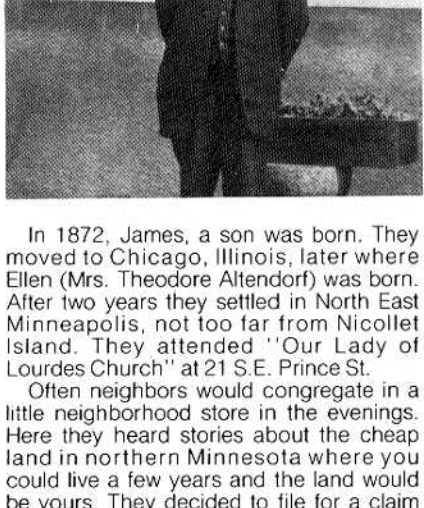


Jacob Boutain Family. *Front:* Frand and Philomen. *Middle:* Josephine, Jacob, Eli, Mary and Priscille. *Back:* Nellie, Amie, George, William, Louis and Albert.

JAMES BRADY FAMILY

James Brady was born Dec. 23, 1843 in County Meath, Ireland, but immigrated with his parents when he was ten years old to Glasgow, Scotland because of the potato famine in Ireland. Mr. Brady became a "Joiner" or carpenter in Scotland.

He met Margaret Haggerty of Kilsyth, Scotland. She was born Aug. 15, 1852 and they were married in 1871. Their first child, Mary (Mrs. E. A. Moran) was born in Kilsyth. They immigrated to America the same year landing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where Mr. Brady followed his carpenter trade. It was lonesome for Mrs. Brady to be among strangers and so far from her family and beloved Scotland and one day, while her husband was at work, she decided to take her baby, Mary, and go back to Kilsyth, taking the money they had saved in an old stocking. It was quite a shock for Mr. Brady when he came from work to find them gone but after a few months, he received a letter from his wife and she said she wanted to return to America.



In 1872, James, a son was born. They moved to Chicago, Illinois, later where Ellen (Mrs. Theodore Altendorf) was born. After two years they settled in North East Minneapolis, not too far from Nicollet Island. They attended "Our Lady of Lourdes Church" at 21 S.E. Prince St.

Often neighbors would congregate in a little neighborhood store in the evenings. Here they heard stories about the cheap land in northern Minnesota where you could live a few years and the land would be yours. They decided to file for a claim up in Polk County in 1882, and took a homestead in Rivertown township and lived on it until 1887. John was born in Minneapolis where he got black diphtheria as a baby and became very ill. It left him paralyzed in speech and body. The doctors at that time did not have the medicine or know how to combat the disease. Charles, Frank and William were born while they lived on the claim. Later the family moved to Red Lake Falls where Mr. Brady built a home on the North side of the Clearwater River and started building homes, churches and business places. In 1889, Viola (Mrs. Leo Spillane) was born, and Lillian (Mrs. Fred Flink) in 1892. Mrs. James Brady died in 1895.

In 1910, James Brady built the new Red Lake County Court House on the hill sitting

in the center of Red Lake Falls. The class of 1915 was the first class to graduate from the new high school that he built after the first Lafayette High School burned. He also built the Presbyterian church and St. Mary's Church in Red Lake Falls. He also had interests in the Opera House built on the North side.

The older children, Mary, Margaret, Ellen and Jim, after they finished school, taught in the county rural schools. Charles and Frank also taught school after they completed high school in 1903. Later Charles attended the University of Minnesota and graduated in Dentistry. Frank went into the Navy for a few years and also attended the University of Minnesota to take up Dentistry. Dr. Charles and Dr. Frank both practiced dentistry in Minneapolis for many years. Viola and Lillian graduated from Moorhead Normal and became teachers in various cities in Minnesota. William followed in his father's footsteps in carpentry and continued that trade in the Navy.

Grace Moran Bradle took a tour of Europe a few years ago and visited the stone church in Kilsyth, Scotland, where her grandfather worshipped and where her mother was baptized around one hundred years ago. She also visited relatives around Kilsyth and Edinburgh, Scotland and toured Dublin, Ireland, which adjoins County Meath, ancestral home of the Brady Family.

Mrs. Lillian Brady Flink who has been living in Coleraine is the last living member of the Brady family.

ALFRED BRANDT AND EMMA HINCE BRANDT

Alfred (Curly) Brandt was born in Henderson, Minnesota in 1908. His parents were William Brandt, born in Chicago, and Pauline Hintz of Berlin, Germany who immigrated to America with her parents when she was eleven years old. Alfred had three sisters, Eleanore, Marie, and Arvilla, and four half-sisters, Clara, Theresa, Martha and Lena Petersdorf.

Alfred worked on his parents' farm until he was eighteen years old. He then worked for Bill Miller, a gravel contractor, driving a gravel truck in the summers and working for farmers in the winter months. In 1934 he came to the Oklee area where he worked for Herb Bachman bailing hay and straw for farmers. He remained in Oklee and had his own gravel business until 1942 when he went to Greenland to work for the Federal government building an airstrip. When he returned in 1943, he became employed by Red Lake County as a Road Maintainer for the Highway Department and held this position until his retirement in 1974.

Alfred Brandt married Emma Marie Hince, daughter of Peter and Rosilda Asselin Hince, in 1935. Their children are: John (b. 1935), Gene (b. 1937), Judy (b. 1939), Rosalyn (b. 1942), William (b. 1946), Beth (b. 1951), and Richard and Robert, twins, (b. 1953).

Emma Brandt died in 1960 and Al continues to make his home in Oklee.

BREGIER FAMILY

Eugene Bregier married Ernestine Maurolier in Toul, France. and came to St. Albans, Canada, in 1875 with his wife and only son, Zepherin, who was then ten years old. When Ernestine died in Canada, Eugene and his son moved to Red Lake County to join the French settlement here.



Zepherin Bregier Family

In later years, Eugene joined a religious order and became a brother and taught religion in this area.

ZEPHERIN BREGIER

Zepherin Bregier (b. 1865 — d. 1927) and Lea Marchildon (b. 1873 — d. 1944), daughter of Joseph Marchildon and Henrietta Payment, were married in 1905. Lea had worked for Doctor Lemieux and at Paul's Hotel. Zepherin worked in a lumber yard and had a pool hall and lunch place. He was janitor for many years at St. Joseph's Catholic Church until shortly before he died in 1927.

"We were poor but rich in our upbringing. People gave us clothing which my mother, Lea, made over for us. We raised a large garden and canned at least five hundred quarts of vegetables, fruits, jellies and also made good wine. We had one cow, chickens and pigs. Our parents made salt pork, smoked hams, sausages and beef. We had home churned butter, cottage cheese and our own milk. My dad always bought seven hundred pounds of flour and a hundred pounds of sugar for the winter. We had bins filled with our own potatoes and I can still remember the wonderful aroma of the home baked bread. My mother bought raw wool which she washed and carded to make warm comforters and spun wool for mittens and stockings. Those were the days of the kerosene lamps. Mother's bed had a feather tick and down pillows. Ours were filled with corn husks. We burned wood and the boys had the job of keeping the woodbox filled. Sometimes in the winter, we burned coal at night. Those were the days of the "two-holer" with last year's Sears Roebuck Catalog. There was the wood range and the round oak stove. We heated water in the copper boiler for baths and clothes washing. We used a wash board and a washing machine that ran on human horse power, such as mine at times! We hung out clothes, even in the coldest weather. Sure was cold on the fingers! We used an icebox in the summer. I remember the epidemics of flu and diphtheria. A placard on the house warned others that there was sickness inside. We all worked, but there was also time for fun. Swimming in the summer, sliding in the winter, games and a ten cent movie ticket for silent pictures. We enjoyed Shirley Temple, Our Gang, Mary Pickford, Ruth Roland, Rudolph Valentino and many others. I liked school and going to daily Mass. I have many fond memories of the past, but I always try to look forward. In the past there were times of adversities that hurt, but one gets over that. We had wonderful parents who did the best they knew how for us; taught us right from wrong and how to work. I also appreciate the things God blessed us with. I remember the good neighbors and friends, many who are dead now."

The five children born to Zepherin and Lea Bregier were: Cecilia, Mrs. Alvin J. (Kelly) Moran (see history); Alice, who worked in Red Lake Falls at the Bakery, Eckers Store and at Hillcrest Nursing Home and is retired and living at Fairview Manor; Marie who is married to Nap Pinsonneault. They have three children: Louis who is married to Pat Dupont and has two children, Jeff and Cindy, Carol Mickelson who has a son, Michael, and Paul who has two sons, Brian and Scott; Joseph who was a veteran of World War Two was married to Alpha Erickson who died when their son, Robert, was born. Joseph was a custodian at Washington School for twenty years and is now retired. His son, Robert, married Sharon Glass and their three children are Debbie, Heidi and Michael; George is a veteran of World War Two and has a farm near Plummer. He married Rose Reopelle and their seven children are: Gerald of Red Lake Falls who has two sons; Jane, Mrs. Richard Sholl of Monticello who has two daughters and one son; Delores, Mrs. Ron Harrison of Minneapolis who has two sons; Vernon of Red Lake Falls who is married to Shirley Kjaer has one son: Rose, Mrs. Darrel Grove, of Red Lake Falls has a son and two daughters; George, Jr. attends college in Bemidji and Linda attends school in Plummer.

AASMUND BREKKE AND MARGETTE HYLAND BREKKE

Aasmund Brekke made two trips to the United States. The first time he came he settled in Wisconsin where he raised tobacco. When he returned to Norway he married Margette Hyland and three children were born to them there; Elsie, Stieiner and Thorvald. Aasmund brought his family to the United States in the fall of 1894 and to Nielsville, Minnesota, where they spent the winter with Aasmund's brother, Saave Brekke.

In the spring of 1895 they moved to Fosston. Here Elsie and Thorvald attended grade school and Signa was born. There was a railroad here at this time. It came from the west and ended there.

In the spring of 1896 the Brekke family came by horse drawn wagon to Equality Township and settled on a homestead in section four, southeast quarter. They paid thirteen dollars for the land.

Their first house had only one room and measured twelve feet square. The table and bed were on hinges and folded up to the wall when not in use. In 1904 a larger home was built and is now occupied by a son, Selmer. Willie, Elmer and Selmer were born after the family moved to Equality.

Medical help was hard to find until 1910 when a doctor came to Oklee. Margette helped many times as a midwife and also aided many families when death occurred.

Aasmund had held a record for cross country skiing in Norway and was awarded a trophy in the Hollmenkollen Tournaments by the King. He was also skilled in ski-jumping. Most all of the Brekkes skied and still do.

The family enjoyed music, but instruments were hard to get so they made a violin from a cigar box and string. Later, a vio-



Back: Ole Jore, Aasmund Brekke, Willie, Elsie Steiner. *Front:* Margette, Gunhild Brekke, Elmer and Selmer.

lin was brought to them from Wisconsin by Knute Rendahl and most of the family played it. They also played for house parties, too.

Thorvald and Stieiner played baseball for the "Roland Sluggers" team and all the boys were skilled hunters and trappers.

Aasmund and Margette were instrumental in starting the Clearwater Lutheran Church and took an active part all of their lives. Aasmund donated two acres of land to the church for a cemetery which is located across from the church. He was caretaker of the cemetery until his death in 1936. Stieiner then became caretaker and in 1966, Arlie Brekke, a grandson, filled this job and is still caretaker.

Elmer, Selmer, Stieiner and Willie never married. Elsie married and has a daughter. Signa also married.

Thorvald married Alma Fore in December of 1913 in Red Lake Falls. They farmed and he was a carpenter. Thorvald and Alma had three children: Arlie born in 1914; Raymond born in 1919, died in 1957; and Alice (Mrs. Walter Brovald) born in 1921 died in 1965. Thorvald died in 1975 and his wife in 1937.

At the present time, Signa, Mrs. Arnold Johnson, of Silverdale, Washington, and Selmer are the only living members of the Aasmund Brekke family.

Selmer lives on the home place and was active in farming until the past year when he leased the land to his great nephews, Arlen and Dale Brekke.

ARLIE BREKKE AND MAVIS BURMAN BREKKE

Arlie Brekke is the son of the late Thorvald Brekke and Alma Fore Brekke. He was born in Equality Township and grew to manhood in that area. He worked as a farm hand in Montana until he was called to military service in 1942.

Mavis Brekke is the daughter of the late Axel Burman and Bertha Nelson Burman. She was born in Equality Township and attended school there.

In 1947, Arlie Brekke and Mavis Burman were married and moved to a farm on the northwest quarter of section three in Equality Township. The northeast quarter of section three was acquired by them in 1952. This quarter of land which was homesteaded in 1896 by Magnus and Ingeborg Johnson (Lillo) was the site of the Lillo store and post office.

The Brekkes moved to Fosston in 1969, but return to the farm each spring to take care of their grain-farming operation.

The Brekkes are the parents of five children. They are: Randy, born in 1969, married Karen Femrite. They have a son and a daughter and live in Thief River Falls; Renae, born in 1950, married James Vedbraaten. They have a son and a daughter and live in Thief River Falls; Bobby, born in 1953, died in August, 1956; Arlen and Dale (twins), born in 1956, live with their parents, and although they both have jobs, they farm land belonging to their great uncle, Selmer Brekke.

The Brekke family is active in the church and community. Together they enjoy music and play the piano, violin, mandolin and banjo. They have taken part in many violin contests and activities in the area.



Arlie Brekkes 1966, Arlen, Bobby, Randy, Renae, Dale, Arlie and Mavis.

MERLE AND FERN BREVIK

Merle and Fern Brevik, and one son, Kent, arrived in Red Lake Falls in February of 1966 when he was employed as manager of the Wilson Brother Store. Their former home was Karlstad, Minnesota. Kevin, another son, was born September 15, 1967.

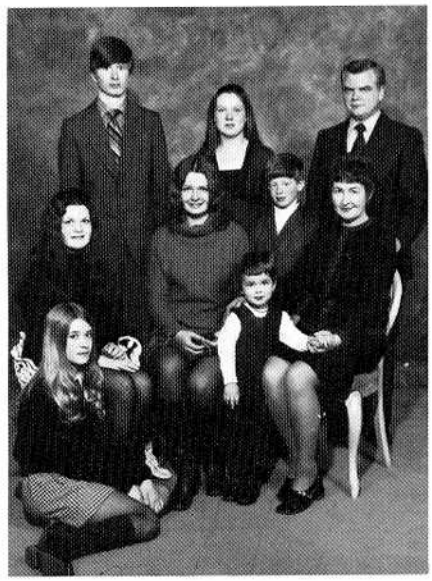
Merle is active in the Bethany Lutheran Church, Cub Scouts, Commercial Club and the Red Lake Falls Ambulance Service. Fern is a member of the Bethany Church, in Cub Scouts, a homemakers group, and is employed by Wilcox Furniture and Appliance.

MARVIN BRONKEN

Marvin and Joan O'Connor Bronken and their four children, Barbara, Beth Elise, Holly, and James, came to Oklee in 1956 when Marvin was employed as principal of the Oklee High School. He served in that position until 1971 when he became Superintendent. Joan taught elementary music for ten years and recently has been teaching English and chorus in the high school.

Margaret joined the family in 1959, Richard in 1963, and Peter in 1970.

Barbara is now married to Clif Melby, and they have two sons, Isaac and Jacob. Beth Elise, now Mrs. Karl Stadem, graduated from Moorhead State University and teaches music. Holly attends North Dakota State University and James is a student at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Margaret, Richard, and Peter attend the Oklee Public School.



The Bronken ancestors came from Norway to Wisconsin and later to Mahnomen County. Three Bronken brothers lived in the last log house in that area which became a gathering place for all the relatives. Great-grandfather of the present family, Peter Bronken, brought with him from Norway some fine pieces of furniture. One treasure of the Oklee family is a beautiful six-drawer dresser with intricate hand carved fruit drawer pulls. It is estimated to be one hundred twenty years old.

Joan Bronken's grandparents, the O'Connors, came originally from Ireland to Canada and then to North Dakota where they homesteaded at St. Thomas. Her grandfather, Archie B. O'Connor, farmed the same land and raised eleven children in the same house built by his father in 1897.

An interesting comparison of land values can be made. Joan's grandfather got the first quarter section of land free by homesteading and the rest of his farm land for three cents an acre. It is now selling for one thousand dollars an acre.

CRISS BROWN

Criss and Mary Brown are living on the farm they purchased in 1900. Criss Brown was born in 1888 in Noble County, Minnesota, and in 1900 the family came to Red Lake County to Erskine, bringing all their livestock and belongings in immigrant cars.



Criss Brown and Mary Stahl wed 1915. Attendants Mr. and Mrs. Bert Davis.

They purchased 160 acres of land near Brooks. Criss Brown's mother was the former Clarcy Davis of Noble County. His father with the help of Criss who was then 12 years old and an older brother Felix and four sisters, Orra, Josie, Grace, and Dolly, built a frame house and barn which are still standing.

The father, Tyler Brown passed away in 1908. In 1915 Criss married Mary Stahl of Mankato. In 1903 the Stahls had come to Red Lake County from Morris and purchased land along Poplar River. They had a family of twelve children.

After their marriage, Criss and Mary lived with his mother and their family grew to ten children, six boys and four girls. Mrs. Clarcy Brown passed away in 1927. The Criss Browns are still living on their farm, but rent out the 320 acres. Since 1969 Criss has had both legs amputated. On August 3, 1975 the Browns celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

ADRIAN BRULE

Adrian's parents were Philias Brule and Caroline Dufault Brule who farmed near Gentilly in early 1900, and to this union five children were born: Amie 1906, died in 1933, Adrian 1907, Delia 1908, Noel 1911 and Evelyn 1921.

Adrian helped his parents farm and attended nearby schools. In October 1934, he married Helen Remick and they moved to a farm in Lake Pleasant Township five miles south of Red Lake Falls, which Adrian had purchased. To this union three children were born: Dale 1935, Gerald 1938 and JoAnne 1939. All graduated from Red Lake Falls High School.

In 1941, Adrian won a scholarship to the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, which he attended. He was on the school board of the township, and a county commissioner of Red Lake County for eighteen years.

His wife, Helen, was born in Donnybrook, North Dakota, to George and Nettie Remick Sr., who moved to Lake Pleasant in 1915. Helen attended high school at St. Josephs Academy in Crookston. She was a 4H Club leader in Red Lake County and worked as an activity aide at Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Both are retired now and enjoying life.

WILLIAM BRUMMER

Bill Brummer, a native of Staples, moved to Red Lake Falls in May, 1948, and began operating the City Bakery, which he had purchased from Willard LaPlante. In June of that year, he was married to Lucille Lemire of Coleraine.

Their children are Jeff, Scott, Mary Kay (Mrs. Berway Swanstrom) John, Cindy and Kristi. There are two grandchildren, Mark and Eric Swanstrom.

In 1959 Bill sold the bakery to Clinton Theroux and in 1960 became Red Lake Falls City Clerk, a position he held until 1966 when he joined the staff of Inter-County Community Council in Oklee. Simultaneously (1960-67) he was Red Lake County Veterans' Service Officer. In 1970 he became executive director of the Tri-Valley Opportunity Council in Crookston. During the years, Bill has been active in many civic organizations, and was a volunteer fireman for 22 years. He was president of the Minnesota CAP Directors' Association, and in 1972 was appointed to the Governors Citizens' Council on Aging.

Lucille taught in the Red Lake Falls and Mentor Public schools and was a tutor at the Crookston Middle School and at St. Joseph's School in Red Lake Falls.

The family has resided at 607 Champagne Avenue Southwest since 1954. Jeff now lives in Grand Forks; Scott and John in Moorhead; Mary Kay in Calumet; Cindy in St. Joseph (College of St. Benedict) and Kristi at home (where she is sophomore at Lafayette).



Brummers. *Back:* Mary Kay, Lucille, Bill, John. *Front:* Scott, Kris, Cindy and Jeff.

JOSEPH AND MELVINA BRULE BRUNELLE

Joseph Brunelle, son of Arthur Brunelle, the pioneer settler of this near centennial farm was born on January 22, 1898 in Polk County, Crookston. Joseph, one of four children, attended the country school in Louisville Township for eight years and graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture in 1920, then helped his father operate a 320 acre farm raising small grains and some dairy.

Joseph married Melvina Brule, one of eighteen children, on June 2, 1926 at Louisville. Born to them were three children: Elaine (Mrs. Lyle De Rasier) of Bemidji, Willard of Crookston, and Lena (Mrs. R. G. Gary) of Bemidji. There are six grandchildren. Joseph was director for many years of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative and clerk of Crookston Township. Mr. and Mrs. Brunelle reside on the Brunelle farm now owned and operated by their son Willard. They will mark fifty years of wedded life in June of 1976 and they are members of St. Peter's Church of Gentilly.

WILLARD BRUNELLE

Willard Brunelle, son of the Joseph Brunelles, and ninth generation of the family, was born on December 19, 1930 in Crookston. He attended Louisville country school for eight years, as his father before him and graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture in 1948, then farmed with his father.

On April 14, 1952 Willard married Joan St. Marie, daughter of Joseph F. St. Marie. He served in the United States Air Force for four years, with eighteen months in Korea and Japan and returned to take over the farm from his father in 1957.

The Willard Brunelles own 620 acres and rent another 600 acres. Main crops are wheat, barley, and oats and certified trefoil and has a herd of 150 sheep. A modern farm home was built in 1964, and many other improvements in farm buildings including a shop quonset, and white board fence to add to the landscape.

Five children were born to this union. Michael born in 1956 in Sioux City, Iowa. He also attended the same country school as his grandfather and father, and later the grade school in Red Lake Falls after the closing of the country school in 1964. He chose to attend Crosier Seminary, Onamia, Minnesota, graduating in 1975. At present he is a student at the University of Minnesota Technical College at Crookston majoring in Small Business Administration. Mary Jo, born in Crookston in 1960 and Pamela, born 1963 are students of Lafayette. Diana, born 1964 and Daniel in 1968 attend St. Joseph's School in Red Lake Falls.

Willard and Joan are both very active in several organizations and active serving in local and church offices. Willard organized the Huot Dam Fact Finding Committee, which in turn became the Red Lake River Basin Planning Commission, of which he is a member. These two groups are trying to work for a favorable flood control program for the area.

The Willard Brunelle family has participated in the foreign exchange students program for the past several years. At the present time they are hosts of a student from Japan, Kumicko Yashikashi, who attends Lafayette High School. The Brunelles are members of St. Dorothy's Catholic Church of Dorothy.

BURMAN FAMILY

In 1889, Carl and Marie Burman, together with their five children, came by boat from Sweden and homesteaded northwest of McIntosh. Carl farmed and was also a shoemaker, a trade he had learned in his homeland. Five more children were born to them when they lived here.

In 1907 the Burmans purchased land from the government in section eleven of Equality Township. Here they built their buildings of logs and found a good well.

The ten children of Carl and Marie Burman are: John who was married and had one son and lived in Massachusetts, Lewis who was married and had three children and lived in Washington, Hulda who was married and had two sons and lived in Minneapolis, Frank who remained single and lived in Minnesota.

Axel married Bertha Nelson of Hillriver Township, Polk County and had seven children. He farmed the family farm after his father's death. Anna married Carl Lund and lived in Gully and had one son. Wilma married Ben Rindahl and lived in Duluth and had three children. Esther married Oscar Johnson, lived in Wisconsin, and had six children. Louise married Alf Fossum and lives in Duluth and had six children. Bert remained single and lives in Great Falls, Montana. Louise and Bert are the only surviving members of this family.

AXEL BURMAN

Axel Burman originally took a homestead two miles east of his parents' farm,



Burmans, Axel, Marie, Bertha. *Back:* Mavis, Alvin, Marvin and Ethel.

but following his father's death, he took over his parents' farm. His mother lived with him until her death in 1932.

The Burmans continued to improve their farm, adding buildings from logs and lumber he cut. In 1929 Axel purchased the north half of the north half of section fourteen of Equality Township and in 1947 he bought the south half of the north half of the same section. The farms are now owned by his son, Marvin.

The seven children born to Axel and Bertha Burman are: Alvin, who was married and had one child, was killed in the Korean War. Betty who died in infancy. Mavis who married Arlie Brekke has four children and lives in Fosston. Ethel who married Otto Johnson has five children and lives in Oklee. Marvin who married Ina Howard lives in Minneapolis and has four children. Marie Ann who is married to George Weaver and lives in Minneapolis. Faith who married Bill Lamkin lives in Minneapolis and has three children.

Axel continued to farm until his death in 1960. His wife, Marie, died in 1963. Axel was on the town board and had been an auctioneer. They were both active in church work.

There was a school located on the southwest corner of their farm and this building now serves as the Equality town Hall. Mr. Burman deeded this land to the school in 1948.

MARVIN BURMAN

Marvin Burman married Ina Howard at Plummer in 1952. They lived with his parents for one year before they moved to Minneapolis where they now live. Marvin is a manager for Falcon Oil Co. and his wife works at a school.

Their four children are: Lynn, who is in the U.S. Navy; Lin De Ann, a student at Augsburg College; and Debbie and Wendy who live at home and attend high school.

Marvin spends a lot of his time in the summers on the farms in Equality Township that he purchased from his father. He continues to improve the land and hopes to retire here.

BUSE FAMILY

Ernest Theodore Buse, born in 1837 in Mecklenburg, German, came to America with his father Carl Fredrick Buse (1800) and his mother Lesseta Ohrn Buse (1809).

He married Elisa Grunnagler who was born in 1851. Of this marriage six children were born, Louise (Witt), Lillian (Healy), Alice (Lewis), May (Converse), Pauline (Behnsen), and Ernest G. Buse. Elisa died in 1885 and Ernest T. went to Germany accompanied by his young son Ernest G. Buse. There he met and married Teresa Scholtz. Four children were born, Carl, Walter, Olga and Teresa who died in infancy.

Ernest T. Buse enlisted in Company C. of the 3rd Minnesota Volunteers during the Civil War. After the second battle of Bull Run he was sent back to Minnesota to the Indian Wars around Red Wing. After the uprising he started building dams and mills in Red Wing, and later moved on to St. Anthony and then to Fergus Falls where he became the first mayor of that city.

In 1876 Ernest T. had come to Red Lake Falls in search of water power sites and built a dam and mill on the Clearwater River. In March of 1887 he became the first Postmaster of this city.

He left Red Lake Falls to build a flour and saw mill in Vancouver, British Columbia. He died in Lodi, California in 1914.

Ernest G. (Ernie) Buse, son of Ernest Theodore Buse, was born in 1882 in Red Lake Falls where he remained throughout his life. He was Clerk of Court and later City Clerk until his death in 1938.

Ernest G. Buse married Molly Allard in 1909. Of this marriage two children were born, Jane in 1909 and Al in 1914.

Jane married Martin Pouliot and they had two children, Sally and Mike. Sally married K. J. Figge and they have three daughters, Barbara, Lisa and Ann. They live in St. Paul.

Mike Pouliot and his wife, Judy, have two children, one daughter, Jane and one son, Josh. They live in White Bear Lake.

Al Buse married Mae K. Hansel in San Diego, California in 1943 while serving in the United States Marine Corps. Of this marriage two children were born, Vance in 1946 and Todd in 1957.

Al and Mae Buse live at the same location on North Main Avenue in Red Lake Falls where his father was born. Al became postmaster of Red Lake Falls in 1951 and is still serving at that post.

Vance Buse married Deborah Thibert in 1974. They have one daughter, Nicole, born in 1975. Todd Buse is presently a senior at Lafayette High School and lives at home.



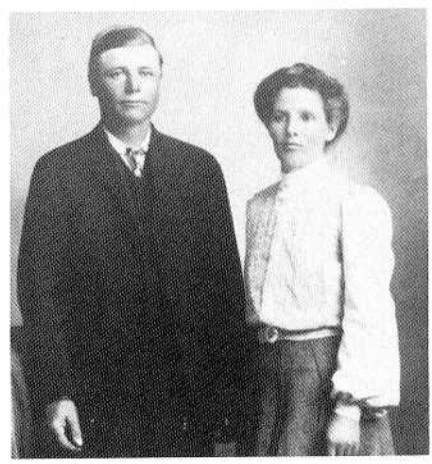
Ernie and Molly Buse

HENRY BUSSE FAMILY

Henry Busse was born in Germany in 1868. He came to the United States when he was fourteen years old and settled in Red Lake County and farmed in Browns Creek Township.

Henry married Louise Weiss, the daughter of George Weiss, in 1897. They had eleven children: John Busse of Duluth, now deceased; George Busse and Albert Busse, Thief River Falls; Harold Busse, Crookston, Minnesota; Adolph Busse, deceased; Mrs. Gerhard Zwingelburg, Wentworth, South Dakota; Mrs. George Tischart, deceased; Mrs. Louis Zutz; Mrs. Ruben Lehrer; Mrs. Arnold Lehrer, and Mrs. Lester Flage all of Red Lake Falls.

During his long residence in the county Mr. Busse was prominent in school and township affairs. He was an elder of Immanual Lutheran Church of Wylie for many years. Henry Busse died at the age of seventy-four in 1942. His wife, Louise, died at the age of ninety-two in 1973.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Busse

J. E. BUSKIRK

Mrs. Ed Greenwald was born in February, 1898, in Equality township, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Buskirk.

Her father and his partner, D. W. (Dan) Brown, came from South Dakota in 1895 and staked a homestead claim near the Clearwater River close to Roland. The first winter they lived in a tent and did construction work at different farms and homes. An oak log house that was built around 1898 is still standing. When Buskirk and Brown were living in the homestead tent, late one afternoon an Indian stopped there and asked if he could stay that night. Buskirk

fixed him something to eat and a place to sleep. Then he noticed that the Indian was in pain and when he asked about this he found that the Indian had a knife wound in his leg. Buskirk doctored the wound with diluted carbolic acid (a disinfectant used at that time), and bandaged it. The next morning the Indian was gone though they hadn't heard him leave. That day when Buskirk went to Lambert, he heard about a fight in Thief River Falls involving two Indians. An Indian was killed in a knife fight, and the law was looking for another Indian, probably the one who asked for lodging at his place.

Mrs. Buskirk and the two older children moved later from South Dakota where they had been living with her parents, and Nina and her three younger brothers were born in Equality township. The family tells of the awesome mile-wide swamp they had to cross between their home and Plummer.

Nina Greenwald was told that when she was about seven months old, the October 5, 1898, Sugar Point Massacre at Leech Lake occurred, and the settlers in Equality township were very uneasy. Friendly Indians lived across the river from them, but at this time the Indian disposition seemed to change and they didn't speak. Word came that Indians in canoes were coming down the Clearwater River and that they were angry. Most of the white men, along with their horses, had gone to the Dakota harvest fields, so Nina's mother put the three Buskirk children in the buggy along with all the food she had in the house, fresh baked bread and all. She and Mrs. McCall pulled the buggy. They thought of going to Greens, but remembered they lived near the river so they headed for open country. As they went along more and more people joined them. Quite a caravan was assembled and they traveled about fifteen miles before stopping at an old bachelor's place. They spent a wakeful night and the men sat with their guns ready in case of trouble.

Buskirk heard about the Sugar Point uprising and came home to find his family gone. He spent some uneasy moments, but they were soon reunited. It was later learned that the reason the Indians were disgruntled was because they weren't getting their government checks. After this was settled, they were friendly again.

Because of the two-mile walk to school, the family moved to Red Lake Falls in 1904 so that the children could have better access to schools. When they moved to Red Lake Falls, they stopped at Iverson's Restaurant in Plummer for dinner.

In 1907, the Buskirk family moved to Brooks where J. E. Buskirk managed the Bertram Wright Lumber Company. They moved into a newly built home which is still there and occupied today. Nina attended a two-room school located about one-fourth mile north of Brooks and graduated from the 8th grade in 1912. Her teachers were Mary Davies and Annie Fellman. In 1912 she was baptized by the Brooks Presbyterian minister, Reverend Laury.

In 1916 the Garden Valley Telephone Company installed a switchboard in the Buskirk home, where Nina and her sister, Amy, were the switchboard operators.

In June, 1918, Nina married Ed Greenwald at the Presbyterian manse in Red Lake Falls. The minister was Sam Kelley, and Mrs. and Mrs. Jim Gilbertson were their attendants. The Gilbertsons helped them celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in 1968.

The Ed Greenwalds still live at their farm home in Emardville township.



Cadieux Family. *Back:* Louis holding Germaine, Florestine and Doria. *Front:* Laura, Lucille and Godeline.

CLEOPHAS CADIEUX

Cleophas Cadieux was born in St. Urban, Quebec, Canada in 1864. His parents, Louis and Domitille Cadieux, left Canada with four sons, Cleophas, Edmund, Leboire, and Zotique, and two daughters, Armandine and Winnifred. In 1879 they homesteaded a farm in Terrebonne (Good Earth) Township in what was to become Red Lake County. A third daughter, Theodorine, was born there.

Florestine St. Yves, the daughter of Louis and Arize St. Yves was born in 1872 in St. Justin, Quebec, Canada. The family left Canada and filed a claim on land near Terrebonne. The family grew to include five boys, Justin, Edward, Willie, Eli and Harvey; and three girls, Lumena, Florestine and Emma.

Cleophas and Florestine were married in Terrebonne in 1900. At the time of their marriage Florestine was the widow of Roman La Framboise with three little daughters, Doria, Marie Louise, and Laura. His parents having left the farm to move to Red Lake Falls, Cleophas moved his family onto the homestead. Seven children were born to them, two boys who died at birth and five girls, Lucille, Godeleine, Germaine, Blanche and Florence.

During the "Black Diphtheria" epidemic of 1902, Marie Louise and Laura were stricken and Marie Louise died. Two nephews, Louis and Clifford Boileau, came to live with the Cadieuxs after the death of their parents in 1903. With a "hired girl" and several farm hands living with the family, there were often fifteen people at the dinner table.

Cleophas Cadieux served as Trustee of St. Anthony's Church and as a member of the school board, township board, and county commissioner.

Some of the neighbors of the Cadieuxs who lived in the little village on the Clearwater River near the location of the Terrebonne Flour Mill were the Zieglers, Kankels, Lajeunesse, Gagner, Poiriers, Le Faivres, Duponts and "Grandma" Vailliancourt. "Grandma" tapped maple trees and hung cans to catch the dripping sap. Some days after the children made the rounds, there was little sap to collect. George Dupont had the post office and a little grocery store in his home.

Farmers came from all over the neighborhood to have grain ground at the mill for flour and feed. They often made the Cadieux home their resting and eating place while they waited. The Cadieuxs were generous people and their log home a happy place. The children did their homework by kerosene lamp-light, helped by their mother who had been a teacher before her marriage after she completed the eighth grade.

The children walked a mile to the school located where Terrebonne is today, carrying their lunches in Karo Syrup pails. Some of the teachers they remember are — Florence Columbus, Katherine Berthiaume, Erba Pouliot and their cousin, Marie Cadieux. Several homes, the church, Laundry's grocery store, and a blacksmith shop made up the town of Terrebonne.

Doria La Framboise married Ildage Perreault in February 1913, and Cleophas died in July of that year. Mrs. Cadieux then purchased a home in Red Lake Falls and moved there with her six daughters. Their house was next door to Mrs. Puschinsky, a widow with four sons. The children of the two families continued a running battle of tricks during their growing up years.

In 1915, Mrs. Cadieux died, leaving Laura La Framboise, the oldest, to care for the five Cadieux sisters, which she did until her marriage to Oscar Helm in 1923. Laura Helm died in 1951.

Lucille graduated from Lafayette and attended St. Benedict's College at St. Joseph, Minnesota. After working in Red Lake Falls at the Merchant's State Bank and Peoples Auto Company, she moved to Lisbon, North Dakota, where she was employed by a firm of attorneys. She married Harold Sandager and they operated a General Merchandise and Ladies Apparel Store until 1975. She is retired and living in Lisbon.



Blance, Florence and Germaine

Godeleine attended Lafayette and the Teacher's Training Department and taught in the county schools. She was married to Leo Lasha. Godeleine died in 1936.

Germaine, Blanche and Florence were live-in students at St. Joseph's Academy at Crookston until their graduation. Germaine attended Teacher Training at Red Lake Falls and Blanche went to Bemidji State College. Both taught in Red Lake County schools. Germaine married Gustaf Zaiser and they are living in Warroad. Blanche, who became Mrs. Don Fisher, died in 1963. Florence graduated from the University of Minnesota Department of Nursing as a Registered Nurse. She is married to A. G. Dragon and lives in Hopkins.

Uncle Edmund Cadieux, who lived with this family, remained on the home farm, living alone, but spending some time with the Louis Borleau family in Canada where he died in 1947. People will remember him driving his famous horse "Brabo" down the road. The old homestead has changed hands many times and Joe Cote is now the owner.

JOHN CAMPBELL FAMILY

The John Campbell Family arrived in June, 1960 to make their home in Red Lake Falls. John was born and raised in Fairmont, Minnesota and his wife, Doris was born and raised in Zumbrota. They are graduates of the University of Minnesota and were married on June 20, 1954. They moved here from Glencoe, where they had lived for 4½ years. The change in residence was prompted by John's change in jobs. He had taken a job as an agricultural inspector for the State of Minnesota and chose to live in Red Lake Falls because of the friendliness of its people and the beauty of its location.

They brought with them one son, John, born in Glencoe in 1958 and another son, Scot, was born in Red Lake Falls in 1961. The boys presently attend high school where Doris is employed as a Home Economics teacher.



John Campbell Family

ARTHUR CARDINAL

Arthur Cardinal was born in 1890, the son of Herbert Cardinal and Agnes LaPlante Cardinal. He was raised in Red Lake County and farmed all of his life in Lake Pleasant Township on his father's homestead.

In April of 1913, Arthur married Alice Marleau, daughter of William Marleau and Mary Richard. They had fourteen children, two who died in infancy. The surviving children were, Alice (Mrs. William Delage), Arthur, Jr., Philip, Ernest, Lucille (Mrs. Harry Theroux), Norman, Paul, Elmer, Eleanor (Mrs. John Derouin), Ethel (Mrs. Dave Herrenbruck), Noella (Mrs. Erling Melbye), and George. Arthur, Jr. and Philip are now deceased.

Arthur died in 1929 at the age of thirty-nine, and in 1930 his wife and the children moved into Red Lake Falls and lived in the Klondike area.

Five of the Cardinal brothers were in the military service during the same time: Arthur, Jr., Norman, Paul, Elmer and George. George re-entered the service during the Korean War.

The Cardinal children attended St. Joseph's grade school and LaFayette High School.

Alice Cardinal is presently living at Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls.

CARRIERE-DESSELLIER HISTORY

Lawrence Carriere, born in 1835, lived in Canada with his wife, Soulange Belange. They were the parents of Joseph, Celestin, Eugene, Octave, George, Cyrille, Soulange, Philommene, Filicite, Elise and Anne. All were born at St. Charles, Belle-Chase County in the Province of Quebec. They moved to Lamberton, Minnesota in 1853.

Joseph Carriere married Zoe Dellaire, daughter of Roman Dellaire and Esther LaPierre. Zoe had nine brothers and two sisters: Pierre, Roman, Edward, Gilbert, Louis, Romuald, Appolinaire, Alphonse, Napoleon, Rosanne, and Anne. The Dellaire family moved to Lamberton in 1845. Joseph and Zoe had thirteen children: Aurelia, Joseph Jr., Edmond, Octave, Alexina, Amie, Alfred and Stanislaus and six children who died at birth. Of these children, Aurelia, Edmond and Alexina never married.

Stanislaus Carriere (b. March 31, 1882) and Azelia Boucher (b. September 11, 1886) were married on July 17, 1904. They had six children: Alexina (b. February 12, 1906), William (b. July 20, 1907), Parmelia (b. January 17, 1909), Delima (b. August 24, 1910), Doria (b. May 5, 1913), and Dore (b. October 20, 1914). All of these children were married.

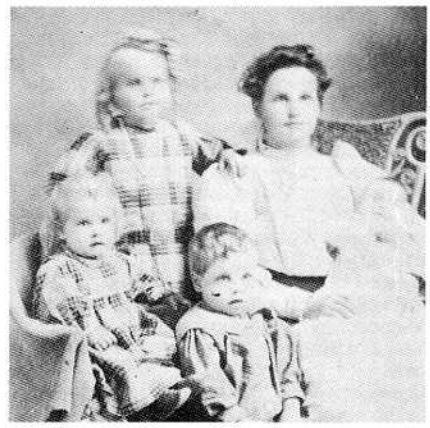
Alexina Carriere and Andrew Dessellier were married on February 26, 1924. Alexina and Andrew had known each other since they were children because the farms on which they were raised in Lambert Township were only a half mile apart. To this union were born seventeen children: Onezime (b. February 19, 1925 — d. February, 1925), Rosalie (b. January 19, 1926), Marie (b. September 2, 1927), Paul (b. November 14, 1928), Cecelia (b. December 15, 1929), George (November 27, 1931), Dola (b. November 20, 1933), Alex (b. August 21, 1934), Joyce (b. October 1, 1937), Geraldine (b. February 23, 1939 — d. July 8, 1949), Vincent (b. September 8, 1940), Louis (b. October 20, 1942), Marlin Ernest (b. March 7, 1944), Carol (b. April 16, 1945), Angel Mae (b. May 1, 1946), and David (b. May 1, 1947).

George Dessellier and Irene Cote were married on November 10, 1954 and they live in Oklee. Ten children have been born to them: James, Michael, Diane, Dorene and Doris (twins), Elizabeth, Shirley, Linda, Audrey and Mary, who died at birth.

Gedeon Dessellier (b. January 18, 1862) married Malvina Asselin (b. May 10, 1870) on November 22, 1892. The twelve children born to them are: Albina (b. August 13, 1893 — d. September 12, 1973), Eugene (b. February 26, 1895 — August, 1971), Ludger (b. May 5, 1896 — April 23, 1969), Andrew (b. August 28, 1899), Rosina (b. May 21, 1901 — December 27, 1961), Marie (b. July 15, 1903), Angeline (b. May 25, 1905), Cyprum (b. January 16, 1907 — December 21, 1966), Celina (b. April 1, 1909 — July 16, 1907), Josephine (b. August 7, 1910 — August 14, 1910) and Delia (b. May 15, 1913).

STANISLAUS CARRIERE

Stanislaus Carriere was born of French-Canadian immigrants on a farm near Austin, Minnesota, March 31, 1882. Two years later the Carriere family moved to another farm near Gentilly, where Stanislaus lived and worked until he was old enough to venture into the world on his own. During this time he attended school in Gentilly,



Mrs. Stanislaus Carrier with Delima, William, Alexina and Pearl.

progressing to the fourth grade before the urgencies of farm work forced him to leave school. Though this was the extent of his formal education, he was invariably thought of as an intelligent, educated person by all who came in contact with him in later years.

After farming with his father in his early 'teens, he traveled eastward to Duluth where he learned the blacksmithing trade. He also became a proficient carpenter, and eventually this trade became his main occupation. Tiring of Duluth, he returned to his area once more and, with his uncle, went into the carpentry business. Some of the houses they built in Crookston and East Grand Forks are still standing today.

However, Stanislaus did not like the life of a wandering craftsman; his heart was in the soil. An opportunity presented itself in 1904 when his uncle decided to give up the homestead rights he had on eighty acres of land between what is now Brooks and Oklee.

"Stanislaus," he said, "if you get married you can have my farm." Three weeks later my grandfather was married. His partner in this speedy matrimonial accomplishment was Azelia Boucher, a girl he had known from the many church socials that were held at that time. Though they apparently lived a happy life, my grandfather could never explain the meaning of love.

Then came the hardest part — clearing brush from fields, removing rocks and stumps, putting up fences and still finding time to build a home in which to live. All this he accomplished, and the fine house which is still in use today on that farm is an excellent attestment to the amount of work he must have done.

One thing his farm lacked, however, was a well. To provide water for his livestock and for home use necessitated a daily trip of almost a mile with horses and wagon. Stanislaus set out to remedy this by digging his own well. After digging down in the earth forty feet he decided there must be an easier way to dig a well. Accordingly, he designed and built in his own shop a well-digging machine. It was a crude, but effective, affair, powered by a team of horses. With this machine he finished the well.

Now that he had water of his own he could devote more time to developing his farm. He soon began renting, and eventually buying, additional land. In always attempting to increase production, he would buy the most modern machinery available. He began doing custom threshing for grain farmers in the area, as he was one of the very few who owned a threshing

machine at that time.

However, more farms were constantly springing up in the area. Each of them needed a well and Stanislaus almost always got the job. He soon developed a new machine, operated by a gasoline motor this time. Although it was a large, unwieldy-looking sort of thing, it was by far more efficient than his first had been. With his knowledge of blacksmithing he had forged every piece that was in the big rig except the bit for the drill, which he ordered from a Minneapolis foundry. Soon his well-drilling activities took so much of his time that he hired a man to take care of his farm and another to assist him dig wells.

He was quite successful in knowing where to sink a shaft for a well. Frequently he would strike an artesian vein and get a gusher. One such occurrence deserves special notice. After drilling only a short distance he struck a vein of tremendous pressure. A geyser of water shot upward, drenching the surrounding area thoroughly. The drilling crew managed to attach section of pipe upward from the shaft, but had to reach a height of twenty-seven feet before the water could be controlled. The owner of the well, realizing the possibilities, piped water to every building of his farm and yet had to provide a ditch to carry off the overflow. That farm today, after forty-seven years, still has running water without any outside power.

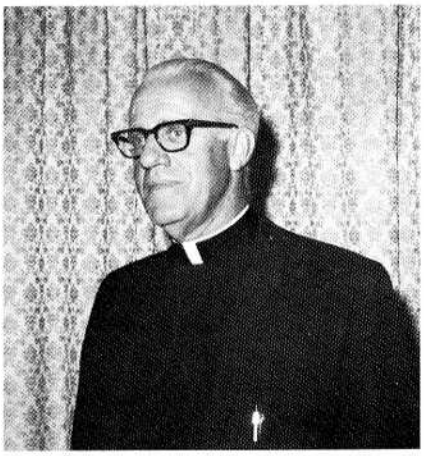
The years were good to Stanislaus; both his farm and his drilling activities prospered. Yet he never turned down a person because he had no money to pay for the job. He had an implicit faith in human nature, and accepted a man at his word. It took longer for some to pay than others, and at times payment was not in the form of money, but his faith in people was always rewarded.

One of his delights was children. After rearing six of his own, he looked forward to the visits of his grandchildren. One of my fondest memories from childhood is of the huge Saint Bernard dog he owned. The dog's name was Barney and I often wondered if that was a carry-over from "Brownie," in reference to the dog's color, or if it had anything to do with his size, in reference to a barn. My grandfather had built a light, two-wheel carriage and a harness for Barney and whenever we would visit the farm he would harness this carriage to the dog and lead him around the farm, much to our delight.

Failing health began to plague Stanislaus in his later years and he eventually sold his well-drilling machines. The ravages of sugar diabetes were taking their toll; slowly he was losing his eyesight, and he soon had to use a cane to get about. He grew steadily weaker until December 4, 1944, after sixty-four rich and beneficial years, Stanislaus Carriere died.

So ended the life of one of the pioneers of this area. He never held any prominent public office; his name was unknown outside the area in which he lived and worked. Yet it is because of men like Stanislaus Carriere, imaginative and unafraid of hard work, that we are where we are today. Some men have elaborate granite monuments marking this place in history, others a simple headstone. My grandfather has a different kind of monument. The hundred or more wells he drilled throughout northwestern Minnesota are permanent testimonials to his contribution to the fortunes of mankind.

by Eugene Dessellier



REV. HENRY CARRIERE

Reverend Henry G. Carriere was pastor of St. Joseph's Church of Brooks from June 29, 1955 to May 31, 1972. Henry Carriere was born and raised in Red Lake Falls, the son of Eugene and Jane Carriere.

He was ordained June 1946 at St. Joseph's Church in his home town and here he said his first Mass.

Rev. Henry Carriere served as assistant pastor at St. Anne's in Crookston, St. Rose of Lima Church in Argyle, and at Bemidji before he was appointed Chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital in Park Rapids and also pastor of the two missions at Guthrie and LaPorte for three years.

In 1955 when the need of a new church in Brooks was clearly spelled out, Bishop Francis J. Schenk of the Diocese of Crookston appointed Father Carriere to St. Joseph's Church to supervise the building project.

Plans were drawn by Wells, Denbrook, architects, and the first masonry work completed by October of 1956. The main structure was completely enclosed by November 12, and during the next few months, the basement was used for church services and the annual bazaar. The upper structure progressed rapidly and pews donated by St. Rose of Lima Church of St. Paul were completely rebuilt and installed. The Sanctuary furnishings were built and in place for the dedication scheduled April 11, 1957 by Bishop Schenk. Succeeding years noted the final touch-up points, landfill, landscaping and installation of the sidewalks. And thus, another landmark was born in the Brooks community, and has grown.

Father Carriere notes that the church cemetery was the next important segment of the parish life. Its renovation and beautification stands as a tribute to the faith and dedication of the parishioners. The generous memorials given made it possible. The shrine and fountain, symbolizing the Eternal Hope of man and life, makes one ponder as he passes by, "I will also one day rest in some cemetery somewhere." With four years of planning and work, 1970 saw this dream come true.

In 1965 the needs of the Diocese of Crookston necessitated changes in the pastoral ministry. The parish of St. Vincent de Paul was attached to St. Joseph's parish of Brooks, and in 1969 the parish of St. Anthony of Terrebonne followed suit. Thus, Brooks with a resident pastor became the center of operation for the three parishes.

Thus an era passes and becomes the memories of yesterday. With the grave illness and resignation of the late Father Paul A. Cardin, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church, Argyle, Bishop Kenneth Povish transferred Father Carriere to Argyle. And so, with the acceptance of this appointment, effective June 1, 1972, he finished seventeen years as pastor of St. Joseph's Church of Brooks.

Father Carriere's mother, Jane, lives with her son and has been his housekeeper since his pastorate in Brooks.

CYPRIEN AND OLIVE BOUTAIN CASAVAN

As far as is known, Boline Casavan and his wife were born in Canada, and died there. They had seven children, Cyprien who was born in 1852, Paul, Zeb, Henry and three more whose names are not known.

Cyprien and Zeb came to the United States prospecting for gold and silver. They were able to read both French and English. Around 1882 Octave Montreuil, a friend, invited Cyprien and a lawyer friend to dinner, and, because Cyprien was interested in homesteading some land, he asked the lawyer to show Mr. Casavan some properties. Later Cyprien acquired the NW quarter of Section 1 in Polk County and there began his homestead.

He married Mary Louise Montreuil (Octave's daughter) in 1883 and they had the following children: Mary Louise, Cyprien Pierre who died in infancy, Laura Mary, Eva Anna, Cyprien Henry, Arthur, Marie Eugenie who died at the age of three, Joseph Wilfred who died at age one, Victor Mose, Marie Louise, Odelon, Elodia and Wilfred.

Cyprian Henry married Olive Boutain, the daughter of Pierre Boutain and Clara Gauchee Boutain, in 1909. They farmed in Polk and Red Lake Counties and later moved to Yakima, Washington, where he died in 1949. Olive returned to Red Lake Falls to live with her son, Delphus, who is now married to Nora Klein. Cyprien and Olive's other children are: Mabel (Mrs. Louis Senske), Cora (Mrs. James Weis), Lawrence (Blackie) who married Eleanor Wieland, Lilly (formerly Mrs. Hanson and now Mrs. Nels Nelson), Cecile (Mrs. Fred Thode), Marie (Mrs. Wm. Rentz), Doris (Mrs. Ted Pahlen), Gladys (Mrs. John McGrath). Mrs. Olive Casavan is still active and lives in Red Lake Falls.

LAWRENCE "BLACKIE" AND ELEANOR CASAVAN

We, the Lawrence Casavans, have lived most of our life in and around Red Lake Falls, in Red Lake Falls Township. Lawrence, more commonly known as "Blackie," was born at Crookston to parents Cyprian and Olive Boutain Casavan. I, Eleanor was born at Fisher to parents Walter and Edna Wagner Wieland.

Blackie served three years in the service during World War II. We were married in 1946 and have lived here all the time. Blackie drove gravel trucks, hauled flax straw to the Tow Mill and worked for the



Lawrence Casavan family

Red Lake County Highway Department. At the present time he is engaged in farming and operates "Blackie's Palace" in Red Lake Falls. I worked at the Farmers Union Oil Company for a number of years and then motherhood took a number of years, after which I worked at Thompson's Hardware and at the present time am a secretary at the Red Lake County Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Our four children are the twins, Lois and Linda. Lois married Allen Remick and they have one daughter Janelle. Linda married Kenneth Ulrich and they have two children Julie and Craig. Carol married Douglas Kees and they have Bradley and Tricia and live in Wisconsin. Our son Gary is a senior at Lafayette High School and lives at home. Our life in Red Lake County has been good and we have many things to be thankful for.

DARRELL CASAVAN — MARLYS SCHMITZ

Marlys Schmitz and Darrell Casavan were united in marriage on April 24, 1965, at St. Joseph's Church in Red Lake Falls. Marlys is the daughter of Bernard Schmitz Sr. and Darrell is the son of Leonard and Demarise Casavan.

Marlys is a graduate of Lafayette High School and was employed at the ASCS Office, Northland Diocese, St. John's Hospital and Steiger Mfg. for a number of years. In 1966 Marlys and Darrell moved to Staples, where Darrell trained for Journeyman Machinist. In 1967 they moved to Minneapolis, where Darrel was employed at F.M.C. as a Journeyman Machinist.

They moved back to Red Lake Falls in 1970 and purchased a farm in River Falls Township, Pennington County, St. Hilaire, where they are milking a dairy herd of 40 cows along with grain farming.

Their two children, Brenda Lee and Scott Anthony, attend the St. Hilaire Grade School. They are members of St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Thief River Falls.

HARVEY CASAVAN AND MARIE WEISS CASAVAN

Harvey and Marie Casavan were married on October 2, 1945 and make their home on a farm in Wylie Township. Harvey was born in Parnell Township, Polk County, the son of Victor Casavan and Emma Provost. When he was two, his parents moved to a farm in Red Lake County. Harvey attended public school and was employed by the Red Lake Electric Co-operative before he purchased the farm where he now resides. Marie was born in Browns Creek Township, Red Lake County, the daughter of Fred Weiss and Mary Hilse. She attended public schools and is a graduate of LaFayette High School. She was employed in Minneapolis until her marriage.

Harvey and Marie are members of St. Dorothy's Catholic Church and St. John's Lutheran Church, respectively. They are former Grade A dairy farmers and have been small grain farmers since 1971. They are active members of several farm organizations and Harvey is presently a supervisor of Wylie Township and a director of the Community Co-operative Store. He has served on the St. Dorothy's Council, the ASCS Committee and the Black River School District. Harvey owns seven hundred and twenty acres of land and farms five hundred and sixty more acres with his son, Monte. In 1970 the Casavans were named honored dairymen at the Red River Valley Winter Shows.

The Casavans have two daughters and two sons: Bonnie lives in Cedar, Minnesota, and is married to Dean Audette who is employed at Ford Motor Co. in St. Paul. Their children are Gregory and Michael; Mark is a barber and lives in Spearfish, South Dakota, with his wife, Joette Schue and their children, Nicole and Marc; Monte is married to Heidi Ortloff and they make their home in Red Lake Falls Township on the former Robert Hance farm which they recently purchased.

Tracey is the youngest daughter and she attends school in Red Lake Falls.



James and Edna Casey

JAMES CASEY

James Casey, born 1896 in Hudson, Wisconsin, and Edna Catherine Casey, born in 1904 in Eugene, Oregon, were united in marriage September 3, 1930 in Shakopee, Minnesota. Three children were born to them: Shirley Ann Merle of Clearwater, Florida, James Donald Casey, Great Falls, Montana, and Joseph L. Casey, of Riverside, Illinois.

Mr. Casey owned, operated and retired on the Rossen farm in Terrebonne Township. The farm is still in the family. Mrs. Casey lived there for 67 years. Jim volunteered in World War I — 357th Infantry in France and after five or six weeks training, earned a Purple Heart Citation for bravery in action and was sent back to the United States among the first casualties. He attended schools in St. Paul and rural schools in Scott County, Savage. He was employed for many years at the Minnesota Valley Golf Course at Bloomington.

James Casey served as township assessor for Terrebonne and was a faithful member of St. Anthony's Church, Terrebonne. He died November 1973 and is buried in St. Anthony's Cemetery.

Mrs. Casey, now a resident of Red Lake Falls, attended rural schools in Red Lake County and earned her Bachelor of Science and Remedial Reading Degree at Moorhead State University. Her first teaching experiences were in Broadus, Montana, rural schools in Red Lake County, and the elementary school in McIntosh. She has been a Sunday School teacher and Superintendent of Congregational Church of Mentor, 4-H Leader, Fair Board member, and is now serving as secretary and member of the Joint State Legislative Committee for Retired Teachers and American Association of Retired Persons, Treasurer of Co. ARC, Board of Directors of Lake Agassiz Health Council, Deacon of Presbyterian Church, and President of Presbyterian Women's Association.

WILLIAM CASSAVANT

William Cassavant was born in 1889 in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, and when a young boy traveled by covered wagon to Red Lake Falls with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Cassavant.

In 1913 he married Lucy Benoit, who was born in 1891 in Terrebonne. They farmed in the Dorothy area where one son, Lawrence, was born.

In 1916 they moved to Wolf Point, Montana, where they homesteaded. Land was purchased for $1.25 an acre. Finding the land unsuitable for farming, they returned to Red Lake Falls around 1918 and homesteaded on Section 11, Louisville Township.

William served as A.S.C. county committeeman of the United States Department of Agriculture over twenty-five years. He was on the Farmer's Union board, GTA, and school board of the district.

They have three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mrs. Cassavant passed away in 1968. William resides at Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Lawrence, son of William, married Elizabeth Schmidt of Red Lake Falls in 1941 in San Francisco, California. He served four and a half years in the Pacific in World War II. When he returned, he went into partnership with his dad on the farm and is presently living on and operating the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Cassavant have three children: Bill of Crookston, Linda, (Mrs. Jay Petterson of Bemidji), Brent at home, and two grandchildren.

NORMAN J. CHAFFEE

Norman J. Chaffee, Superintendent of Schools in Red Lake Falls, came to this community in July 1975 from Wadena. He is a native of Delazan, Minnesota, and attended schools at the University of Minnesota, Mankato State College and Bemidji State where he received his Master's Degree.

His wife, the former Susan Kangas, was born in Hibbing. They have three children, Sarah Sue, six years old; Andrew, two, and Brian, born in Red Lake Falls.

Mr. Chaffee is charter president of the local Lion's Club.

PETER CHAMPAGNE

Peter Champagne was born at Port Austin, Michigan in 1864, the son of Severt Champagne and Elizabeth Boucher, and came to Minnesota with his parents, three brothers and three sisters at age eighteen.

Peter married Idella Turcotte at Thompson, North Dakota in 1884. She was born in 1869 also at Port Austin and had moved to a North Dakota farm with her parents. The couple settled on a farm on the point in East Grand Forks where three of their children were born. Later the family moved to a homestead two and a half miles northeast of Brooks where they raised their sixteen children in all: Leon, d 1910; Delia, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; Pearl, deceased; Rose Alba, deceased; Anna, Brooks; Cora, Thompson, North Dakota; Eliza, deceased; Ida, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Willie, Louise and Doria, Brooks; Walter, Everet, Washington; Amedie, Oklee; Arthur, Milwaukee; Albert, Madison; and Florence, North St. Paul.

Mr. and Mrs. Champagne farmed until 1926 when they retired to Brooks. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1934. Idella died in 1948 and Peter in 1949.



Peter Champagne Family 1941

AMEDIE CHAMPAGNE

Amedie Champagne, son of Peter Champagne and Idella Turcotte Champagne, was born in 1906 in Crookston on a farm. He married Delima Carriere (b. 1919), daughter of Stanislaus Carriere, well digger of the Brooks area, and Azelia Boucher.

Amedie and Delima met at one of the popular barn dances that afforded the recreation for all the young people of the townships. She was only sixteen when they married on May 25, 1926 in Brooks. Father Arthur Beaulieu officiated. The couple moved to their farm where seven children were born: Elmer, Onezime, William, Lowella (Bushaw), Lorene (Westman), Dorene (Cote) and Marion (Martell).

Later in 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Champagne moved to Milwaukee and remained twelve years before retiring in Oklee in 1970. Amedie does some upholstering and both will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary in June, 1976.

CHAMPEAU FAMILY

According to the 1902 "Northern Minnesota Compendium of History and Biography," Dolphus Champeau (Champoux) enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest resident settler of Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County. His estate consisted of 360 acres of land, and his homestead was a pleasant tract on Badger Creek. He engaged in diversified farming and met with success in his vocation.

Mr. Champeau was born 1846 in the Province of Quebec. His parents, Anthony and Sophia (Dubue) Champeau, were also born in Canada of French descent. Dolphus was eighth in a family of seventeen children. For some time he worked in the mines of Michigan until in February 1878, he started for northern Minnesota with the idea of making a home on a farm. He had six hundred dollars with him, and on March 8, paid five hundred dollars of his capital for the farm and thereon filed a homestead claim. He purchased a yoke of six oxen and some seed wheat with the last hundred dollars.

The family of Dolphus joined him in April and together they raised one thousand bushels of grain on the fifty acres broke on the place, and by practicing the strictest economy, gained a good start. A twelve by twelve foot log shanty with a shed kitchen served for a home until 1892 when a comfortable and substantial residence was started. In 1896, Mr. Champeau added 160 acres by purchase.

Dolphus Champeau was married in 1868 to Miss Marie Laurent, a native of Canada. To the union thirteen children were born, Louis and Remi, twins, Ida (Alida), Daniel, Joseph, Adelard, Leoma, Osis, Ulric, Dona and Dora, twins, and Anna.

When Dolphus and Marie retired to move into Red Lake Falls, Adelard took over management of the farm. Adelard married Honara Clement and they had seven children. Subsequently, the family moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, and then to California. Honora died in 1939 and Adelard in 1953.

Joseph Champoux and Felicitie Robillard were married in St. Anthony's Church in Terrebonne in 1899. They lived on the family farm until 1902 when they homesteaded their own place three miles from Terrebonne. They had seven children, Harvey and Wallace died in Seattle, Washington and Joseph died in infancy. Dona lives in Wisconsin and Arizona, Louis, Eraine Rock, and Deva St. Pierre live in Seattle, Washington. Joseph Champoux retired from farming in 1926. Felicitie died in 1955 and Joseph in 1960.

Daniel Champeau married Amilie La Plante in 1898 and raised five children all born in Red Lake Falls, Celestine Powers (deceased), Cecile Van Wyk of California, Leo of Wisconsin, Alida Hilleboe of Florida, who had been married to the late Dr. Hilliboe, and Andrew of Red Lake Falls.

Dan attended the St. John's University then followed his interests in farming operations. He owned several farms near Badger Creek in Terrebonne Township. He worked in a sawmill and later he owned a feed store. In 1913 he purchased the Paradis Saloon on the Main Street of Red Lake Falls and operated it for five years. In 1918 he purchased the building next door to the south and named it the Champeau Bar. He continued in this business until 1928, when he sold it to his son, Andrew, and retired. Dan served twenty-five years on the city Council of Red Lake Falls. The home he built in 1928 on Main Avenue is now owned and occupied by Andrew, his son.

Andrew Champeau married Marie Hansel of Wylie, in November 1933. She died in 1973. They have two daughters, Gloria Mae, born 1937, is married to Kenneth Bombardier and they have two children, Bradley and Beth Ann, and live in Duluth. Paulette, born 1942, is married to Francis Flaherty. They live in Minneapolis and have one son, Andrew Paul.

Andrew continued his Champeau Bar business from 1928 until 1973 when he retired.

CHAREST FAMILY

The Charest family history in Red Lake County began in 1881 when George Charest, Sr., with his parents, Francoise Charest and Valerie Baril Charest, came from the Quebec Province in Canada to Lambert Township. He homesteaded the farm that is still in the family. A son, Theophile, and two daughters, Ida and Eva, still reside on that homestead southeast of Oklee. George's brother, Fred, also bought a farm nearby which he later sold to Joseph A. Lambert. Two other brothers of George, Napoleon, a farmer, and Camille, a blacksmith, settled in the Minneapolis area. Another brother, Jeus, remained in Canada, near Montreal. A sister, Exilia, married Raphael Hamel; another sister, Zoe, married Adolphus Roe.

George Charest Sr. married Olivine Paquin who was born in St. Ursula, Canada, but had moved to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, then to Lambert where her parents homesteaded. George Sr. was trea-



Dolphus and Marie Champeau wedding anniversary 1918. Children: Honora and Adelord, Felicite, and Joseph, Amelie and Dan, Alida and Leon Hubert.

surer of the school board of District nine for approximately fifty years; he also served as the town's treasurer for a number of years.

Several of George and Olivine Charest's children live in Red Lake County at the present time. George Jr. resides in Oklee; Rose (Mrs. Edward Perreault) lives on a farm near Terrebonne; Louise (Mrs. Alvida Lefebvre) lives west of Oklee; Theophile, Ida and Eva, live on the family farm. Mary Anne, Florence and Anne (Sister Zita now of Brainerd, Sisters Borgia and Eucharia, now of Duluth) entered the community of Benedictine Sisters, St. Scholastica Priory, Duluth. Alvina (Mrs. Michael Fischbach) resides in Osseo. Several children, including Walter, Valeda (Mrs. Onezime Tessier), and Eugenie (Mrs. Archie Dupont) are deceased.

George Charest, Jr., born in 1891, bought his grandfather Frank Charest's farm (a quarter section) in Chester Township in 1913. Except during the winter months when he worked as a "lumberjack" in northeastern Minnesota and in North Dakota, he resided with and helped his father until 1926, when he married Rebecca Lambert, granddaughter of the founder of the town of Lambert, and daughter of Joseph A. and Mary Louise Lambert, and moved to his own farm which he still owns and rents to a neighboring farmer. Mr. and Mrs. George Charest now live in Oklee.

George and Rebecca Charest raised four children. Vernon married Carole Voxland of rural McIntosh. They and their two sons, Michael and Larry, reside in Battle Lake, Minnesota. Floyd and his wife, Sandy Crady Charest, and their two children, Cindy and Timmy, make their home in Richfield. Doreen is a Sister of the Order of St. Joseph and resides at the Sisters' province headquarters near Crookston. Darrell and his wife, Audrey Twomey Charest and their children, David and Stephen, are at home in Clouquet. All the Charest children attended school in Oklee and were members of St. Francis Xavier Parish there.

NARSIS AND MARIE BISSON CHATEL

Narsis and Marie Bisson Chatel and Andrey and Clemanse Chatel Bisson and families came to Crookston in the year 1878 from Montreal, Canada. They had heard of the rich land and easy living they could have if they settled in the area. They were told that there were so many prairie chickens and wild fowl in the woods, they would never need to raise chickens. All they had to do was to pick eggs from their nests. They hired a box car and put all their belongings inside and came to Crookston, Minnesota.

Here they got off the train on a large tree stump. Narsis opened a blacksmith shop in Gentilly and the family lived upstairs. It was a large old building and when the wind blew they all sat in the middle of the floor because the building swayed so much. Grandmother was so frightened that it would fall.

Roseanna Chatel was born in Gentilly in 1880, and later they moved north of Red Lake Falls between the Clearwater and the Red Lake rivers near Terrebonne. They attended church services in Terrebonne where Roseanna and Exena Chatel made their First Holy Communion and were Confirmed. The family later moved west of Red Lake Falls across from the Seeger farm.

Narsis and Marie Chatel had eleven children: Lea, Peter, Pariecit, Exerie, Ephram, Wilfred and Frizelda were born in Canada. Roseanna, Exena and Mary Louise were born in Gentilly and Red Lake Falls.

Roseanna Chatel married Thomas V. Thibodeau in 1904 at Red Lake Falls and they had eight children: Eraine, Leo, Agnes, Levite, Lucy, Ida, Francis and Helen. Eraine married Verle Copeland; Leo married Mildred Van Wort; Lucy married Kenneth Greenholgh; Agnes, Levite, Ida, Francis and Helen passed away.



Wilfred, Ephram, Roseanna, Exena, Marie and Mary Louise Chatel.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Christenson

CHARLES CHRISTENSON

Charles Christenson came to the Plummer area in 1900 as a young man to homestead on an 80 acre tract of woodland. Previously he had lived in Crookston for several years after coming to the United States from Denmark. He was a brick layer by trade. After several years of hard work to clear the land and build a home, Charles married a young lady from Canada, Zella Varey. They had one son, Clifford, who with his wife, Elida, lives in Red Lake Falls. They also had an adopted son, John Russell, who with his wife Gladyce and family live in California.

In later years the Christensons shared their home with three foster children, Edna, Earl; and Vivian Wimpiri. The Charles Christenson farm home is located five miles west of Plummer.

Mr. Christenson passed away on April 8, 1947 and Mrs. Christenson died on December 21, 1959.

THE GEORGE W. CHRISTIE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Christie moved to Red Lake Falls in 1916 when, in partnership with Mr. and Mrs. Horace Cutten, they purchased the Red Lake Falls Gazette. George Christie was the son of Dr. and Mrs. George R. Christie of Long Prairie and Eva is the daughter of the late Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr. of Little Falls. George graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and Eva from Carleton College.

Two children were born to the Christies, both of whom graduated from Lafayette High School. Lillian graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in journalism, George graduated from Carleton, and later became a naval fighter pilot during World War II and a Lieut. Commander in the Naval Reserve. He also studied journalism at the University of Minnesota and worked on the Gazette, managing it after the death of his father in 1956.

Lillian married Edmund Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson of Red Lake Falls. They have three grown daughters, Christie, (Mrs. Stephen Coffin), Julie, and Leslie. Following graduation from Radcliffe (Harvard) Christie earned a master's degree at the University of California, Berkeley, and is on the architectural faculty there. Julie graduated from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, earned an M.A. at Stanford University and now teaches at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Ill. Leslie is a member of the Class of 1976 at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

George Christie, Jr. married Peggy Schoon of Iowa, also a Carleton graduate. They have three children. Susan, a graduate of Mankato State College, is now Mrs. Terry Stults. They live in Colorado Springs, and have a daughter, Tressa. Dirk had been attending the University of Minnesota and Bruce is in high school at Mora.

Edmund Johnson and George formed a partnership in 1969 and bought the Kanabec County Times and the Braham Journal. Both families now reside in Mora.

While living in Red Lake Falls, the Christies took an active part in the community. George, Sr. served as vice-president of the Board of Directors of the Red Lake County State Bank, president of the Commercial Club and the Northern Editorial Association, and was active in the Masonic Lodge. He became Grand Master of Minnesota and a 33rd degree Mason.

Mrs. Christie (Eva) served on the Red Lake county Welfare Board for over 21 years, was president of the American Legion Auxiliary and associated herself with the Presbyterian Church. The family contributed toward the building of the hotel, the hospital and the trailer plant. They built the present Gazette building and two fine homes in the city.

When Horace Cutten's health failed, George, Sr. purchased his half of the Gazette. He died in 1956 and his son George became Gazette editor until the paper was sold in 1969.

The brick building adjoining the Gazette was donated by Mrs. Christie for the use of the local Masonic Lodge. When this lodge joined with Masons of Thief River Falls, the building was given to the Masonic Memorial Hospital at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in memory of George Christie, Sr.

In 1970 Eva Christie married G. Howard Spaeth of St. Paul, banker and former tax commissioner of the State of Minnesota.

HARMIDAS CLEMENT

Some parts of this history about my dad, Harmidas Clement, were told to me, but some events I vividly recall.

In the year 1889 Harmidas Clement left his home in St. Lin, Quebec, and with two cousins, Regis and Gedeon Gagnon, he worked his way through Michigan laboring in mines and lumber camps until he finally arrived in Minnesota. Here he made his home with a cousin, Joseph Laurent, who had already homesteaded near Terrebonne on the farm now known as the Kalonoski farm.

The county seat was in Crookston and the settlers traveled by horse or oxen to do legal business there. The trip usually took three days. There was danger all around. Wolves would often follow behind the wagons. Certain homes on the way to Crookston were known as stopping places for overnight lodging.

H. Clement made the trip to Crookston and filed a claim on what is presently the Vern Surprenant farm. To fulfill the obligation for the homestead rights, one had to put up a shack and sleep there a few nights a month if it was not a permanent home.

After two years of living alone and doing farm work for neighboring farmers such as Bruno Derosier, Xavier Sauve, Regis Gagnon and Joseph Laurent, Mr. Clement decided to relinquish his claim to John Baptist Surprenant Sr. He went back home to Canada and married after a few years. When their first child, a daughter, Lila, was born, the mother died. He and his daughter stayed with his dad and mother.

While he was employed in a cheese factory where he learned the cheese making trade, Harmidas kept in touch with his relations and friends in Minnesota and also married Lydia Heinault in 1897.

In 1901 he was urged by his cousins and friends to come back to Minnesota to start a cheese factory. He returned with his second wife, Lydia, daughter Lila, sons Theodore, three years old, and Adelorde, one year old.

By now Terrebonne had grown a lot. It had stores, post office, hotel, church and school. Some dirt roads were built where trails once were. Conditions had changed for the better.

With the help of a few farmers, the cheese factory was built on land that Mr. Surprenant leased to Harmidas Clement. There already was a log house that Mr. Thomas Perusse had built. This house had been a stopping place for lodgers for many years. It also had been used as a Catholic Church for the French Canadian settlement before their church was built. Missionaries would come traveling through at times. The house was occupied by the Clement family for as long as he made cheese.

After the building for the cheese factory was erected, Mr. Clement went to Beltrami where a cheese factory had closed and purchased the necessary equipment, a scale, tank, vat, molds and press. An old threshing machine boiler was used for steam.

Opening day was a grand event for all concerned. People came with one or two five-gallon cans of milk. Some used express wagons, carts, buggies or whatever. Octave Gagner came six miles with oxen. Every morning the farmers lined up to deliver their milk and while waiting, the latest news of the day was exchanged. There always was something to tell neighbors. The means of communication was scarce then, no phones, no radio, or T.V.'s.

The cheese was full cream cheese but farmers were paid by the hundred pounds for their milk, depending on how much the cheese was sold. A hundred pounds of milk made about eight or nine pounds of cheese that sold for about nine to ten cents a pound. The cheese maker got three cents a pound of cheese but had to pay all expenses.

In the early days cheese making required manual work. The milk was stirred with a long wooden rake slowly drawn back and forth in the long vat until the milk was the right temperature to turn into curds. The milk was heated by steam from a cord wood fed boiler. The curds were then drained from the whey and cut by hand, salted, and packed in molds that each held thirty-two pounds of cheese. The molds were placed in a hand press to drain the whey and stored in a cooler room to age awhile before placed two molds to a round box. These boxes came from Minneapolis as flat veneer pieces already cut, but had to be shaped in a circle and nailed by hand.

Farmers hauled the cheese boxes to Red Lake Falls to be shipped to Swift or Kraft Companies in St. Paul.

The state inspector, a Mr. Baumgartner, urged Mr. Clement to display some cheese at the State Fair in St. Paul. He did so and received a 98.5 percent score and the big first prize. He was also awarded a trophy, a beautiful big gold plated cup with his name and score engraved on it. I (Ted) remember this cup and also remember when Theodore Garceau asked to display it in his grocery store as a means of advertising the cheese. While the trophy was there the inside of the store was razed by fire and the cup was never returned to the owner.

I also remember that a year or so after shipping to Swift and Company, the cheese factory received big blue labels printed, *"Swift's Premium Cheese."* These labels were to be glued on each box before being shipped at the Great Northern Depot where Omer Hall was depot agent and shipping clerk.

Cheese making lasted only five months out of each year from May first to October first. The proceeds were insufficient to raise a family so Mr. Clement would spent the winter months in lumber camps at Bemidji or Kelliher, Minnesota.

Most families were large then, and ours was no exception. We were six boys: myself, Theodore (Ted), Adelord, Leo, Roman, Ludger and Harry (twins), and four daughters, Lila, Amanda, Loumena, and Bertha.

Of the ten children six survive: Theodore in Red Lake Falls, retired. Roman of Aurora, retired. Lila (Mrs. St. Pierre), Providence, Rhode Island. Amanda (Mrs. Leo Robillard) of Red Lake Falls. Loumena (Mrs. Wallace Goss) of Cass Lake, and Bertha (Mrs. Paul Magoon) of Frazee.

Harmidas Clement made cheese for thirty-six years in the same factory and raised his family in the same log house. When he retired, he sold to Aurelius J. Parenteau, whose brother, Louie, made cheese in Terrebonne for about two years before the business was moved to Brooks where Aurel and Marc Parenteau, sons of A. J., now operate the factory.

THEO. (TED) CLEMENT

I am writing this as I have told the stories to my children and grandchildren.

As a youth I helped my dad in the Terrebonne cheese factory and learned the trade despite myself. I helped for quite a few years before deciding to go my own way.

A group of Gentilly farmers had purchased and moved the Perrault Station cheese factory, all equipped, to the Candid Gervais farm and hired me to make cheese there. Although my preference was for mechanics, I gave it a try. As a joke, Reverend Father Theillon, pastor of Gentilly Parish, named this factory "Bucktown" because he had an interest in the factory at Gentilly proper. The Bucktown place was operated for four years and then closed.

In 1926 I married Mae Ste. Marie, daughter of Romeo Ste. Marie (then deceased) and Eva Sauve Ste. Marie Laundry. A year later the Bucktown factory closed and we moved to Wanke, eighteen miles east of Oklee where a group of Norwegian farmers had started a cheese factory and needed a cheesemaker. That factory operated for only two years.

Our decision was that there had to be something more stable, so we went back to Terrebonne and bought Ed Patnode's garage. Mechanics had always been my ambition.

Besides car repair there was farm machinery to repair and also welding. In the thirties the depression was with us. Times were hard and money was scarce.

During the summer of 1937 the County Superintendent of Schools, Leo LaCourse, had an ad in the Red Lake Falls Gazette asking for a school bus owner and driver to transport high school students to LaFayette. This ad interested me two-fold. We had five elementary school children at that time and we needed something to supplement the garage business. Joseph Helm found a thirty passenger bus for me in Dickinson, North Dakota. That vehicle served for three years. When the number of students outdid the old bus it was necessary to purchase a new, larger forty-eight passenger 1940 bus from George Thibert. We drove it home from Cleveland, Ohio.

LaFayette High School didn't own buses when I started driving. The parents paid part of the fare and the districts furnished the difference, partly reimbursed by the state. There were five districts on my route: Terrebonne, Beau Gerlot, Badger, Dehman and Columbus. My route was thirty miles one way.

The first years were rough driving. The roads were poor compared to the present roads. Many times I'd have to shovel the snow banks to get through. The bus driver had it rough, but so did the students. The law allowed three fourths of a mile walk to the bus stop. At times some children got pretty cold.

Since there was only one bus, I was asked to drive the football and basketball teams and the band to games and other celebrations. In the summer time the Royal Neighbors, men's Order of Foresters, Woodmen, and Lutheran Youth Organizations would hire me to take groups to conventions and camps. A special insurance was needed for those non-school activities.

In 1957, after driving twenty years without an accident, the speedometer on the 1940 bus had gone around three times and registered 300,000 miles! Retirement from bus driving was in order, so we sold our home in Terrebonne and the bus to Louis Wichterman, and moved to Red Lake Falls where we built a new home in 1959.

I worked for Bjerke and Thompsons in the Fix-it Shop for fourteen years. When George Proulx rented the shop for his Arc-

tic Cat business, I moved my lawn mower tools to the Farmer's Union station and worked there for two years. In 1973 I was forced to retire because of ill health.

As Ripley's "Believe It or Not" — Our six children all went to high school riding in their dad's school bus with him as driver.

Our children are: Clariet (Mrs. Milt Jacobson), Prior Lake; James of Monticello; Allen, Grand Forks, North Dakota; Darlene (Mrs. Bayford Leighton), Racine, Wisconsin; Shirley (Mrs. Milt Sande), Fargo, North Dakota; and Daniel, East Grand Forks.



Walter, Alice and Earl Columbus 1910

EDWARD COLUMBUS

Edward A. Columbus (b. 1879) was one of the early French pioneer settlers who came from Pentanguishene, Ontario, Canada in 1879 to settle on homesteads in Lake Pleasant Township. Florestine Gibeau and Edward were married in Canada in 1868 and she bore him fourteen children, of whom only six survived the diphtheria epidemics, Etta, Louis, Florence, Walter, Alice and Earl.

Ed Columbus served as first clerk of Lake Pleasant Town. He did some blacksmith work as well as farm on his homestead four miles south of the City of Red Lake Falls on Highway 32 until 1885 when the family moved to Crookston where Mr. Columbus was in the machinery business with N. P. Stone, known as Stone and Columbus. They returned to the farm in 1897 where they were to live until they retired in 1930 and moved into Red Lake Falls.

Florence Columbus taught three years at the Shaper School two miles west of their home, and fifteen years in Terrebonne where she stayed with Delima Boivert, mother of the late Alcide Perusse. Florence, one of older children of the family, often walked the distance to her parent's home on weekends to help wherever she could. She married Telesphore Morinville in 1909. Some years later in 1919, they built their home one-half mile west of the home place.

Walter married Mae Adler in 1916; Alice married Joseph Skala in 1917, and Earl married Diane Baril in 1916. (See family histories.)

Mr. Columbus died in 1923 and Mrs. Columbus in 1928.

EARL COLUMBUS FAMILY

Earl (Pat) Columbus and his wife, Diana Baril spent the early years after their marriage in 1916, farming a quarter-section of land in Lake Pleasant township adjacent to the farm of his father, Edward A. Columbus. Diana was the daughter of Ildage Baril and Odile Dufault.

In 1923, Earl moved his family into town and worked for Matt Skala and Son on the North side, demonstrating and selling farm machinery and various other hardware items. Later he sold automobiles with the late Gilbert Marchildon before joining the sales staff of E. V. Bassett who had the Ford agency at the time. In 1933, when Bassett left town, Earl managed to scrape together enough money to take over the business. He owned and operated the Columbus Motor Sales on Main Street until he moved to Minneapolis in 1941. The building was rented to George Thibert, the first Thibert Chevrolet garage in Red Lake Falls.

In Minneapolis Pat worked and attended Dunwoody Institute learning welding and various other skills used in building and repairing equipment and machines. During this time he was also working on a design for a farm wagon. In late 1945 he built the first of many Columbus wagons that were eventually to be sold and distributed internationally. He also invented and patented the "Easy Hook-up Wagon Pole" that helped make the wagon such a success. Plus the fact that Earl was rightly proud of his product, he was also sincerely interested in helping the farmer and enjoyed people and selling. His wife, Diana, who had shared in his struggle, also shared in the business, taking care of the office details.

In January of 1965, Earl passed away followed by Diana in January 1969. Their children were Martha Bjork, widow of the late Wilbur Helm of Red Lake Falls. Graduate of Lafayette High School, re-married and now living in Minneapolis. Edward served with the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II, took part in Normandy landing D-Day 1944, was wounded and held as a German prisoner until France was re-occupied by Allies. Among other various activities, he was formerly president of Arctic Metal Products, a subsidiary of Arctic Enterprises of Thief River Falls, and presently is a partner in "Charter Design" of Minneapolis.

Christopher is a graduate of Lafayette High School and served with the 12th Army group in Europe — attached to General Bradley's staff. He worked as a court reporter in Marshall and St. Paul, after his discharge, and in the mid 50's he opened his own court-reporting business "Christopher L. Columbus and Associates" in St. Paul.

Joseph attended school in Minneapolis. Served in 101 Airborne Division in North Africa and Italy and died in France, June 25, 1945.

Roger graduated from Vocational High School, Minneapolis and was a member of the Naval Reserve. He went into business with his father and after Earl's death, continued the wagon business in Minneapolis adding tire sales and related services. In 1974 he moved into a new building in Brooklyn Park where he and his wife, Marian, own and operate "Columbus Tire Company."

There are also 21 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

WALTER COLUMBUS

Walter Columbus, a pioneer resident of this country, was born November 19, 1884 at Red Lake Falls, one of the fourteen children of Edward and Florestine Columbus. He lived in Red Lake Falls County most of his life except for twelve years, from 1885 to 1897, when the family lived in Crookston. Upon returning to Red Lake County, he resided with his parents on the old Columbus farm in Lake Pleasant township, now the Martin DeHaan farm.



Walter and Mae Columbus

Walter attended school at Lafayette High School and while there he was a player on the 1905 undefeated football team. Later he attended the Crookston Business College.

He was engaged in farming with his father until 1913 when he moved onto the farm located one mile south of Red Lake Falls, here he lived until 1947.

On October 25, 1916 he married Mae Adler, daughter of Edward and Margaret Adler of Wylie Township. She was born April 25, 1892, attended local schools and taught for several years in surrounding county schools.

Walter was for many years clerk of school District #49 and a trustee of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Red Lake Falls. He was also engaged in livestock buying and shipped cattle for many years from the stockyards where the GTA Elevator is now located. He also owned and operated a coal business in Red Lake Falls where deliveries were made by horse or sled for many years.

Walter and Mae were the parents of eight children: Gladys (Mrs. Leo Mullen) of Minneapolis, Bernard of Red Lake Falls, Donald of Coon Rapids, Marion (Mrs. Leon Harris) of St. Louis, Missouri, Kenneth of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Alice (Mrs. Louis Longtin) of Red Lake Falls, Luanne (Mrs. Earl Hanson) of Bemidji, and Lois (Mrs. Don Steenerson) of Highland, California.

Walter and Mae Columbus moved to the city of Red Lake Falls in 1947 when their son Bernard took over the farm. Walter died October 31, 1962, and Mae passed away November, 25, 1966.



Walter Columbus Children, *Standing:* Marion, Kenneth, Bernard, Donald and Lois. *Seated:* Gladys, Alice and Luanne.

BERNARD COLUMBUS

Bernard Columbus was born in Red Lake Falls November 25, 1919, the son of Walter and Mae Columbus. He attended School District #49 for seven years and five years at Lafayette, graduating in 1937. For one year he was a student at the University of Minnesota.

In 1941 Bernard was employed at the Red Lake Falls Post Office, where he served as a clerk for nineteen years until he was appointed a mail carrier on rural route #1, a position he has held for the past fifteen years.

Bernard served in the Army Air Force for thirty-seven months from 1942 to 1945.

In 1941 he married Nathalie Himes of Owen, Wisconsin and they were the parents of four children: Barbara, Ronald, Phyllis, and John. Nathalie died in October 1948.

In 1950 he married Audrey Mundinger of St. Hilaire, the daughter of Gus and Vi Mundinger. They are the parents of five children: Nancy, Michael, Debra, Bruce, and Christie.

Bernard and Audrey continued to live on the farm where Bernard was born and where he has been engaged in farming since 1947 when he took over the property from his parents.



Constant Family, Napoleon, Sophia, Josephine, Bill and Ann.

CONSTANT FAMILY

The Constant family became known in Red Lake County when Napoleon and Sophie (St. Jean) Constant moved here from Canada about 1882.

Napoleon and Sophie had three children. The oldest was Josephine who married Henry Raymond, both deceased. Their second child, Anna, married Cash Cartier, and they too are both deceased. The third child of Napoleon and Sophie was William.

William Constant farmed with his parents four miles north of Red Lake Falls until he accepted employment with Northern States Power Co. He married Frances Bendel on October 12, 1920 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. Mr. Constant was born July 17, 1894 and passed away on March 27, 1965 at the age of 71.

Frances Constant was the oldest child of John and Mary Bendel. She was born at Madison Minnesota Sept. 15, 1897. She was an active member of St. Mary's Church and the V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary and still resides at her home on the North Side in Red Lake Falls.

Four children were born to the William Constants. Edward, their oldest child, was born August 22, 1921. He attended local schools and graduated from Lafayette High School in 1942. He served in the United States Navy from 1942 to 1954 as a Storekeeper 3rd class. He works with construction. He never married and lives at home with his mother.

Willard, born April 22, 1923, attended local schools and joined the navy in 1942. He was discharged as a Gunnersmate 1st class in 1945 and married Juanita Bernskoetter in Jefferson City, Missouri in 1948. They have five children and live in Babbitt where he works as a heavy equipment mechanic for Reserve Mining Co.

Lloyd, born January 26, 1925, attended local schools and joined the navy in 1943. He was discharged as an Electrician's Mate 2nd class in 1946 and married Monica Gondringer at Turtle Lake, North Dakota on August 17, 1952. They have three daughters. He is employed as a lineman in charge with Northern States Power Co. at Fargo, North Dakota. They reside in West Fargo, North Dakota.

Marion, the only daughter, was born April 29, 1926. She attended local schools and graduated from Lafayette High School in 1944. She worked at the Union State Bank in Thief River Falls and the People's National Bank in Seattle, Washington, before her marriage to Patrick Herold on October 6, 1956 at Red Lake Falls. Mr. Harold was also born and received his education in Red Lake Falls, graduating from Lafayette High School with the class of 1939. They had two daughters. Mr. Harold passed away at the age of 51 on July 24, 1972 in Grand Forks, North Dakota where he was employed with Northern States Power Co. Marion lives in East Grand Forks with her two children.

THE CONVERSE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Converse (Sarah) came to Red Lake Falls in 1899 from Grand Meadow, Minnesota. Mr. Converse edited and published various newspapers and also served as deputy county auditor for Red Lake County at one time. Mrs. Converse, a lovely, dignified person, adeptly painted oils and decorated china. The Converses had two sons, Ralph and Milton. Ralph, who lived in Red Lake Falls for only a few years, died July 9, 1909.



Sarah Converse about 1900.



Mr. and Mrs. Milt Converse

Milton A. Converse arrived in Red Lake Falls from Bryant, South Dakota on February 22, 1899. He was twice married. Milton married May Buse in 1901, six years before her death in 1907. Three children were born to this union: Vera (Mrs. J. Edson Davis), deceased; Gladys (Mrs. C. J. Pouliot) of St. Paul; and Amasa (Bud) Converse of St. Petersburg, Florida. Mary Kiefenheim became Milton Converse's second wife in 1910. This marriage produced two children: Ethel (Mrs. L. O. Simenstad) of Osceola, Wisconsin; and Dean, who was killed December 3, 1953.

Milton, or "Con" as he was more familiarly known, was of a genial disposition, and in the many years he lived in Red Lake Falls, made a large number of friends. He was associated with Hunt Brothers store for 34 years until he opened a plumbing and tinning shop of his own in 1923. "Con" was an active member of the fire department which he served for 18 years as chief. Milton A. Converse died February 3, 1933.

Mary Keifenheim Converse was born January 22, 1887 at Wahpeton, North Dakota. In 1899, she came with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. John Keifenheim, to Red Lake Falls where she dedicated her life to her family and community. She served as city treasurer for 22 years after the death of her husband and was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and a Gold Star Mother. Mary died October 10, 1968.

The five Converse children attended grade school and high school in Red Lake Falls. The girls graduated from Moorhead State University and chose to teach elementary classes. All began their teaching experience in country schools prior to teaching in elementary schools.

Vera, born in 1902, taught in St. Paul until she was married to J. Edson Davis in 1933 and moved to Amery, Wisconsin. She was very active in both civic and church affairs until her death in November, 1968.

Gladys, born in 1940, taught in Bagley for two years before moving to St. Paul where she continued teaching for 38 years. In 1934, she married C. J. Pouliot. At this time, she is retired and is enjoying life.

Amasa (Bud), born in 1906, is still a bachelor. He received his degree in pharmacy from the University of North Dakota in Fargo. He worked in Trepanier's Drug Store in Grand Forks while earning a Master of Arts degree from the University. In 1942, he joined the U.S. Navy which sta-

tioned him in New Guinea for 26 months. From the navy, he went to the Panama Canal Zone for a number of years working in various hospitals as a pharmacist. He has lived in St. Petersburg, Florida for the past 20 years.

Ethel, born in 1914, after teaching in Warroad for two years, moved to Amery, Wisconsin where she continued her career as an elementary teacher. In 1941, she married Dr. V. C. Kremser. She has two children. Paul Converse, born in 1953, a graduate of Carleton College in 1975, is attending the University of Chicago Medical School, and Elizabeth Ann, born in 1957, is presently attending Carleton. Dr. Kremser died in 1957. In 1964, she married Dr. L. O. Simenstad and moved to Osceola, Wisconsin. Ethel has had a very busy and interesting life traveling all over the world.

Dean, born in 1921, interrupted his studies at the University of Minnesota to enter the U.S. Navy in 1943. He went through pilot training at various bases throughout the country and received his wings at Pensacola, Florida in 1945. He was discharged from the navy in December of the same year. Completing his civil engineering course at the University of Minnesota, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in December, 1946. He married Joanne Velz at Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. They made their home in St. Paul where he was an engineer with the Bannister Engineering Co. Dean continued his education and received his Master's degree in engineering at the University of Minnesota. His squadron at N.A.S. Minneapolis was called back to active duty in March, 1953. While piloting a Grumman Guardian anti-sub plane, he was killed in December, 1953. Dean left two sons: John Amasa, born in 1950, who graduated from Carleton College in 1972; and Thomas Milton, born in 1951, who graduated from St. John's University in 1973.

COTA FAMILY

Imilda Huot was born on April 16, 1886, the daughter of Eucharist and Rose Huot. They lived on Section 29, Wylie Township. Besides Imilda the Huots had seven other children; Lerose, Joseph, Leah, Bella, Rene, Marie and Henry.

Paul Napoleon Cota came from Michigan in 1905 to visit Regis Huot. Later he met Imilda and they were married in 1908. They lived in Polk County until 1940, when they moved to Imilda's birthplace in Red Lake County.

Imilda and Paul had seventeen children; Lyzum, Celia (Mrs. Albin Guzek), Harvey and Arthur (deceased twins), Mabel (Mrs. Harvey Mercil), Ethel (Sr. Marie Raphael), Myrtle (Sr. Marie Imilda), Alice (Mrs. Edward Serik), Leda (Mrs. George Wieland), Medi, Viola (Mrs. Earl Fitzimmons — deceased), Adelore, Henry, Mildred (Mrs. Milo Vilven), Louie (deceased), Leo and Edward.

Life for the Cotas was often filled with hardships. Imilda had all of her children at home. The tasks were many and they were done without the convenience of running water.

Five of the Cota boys served in the armed forces; Medi, Henry, Adelore, Leo and Edward. Sr. Marie Raphael was also in Europe during the war. She left for France in 1936, and because of the fighting was unable to return home until 1946.

Imilda Huot Cota died July 28, 1953 and Paul Napoleon Cota died November 6, 1955.



Napolin Cota Family. *Back:* Adelore, Medi, Henry, Lyzum and Leo. *Middle:* Viola, Mabel, Mildred, Alice, Leda and Cecelia. *Bottom:* Ethel, Napolin, Edward, Emelda and Myrtle.

ADELORE AND LUCILLE COTA

Adelore Cota, born in 1924, son of Napoleon (Paul) Cota and Emelda Huot Cota, came to Red Lake Falls with his folks from the Crookston community as a young man.

Adelore served with the United States Army in 1946 and 1947 in Japan. Following his discharge he married Lucille Marleau, born in 1927 and the daughter of Arthur Marleau and Eva Huot. They lived on a farm near Dorothy, then moved to Red Lake Falls in 1951 when he was employed by the Red Lake Falls Silo Company. In 1971 the Cotas Cotas purchased Vogue Cleaners in Red Lake Falls and Adelore also continues with the silo company.

There are five children: Jerome, Shirley (Mrs. Joel Lehrer), Carol (Mrs. Tom King), Alan, and Mike.

Adelore is a member of the American Legion Gunder Austad Post, "40 and 8" and an officer of the Red Lake Falls Sportsman's Club. Lucille is a past president of the American Legion Auxiliary and also served as treasurer and secretary. Both are members of the Commercial Club.

VELORE COTE

Remi Cote and his wife Catherine Paupard Cote, came to Terrebonne township in 1885 from Montreal, Province of Quebec, in Canada, and homesteaded on a farm in Terrebonne township. He and all members of his family became United States citizens.

Remi willed his farm to his youngest son, Velore Cote, who in 1901 married Lillie Boucher in Terrebonne. They had six daughters and one son: Anna (Bruggeman), Alma (LeMay), Laura (Forets), Estelle (Bourgeois), Blanche (Bonnet), Mabel (Soltis), and George.

ERIK AND KRISTENA CRAFT

This is written in loving memory of my grandparents who homesteaded Garvais township. These stories have been told to me by my grandmother some years ago, and by my aunts and uncles.

Erik Craft was born in 1890 to Daniel and Claira Craft. They came from Sweden in 1887 when Erik was seventeen. Erik had three brothers and three sisters.

Kristena Christensen, born in 1878, came from Denmark in 1891 at the age of thirteen with her parents, Johanna and Hans Christensen. She was from a family of six boys and three girls.

Kristena lived in Chicago for a short time. There her parents were finally able to buy her real shoes. She went down to the basement and hid her wooden shoes behind some loose bricks so she would never have to wear them again.

From there they moved to Crookston where Erik and Kristena were married in 1894. They lived for some time in a small settlement of Carmen where Ernest, Herry, Myrtel, and Lilyn were born.

They moved to the Plummer area in 1897. There was nothing but trails cut through the woods for them to drive on. Erik and Kristena made the first trip up with the livestock and some of the furnishings. Later Kristena went and brought the four children and the rest of their things to the two room log cabin they had built. They also built a log barn for the cows and oxen.

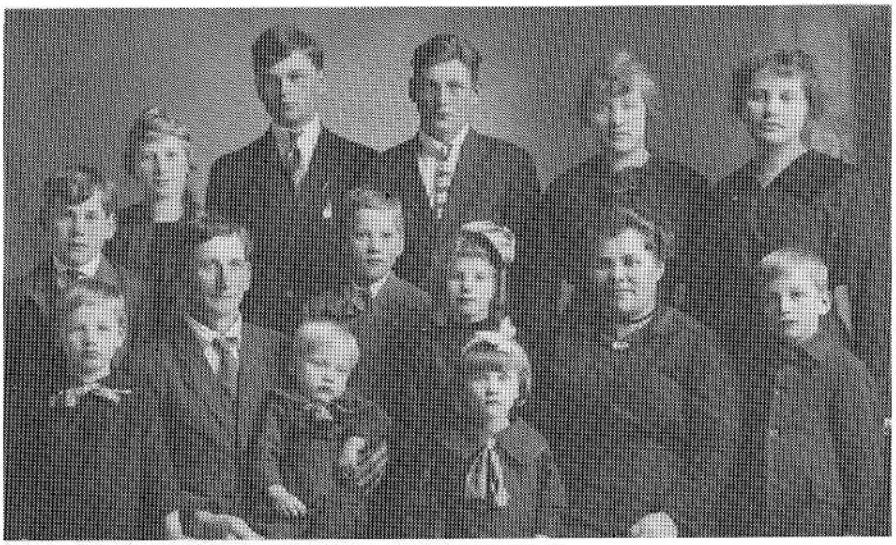
They came by buggy and horse on the second trip with the children. At the place they were supposed to turn to the homestead, water was so high it was getting their feet wet inside the buggy. They had to turn around and stay with a brother for the night. The next day they went to the new home by a different route.

They lived in their log cabin for fourteen years, before they built a new house. Most of the children were born there in the back bedroom with a mid-wife attending. The children were Mable, Arthur, George, Claira, Oscar, Gust, Nora and Clarence.

They raised their own food except for sugar, coffee, salt, baking powder, and soda. Their clothes were made from material bought in bulk, from their underwear to overalls, and coats. They made their shoes out of leather, moccasin fashion. Erik had been apprenticed as a cobbler in Sweden so he knew something of the trade.

Erik took cord wood for $2.50 a cord to pay for supplies. It took from early morning till late in the evening to go the ten miles to Red Lake Falls for each trip.

When they first came to settle their homestead the land was covered by buffalo grass and brush several feet high. Sometimes lightning or carelessness would start prairie fires. Neighbors would get together and plow back fires with walking plows around buildings. The older children were made to stay in the house and watch the younger ones. As they looked out they could see the fires roaring all around. There would be no hay for the cattle, but at least they were still alive and had saved the



Erik Craft Family

buildings.

There were hard times like the time Erik's cows came down with T.B. They had to do away with all but a few young stock. But that wasn't the worst. Claira was the baby at the time and with no cows there was no milk so they had to give her to her grandparents to care for.

Hard times weren't the half of it. They never ran to the doctor because of the distance and time it took to get there. Once, a little before Thanksgiving, the children were playing house and decided to make a feast. The girls made mud pies and rock potatoes while the boys went to get the turkey. Three of them went to the wood shed to get the ax. One said he would be the turkey. While one held him the other would chop off its head. It was supposed to only be make believe, but the ax slipped and cut part of his nose. Grandma Kristena sat and held the nose on with honey and flour, and thereby saved the nose.

Although there were hard times they had some fond memories too. Grandpa Erik always made some chokecherry wine for the holidays. Once the older boys got hold of one of the jugs. They went out to the buggy and pretended they were going to town. When they tried to go back to the house they fell down and were sick. The younger children saw this, and ran to the house crying that the boys were sick. Grandma Kristena dropped everything and ran to help her poor boys. When she got there she took one look, turned and started for the house. All the young ones trailed after pleading with her and crying. They thought their brothers were dying.

It was in 1915 at the Red Lake County picnic and fair that the Craft family took the prize for being the largest family in the county attending with twelve children. They received a prize of 100 pounds of sugar, a large ham and had their pictures taken.

One other time all the children were able to go to town and they won a prize of lumber for being the largest family coming to town that day. With this they put mop boards in their new house.

My grandparents' descendants are twelve children, thirty-three grandchildren and many great grandchildren. The winds of time have scattered them far and wide, but I know there is a little of that pioneer spunk in all of us and we're all a little better for it. I'm Nora's daughter and happy to be a Craft.

THE CUNO FAMILY

The "Cuno" story begins when Heinrich Cuno decided that salt mining in Germany wasn't all that great and America offered more. As near as I can figure he must have been about 35 years old at the time he came to America. He worked in the coal mines in Illinois before arriving in this area about 1882 at St. Hilaire, a sawmill town, and with very little money in his pocket. In 1883 he settled on a piece of land four miles south of St. Hilaire. He married Theresia Reidl and together they made a farm out of their land.

My father told us about their oxen, Buck and Bright. My grandfather could get the oxen to do anything. They were his most necessary possession and were treated accordingly. The oxen always knew when it was mealtime. You didn't need a watch when you were working them. If they started getting restless, you had better head for home because otherwise they started for home and you could walk home by yourself.

The migration of the Indians to the Red Lake Reservation was happening at this time. Families of Indians liked to camp overnight in a grove to the south of my grandfather's farm. The Indians often wanted food from my grandmother's garden. It was better to give them permission to take what they wanted because they would take it anyway. My grandfather never went far from the house when the Indians were around. If you set your dog on them or forced them off your place, you could be sure that when the Indians had moved on, somehow you would find your dog dead or harm done in some way. So my grandfather was watchful but didn't bother them. He never lost anything but sometimes the food the women had gathered from the garden. The Indians were gone as quickly as they came but many times my grandmother would find a basket or a trinket on the doorstep the next morning and no Indians around.



William and Gertrude Cuno with Carrier grandchildren 1956

Another activity going on at that time was the building of the Great Northern Railroad from Red Lake Falls to St. Hilaire. The tracks passed just to the west of my grandfather's property and father told us of the time when a steam engine blew up and men were injured. My grandfather ran the eight miles to Red Lake Falls for the doctor while my grandmother, with the help of men that were all right, took care of the injured men. She put lard on burns and even stitched part of a man's scalp back on with thread because it was flopped over his face. He was put to sleep with whiskey. When the doctor got back with my grandfather many hours later, she was still busy taking care of the men.

My grandparents stayed on this homestead until 1897. My father, William, was born there in 1885. He also had two sisters, Mary and Theresia. My grandfather then bought a piece of land in River Township closer to the Red Lake River. On this place he built a brick house with brick hauled from the brickyard in Red Lake Falls. Into this house also came an organ for grandmother. She must have had some musical training somewhere in her life, perhaps from her own mother because her parents brought her to the United States from a place outside of Vienna, Austria.

When school districts were organized, the first school was built on my grandfather's land. I think this was a result of an argument as to whether the school should be on the east or west side of the river. Apparently grandfather won out, built the school, and housed the teacher.

My father's formal schooling ended about the fifth grade when his father became very ill and had to be hospitalized away from home. At the age of 13, William Cuno had to become a man in his father's footsteps. He took over the farm and improved and ran it until 1912 when his mother passed away. Then his sister Theresia and her husband took over the farm and William moved to St. Hilaire.

St. Hilaire was quite a town in those days with sawmills, a creamery, businesses of all kinds. William worked at the creamery but mostly for a dray-line owner. He hauled merchandise from the railroad to the stores in town with draywagon and horses. He also hauled the outgoing goods back to the depot. Taxis were buggies drawn by trotters. He drove people where they wanted to go anywhere within driving range of St. Hilaire. In 1922 his father died and he went back to the farm again.

My father married Gertrude Starken in 1923. Her parents were the Peter Starkens who had moved to a farm in Gervais township. My mother was born near Waconia. Her father came from Holland, married an orphan girl by the name of Mary Youngman, and raised a family of eight boys and two girls. My mother was the youngest of the family.

Grandfather Starken never cared too much for farming. He loved hunting and fishing so when his family was mostly grown up, he packed up and moved to Red Lake County where he hunted and fished the rest of his life. He left his farming to the boys he brought with him. Many of the older people around Red Lake Falls can remember Grandpa Peter Starken and his skills and tricks of hunting and fishing.

During the depression my father lost most of his money when the banks closed. His sister and her large family needed a home so my father and mother gave up the farm to them and came to Red Lake Falls to live. My brother, Philip, had been born on the farm in 1923. I was born in 1924 in an old house where the Al Buse home now stands. My brother, Edward, was born there two years later in 1926.

My father went to work for the Steinert Milling Company where he ground feed, cleaned grain, chopped ice from the boards on the dam so the rising and lowering ice wouldn't rip the dam out, and just about anything but make flour. This job was done by John Schmitz. He and my father became life-long friends.

William Cuno worked for Steinert's Mill for about 20 years until climbing stairs in the mill became just too much for him to do. In 1944 he went to work for the Smith Paper Co. hauling straw bales. When that company closed down, he worked for the R.E.A. cutting brush along the lines. I don't think my father ever retired. Even when he was on Social Security, he did odd jobs for the city. Whenever they needed help they always came for "Bill." My father was an honest, steady man. We never had much money but our home was warm and there was always plenty on the table.

My mother was a jolly person. She could talk to anyone and any problem never seemed too big to solve. She gardened, canned, baked, sewed, and cooked — all without too many recipes. We all learned to swim at an early age because she took us with her when she hauled her wash water from the river and let us swim around in the river potholes. Eventually we started swimming in the millrace with the Steinert girls. Gertrude Steinert and my mother would take us there every day and would visit while we swam. That was our private swimming hole until word got around that it was far better for swimming than Sandy Bottom and that was the end of the privacy.

We were members of St. Mary's Catholic Church. That brings back memories of Father Pelger and his down-to-earth sermons and his stories of missionary work in Africa.

My father owned a Model T Ford that he drove sparingly. It was always put up on blocks during the winter. My brothers, Phil and Ed, learned to drive when we lived on Keifenheim's farm. From then on, many more miles were put on the Ford.

We all started our school years at Washington School with Mildred Lee, later Mrs. Jack Harris, as our teacher. We thought the sun rose and set with Miss Lee and all the parents thought so too. After our first three years, we transferred to Lafayette and finished our years there.

My father realized his greatest dream when he bought land and built our home on the North Side in 1939-1940. We all lived there until we married and started homes of our own. Gertrude Cuno died in 1962 after a lingering illness and William Cuno died in 1967.

After graduating from Lafayette High School in 1942, I attended the Normal Training Course that was offered at that time. The next nine years of my life were spent teaching in the rural schools of the county and attending summer school sessions.

In 1952 I married Arthur L. Carriere. He was the son of T. E. Carriere and Jane Carriere who moved into this area in 1919 from Walsh County in North Dakota. He worked for farmers around the county, was in World War II, and has been working for the Red Lake Falls Rendering Co. for the last 29 years.

From then on I was busy as a homemaker for my husband and our eight children. Carol was born in 1953, James in 1954, Jerome in 1955, John in 1957, Vincent in 1958, Steven in 1959, Rose in 1962, and Martha in 1966. All of them live at home with us yet except Carol. She is now Mrs. Rodney Lanctot and lives in Crookston. They have given us our grandson, Mathew, in March 1975.

We are members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Our children have gone to St. Joseph's School and finished off at Lafayette. And I must say in ending this story — we still don't have very much money but we have a warm house and plenty on the table.

My brothers, Phil and Ed, married girls from the family of my father's lifelong friend, John E. Schmitz.

The Phil and Marilyn Cuno family started August 27, 1955 in Red Lake Falls. Phil was the son of William and Gertrude Cuno and Marilyn the daughter of John and Anne Schmitz. A daughter Nancy J. was born in 1956, a daughter Teresa A. in 1959, and a son Thomas J. in 1962. The children were educated in the local school system. Phil was appointed to the position of City Clerk in September 1966, a position still held as of this date.

Ed Cuno married Margaret Schmitz April 18, 1951. They have five children: Debbie Cuno (Mrs. Richard Koetzle) of Bloomington, Vickie and David are employed in Red Lake Falls, Peggy and Dean are students. Ed has been employed at Red Lake Electric since his discharge from the service in 1946. They built a small house on the North side and then bought the former Albert Page house where they now live. They have one granddaughter, LaShelli Koetzle, age 2.

by Mary Cuno Carriere

HORACE W. CUTTEN FAMILY

Horace W. and May E. Cutten moved to Red Lake Falls in October of 1916, where Cutten in partnership with the late George W. Christie, Sr. purchased the Red Lake Falls Gazette, which was edited and published by the partnership for thirty-two years until May of 1949, when the partnership was dissolved due to the poor health of Cutten.

Horace was born in Evansville, August 4, 1891, graduated from the Deer Creek High School and got his start in newspapering by working for the Evansville Enterprise starting there in 1910. He later worked as a printer for Brown and Bigelow in the Twin Cities. From 1911 until 1916 he was employed by the Sauk Center Herald and while in Sauk Center he met and married May E. Crandall.

Shortly after the partnership of Christie and Cutten had purchased the Gazette in Red Lake Falls the business was struck by fire and was completely burned out, the edition for that week was ready to go on the press that Wednesday night, and that too was completely destroyed.

Through the cooperation of the Thief River Falls Times, the two young editors had another edition ready to go to press and had it in the mail by Friday, only one day late.

While they were purchasing and getting delivery of equipment they continued to print their paper at Thief River Falls in the Times plant. This was accomplished by traveling to Thief River on the night train and working all night returning to Red Lake Falls in the morning each working day.

After they had enough equipment to go back into business they set it up in the basement of the Red Lake County Courthouse, where they printed until a new building was completed for them. That building still houses the Gazette.

The Cuttens were both active in the community, May was active in church work serving in many offices of the First Presbyterian Church in Red Lake Falls, and during the war years she was active in Red Cross work. Horace was a booster of Red Lake Falls, helping it to grow. He was active in the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club and held offices in that organization for many years, working tirelessly to help Red Lake Falls continue to progress. He worked extremely hard to keep Highway 32 from by-passing Red Lake Falls, when it was re-built in 1939-40 and was also involved in the fight to keep the offices of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative in Red Lake Falls, in the years the battle over that headquarters location was in progress.

He was a charter member of the Red Lake Falls Lodge No. 308, A.M.&F.M. and served in offices in that organization. A lifelong Republican, he served on the County Republican Committee from 1930-1940 and was chairman of that group from 1940 to 1950. He never ceased to take an active interest in politics. He served as President of the Northern Minnesota Editorial Association, Secretary of the Red River Valley Editorial Association and served as board member and president of the Minnesota Editorial Association in 1941.

Cutten died in March of 1957 and his wife, May continued to live in Red Lake Falls until the fall of 1958 when she moved to St. Cloud. She died in October of 1970 in Eden Valley.

The Cuttens had two children: Mrs. K. H. (Wilma R.) Moltrecht, who resides with her husband and son in Columbus, Ohio; and a son, H. W. (Bill) who publishes a newspaper in Eden Valley. He is married to Chloe Guillemette of Red Lake Falls and they have four children.

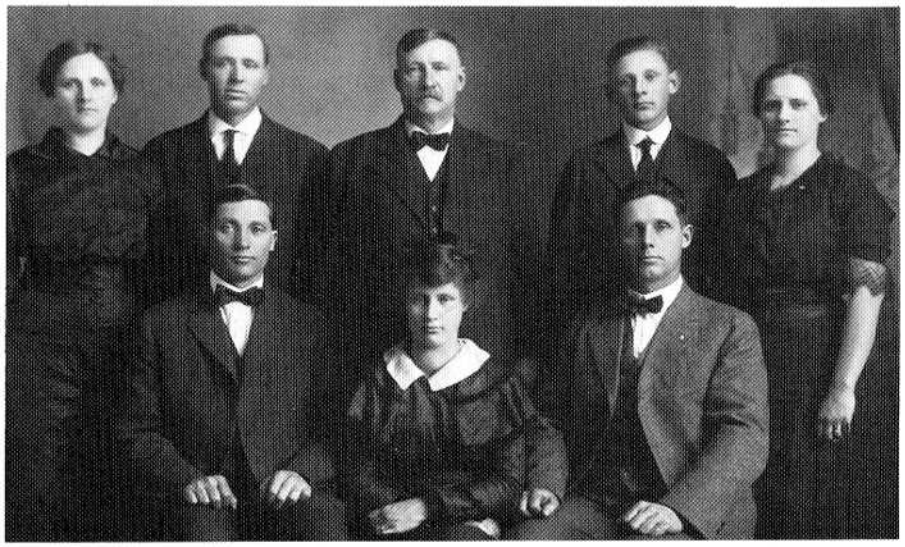
ELZEAR CYR

Elzear Cyr, one of the earliest pioneers to come to this area, arrived with the Pierre Bottineau party from St. Paul in 1876.

He was born in St. Basil, Madawaska County, New Brunswick, Canada, on August 26, 1836, and came to St. Paul in 1872, residing there for four years. Elzear was married at age nineteen in Canada, and of this marriage five children were born: Paul, Fred, Joseph, Elodi and Clementine. Following the death of his wife, he was united in marriage a second time to Miss Violet in Red Lake Falls and to this union two sons, Bill and Frank, were born.

Upon his arrival in this area, Elzear took a homestead which he farmed for several years. This land, located in Lake Pleasant Township, is the present home of Ed Schindler. Later, when he moved to Red Lake Falls, he operated a hotel and than a candy store which was located at the present site of the Farmers Union Oil Co.

Elzear died at age eighty-five at the home of his son, Joseph, in Red Lake Falls on May 2, 1922.



Elzear Cyr Family 1916. *Front:* Bill, Sarah and Fred. *Back:* Ella, George, Joe Cyr (father) Norman and Laura.

FRED CYR

My father, Joseph Cyr, had come to Red Lake County about 1879 from Maine and homesteaded a quarter section of land near Red Lake Falls on the Clearwater River near its junction with the Red Lake River.

My mother was Bena Jacobson whose parents had emigrated from Norway to homestead a farm near Baldwin, Wisconsin. She had come to work in Red Lake Falls.

I was born on March 4, 1882 and had three brothers, William, now deceased, George of Yakima, Washington, and Norman of Seattle, Washington.

I also had three sisters. Ella (Mrs. Earnest Guillmette) and Sara (Mrs. Sylvina Gervas) are deceased. My sister Laura (Mrs. Joe Helm) is living in Red Lake Falls. My half-sister Janet (Mrs. Gregory Greul) is now living in Florida.

I grew up on the farm and left home at the age of 17 (1899) to work in the woods for J. C. Parker who was running the Clearwater Logging Company. At first I toted supplies, then was bull-cook at the camp. I worked in the saw mill at Cass Lake for a couple of years and finally got on steady hauling logs on big sleds or bunkers out of the woods onto Clearwater Lake and Clearwater River. In the spring when the ice broke up, we would drive the logs down the Clearwater River. This is the time we lived on Wanigans which were houses built on flat bottom boats where we ate and slept. These Wanigans followed the logs down the Clearwater River, eventually landing at the saw mills at Crookston or Grand Forks. It was our job to break up any log jams with pike poles. We often fell into the cold water and were wet all day.

The life of driving logs was hard work as we contended with the rapids and often low water, besides mosquitoes and lice to make life miserable. The work day was long — from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., but the pay was good for the times, $2.00 per day and board and room.

I think the logging on Clearwater River wound up around 1907-1908 and then I went driving on the Red Lake River. Most of these logs were sawed at the Newton and Potts Saw Mill that was started in Red Lake Falls about 1900. This town was really booming then. There was also a Mill at St. Hilaire. I worked with logs until 1911 or so. At that time things were pretty well cleaned up and the mills around here closed and moved West.

I had married Olive Philion during these logging days and we have one living child, Lucille. I then got the job of policeman in Red Lake Falls for three years. Later I was Deputy Sheriff of Red Lake County under Charles Fellman, and spent many years on the City Council. The rest of my life I worked for the Crookston Milling Compnay, running their elevator here until 1922. I also had the Standard Oil Agency for Red Lake County and would deliver gasoline to garages and farmers. There were no gasoline filling stations then.

In 1922 we moved to Crookston where I was manager of elevators and a grain buyer — and later transferred to Bemidji to manage their warehouse there. I retired at the age of 65 in 1947 and married my second wife, Ida Dewey Marlan. The Dewey family lived in Red Lake Falls in the early years. I spent my retirement traveling, hunting, fishing and trapping.

*NOTE — Fred E. Cyr died in 1974 — at the ripe old age of 92 and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in his favorite home town — Red Lake Falls.

OLIVE PHILION CYR

Olive Philion Cyr was born in Red Lake Falls on August 6, 1885, she was one of the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Philion, pioneer residents of this community.

She attended the local schools and was an expert bookkeeper, being employed for a number of years at the LaBissoniere Store, also assisting her husband who was manager of the Red Lake Falls Milling Company, an elevator in this city.

She was united in marriage to Fred E. Cyr (son of Joseph Cyr) in 1906. To this union was born one daughter — Lucille (Mrs. Leon Gadbois of Minneapolis). Her immediate brothers and sisters were Louis, Louise, Sadie, Rose and William.

Olive Philion Cyr made her home for the greater part of her life in Red Lake Falls. She passed away at the Lutheran Hospital at Bemidji on January 11, 1944. Death was attributed to a heart ailment aggravated by an attack of influenza. Her husband was



Fred Cyr, policeman



Paul Cyr Family. *Top:* Alex, Clara, Dave, Anna, Pat, Rose and Amie. *Bottom:* Henry, Agnes, Lea, Paul and Romeo 1917.

associated with the Crookston Milling Company and stationed at Bemidji at the time of her death.

PAUL CYR FAMILY

Paul Cyr, one of the pioneer settlers of Red Lake County, was born in Maine in 1857, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elzear Cyr. Paul died in 1917 at the age of 62 and was survived by his father, who was then 80 years old. Paul's mother had died when he was twelve years old. From Maine, the Cyr family moved to Dayton, Minnesota where they lived for some years. In 1876 Paul Cyr came to Red Lake County and settled on a homestead four miles southwest of Red Lake Falls. His father arrived here in 1877.

Paul Cyr was married in 1880 by Father Champagne to Ozetta Violet,;daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francois Violet. Twelve children were born to this union: Agnes (deceased); Clara (now in Davenport, Iowa); Rose, Calgary, Alberta; Anna (Mrs. Henry Vollmer, deceased); Leah (deceased); Paul, Jr. (deceased); David, Chisholm; Patrick, Eureka, California; Henry, Port Angeles, Washington; Alex (deceased); Amie (deceased) and Romeo, Red Lake Falls.

The homestead, which is 100 years old, is still owned by the Cyr family. Paul's youngest son, Romeo, bought it in 1930.

Romeo married Florence Violette in 1938. They have two sons. Romeo, Jr. lives and teaches in Red Wing and married Maryann Cummins in 1962. They have five children. James Cyr is now in Iowa Falls as a field supervisor for Northrup King Corn Co. He married Geraldine Paulson in 1972 and they have two children. Besides their two sons, Romeo and Florence also reared Philip Cyr, their nephew, the son of Alex Cyr. Philip is married and lives at Babbitt with his wife and six children.

Before Romeo retired from farming, he operated this homestead except for the years 1950-1960 when he worked in the mines at Hibbing.

OLIVER AND DIANTHA CZECH

Oliver Czech, son of Alois and Tracy Czech, was born in Holdingford, Minnesota in 1927 and served in the U.S. Army for three years before he attended St. Clous State College where he earned his bachelor's degree in education. Later, he received his Master's degree at the University of Minnesota. In 1951 he married Diantha Pearce.

Diantha, daughter of Vern and Mildred Pearce, was born in Mahnomen in 1931. She attended the Minneapolis Business College for one year and then married Oliver after working as a secretary for a few years.

The Czechs moved to Red Lake Falls in 1962 where Oliver accepted a position at Lafayette high school on the teaching staff and has remained since. Diantha has worked as a secretary at St. Joseph's grade school and served on the school board there. Dina and Oliver have six children: Nancy, Susan, Diane, Kathy, Bill and Traci.

CLARENCE A. DAILEY FAMILY

Clarence A. Dailey was born at Creston, Illinois on February 20, 1899, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Dailey. In 1913 the Daileys with their five sons, Clifford, George, Clinton, Clarence and Millard came to Red Lake County and settled on a farm southeast of Red Lake Falls. As a young man, Clarence began employment with the State Highway Department and continued with this work for twenty years. On June 4, 1929, he married Miss Mildred Sortedahl, and a few years later they moved to a farm in Lake Pleasant Township where they farmed until their retirement. Mildred passed away on October 29, 1974, and Clarence has continued to live on the farm.

Mildred Sortedahl Dailey graduated from the local High School and Teachers Training Department and taught school for several years. From 1927 until 1929 she was employed at the local Post Office. Clarence and Mildred Dailey were members of the First Presbyterian Church. For many years she served as a Sunday School teacher and was Secretary of the Sunday School for 45 years. She was honored on December 19, 1949, as an Honorary Member of the Board of National Missions, she being the only recipient to receive this honor in the United States.



The Daileys were the parents of two daughters, Mae, Mrs. James Danzl of Lafayette, Colorado and Joyce, Mrs. Don Davidson of Esmond, Illinois. Mae is a graduate of the local high school and the St. Cloud Business College. She is employed at the Boulder Valley School at Boulder, Colorado. The Danzls have four children; Jimmy Jon, Janet, Julie and Jo Ann. Joyce is also a graduate of the local high school and the University of Duluth, School of Nursing. She is employed at the Memorial Hospital at DeKalb, Illinois. The Davidsons have three children; Steven, Valerie and Debbie.

MILLARD DAILEY

F. B. Dailey and his son, Clifford, came to Red Lake Falls from Creston, Illinois, in March, 1913, travelling in an emigrant train car with their horses, machinery and household goods. A week later, his wife, Ellen, and sons, Clarence, Clinton, George, and Millard arrived by train. They settled on what was called the King Place in Lake Pleasant Township and lived there for four years until they bought a farm in Red Lake Falls Township. Frank died in 1936, and his wife, Ellen, in 1943.

Millard and Clinton began farming in 1929. In 1941, Clinton enlisted in the Navy during World War II, and Millard purchased the farm in 1944. The farm was later sold to Jorgen Knutson in 1973, the Millard Daileys keeping the woodland and the buildings where they continue to make their home.

Millard was one of the original incorporators of the Red Lake Electric Co-operative, and has continued to be active in rural electrification since that time in 1938. He has served as director, president and secretary-treasurer of the local co-operative, and as director and secretary-treasurer of the Minnkota Power Co-operative for many years, a position he now holds. He is also one of the directors of the Minnesota Association of Electric Co-operatives.

In 1967, Millard was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the Federal Farm Credit Board for a six year term and was elected to the presidency of the Board during his last year of service.

Millard married Thelma Rustad in 1930, a teacher in the Red Lake County school system for several years. Mrs. Dailey returned to the teaching field in 1951 and taught-in the Washington Elementary School of Red Lake Falls for fourteen years. She was named Teacher of the Year and retired in 1971.

George, their oldest son, served in the Soil Conservation Services in Red Lake County for 21 years prior to his present employment as Ditch Drainage Inspector for the county. Robert, the second son, lives in the state of Washington and works for Longview Fiber Company. Vivian, the only daughter, graduated from Union College at Lincoln, Nebraska, and resides in Kansas City. Millard and Thelma have 14 grandchildren.

MEL DAVIS

Mel and Ethel Davis came to Red Lake Falls from Minneapolis in 1925. He came to manage and operate the Fiber Products Company tow mill which was owned by his father and uncles. In the June 29, 1922 issue of the Gazette was an article naming it the largest plant of its kind in the world. It manufactured flax fiber (tow) from flax straw which was used in upholstering furniture.

In 1938 Mr. Davis made a deal with the Smith Paper Co. of Lee, Massachusetts, a subsidiary of the Brown-Williamson Tobacco Co. of Louisville, Kentucky, to use the flax fiber for cigarette paper, which was previously processed from old rags from Europe. In 1940 they had three crews of twenty-five employees each, and operated twenty-four hours a day and six days a week.

At that time because his health failed, he sold the business to Brown-Williamson and moved to Arizona. The Davises returned to Red Lake Falls in April, 1940 and purchased the State Theatre which they owned and operated until October, 1950, when they moved to Minneapolis where he managed a theatre.

In 1955 Mr. Davis purchased the only Drive-In theater on the Minnesota Iron Range, which he sold in 1961 and again moved to Arizona.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis have two daughters, Ann Rae and Carolyn. The Davises live at Apache Wells Country Club in Mesa.

JOHN AND GERTRUDE DeHAAN

In 1916 John DeHaan came to the United States from Amsterdam, Holland and homesteaded near Havre, Montana until World War I when he was drafted into the United States Army. After the war, he returned and farmed until 1923 when he gave up the homestead and returned to Holland to marry Gertrude Perrin.

The newlyweds then sailed on an ocean liner bound for America, taking fourteen days to cross the ocean, the bride seasick all the way. Upon arriving in the United States John found employment at the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan, making Model T automobiles and earning five dollars a day.

Gertrude found life difficult in this country; unable to speak English, the only friends she had were a few Dutch-speaking people. Many things were new and strange. Seeing watermelons for the first time she was astonished at the size of American cucumbers. Unable to read a recipe for making bread she thought she could remember how her mother had done it. Mixing the correct ingredients, she didn't realize that it needed warmth to make it rise and worried that John might be angry at the waste, she threw it in the trash can covering it with paper. When John arrived laughing, she went to greet him and found the trash can overflowing with dough warmed by the sun.

Their first child, Martin was born in Detroit in 1925. They then moved to a farm in Missouri where the corn grew tall. Margaret was born here in 1926.

At the beginning of the depression, the DeHaans moved to a farm near Chenook, Montana near the Canadian border. There were no roads and it was seventeen miles to a town. When Martin became school age, he spent his week with a neighbor who lived closer to a school. Later he and Margaret rode a horse six miles to school and nine miles in the spring when water flooded the creek. In winter they couldn't go to school. Their house was far from warm, and on extremely cold nights John and Gertie took a bag of potatoes into their bed to keep them from freezing. Catherine, John Jr., Joseph and Gerard were born in Montana between the years of 1927 and 1934.

In 1934 John came to Crookston, Minnesota, by train to look for land to buy. Seeing a farmer walking by the depot, John asked if he knew of any farms for sale. The man replied that he was visiting his nephew, Walter Morinville, and that a neighboring farm near Red Lake Falls, belonging to Walter Columbus, was for sale. John immediately contacted Mr. Columbus and purchased the farm for $2200. There was an unusual coincidence in the fact that Mr. Morinville rarely came to Crookston and just happened to be passing by as John stepped off the train.

Mrs. De Haan and six children ranging in age from nine years to four months and all their belongings were brought to Minnesota by a neighbor in a farm truck. Mr. DeHaan came later with the remaining property. The DeHaans bought livestock and farmed the one hundred sixty acres.

Anthony, Jacob, Robert who was the victim of crib death, and Elaine were born in Red Lake County. The children attended the Lake Pleasant school a mile from their home and were kept very busy on the farm. They shocked and threshed grain, sawed wood, picked rocks, butchered and cured meat and tended a huge vegetable garden. When work was slack they picked rocks on the Herb Findeisen farm for twenty cents an hour. R.E.A. came to the farm in 1948 and was cause for celebration.

The passing years brought many changes in the family. Margaret married Luverne LeDoux in 1947. Martin and Bernadette Herold were married in 1948. The Korean war was going on and John Jr., Joseph and Gerard went into service. John received a medical discharge and Gerard went to France. Joseph was reported missing in action and later found to have died in a prison camp in 1951. In that year John Sr. also died, having been in poor health for years. Anthony married and moved to Chicago. Gerard returned from service and married Betty Everding. John Jr. was married to Josephine Hagl and in 1955 he was killed in an accidental fall while repairing an elevator.

After Jacob married Barbara Myhrer, Gertie and Elaine moved to Red Lake Falls and later to Crookston. Martin bought the farm and with his family still lives there. Elaine married Deane Boucher, leaving her mother alone.

Mrs. DeHaan had a leg amputation as a result of an infection but was still actively enjoying life and caring for herself. However an amputation of her other leg made it necessary for her to move to Hillcrest Nursing Home where her long and fruitful life ended in 1974.

MARTIN AND BERNADETTE DeHAAN

Martin DeHaan and Bernadette Herold were married in 1948 and left immediately for Oregon to visit a relative and look for work. Martin found employment at a saw mill and Bernadette worked in the cookhouse kitchen. Not liking the damp Oregon weather, they returned to Minnesota after several months and found a farm home rent-free on the Virgil Bouffler farm. This house has since been destroyed. Their first child, Pauline, was born there in 1949.

Since returning from Oregon, Martin had been employed by the Red Lake Falls Rendering Company in the Grafton, North Dakota area and the plant decided to station him there. They purchased a small trailer home and moved to Grafton where David was born in 1951. Two years later Martin was transferred back to Red Lake Falls where they lived on the Arthur Baril farm until it was sold. Nancy was born there in 1955.

The next move of the DeHaans was to Milwaukee, Wiscosnin where they found living quarters in a basement apartment. Bernadette arrived with three sick children. The landlady welcomed them cordially and they repaid her kindness by giving chicken pox to her three children. Martin worked at two jobs, one part time, while in Milwaukee. This was the birthplace of Mary in 1956.

After two years they moved to Aurora, Minnesota, where Martin was hired to do electrical maintenance for the Erie Mining Company. However, Red Lake Falls seemed to be calling, because two years later, Martin was working for Wilcox Appliance Company and they bought a house in Red Lake Falls where Steven was born in 1961.

Martin's mother, Gertrude DeHaan, wanted to sell the home farm, so Martin and Bernadette were happy to buy it. They remodeled the house and improved the place over a period of years. In 1966 Brian, their youngest child, was born. That same year they purchased the Tastee Freez Drive-in and operated it for six years with the help of their daughters. Martin also drove a school bus and Bernadette worked part time at the Red Lake Falls Library. In 1972 she accepted a position as Bookmobile Librarian for the Northwest Regional Library Association where she is still employed. Since selling the Tastee Freez, Martin continues to drive a school bus and raises a few cattle.

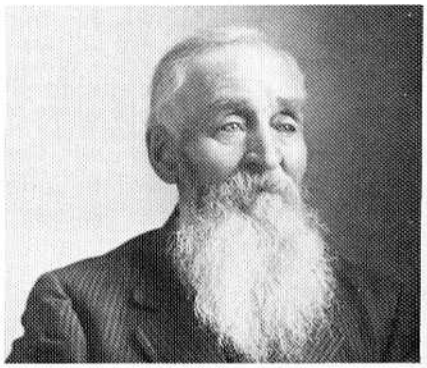
Pauline married Steve Wiziarde in 1969 and they live in Fergus Falls where he is a pilot. Nancy was married to Pat Jaquin in 1975 and in the same year Mary married Allen Morken who is a deputy on the police force in Red Lake Falls. David is employed by Red Lake Falls Electric and lives at home. Steve is attending Lafayette and Brian is in third grade at St. Joseph's school.

ADELARD DELORME FAMILY

The history of the Delorme families living in Red Lake County dates back to the time of 1882 when Ambroise Delorme, father of Adelard Delorme, emigrated from St. Jude, Quebec, Canada to Red Lake County and staked a three-year claim for homesteading land in Lake Pleasant Township. He set up a temporary home made from sod as there wasn't any other building material available there. With no railroads and only trail roads, the only mode of travel was by oxen or on foot.

In 1885 Ambroise brought his wife Marie and children from St. Jude, Canada to Red Lake County and settled on their homestead which became their lifetime home. Ambroise Delorme passed away in 1920 at the age of 85 years, and Marie died in 1937 at the age of 95 years. Marie and Ambroise Delorme had ten children, five of whom remained in Red Lake County and five moved to other places.

During the year of 1889, the Northern Pacific Railroad was built from Crookston to Red Lake Falls passing through one part of Ambroise Delorme's farm. This place on





Mr. and Mrs. Ambroise Delorme





Mr. and Mrs. Adelard Delorme

his farm served the railroad as a stopping place for people and freight destined for places other than Red Lake Falls. It was given the name of Delorme Station by which it is still known and marked.

In 1907 Adelard Delorme, second oldest son of Ambroise and Marie Delorme, and his wife Fabianna settled in Red Lake Falls. They had a family of three sons and one daughter: Rosario (Roe), Theodore (Ted), George and Bernadette. Mr. Delorme was a blacksmith and cattle buyer until he and his three sons began operating a farm three and a half miles east of Red Lake Falls in Red Lake Township. A new home was built on this farm in 1937, and they moved out there to live. Mr. Adelard Delorme died Dec. 19, 1946 at the age of 79 and his wife died Dec. 9, 1966 at age of 89.

Roe, the eldest son, joined the Army Air Corps in 1942 and served for four years in the Eastern War Theater. Upon his discharge, he returned to Red Lake Falls and became an employee of the Red Lake Electric Co-op for 27 years, retiring in 1972. He was first employed in the line department during construction, and in later years was head of the appliance department. On June 3, 1946 he married Cornelia Sortedahl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Sortedahl. They have one daughter, June Rae. June graduated from the University of Minnesota Technical College, Crookston, MN in 1972 and received a degree of Associate in Applied Science with high distinction. She now lives in Crookston and works for the Polk County Social Service Department.

Ted Delorme married Elizabeth Marcotte, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Marcotte, on Feb. 20, 1939. They farmed the Leo Marchildon Farm S.E. of Red Lake Falls for eight years. He then purchased the William Monterial farm in Terrebonne Township which he farmed until his retirement in 1974. They are continuing to live on the farm. Ted also worked for the American Crystal Co. of Crookston for 18 years. They have two children: Raymond and Sally. Raymond married Gloria Casavan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Casavan, July 6, 1966. Ray works as Product Engineer for DMH Inc. of Red Lake Falls. They have four children: Michael, Patricia Ann, Kathy Jean and Thomas. Sally graduated in 1970 from the Thief River Falls Vocational-Technical School of Cosmetology. She worked for two years for Broadway Beauty Salon in Crookston and on July 27, 1972 married Roger Cardinal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Cardinal of Red Lake Falls. They have two children, Tracy Lynn and Wade. Sally works part time for Mr. Josef's Beauty Salon, and Roger works at Rafdors Inc., Red Lake Falls.

George Delorme married Alice Schue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Schue of Fisher, July 7, 1943. George has been farming the home place which he purchased in 1950. This fall (1975) George sold his farm retaining the buildings and 40 acres where they will continue making their home. They have one son Donavon, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Bemidji State College. Donavon is presently teaching Junior High Industrial Arts in the public school at Melrose. As a side line job, he operated Don's Auto Sales which he purchased in Sept. 1973.

Bernadette married Wilhelm (Bill) Berg of Red Lake Falls on Oct. 18, 1946. They settled in Springfield, Oregon where Bill does construction work. They have one daughter, Susan, who is a dental technician in Springfield.

DEMANN FAMILY

A few years ago, accompanied by some of my grandchildren, I visited the farm which had been the homestead of my grandfather, William Demann, Sr. The farm buildings had been almost entirely demolished, but part of the old one-hundred-foot-long barn remained. We saw the huge oak logs which supported the hay loft, and we collected as mementos, some pieces of hand-carved trim and some square nails and wooden pegs which were used in its construction. The land is now a Wild Life Area under government management.

My grandparents, William and Maria Kluth Demann, came from Hanover, Germany to the United States soon after the Civil War. They settled in Rice County, Minnesota, where some relatives and other German people lived. My father, William C. Demann, was born there in 1867. His early education was bilingual and he spoke and read the German language equally as well as English.

In 1899, the Demanns and other families from near Northfield came northward, following the Mississippi as far as St. Croix, then took the Woods Trail to Polk County. They found this was the worst of the established trails. It involved rough ground, woods, bogs and streams to ford. The Demanns brought two wagons, five horses, three cows and all their possessions with them. They located on a homestead of eighty acres in what is now Lake Pleasant Township. Later they acquired another eighty acres as a "tree claim." On that land they planted fifteen acres of trees, mostly pine and spruce. Their first buildings were of sod and logs.

Since my father was an only child, he had to assume much of the hard work and management of the farm at an early age, and soon became joint-owner of the property with his father.

In 1888, my father married Hattie Wichterman, oldest daughter of Eward Wichterman. She had been born in New York State, near Niagara Falls. The family had moved to North Dakota and later to Lambert Township where they farmed. William and Hattie had four children: Charles, who died in infancy, Edythe, Rose and me (Myrtle).

My father ran a lumber camp near Gully for two winters and my mother did the cooking for the logging crew. They hauled lumber by wagon back to their farm to build the barn, two houses (one for my grandparents) and other farm buildings. Parts for a windmill were hauled from Crookston to erect a windmill on the barn. This gave power for pumping water, grinding grain and cutting fodder.

Farming in those days was, by necessity, diversified, since everything possible was raised or made at home. We had livestock, poultry and bees. I can remember my grandfather, without veil or protection, working among the bees and smoking an old corn cob pipe. My grandmother never did learn to speak English but I could understand by her tone of voice that she was scolding him. My grandparents died at the ages of 86 and 88.

My father was interested in education and the district school was built on a corner of our farm. He served on the school board for many years. In 1895, Red Lake County was established and he was elected first County Commissioner of the district. He was involved in the controversy with Thief River Falls concerning the location of the county seat. For sixteen years he continued to serve in the office.

In 1918 my parents found a renter for the farm and moved to Red Lake Falls where father built a home using oak lumber he had saved and seasoned himself. My mother died during the influenza epidemic in 1919. My sisters were both married and had families of their own so my father and I lived in that house for six years while I fin-



Wm. Demann and mother 1878

ished school. He then sold the house to R. J. Poirier Sr. and also sold the farm land which he owned in Garnes Township.

After spending a year in California and Oregon, he returned to his farm where he lived for the rest of his life. He had a well-equipped carpenter shop and a blacksmith shop where he made furniture and repaired machinery. He expanded his bee keeping to two hundred hives and made it a profitable business. His interest in politics and government was still active and he again served on school and township boards. He kept his membership in the Modern Woodmen of America. In 1943 at the age of 76, he died having lived to see and enjoy all of his ten grandchildren.

His daughters are still living: Edythe Schoenauer at Plummer, Rose Schehr at St. Paul and I, Myrtle Baril, in Red Lake Falls.

JOHN B. DEMARAIS

John B. Demarais was one of the first settlers in what today is Red Lake County. I really got to know my grandfather back in the spring of 1911. At that time in order to receive First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church, you had to go to religious instruction prior to the event. Because our family lived some five miles out in the country, I stayed with my grandfather John in Red Lake Falls, on the corner of Main and Chicago Streets. After my homework in the evenings, Grandpa J.B. would relate stories to me of some of his experiences during the Civil War, his returning home, and getting married to my grandmother whose name was Delina Magnon.

He had gone to Michigan for a short time, then left there and went west to St. Anthony Falls, now St. Paul. He worked there for a few years and met a man by the name of Pierre Bottineau and they became very good friends. Pierre Bottineau convinced Grandpa J.B. that there was a beautiful area close to the mouth of the Clearwater River which empties into Red Lake, and that the land there was very fertile and that there was plenty of timber around. The nearest place to get their supplies at that time was Crookston.

In the spring of 1876 grandfather left St. Anthony Falls to go north with his family, leaving in a covered wagon drawn by an ox and a horse, with his cow tied behind. At the time they had four children: Henry, John, Mary, and my father, Phillip, who was eighteen months old, born November 27, 1874. Father lived all his life in Red Lake County, passing away October 12, 1952. He married Anna Vaudrin, my mother, who is 96 and still residing in Red Lake Falls.

Grandfather related quite a few hectic experiences that he had, such as fording rivers and roads. One experience that interested me very much was the account of their trek north. The mosquitoes were so bad that at night when they camped, their cow broke loose and started back on the trail going south. Well, as grandpa told me they had to have their cow, as they had to have milk for the youngsters, so he took his horse and back-trailed for two days until he found the animal. Then he returned to his family and proceeded to Crookston just as their supplies were getting low. They arrived at Crookston and camped there for a few days and replenished their food stock, then followed a single wagon track to what today is Red Lake Falls. Here in the spring of 1876 he was welcomed by Piere Bottineau and treated to a nice sturgeon supper.

There were still some Indians in the area but grandpa said they were friendly, but sometimes grandpa found things missing.

He then acquired the farm one mile south of town which today, I think, belongs to Clarence Vatthauer. They lived there for some time, then he sold out and moved on what was the F. B. Dailey place, now owned also by one of the Vatthauers. They lived there quite some time then he sold out and moved into Red Lake Falls. He invested in the store building where Max Ingber had his store, finally selling the building to Max.

My grandfather was a very good man. He may not have acquired much wealth measured in dollars and cents, but he raised a big family of thirteen children: Henry, John, Mary, Phillip, Delia, William, Medore, Pearl, Louis, Arthur, and Emily (two died in infancy). This family all contributed their time and efforts in helping build the community to what it is today. Of the above family only two survive, Arthur and Emily (Lizotte) who are well known in Red Lake Falls. Many will remember Henry who drove a horse and buggy from Grand Rapids to Red Lake Falls in 1951.

PHILIP DEMARAIS

Philip Demarais, son of pioneer, John B. Demarais, married Vdelia LaPlante in 1894. Two children born to them, George and Agnes, were left motherless when Vdelia died from pneumonia in 1901.

In October of 1902, Philip married Anna Vaudrin of Gentilly whom he had met at a fair in Winnipeg. Anna was born in August of 1879 in Canada and lived at home with her father helping him care for her six sisters and five brothers following their mother's death.

Philip and Anna lived and farmed in Lake Pleasant Township. Anna was a hard worker. Besides caring for her family, she sewed their clothing, made soap and cared for a large garden. She also helped with the field work and hauled water for the cattle.

Philip loved to dance and would often call the squares at neighborhood dances. He played the mouth harp and could even bang a good rhythm on a common dish pan. Anna loved to sing and would entertain her family by singing.

Philip and Anna raised their family of eleven children: George, Agnes (Theroux), Walter, Joseph, Dulice (St. Marie), Leah (Lemieux), Omer, Edna (Rossignol), Willard, Wilmae (Ragsdale) and Ray. They also raised Josephine Vaudrin (Monclam) and Edward Vaudrin, Anna's brother and sister.

Philip Demarais died on October 19, 1952 and Anna Demarais has made her home at Hillcrest Nursing Home since 1965.

GEORGE DEMARAIS

George Demarais, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Demarais, was born in 1896 in Gervais Township, Red Lake County. His mother, the former Adele LaPlante, died when he was 5½ years old. In 1902 his father married Anna Vaudrin and they lived on a farm on Badger Creek.

George Demarais married Marie Theroux in 1919. She was a daughter of the Louis Therouxes who had a farm near Plummer. In 1922, George and Marie purchased their farm north of Red Lake Falls and lived there until 1951 when they moved to Seattle, Washington. After 7½ years they returned to Red Lake Falls. They bought a home and are now retired.

Six children were born to them; three girls died in infancy, and the only son died at the age of 20. Two daughters are living, Mrs. Fred (Harriet) Pfeiffer of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and Mrs. Antone (LaVerne) Ritchie of Seattle, Washington.

T. M. DENNISTOUN FAMILY

T. M. Dennistoun of Lambert Township, Red Lake County, Brooks, was born in Scotland, April 22, 1884.

He came to the United States and to Redwood County in southern Minnesota in 1906 and later purchased the land in Red Lake County in 1915, where he lived for fifty years.

T. M. Dennistoun has been active in Civic and Community affairs. He was a member and director of Brooks Livestock Cooperative Shipping Association during the time that livestock moved to market by rail, assessor of Lambert Township for nine years, director on the School Board of old Rural School District 103, county grain inspector under the AAA farm program in the late 1930's, active in Farm Bureau since its beginning in Red Lake County in 1930, and president for twenty years. He was Lambert Township clerk for the past twelve years, and an agent for Waseca Mutual Insurance Company for over thirty years and an agent for Bray Insurance Company for about twenty years. T. M. Dennistoun helped organize the REA in the County and assisted with the County Fair and 4-H promotion work for many years.

T. M. Dennistoun was a lifelong member of Presbyterian Church, member of the Session since 1924, and ordained as an Elder in 1944. He was a Sunday School teacher and a superintendent for twenty-five years and a delegate to the church General Assembly at Indianapolis in 1963.

T. M. Dennistoun married Ethel H. Striegl in 1917. He made two visits back to Scotland, one in 1912 and one in 1963. When he revisited his homeland he was accompanied by his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Dennistoun were chosen outstanding farm couple from Red Lake County at the Crookston Winter Shows in 1963.

Mrs. Dennistoun has been active in 4-H work for over twenty years and she helped to organize 4-H in the County. She served on the County Extension Committee for several years and is still active in the local Homemakers Club. She also served as organist of the church.

One son, Dr. Rollin M. Dennistoun, married the former Edna A. Hoppe of Crookston. His present position is Director of Division of Agronomy Services, Minnesota Department of Agriculture. As administrator of all of the numerous related, rules, and regulations for the State. His Doctorate degree is in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Education.

There are two grandsons; Rollin James, a student at the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology, majoring in Electrical Engineering, and Robert Thomas, a student in Rosemount High School.

T. M. Dennistoun presently owns eighty acres in Lambert Township, at one time he farmed over 400 acres. He served as a local agent for absentee landowners for over thirty years and is still doing this on a limited basis. Tom and Ethel are both natural leaders and they both contribute a great deal to the county and to our lives.

PIERRE DEROSIER

Pierre and Marie Derosier had been married ten years before they decided to leave France and emigrate to Canada, lured by one or more of the many dreams that affected and afflicted the many immigrants from the "Old World."

Pierre had been a gardener by trade and his name "Des Rosiers" literally meant "a gardener of roses." Little is known whether he followed his trade in Canada, but we know they lived on a small farm in the province of Quebec. We also know they suffered the many hardships presented by weather, poverty, loneliness and the occasional feelings of failure.

The family size increased from the three children who had been born in France to nine altogether. As the boys reached manhood, they left the small farm in search of fulfilling their own dreams of success. The third son, Bruno, my grandfather, left home at the age of nineteen, accepting various odd jobs around Quebec. During this time, he met and married Sophia Provicouell. With the increased responsibilities of a wife, he decided to move to the state of Michigan, where laborers were needed to work in the sawmills.

They spent the next eighteen years there, earning a dollar a day. During this time their family size had been increased by six children.

Lure of owning property through the Homestead Act persuaded Bruno and Sophia to move their family to the wilderness of Minnesota.

After traveling as far as Crookston on the railroad, they then traveled east by oxcart, presumably following the Red Lake and the Clearwater Rivers until they reached their destination two miles west of Terrebonne. Here, in Terrebonne Township, they bought the Homestead Rights and some crude machinery from a previous farmer who had become discouraged and decided to move on. This took place about 1880 or 1881.

The six children who had been born in Michigan died not long after the move as a result of an epidemic of diphtheria. Ferment was the first child to be born in the new log home, three months after their arrival. He, and five more brothers and one sister reached adulthood here. Clearing and tilling the land, each achieved the degree of independence needed to persuade them to pursue their own destiny.

Several things of interest took place during this span of time: Bruno voted for Abraham Lincoln during his bid for the presidency; the land grant made possible through the Homestead Act was personally signed by President Harrison.

Ferment had as his occasional playmates, Indian children whose families used to camp on the banks of the farm's little creek, as they made their yearly pilgrimage from one reservation to another. The family would be awakened one early fall morning by the sight of a number of Indian children peering in at them through the few windows of their log home. This continued for a number of years. The last few years of Indian travel saw them helping the family shock and thresh the grain.

Although verbal communication with the Indian children was not possible, Ferment and a few brothers and his sister did learn from them how to identify various herbs and roots, and used them for medical purposes.

Prior to his death, Bruno turned over the farm leadership to Ferment even before Ferment's marriage to Evelyn Paradis. He efficiently managed and expanded the farm operations with the aid of his brothers, Dan, Arthur, Dolphis and Joseph. Two brothers, Dan and Vital, later sold their farms to Ferment, and the farm operation grew larger. The work was completed through a combined effort — Ferment's five sons. Landwise, it reached a grand total of 1200 acres. These acres were used to support a high-grade dairy herd, purebred Chester White hogs, certified seed potatoes, and grain farming.

Around 1925, he and a few neighbors grew sugar beets for several years. Prior to his death in 1955, Ferment was a very progressive farmer. Among other things, he helped establish the Red River Valley Winter Shows, was instrumental in selling farmers on the idea of rural electrification when REA was first introduced, and was also on the Board of Directors of the Red River Valley Research Potato Growers Association located in East Grand Forks.

His wife, Evelyn, and two daughters moved from the farm to make their home in Red Lake Falls. Evelyn filled her eighteen years of retirement with visiting her seven children and their families. Many of her grandchildren learned her techniques of knitting and crocheting during her stays. Evelyn passed away on September 21, (her 79th birthday) 1973.

Louis, the eldest child, married Dora Reopelle and they have since resided in Gervais Township. Louis is a Master B. Electrician for Detroiter Mobile Homes Incorporated, and has a small electrical business of his own. Paul, deceased in 1973, had lived in Lodi, California, and had retired from a civil service job just prior to his early death at the age of fifty-two. His wife, Marcrina Delage, and two of the children still live on a five-acre farm near Lodi. One daughter is married, and two of his sons preceded him in death. Ernest, and his wife Ella Mae Derosier, live in Red Lake Falls where he is employed by the city. Maurice and his wife, Sybil St. Ives, own and operate a small grain and hog farm in Lake Pleasant Township. Madonna and her husband, James Balmer, reside in Tacoma, Washington. Jim works for the city of Tacoma. Donna is well-known throughout the county for her many years of service as office manager of the ASC Office. They are the parents of one daughter and two sons. George still lives on the home farm and now teaches school at Washington Elementary in the Red Lake Falls Public School System. He and his wife, JoAnn Schmitz, are the parents of five sons. Lucille and her husband, Joseph Biever, reside in Spanaway, Washington, where he is doing engineering work for the state highway department. Lucille had worked for Garden Valley Telephone and at the Red Lake County State Bank. They are the parents of one daughter and two sons.

ERNEST DEROSIER

Ernest Derosier was born in 1923 on a farm in Terrebonne, the son of Ferment Derosier and Evelyn Paradis. As a boy he attended school in District No. 81 and after graduation, the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. As a young man he remained on the family farm helping his father and brothers run the farm and care for a large dairy herd.

Ella Mae Desrosier was born January 12, 1929 on a farm near Beltrami in Polk County, the daughter of Francis Dersoier and Alvina Sauve. A history of the origin of the Sauve family may also be found elsewhere in this book. As a young girl, she attended grade school in District No. 253 Polk County. She also attended high school at St. Joseph's Academy at Crookston where she graduated in 1947. She then worked for the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Ernest and Ella Mae were united in marriage on June 22, 1948 at Crookston. They then moved to a farm just a few miles from where her mother was raised. They continued to work with the family until 1956 when they left the farm due to ill health and the loss of a fine dairy herd.

In 1956 they moved to Grafton, North Dakota where Ernest was employed at the Grafton State School for the Retarded. While there, Ella Mae returned to work for the Northwestern Bell Phone Company. They returned to Red Lake Falls in 1960 to make their home where they now reside on Main Street. Ernest worked as a bulk truck driver for a local oil company till 1973. He is at present employed by the City of Red Lake Falls. Ella Mae is the librarian for the Red Lake Falls Public Library, a branch of Northwest Regional Library.

To this union were born two children, Mary Rose at Grafton, North Dakota in 1958 and Wayne at Red Lake Falls in 1960. Both are attending school at Lafayette, where they are active in many school activities.

The family attend St. Joseph's Church where Ernest is a member of the choir and the parish council.

GEORGE DEROSIER AND JOANN SCHMITZ DEROSIER

George Derosier is the youngest son of Ferment Derosier and Evelyn Paradis of Terrebonne Township. George attended grade school in a two-room country school "Beau Gerlot" (which means beautiful bell) Dist. 81, and high school at St. John's Collegeville, graduating in 1949.

JoAnne is the eldest daughter of Bernard "Ben" Schmitz and Elizabeth Knott of Red Lake Falls Township. She attended grade school in Dist. 167, the "Busy Bee" school, a one-room country school, and graduated from Lafayette high school in 1949. Both JoAnn and George attended Moorhead and Bemidji State Colleges.

After their marriage in 1954 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls, they made their home on the Derosier farmstead which was settled in 1881 by George's grandfather, Bruno Derosier. They were engaged in grain farming and raised dairy cattle and hogs for a number of years. For the past nine years, George has taught school, and is presently teaching at Washington Elementary in Red Lake Falls. JoAnn has taught in several rural schools and is presently teaching at St.



Back: George, Dan, Tim and JoAnn. *Front:* Terry, Greg and Jaime.

Joseph's Parochial School where their five sons have been students.

The Derosier family is very active in many aspects of church work for the parish of St. Anthony in Terrebonne.

Gregory, the eldest son, is a sophomore at Moorhead State University working toward a degree in mechanical engineering. Daniel, a freshman at the University in Minneapolis is studying industrial engineering. Timothy is a junior at Lafayette high school. Terence and Jaime are seventh and fifth graders respectively at St. Joseph's School.

LOUIS DEROSIER AND DORA REOPELLE DEROSIER

Louis Derosier, the eldest son of Ferment Derosier and Evelyn Paradis, was born in Red Lake County in 1918. He married Dora Reopelle in 1943 and continued to farm with his dad until 1955. Dora and Louis moved to their present home in November of 1943. He has since curtailed his farming operations and rents out his land. He is now an electrician and works for Detroiter Mobile Homes Inc. and has his own small electrical business. Dora also is employed by Detroiter.

Their oldest son, Robert, was born in 1945. He graduated from LaFayette High School and served in the army for several years. Robert married Brenda Cardinel in 1965 and they are making their home in Belzoni, Mississippi. They have two daughters, Marsha and Cassandra.

In 1951, Nancy was born. After graduating from LaFayette and attending Thief River Falls Vocational-Technical School, she became the bride of Paul Troska in 1970. They have two sons, Chad and Marc. The family is now living and operating a grain and hog farm near Goodridge.

Karen was born in 1954. After graduating from LaFayette she was married to Don Konickson in 1973. They have one daughter, Wendy, and live on a farm near Plummer.

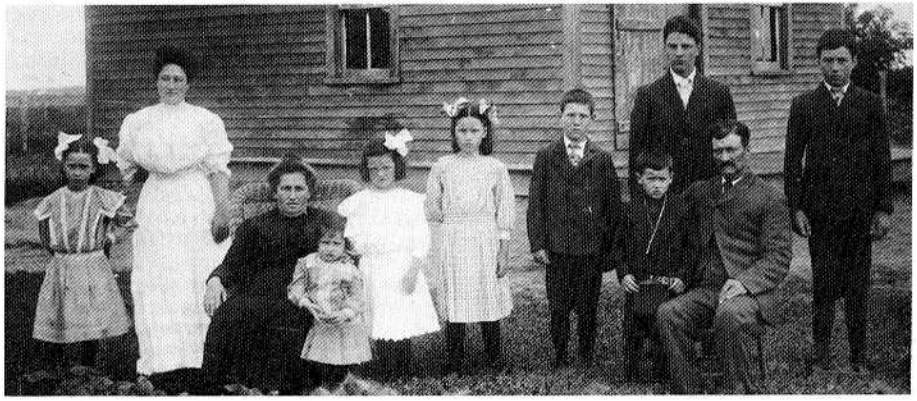
Douglas Ferment was born in 1956. He graduated from LaFayette in 1974 and attended one year of technical school in Crookston. He is presently living at home and is working at Robertson Lumber Co. in Red Lake Falls.

MAURICE AND SYBIL DEROSIER

Maurice and Sybil Derosier are both natives of Red Lake County where their parents were engaged in farming in the Terrebonne area. Maurice, son of Ferment and Evelyn Paradis Derosier, was born in 1924 on the farm homesteaded by his grandparents, Bruno and Sophie Derosier,



Back: Lawrence, John, Maurice and Michael. *Front:* Susan, Sybil, Janet and Lucy.



Gideon Dessellier Family

in 1881. He attended Dist. #81 Beaugerlot school for grades 1-8 and Lafayette for his high school years from 1940-44. There he enjoyed playing his favorite sport, football, and recalls his coach, Russell Monson who was a big inspiration for him. After high school he joined the Navy and served for two years during World War II, some time of which was spent in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. After discharge in 1946, he apprenticed in the electrical vocation with the R & D Electric in Red Lake Falls, and then went on to electrical work at NDSU in Fargo, N. Dak.

In 1949, he married Sybil St. Ives, daughter of Eli and Edna Pouliot St. Ives, born in 1929 and also raised on a farm in Terrebonne township. She attended Dist. #81 Beaugerlot school for grades 1-8 and Lafayette for her high school years, graduating in 1945. She attended business college in Fargo and was employed there in the secretarial field before her marriage. They have six children: Michael, graduate of Univ. of Minn. Morris, married Linda Dingley, has one daughter, Amy, is a salesman and lives in Minneapolis; Lawrence, married Jeanette Trudeau, has one daughter, Tracy and works at St. Joseph's School in Red Lake Falls, living in Lake Pleasant township near parents' farm; Susan, who is a nursing student at Rochester Community College; Lucy, a junior at Lafayette High School, and John and Janet attending St. Joseph's School.

Moving from Fargo in 1952, they purchased a farm from T. J. Morinville in Lake Pleasant township in Red Lake County and still reside there. Over the years on the farm, they have had dairy and hogs and grain crops. Maurice is also a licensed electrician and has worked on many construction projects in the area, as well as in maintenance at American Crystal Sugar plant in Crookston.

The Derosiers are members of St. Joseph's Church in Red Lake Falls and active in the affairs of the community and service organizations.

ANDREW DEROSIER

Andrew Robert Derosier was born February 18, 1946 in Crookston, Minnesota to Leo J. Derosier and the late Feleca Gagnon Derosier. He lived with his parents near Terrebonne, Minnesota where his father was engaged in farming. He attended country school near Terrebonne, Minnesota for six years and graduated from Lafayette High School in 1964. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in August of 1968. After his discharge from the United States Air Force, he moved to Minneapolis where he started working for the Northwest Unit Investment Company.

Arlyce Weiss Derosier was born July 31, 1950 in Crookston to Richard Weiss and Ellen Schultz Weiss. She lived with her parents near Dorothy where her father is engaged in dairy farming. Arlyce attended one year at a country school and then attended Washington Elementary School. She graduated from Lafayette High School in 1968. After graduation, she worked at St. John's Hospital in Red Lake Falls for one year. She then moved to Minneapolis where she began working at the University of Minnesota Hospitals as a Medical Transcriptionist, and worked there for four years.

Andy and Arlyce were married on October 9, 1971 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. They are currently making their home in Bloomington. Andy is still employed by the Northwest Unit Investment Company as a maintenance supervisor. They have one son, Jamie Andrew, born September 13, 1974.

ALPHONSE DEROUIN

Alphonse Derouin came to this area with his parents, Remi and Hermine Derouin and their family, to establish a homestead in 1868. On February 21, 1898, he married Aurelie LaLiberte at Louisville (Huot), and they lived on the homestead in Louisville Township. Alphonse and Aurelie had ten children: Stephen, Theophile, Gilbert, Francis, Louie, Ena, Olive, Lawrence, Jeanne and John. Theophile died in infancy. Also deceased are Stephen, Francis, Olive and Lawrence. Gilbert and Louie live in Torrance, California. Gilbert has three sons and Francis had two sons and three daughters. Lawrence had one son and two daughters. Jeanne, Mrs. Aime Leblanc, lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and has one son and four daughters. John is married to Eleanor Cardinal and lives in Red Lake Falls. They have four sons and one daughter.

JOHN DEROUIN

John Derouin, son of Alphonse and Aurelie Derouin, and Eleanore Cardinal, daughter of Arthur and Alice Cardinal, were married on May 1, 1952. The Derouins are the parents of six children: Thomas, Daniel, Judy, Mary (died in infancy), Raymond and Charles.

John worked on road construction and was a drag line operator in North Dakota. In 1959 the family moved back to Red Lake Falls. John worked for Longtin Construction for a few years; then he bought the Longtin Company and is continuing in the construction business.

GEDEON DESSELLIER

Gedeon Dessellier was born in Canada, January 19, 1862 and came to Lambert Township in Red Lake County as a young man.

In 1892 he married Malvina Asselin, daughter of Cyprien Asselin. She was born May 18, 1870.

Gedeon and Malvina established a homestead in Lambert township where they lived on the farm the rest of their lives. Gedeon died in April 1925 and Malvina died in October of 1960.

Mr. and Mrs. Dessellier were the parents of 12 children:

Albina (Mrs. Damas Dufault),
Eugene,
Ludger,
Moseph,
Andrew,
Rosina (Mrs. Leo Longtin),
Mary (Mrs. Alex Buird),
Angeline (Mrs. Adolph Parent),
Cyprien,
Celina (Mrs. Philip Gauthier) (Mrs. Leo Deschene),
Josephine, and
Delia (Mrs. George Gross).

JOHN DEUTSCHMAN

John Duetschman (1873-1920) was born in Krain, Austria and came to the United States at the age of nineteen in 1892. From Ellis Island, New York he came directly to Red Lake Falls.

John at first worked for Joe Schmitz, Sr. on the farm to learn the German and English languages. Then he worked for Matt Skala on his farm and in the Skala Sample Room, the saloon business he eventually purchased from Mr. Skala. Later he built the present brick structure on the Northside that bears his name.

On September 12, 1904, John married Martha Adler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adler. Four children were born: Richard, deceased; Margaret (Broderick) of Minneapolis; Walter in Red Lake Falls, and Rose in Austin.

Mr. Deutschman was a prominent businessman on the Northside of Red Lake Falls until he died in the flu epidemic of 1920.

BERTHELINE AND MAMIE DESOTELL DONDONEAU

Bertheline (Bert) Dondoneau, the son of Louis and Julie Brule Dondoneau, was born in 1877 at Lafontaine, Quebec, Canada. His parents migrated to Minnesota, settling on a farm in the vicinity of Terrebonne. Bert was the youngest of six children, three boys and three girls.

In 1904 Bert was married to Mamie Desotell, daughter of Henry Desotell Sr. and Celena Pellrene.

Bert and Mamie farmed in Terrebonne township until 1919 when they purchased a farm in Gervais township six miles east of Red Lake Falls. They lived there for several years before moving into Red Lake Falls where they built a house.

Later they built a home on the farm of George Reopelle, their son-in-law, and were living there at the time of Bert's death in 1957. Mamie continued to stay there until 1974 when she was taken to Hillcrest Nursing Home where she died a few months later.

Bert and Mamie Dondoneau were the parents of five children: Steven who is deceased; Mrs. Alice LaFave of Buffalo, Minnesota; Leah (Mrs. Louis Perra of Maple Lake, Minnesota; Emma (Mrs. Omer LaCoursiere); and Cora (Mrs. George Reopelle) both of Red Lake Falls.

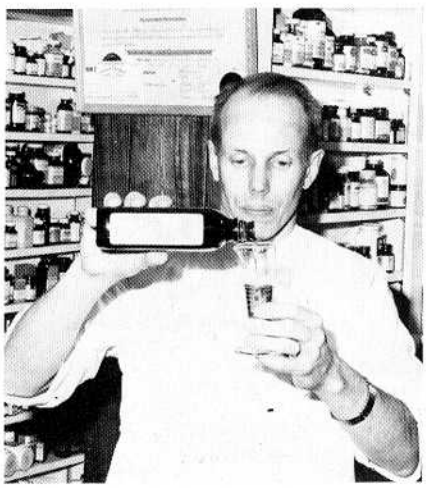
ROBERT AND DOROTHYMAE DODDS

The Robert Dodds family originally came to Red Lake Falls in February 1948, when Bob came to work at Lane's Drug Store until August 1948 when he left to attend the University of Minnesota Pharmacy School. He returned in 1954 as a registered pharmacist and owner of Dodds Drug, formerly Lane Drug. He was accompanied by Dorothymae, his wife, whom he married in 1948. Laura Leslie (Lori) joined the family in 1957 and Michael Robert (Mike) in 1960.

The family has undertaken two building projects. In 1960 a home was built at 107 Seventh Street NorthEast. The architect was Herb Fritz, Jr. of Spring Green, Wisconsin, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. An addition was completed in 1975.

In 1967 the store was doubled in size from the original twenty-five by eighty, when the Max Ingber building was purchased. The project united the two buildings by surviving a steel-loaders' strike in Minneapolis, delays in delivery, and a Christmas shopping season, with final completion on December 23. The store was carpeted in bright red and gold and paneled in walnut with all new fixtures. A large and popular gift department was added and named "The Gallery."

The Dodds family has taken active part in the development of the city of Red Lake Falls. Bob served as city alderman for four years, is president of the Red Lake Falls Development Corporation, and a member of the Medical Services Committee, Jaycees, Toastmaster, Golf Club and the Commercial Club. Dorothy has served the Girl Scouts as Neighborhood Chairman, leader and consultant. She was elected to the Board of Directors for Northwest Minnesota and Pine to Prairie Girl Scouts Councils serving as Program Services Chairman, Nomination Chairman and Vice-President. She organized the Red Carpet Welcome Service, a project of the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club. Lori graduated from Lafayette High School in 1975 as an honor student and was chosen as the recipient of the Robert J. Poirier music award. The Jaycees selected her as talent winner and crowned her queen for the 1975 Snofest. She reigned during the year as Miss Red Lake Falls representing the city in a number of parades and celebrations. Lori also served as church organist and choir director at the Presbyterian Church in 1975 before enrolling at Moorhead State University as a music major. Mike, a student at Lafayette High School, has been active in sports.



Robert Dodds, pharmacist

BENJAMIN DOLBEC

A life crowded with the adventures of war and early days is included in a resume of Benjamin Dolbec, Indian and Civil War veteran, and resident of the township of Louisville for some forty years. He was born in Quebec, Canada, August 25, 1843 and left home at the age of fifteen with an expedition of the Hudson Bay Co. from Fort William. He traveled by canoe through the Rainy River and Lake of the Woods to Winnipeg and then up the Saskatchewan River to Fort Laquste, now Edmonton, Canada. Here he spent some three years driving dog teams for the company.

Mr. Dolbec later came to the United States by boat, coming up the Red River. At St. Paul he enlisted in the army at the outbreak of the Civil War and assisted at the Battle of Chattanooga in November 1963. Later he enlisted as a soldier in the Mounted Rangers and was probably one of the last survivors who escorted Governor Sibley to the Old Pembina Trail Crossing, which is now Huot, and where on October 2, 1863, a treaty was signed with the Chippewa Indians.

In 1867 Mr. Dolbec took a homestead near the crossroads in Red Lake County where the treaty was signed. He was married to Mary Huot, daughter of pioneer settler, Louis Huot. She died about 1908 and he moved to the Old Soldiers' Home, Fort Snelling, where he was to spend the next twenty years until his death on November 23, 1928. Funeral services were held from St. Dorothy's Church at Dorothy and he was buried in the local cemetery.



Joseph Draeger Family

JOE DRAEGER AND LENA ECKSTEIN DRAEGER

Joseph H. Draeger came to Red Lake Falls in 1897 with his parents, the Michael Draegers, when he was only sixteen years. The family soon moved to a farm near Wylie, and Michael purchased and sold cattle.

On November 22, 1911 Joseph married Caroline (Lena) Eckstein, daughter of the Nick Ecksteins of Wylie. The couple moved to Badger where he operated a dray line until 1941. That was when the trains lost business to the trucking industry. That year they moved to Red Lake Falls and subsequently in 1950 to a farm west of Plummer. For a short period in 1939, the Draegers operated the Grill in Roseau and Joe took a job on the Alcan Highway. They also lived

with her mother several years in the brick Eckstein house on Champagne Avenue. During that period, Mrs. Nick Eckstein needed care until her death in 1949.

The Draegers had three children, one son, Jack, and two daughters, Helena (Bennett) and Leona (Mrs. John Seibel). Joe Draeger died in 1970 and Lena and her son remain on the Plummer farm.

Lena Draeger had been a member of the Royal Neighbors of America since 1923 and is active making quilts as a hobby.

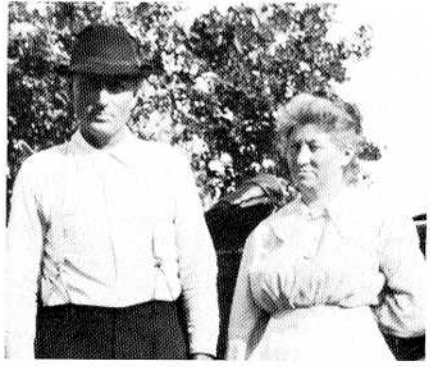
THE DREES FAMILY

Several Drees families came from Germany to Redwood County in Southern Minnesota in the late 1800's.

Lena Drees married Lambert Rawerts and came to Red Lake Falls about 1910. They were followed by Nick Drees who came north with a team of horses and a wagon and settled in Red Lake Falls. He was a well driller. He married Minnie Schultz and lived in the house behind Mildred Paul's that burned in the fall of 1975. After a time, they moved to a farm near Dorothy where the Chester Beyer family now lives. Minnie is now a resident of Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Then John Drees moved here. They shipped all their belongings and stock by train to Dorothy and settled on a farm south of Dorothy where the Donald Boutain family lives. John Drees had four sons: Christ, Matt, Pete, and Hillie. Pete married Elsie Miller from Red Lake Falls. They live in Grand Forks. He worked for many years for Shaw Poster Co. (billboards). Matt Drees, known as young Matt, was an entertainer. He put on road shows that traveled all over the country. He used people from Dorothy, relatives, and neighbors for his characters. (Pete Drees was in his shows.) He was also a great wrestler. He had four daughters. Gen married Henry LaCourse. They farmed and lived east of Red Lake Falls, just north of St. Joseph's Cemetery, then moved to Shakopee. "Bumie" married Herman Boutain. They lived north of Dorothy and then moved to Shakopee, also. Roselie married Ralph Miller from Red Lake Falls and Gloria married a Navy man.

Matt, too, shipped his stock by train to Dorothy to the farm that Arley Schultz owns and farms, west of the Ray Zutz farm. With his son, Pete, Matt drove up in a



Lambert and Lena Rewertz

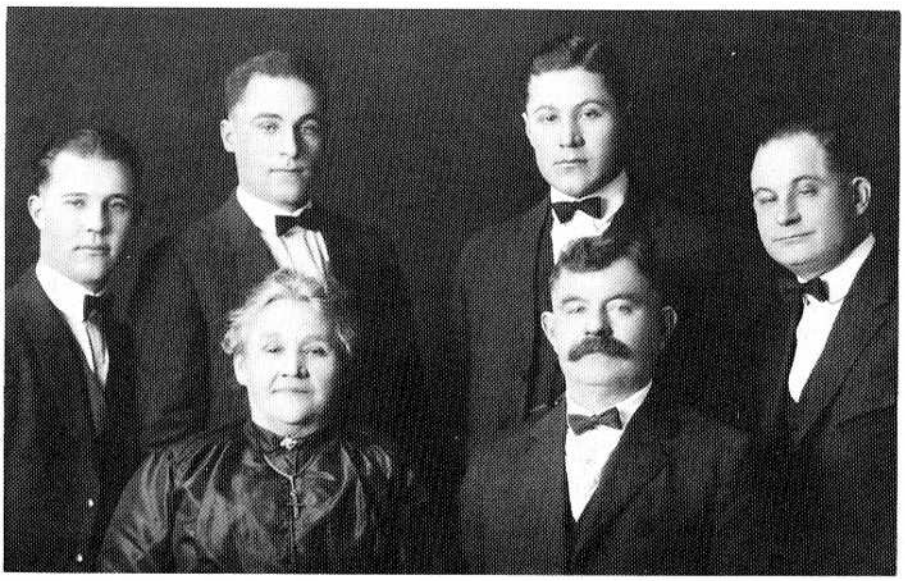
Model T Ford. It took them two days, trying to figure out the correct route. They stayed over night at Moorhead. Matt's other children were Nickie, Mary, Hillie, Willie, Elizabeth, Chris, Gertrude, and Margaret. Pete Drees married Elsie Barrette. They had two children — Darlene and Marvin. Darlene married Larry Bottom and they live in Thief River Falls. Marvin is married and now stationed in San Diego where he is a Commander in the Navy. When Pete was first married, they lived in Dorothy where he worked for James Hance. Then they moved to the farm near Dorothy where they lived until they moved to Red Lake Falls in 1946. They still live on Third Street.

Nickie Drees married Pearl Ortloff of St. Hilaire. They had one daughter and two sons. They owned and operated the cafe in St. Hilaire for many years. Nickie is still busy summers working on a dragline. Their daughter, Mary, married and lived out West. She had two children, John and Julie Ann. Mary passed away in 1943 so John and Julie Ann grew up at Grandpa and Grandma's house and at Uncle Pete and Aunt Elsie's.

Hillie Drees married Agnes Bugge of Thief River Falls where they reside today. Hillie is a "cat-skinner." He has two machines and is always busy. He also farmed for many years.

William Drees has always lived in St. Paul. He sells papers on 7th and Wabasha. He has been on this corner for many years.

Gertrude Drees married Phil Doran and lives in St. Paul. They have one son, Duane.



Mr. and Mrs. John Drees and four sons

Elizabeth married Ray Rose and they had one son, Gary. Ray passed away in 1964. They lived on Third Street in the house Art Guillemettes now live in. In 1968, Betty married Clifford Orvik and they now live on the North Side on 6th Street.

Chris married Mary Whalen. They have one daughter, Gemma. When Mary's sister, Anne Nordby, passed away, Chris and Mary raised five Nordbys: Tiffany, Jennifer, Laurie, Joel, and David. Chris worked for the R & D Electric and also was self-employed for many years. He then went to work at Arctic Cat and worked there until 1972 when he was injured at work. He has had a dance band for many years and has been playing for dances since about 1934. He served in World War II in Germany and was the company bugler. He is now working at the Murphy Cafe on the North Side. They live on Main Street in the house which was known as the Boughton, Sr. house.

Margaret married John Murphy. They had three children, Marcella, Jim, and Benny. Margaret passed away in October, 1975.

All the Matt Drees family was in the band at Red Lake Falls under the direction of Bandmaster Smith from Crookston. Pete played the trombone (he also plays piano); Hillie, bass horn; Mary, clarinet; Elizabeth, baritone; Chris, cornet; Nickie, trumpet; Gertrude, french horn. Matt Drees, the father, played any musical instrument. Mrs. Matt Drees played the organ in church and she, too, played the piano. The Drees Band played and traveled all over the country. They played for celebrations and many picnics.

After Matt Drees and his wife left the farm, they went to Rush Lake in Ottertail County and operated a resort. When the resort was sold, Matt and Annie came to Red Lake Falls and spent the remainder of their lives with the Pete Drees family on Third Street. He died in 1949 and his wife in 1967.

Pete Drees and Ray Rose formed the R & D Electric Company and built the building where the Hartz Store is today. They had approximately twenty-five employees busy wiring and running the shop. This was when many places had to be re-wired. Later, they purchased what was the old VFW Club and operated it as the R & D Cafe. Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy came from the Cities and they took over the cafe, but they had to move to the North Side because Standard Oil Co. bought the property. Then the R & D dissolved and Pete Drees, in 1951, became state inspector for six and one-half northwestern counties, a position which he still holds.

JESSE S. DUCHAMP

Jesse DuChamp and Gunhild "Bunny" Nesland were married February 23, 1946 and came to Plummer in September, 1947 from Thief River Falls. He and his brother Wallace purchased the Torstveit Grocery Store and operated it together until Jesse sold his part ownership of the store to Wallace in 1965, and took over managership of the newly-built Oklee Recreation Center, a bowling establishment and restaurant.

In January of 1967, Jesse became the Red Lake County Assessor, being appointed to fill the vacancy left by the death of Gordon Hofuis. He still holds the position today.

During this time, the family has resided in Plummer. Jesse and Bunny have five children. Leonard was born in 1948, and is married to the former Mutsuko Igichi of

Karatsu, Japan. They reside in California, where he is stationed with the U.S. Navy at Moffett Field, California.

Jana was born in 1950, is married to Mark Granum of Plummer. Mark is engaged in farming at Trail, Minnesota. Jana is employed at the Northwest Hospital in Thief River Falls as an L.P.N. nurse.

James was born in 1952, and is married to Deborah Vettleson of Trail, Minnesota. They have one son, Christopher. James is employed as a Patrol Maintenance operator for the County of Red Lake.

Candice was born in 1958 and Cathy was born in 1961. Both are at home, students in the Plummer schools.

Jesse was the Commander of the Plummer American Legion Post #628 in 1948-1949. He has also served as president of the Plummer Commercial Club, on the City Council, as Justice of the Peace, on the Immanuel Lutheran Church council, was a fireman for several years, and held other offices in different organizations. He is chairman of the Region 8 County Assessors, and has attained his Certification and accreditation on appraising from the State Board.

"Bunny" is a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #628 and served as president in 1960-1961. In 1976 she started a two-year term as president of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Women. She has served several offices in the ladies aid. She has been very active in church work in the Immanuel Lutheran Women's organizations since coming to Plummer.

Although we lived in Red Lake County for only twenty-nine years, we feel we are Red Lake County natives. All of our children were born and raised in Red Lake County and we know what a wonderful area it is to raise a family. We are very happy and proud to say we are from Plummer and from Red Lake County.

MOSE DUCHARME

My father, Mose Ducharme (B. 1858 — D. 1946), emigrated from Panatang, Canada with his parents around 1878 and settled on a quarter section in the Lake Pleasant Township of Red Lake County known as Badger Creek. Mose married Felicite Robillard (B. 1864 — D. 1943) in 1880. Mose's parents, J. B. and Rose Ducharme, lived with Mose and Felicite until their deaths.

Mose farmed until 1903 when he and his family moved to Perrault Station where he was a grain buyer and elevator operator. In 1920 he moved to Red Lake Falls and there he also managed a grain elevator located near the Northern Pacific Depot.

Mose was appointed Town Clerk of the Lake Pleasant Township and held that office for approximately forty years. I remember the meetings so well. They were conducted in our home, probably four times a year, and it was really considered a special event. Mother always fixed a special dinner for the men which they always enjoyed. The other officers were: Sam Luxemburg, Paul Schoenauer, Napoleon Delorme and Joseph Page. While dad was town clerk he registered all the births in the township in a ledger which he handed down to Fred Purath who succeeded him.

Felicite gave birth to twelve children; five who died before the age of five. Of the seven surviving children, four are still living: Myself, Mrs. Victoria Arel, my brothers, Dave, Leo and Tom Ducharme. Dave and I make our home in Lynwood, California, Tom lives in Seattle and Leo lives in Duluth.

We were members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. The children attended the school at Perrault Station and I attended St. Joseph's Parochial School in Red Lake Falls, where I graduated. While attending school in town, I stayed with my cousins, George and Ann Cyr. Their home was the old Delage place, which is where the new St. Joseph's school is now located.

Dad and my four brothers were named Woodmen of America, which was an honor for them and the family.

I moved to California in 1944 and this has been my home since. I have one nephew remaining in Red Lake Falls, Jerome Ducharme.

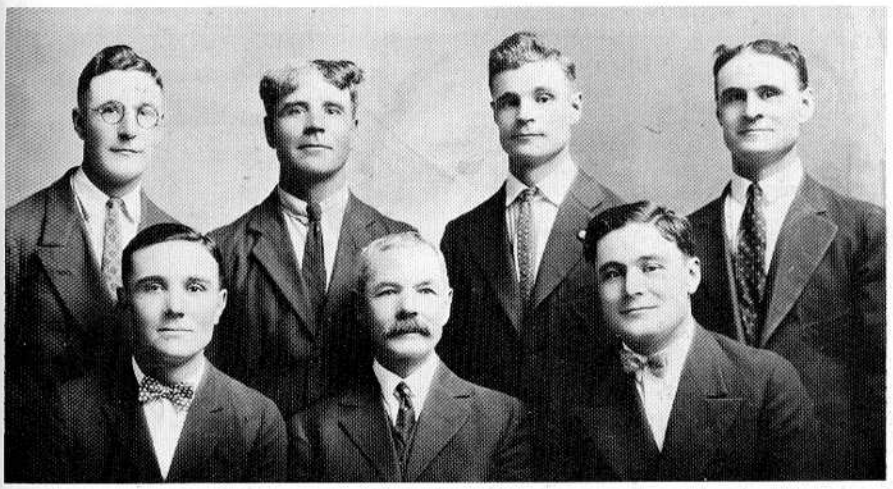
JOHN B. DUFAULT

John Baptiste Dufault was born in Canada in 1874, and came to Minnesota with his parents when he was five years old.

He married Alma Jolly in June, 1906. She was the daughter of the Telesphore Jollys, who had a hotel across from St. Joseph's Church for a year and then started farming in the Terrebonne area. This farm now belongs to John LaCrosse. Mr. and Mrs. Jolly were born in Jolliette, Canada. Mr. Jolly died in 1921, and she died in 1940.

John and Alma Dufault farmed in the Gentilly area until their retirement in the 1940's when they moved to Crookston. Mrs. Dufault, 90 years old in January, 1976, resides at St. Vincent's Rest Home; she is the only survivor of the Jolly family of ten children. Mr. Dufault died in 1949.

Children of the J. B. Dufaults were: Rose (Mrs. Medy Beauchane), Red Lake Falls, Florence (Mrs. Kenny Johnson), Minneapolis, Laura (Mrs. Walter Morinville), Red Lake Falls, Leonard in California, Laurence, Red Lake Falls, Donald in California, and Norman of Gentilly.



Back: Dave, Rudolph, Theodore and Albert. *Front:* Tom, Mose Ducharme (father) and Leo.

JOHN A. DUFFY

John A. Duffy who was born at White Plains, New York on November 1, 1862, moved with his parents to Ohio in 1868 where he attended school and grew to manhood.

John Duffy came to Red Lake Falls in 1887 as Northern Pacific station agent. During the years that followed he took an active part in the civic affairs of the community. He served as mayor of the city for ten years and was also a member of the city council for ten years. He was closely identified with the county division fight.

In October of 1889 he was married to Leonora J. Egan. That same year he and L. C. Simons organized the Merchants State Bank of which he was an active officer until the institution was closed in 1923.

He was active in the organization of the Red Lake County Agricultural Society, was one of the organizers and large stockholders of the Red Lake Falls Hotel Company, owners and builders of the Lincoln Hotel, and for several years he operated the Duffy farm a mile south of Red Lake Falls. In fact he took an active part and was a leader in all constructive community projects.

He was also associated with the Farmers National Bank in Red Lake Falls and with banks in St. Hilaire and Wylie.

Mr. Duffy moved to Minneapolis in 1924 and died in 1938.

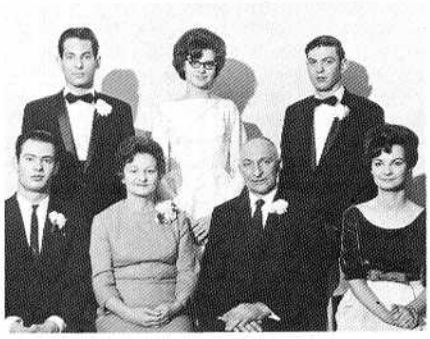
ARCHIE DUPONT FAMILY

Archie Dupont (b. 1889) was the son of Eucharist Dupont and Louise Toutant who had come from Canada in the early 1880's to settle in Lake Pleasant township. In 1913 Archie married Eugenie Charest at Old Lambert town. She was the daughter of George Charest and Olive Paquin, pioneers of Lambert where Eugenie was born.

The Duponts moved to a farm in Lake Pleasant, five miles south of Red Lake Falls at Perreault Station and lived there all of their lives. Archie served on the town board and family members attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. There were five children: Ralph, Alaric, Donald, Irene (Mrs. Leo Nowak) and Norma (Mrs. Robt. Hunsinger). Archie died in January 1950 and Eugenie in February, 1965.

Ralph Dupont (b. 1915) graduated from Lafayette high school and later from a school for mechanics at Fargo. He married Madeline Perreault in 1939 of Terrebonne township, the daughter of Edward and Edna Rock Perreault. He has been employed as a mechanic at various garages in the area and farms in Terrebonne township where the family lives. Presently, Ralph is employed by Arctic Enterprises. There are five children: Glorianne (Mrs. Darrell Kargel), Gary, Ronnie, Dean and Karen (Mrs. Frank Knott, Jr.).

It will be noted that Eucharist Dupont built a home in Lake Pleasant that was eventually to be moved to Marcoux to serve there as the first place of business and used until it burned and was replaced.



Ralph Dupont Family

Eucharist was the father of four sons, Albert, Majoric, Charles and Archie, and three daughters, Sister Agatha, Doria (LaCoursiere), and Mary (Grenier).

GEORGE DuPONT FAMILY

George DuPont was born in Boston, Mass. in 1872 to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph DuPont. The family moved to Hancock, Michigan when George was five years old where Joseph, the father, worked five years in the copper mines. At the age of ten George and his family arrived in northern Minnesota to settle in what was known as "The Meadows," east of Plummer. Many springs when the ice went out, they recall the Red Lake and Clearwater rivers were as wide as 8 to 10 miles. After one year of good wet weather there, they pulled out and moved to a farm south of Terrebonne. From there George worked for Frank Hunt's Hardware in Red Lake Falls and later at the Great Northern depot in Grand Forks. He went to school at St. John's College for one year. George DuPont also taught school in what was known as the Beau Gerlot school about three miles west of Terrebonne, with monthly wages of $30.00 a month and had to walk four miles morning and evening.

In 1893 George opened a general merchandise store in which machinery was also sold, in lower Terrebonne. Around 1900 lower Terrebonne consisted of twelve families and a flour mill. George was also Postmaster since his store was also the post office for Terrebonne. Around the turn of the century, the big celebration (complete with band in which George participated) was held June 24th on St. John's Day. In December 1911, the family moved to Red Lake Falls where George DuPont became County Auditor and served for 26 years until his death. George and his first wife (of the Juneau family) had one daughter, Emma. George and Anna Perras, his second wife, had eight children of which two, Kermit and Harold still reside in Red Lake County. The eight children were Harold, Kermit, Estelle, Madonna, a pair of twins, Mae and Marie, Mildred and Jude, the youngest.

Kermit lived for approximately 59 years on one of the family farms which was purchased for $3.30 per acre. He later sold the farm to his nephew, Allen DuPont, and moved to Red Lake Falls where he still resides.

Harold was born in 1904 in Terrebonne. As a young man he worked on a farm and later married Lucille B. Dubuque of Gentilly in 1927. Harold ran "Duponts Lunch" in Red Lake Falls for 30 years in various locations, during which time he purchased a farm five miles west of Red Lake Falls. Harold also was on police force for several years and raised Mexican Burros for about 10 years. He also ran the locker plant in Dorothy for 10 years and from there he worked in the Red Lake Falls Liquor store until retirement. Harold and Lucille DuPont had five children: Romona, Barbara, June, Patsy and Allen.

Allen, the fourth generation DuPont in this story, worked as a mechanic for nine years, followed by construction work which included the missile site in North Dakota. Allen married Sharon Walker in 1967 and purchased a farm from his uncle, Kermit DuPont. After two years he sold the farm and purchased Harold DuPont's farm. Allen presently farms 1120 acres and Sharon DuPont is a secretary for the hospital in Crookston.

NICK ECKSTEIN FAMILY

Nick Eckstein, one of the pioneers of Wylie Township, was born in Gundelwind, Saxon-Melningen, Germany, February 17, 1860 and came to America in 1878, going first to Cincinnati and later to Chicago where he spent two years. He came to Perham in 1880 and operated a grain elevator there for ten years, then came to Wylie in 1890.

Nick Eckstein married Friederika Luders at Perham May 11, 1884. For twenty-five years, Mr. Eckstein kept a general merchandise store at Wylie and also a farm in the township. Twelve children were born to the couple: William, Charles, Caroline (Lena, Mrs. Joseph Draeger), Tena (Mrs. John Dargan), Clara (Mrs. Aaron Hanson), Otto, Henry, Fred, and August. Three children died when infants.

Mr. Eckstein died July 1, 1923, Mrs. Eckstein in 1949 at age eighty-seven years. She will be remembered for her beautiful work in crafts.

FRED ECKSTEIN

Frederick Paul Eckstein was born June 26, 1902 at Wylie to Nicholas and Friederika (Lueders) Eckstein.

On June 10, 1925 he married Adena Harbott at the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Wylie. Fred Eckstein was raised in Wylie but did live in Ambrose, North Dakota for a few years when he was growing up.

Adena Harbott, who was born at Wentworth, South Dakota, moved to Minnesota with her parents when she was seven years old.

They farmed at Wylie till they retired in 1960 and moved to Red Lake Falls, where he has been associated with the Eckstein Department Store.

The Fred Ecksteins have three sons; Roger, Virgil of Red Lake Falls, and Robert of Thief River Falls, and have three daughters: Verda Almquist (Mrs. Woodrow Almquist) of St. Hilaire, Phyllis Gaven (Mrs. James Gaven) of St. Hilaire, and Marion Anderson (Mrs. Charles Anderson) of Anchorage, Alaska.

ROGER ECKSTEIN

Roger Eckstein (b. 1927) lived most of his lifetime as a resident of Red Lake County, first at Wylie where his father, Fred, operated the Eckstein Store and where he attended the Wylie District 1J School. When he was seventeen, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served three years during World War II.

In 1953 Roger married Olive Thorson (b. 1930), daughter of Henry Thorson and Augusta Geske of Thief River Falls. The couple farmed a short time in Wylie until 1959 when they opened a Gamble Store in Red Lake Falls north of the post office building. In the fall of 1960, the store was moved across the street on Main Avenue to the former Green Lantern building and expanded in 1965. The franchise was transferred to Hardware Hank, a variety store was added to the enterprise and, subsequently, a fully stocked clothing store when the Paul building was purchased to enlarge floor space. The store front was unified and remodeled.

Ecksteins purchased the Lincoln Hotel in 1966 and remodeled the interior for rooms and apartments. The family also owns the Wayne Hotel in Crookston. The new brick front, double office building on East Main Avenue was erected for Roger in the year 1973 to house the ASCS office and the branch of First Federal Savings and Loan Ass'n of Thief River Falls, later sold to the latter.

In 1968 Roger Eckstein was elected to the City Council as alderman-at-large. He is chairman of County Republicans, a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Lions and the Commercial Club.

The BELT Corporation was organized by Eckstein, Roland Brule, Louis Cournia and



Nick Eckstein Family

Currie Tibbetts in 1975 to build and develope Peppermint Square south of the city, the first shopping center in the county, to house Super Valu and the new enlarged Eckstein Department Store.

Roger and Olive Eckstein are parents of four children, Terry, Scott, Jill and Natalie.

CLYDE ELLEFSON

The Clyde Ellefson family has lived in Red Lake Falls since 1966. They had previously lived in Dorothy since September, 1959 where Darlene taught District 1728 and Gentilly schools.

Clyde and Darlene are natives of Goodridge, first living in the Aurora-Biwabik area after their marriage, where Clyde was employed at Foley Brothers Construction. Darlene taught school in the Grygla school system in 1955-56.

Children Rhonda and Valerie were born in Virginia, Shelly and Ryan in Crookston, and Randy in Red Lake Falls.

The Ellefsons are members of Bethany Lutheran Church. Clyde is presently employed as lead lineman of Otter Tail Power Company and co-owner of C and D Insulation Company. Darlene is bookkeeper at Farmers Union Oil Company and Rhonda is attending Moorhead State University.

CLARENCE ELLICKSON FAMILY

In 1927, banker Torgerson and Edward Ellickson of Cambridge, Wisconsin, discussed the plans to buy land in Red Lake County and Edward's son, Clarence, was delegated to check out some land near Oklee. So leaving a home of modern comfort he came by Model A to a farm in Equality Township. This land was owned by Mr. Preston and had only a run down building on it which Clarence made into his temporary living quarters. Here were one hundred-sixty acres of brush and trees. Clarence Ellickson ordered a carload of sheep from a rancher in Montana, that arrived by train in Oklee, and from there to be herded to the farm. After this Clarence Ellickson was known as the sheep man.

Throughout the years Mr. Ellickson built buildings, cleared land, practiced dairy farming, did some grain farming, and purchased more land.

In May of 1936 Clarence was married to Gertrude Halvorson of Clearbrook. Four children were born to this couple.

Arlene (Mrs. Wayne Cease) graduated from Concordia College and is living in Bagley. She is the mother of Kent, Kurt and Kary, triplet boys, one other boy, Kevin, and a daughter, Kelly.

Roger was killed in an auto accident when he was a senior in high school in 1956.

Gloria (Mrs. David Melby) graduated from the University of Minnesota and lives in St. Cloud. She is the mother of a girl, Jill, and a boy, Tim.

Linda (Mrs. Winton Mickelson) lives in Garnes Township. Since 1964 they have lived on the old Charles Seeger farm where they are active in dairying. Winton came from Kelvington, Sask., Canada. They have one son, Eric, who attends school in Oklee. Mrs. Mickelson has taught in the Washington School in Red Lake Falls for many years.

Mr. Ellickson and his family attended the Valle and Zion Lutheran Church. They took part in many other local organizations. Clarence Ellickson died in 1969 after living forty-two years in the county. Gertrude still lives in Equality Township and is cook at the Arcady Inn in Oklee.

LOWELL ENERSON

Lowell Enerson lives on a 320 acre farm in Equality township. The farm belonged to Albert Berget prior to purchase in 1969.

Lowell and his wife La Vonne were married in 1965 at the Clearwater Lutheran Church northeast of Oklee, where they are members at the present time.

Lowell was born in 1944 the son of Marvin and Marian Enerson of McIntosh. He attended country school through sixth grade, and then went to the McIntosh Public School where he graduated in 1962. After graduation he entered the Air National Guard and was honorably discharged in 1968.



La Vonne was born in 1945 to parents George and Hazel Fossum of Equality township. She was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at the Clearwater Church and graduated from Oklee High School in 1963. She worked in Minneapolis for one and a half years, and then for the Union State Bank in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, until her marriage to Lowell.

Their first home was at Erskine where Lowell was the manager of the Two and 59 Truck Stop. In 1965 they moved to Oklee and Lowell worked for the Midland Station at Oklee. In 1966 he became employed by the Farmers Union Station at Brooks until 1968 when he became employed by the Inter County Community Council of Oklee. He is presently the Homestart Director of this agency.

Lowell and La Vonne have two children. Keven born in 1966 and Joelle born in 1968.

La Vonne is a member of the Clearwater Ladies Aid and also a member of the Buzz in Dozen Homemakers Club.

Lowell is presently on the boards of the Red Lake County Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board, Region One Development Disability Board, Red Lake County Watershed Advisory Committee, Area Vocational Beef Advisory Committee, Oklee Community Action Committee, Minnesota Association for Career Development, and past chairman of the Red Lake County Association of Retarded Citizens (first county chairman).



Edward O. Erickson wedding

EDWARD O. ERICKSON

Mr. and Mrs. Edward O. Erickson came to the Oklee area in 1899 and when Oklee was built in 1910 they owned the farm now known as the Rierson place. They had been married at Evansville on September 9, 1896. Mr. Erickson passed away on March 31, 1944.

There are two daughters, Mrs. Josephine Leonard of Portland, Oregon, and Isabelle Erickson who was on the teaching staff of the Oklee Public Schools for twenty-eight years. She retired in 1971 and for three years was a clerk at the Oklee Surplus Store. Isabelle and her mother resided at the family home in rural Oklee, Equality township until the death of Mrs. Erickson on June 12, 1960. Isabelle still resides at the family home, and is very active in the work of Zion Lutheran Church at Oklee, teaching vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and release time classes. She served for four years as ALCW President, and is a member of the Mary Circle.

In 1960 Mrs. Erickson wrote "Recollections of a Pioneer Woman" for the Zion Lutheran Church booklet, relating a good and true picture of pioneer life in the early days. On her eighty-eighth birthday, just two months before her death, she reflected on fifty years of community progress. She listened with interest to the plans and preparations being made for Oklee's Jubilee Days. She noted with pride the changes that had taken place from almost a wilderness of brush and stones and log houses to fine cultivated farms with modern homes, from mere trails across country to graveled and tarred highways, from wagons and horses to high-powered cars, from kerosene lamps and wood stoves to all the conveniences of electricity. Mrs. Erickson had seen her beloved Zion Ladies Aid that she helped to organize in 1910 and of which she was the first president, grow from a membership of two to over eighty members and a fine church with a modern kitchen and dining room for serving instead of the village hall, the fire hall and the Gjernes store. She was also the first Aid Historian and in the early beginning helped to teach Sunday School in the Gjernes store.

Besides her household duties Mrs.



Isabelle E. Erickson

Erickson had done a great deal of craft work, such as tatting, crocheting, embroidering, and the piecing of quilts. Her hobbies included gardening, raising flowers, especially house plants, and cutting kindling wood. In earlier years she often walked to Oklee, a distance of four miles to attend Aid meetings. She loved the great outdoors and for many years assisted her husband with the field work. In looking back at fifty years of progress, she said they had been good years, busy and happy. She said hardships were taken in stride when hearts were young and strong and one had the "will to do." Mrs. Erickson often remarked "God has been very good to me. He has blessed me with health and strength and has given me eighty-eight years of life in a beautiful country among wonderful people."

NICK ESKELI

Nick Eskeli emigrated from Lappa Jarvi, Finland to the United States in 1908 and in the following year Ilmi Marttila left her family in Verrot, Finland, also seeking a living in the new land. Nick and Ilmi settled in Ironwood, Michigan, a mining town with a large population of Finnish immigrants. Nick worked as a miner and roomed at one of the numerous boarding houses. Ilmi was employed at this boarding house as a cook and seamstress. Nick and Ilmi were united in marriage at Ironwood in 1910.

Not being too fond of the miner's life and having heard of railroad land for sale in northern Minnesota, they decided to move. In the spring of 1911 Nick and Ilmi along with the John Kantolas and Jacob Ollies arrived in Emardville Township as the first of the many Finnish people to come later. Living in the mostly forested country was no picnic with all the mosquitoes and no real house. Cooking and baking was done outdoors on a fireplace made of stones. By fall, a small one-room house was built and Ilmi had the luxury of a single stove for warmth and cooking.

A few head of cattle were purchased and slowly a few small fields were cleared with axes and picks. Oxen or cows were used for power to pull what machinery we had. Ox carts were used to haul the cream to Plummer and bring back supplies. Ilmi made many of those errands by herself, and really didn't mind except in the spring when the cattle would run loose and eat the lush green grass.

More Finnish people arrived until at one time about forty families lived in Garnes, Emardville area. One of the old landmarks was the so-called Finnish School, which the children attended. Being the Finnish language was used at home, the kids hardly knew any English, so one might imagine what the early teacher had to cope with. The school was also used as a place of worship. The Finnish pastor would come on the Soo Line from Duluth.

Nick and the older boys cut a lot of cordwood during the winter months and sold it to the Plummer school and creamery. The first tractor, a I.H.C. F 12 was purchased from P. Schoenauer, not with cash, but for so many cords of wood.

As the years passed by, the family grew to a total of nine, six sons and three daughters, including Wilma (Mrs. Tom Huotari); Helen (Mrs. Charles Fremling) and Aini (Mrs. Lenny Wenski) deceased; also Woodrow, Leo, Edward, and Melvin, all farming in the Plummer area and Leonard and Martin who live in Chicago.

Nick and Ilmi celebrated their golden wedding in 1960, with all the children present. Nick passed away in 1969 at the age of 91 without ever spending a night in the hospital. Ilmi is presently a guest at Hillcrest where she enjoys visits from the children and grandchildren of which there are seventeen.



As I, Edward, write this history of my parents, I can't help but wonder what hardships the early settlers of the county must have encountered. They worked hard against great odds, yet most of them could have it no other way. If a neighbor needed help sawing wood or shingling a house, there was always a willing crew ready to help. Now it's how many dollars an hour can you pay?

EDWIN ETTERMAN FAMILY

Ed and Irene Etterman moved to Red Lake Falls from Langdon, North Dakota in October of 1956 when Ed accepted the position of office manager at the Red Lake Electric Co-operative. Previous to that he had been employed at Cavalier Rural Electric at Langdon.

Ed was born in Egeland, North Dakota in 1921 and his wife, Irene Washebek at Langdon in 1925.

Ed has taken an active part in city affairs and government, serving as assessor, third ward councilman and chairman of Medical Services when the community was seeking a second doctor. He has held offices in the



Commercial Club, Oak Knolls Golf Club and was a charter member of the Jaycees. Irene is active in the American Legion Auxiliary and was a charter member of the local Catholic Daughters of America.

The Ettermans have two children, Kenneth and Beverly, both born at Langdon, North Dakota. Ken (b. 1949) graduated as salutatorian from LaFayette High School in the class of 1967. He had the distinction of holding the most class offices throughout his high school years, being chosen as Boys' State delegate, and being elected to the National Honor Society. While attending Northland Junior College, he was selected for the Who's Who list for U.S. Colleges. Ken graduated from the University of Minnesota as a medical doctor in the field of Family Practice in June of 1975 and is presently interning at St. Luke's Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota. Beverly (b. 1955) graduated from LaFayette as an honor student and was active in all school activities and athletics. She served as a majorette, cheerleader and was homecoming queen candidate. Bev reigned as Sno Fest Queen of 1972 and is presently completing her junior year at Bemidji State University, majoring in English. Beverly was married to Steven Philion, son of Lloyd and Eleanore Philion of Red Lake Falls, in December of 1975.

HENRY FALARDEAU FAMILY

Henry Falardeau (1887-1963), son of Joseph Falardeau and Ciserie Paquin, was born in Lambert township. He was married to Laura Perusse in 1912. They owned and operated a farm in Lambert township until 1920 when he became manager of the Oklee Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company. In 1936 he was appointed postmaster in Oklee and served until his retirement in 1957.

Mr. Falardeau was active in both church and community affairs.

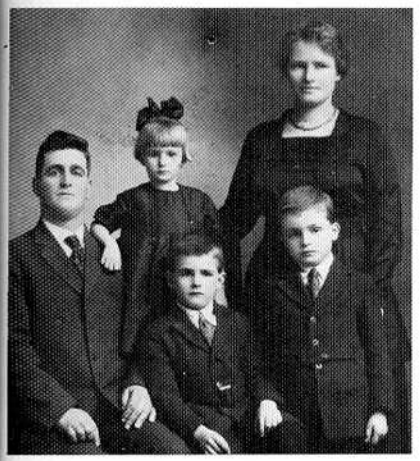
Mr. and Mrs. Falardeau had five children: Leo, Walter, Ruth (Linquist), Irene (Martinson), and Lucille (Ruebke).

Leo Falardeau married Esther Youngquist and lives in Duluth, Minnesota. They have three children, Cherie, Danny and Tom.

Walter Falardeau married Mildred Arcand. Mildred died in 1963. They had eight children: Mary, Celeste, Annette, Keith, William, Renae, Roger, and Rose Marie.

Ruth married Vernon Lindquist and lives in Oklee, Minnesota. Vernon died in 1959. They had three children, Robert, Gayeline

and Joyce. Irene married Norman Martinson. They live in Garden Grove, California. Lucille married Ardee Ruebke. They live in Richfield, Minnesota. They have six children: Patricia, Pamela, Douglas, Virginia, Joette and Kari and one adopted son, Jay Lee of Korea.



Henry Falardeaus

STANLEY S. FAY AND BARBARA THEROUX FAY

Barbara Theroux Fay was born in Red Lake County on March 23, 1924, the fifth child of Joseph Theroux and Leah Quesnel Theroux. Barbara attended St. Joseph's Catholic School through the eighth grade and graduated from LaFayette High School in the class of 1941. Following her graduation from teachers training in Red Lake County in 1942, she moved to Long Beach, California. In July of 1943 Barbara was married to Stanley S. Fay, a Lieutenant in the Air Force. Stanley is presently employed as a sales executive with Morgan and Sampson, Manufacturer's Agent. Barbara has continued her education and graduated from the University of California at Long Beach in January of 1972. She is presently employed as a Social Worker for Los Angeles County.

The Fays have two children. Daughter, Vicky Fay, was born February 24, 1945. She is an Art Major and attended Long Beach Junior College and the University of California at Long Beach. She is presently employed as a travel adviser with the Automobile Club of Southern California. In September of 1968 she was married to James Marlow, an industrial engineer. Alan Fay was born on December 31, 1949. He graduated from the University of California at Long Beach in June of 1974 with a major in Marine Biology. He is presently employed by the California Fishing Industry.

LEO FEHR

Leo Fehr was born in Otter Tail County near Perham. In the early twenties he and his brother George moved to a farm in Emardville Township four miles north of Plummer. They farmed there for several years. Leo married Mattilda Hesse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Hesse at St. Vincent dePaul Church in Plummer.

Mathilda was born near Chaska in 1907 and in the early twenties moved to Plummer with her parents. They farmed three miles north of the village. One son, Leonard, married Grace Reopelle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Reopelle of Red Lake Falls in 1956 at St. Anthony's Church, Terrebonne. They live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and have two children, Jeffery, 14, and Cinday, 7.

In 1942 Leo and Tillie bought a farm four miles south of Plummer in Emardville Township where they farmed until Leo passed away, July 16, 1967. Tillie continued to live on the farm until she died on June 26, 1973.

CHARLES FELLMAN

Charles John Fellman was born May 24, 1875 in the Aland Islands located in the Baltic Sea between Sweden and Finland. He came to the United States in 1887 with his parents and settled on a farm, east of St. Hilaire where he grew to manhood. In 1896, at the age of 21, Charles married Miss Alma Julin at Crookston. Alma Alida Julin was born in Gutenborg, Sweden on November 10, 1875. When she was a child, the family immigrated to America. One brother, Johan Peter, remained in Sweden and became a famous inventor. The Julin family settled on a farm east of St. Hilaire, Minnesota. Alma and Charles lived on a farm for two years after their marriage then moved into the village of St. Hilaire where Charles worked as a surveyor and in sawmills.

In 1910 Charles was elected as the first sheriff of Red Lake county, of which Pennington county was then a part, and served as sheriff for twenty years. Two months after retirement, on February 23, 1931, he died of a lung hemorrhage at a Crookston hospital. Alma continued to live in Red Lake Falls until about 1945 when she went to live with a daughter, Myrtle Grise, at Austin, Minnesota. She suffered a stroke and was bed-ridden for five years before her death on April 13, 1955.

Twelve children were born to Charles and Alma, three of whom died soon after birth. A son, Glen, who became Judge of Probate of Red Lake county, died on July 1, 1964 of a heart attack. The surviving children are: Myrtle Grise, Austin, Minnesota; Alice Johnson, Belleview, Washington; Violet Fellman, Red Lake Falls; Vernon Fellman, Seattle, Washington; Donald Fellman, Red Lake Falls; Duane Fellman, Richland, Washington; Lois Higinbotham, Red Lake Falls; and Robert Fellman, Palo Alto, California.

Charles Fellman's service as a sheriff was very different from the services of a sheriff today. His salary was $100.00 a month plus free housing. The brick jail was just north of the sheriff's residence and Alma had to do all of the cooking for the prisoners as well as the laundering of their clothes and bedding. Meals were served on a tin pie plate and shoved through the bars of the door leading to the cells. The Fellman children often helped by bringing the food to the prisoners. Alma also took care of runaway and delinquent children and mentally retarded adults until they were admitted to an institution. Charles' means of transportation consisted of two horses and a sleigh which were kept in a barn behind the sheriff's residence. When he went out on his calls in the winter time, he had to have a heavy robe and a foot warmer heated by coals. The Fellmans also kept two cows and sold milk for added income. Violet remembers when she used to deliver milk to the Dryer family across the railroad tracks. Mrs. Dryer would always leave a piece of hard candy for her.

Some men found sport in playing tricks on the sheriff. We remember once when a



call came from the courthouse that a strange, insane man was there and asked that Charley come to pick him up. We were eating dinner and as we looked out of the window, we saw this wild, red haired man running around the house. Charley ran after him, but the man was fleet footed and ran down to the depot. Charley had Mr. Lambert, the drayman, help him get the stranger up on his dray wagon and haul him to the jail. As Charles was putting a straight jacket on the fellow, the man shook his head and his red wig fell off. To his consternation, the sheriff found a salesman whom he knew well, had played a joke on him. The members of the Fellman family have many memories of exciting times while their father served as sheriff of Red Lake county.

GLEN FELLMAN FAMILY

Glen Fellman served as Probate Judge in Red Lake County from 1939 to 1964. He was born June 1910 at St. Hilaire to the late Charles and Alma Fellman. His father was a former Sheriff of Red Lake County and served until the time of his death in 1931.

Glen graduated from Lafayette High School and attended the Universities of North Dakota and Minnesota. He married Eleanore Marchildon in 1938, the daughter of Gilbert and Mary Marchildon. They had six children, Julie, the oldest daughter, married W. B. Horak. They have five children, Becky, Christopher, Michael, Thomas, and Steven.

Dr. James D. Fellman married Judy Grohs of St. Paul. They live at Duluth, where Jim is a practicing Orthodontist. Their three children are Glen, Craig and Ann.

Maureen married Ron Lehrer, son of Arnold and Marie Lehrer. Ron is a Chemical Engineer for the Dow Chemical Company at Midland, Michigan. They have three children, Jeanette, Karin and John.

Valerie, is married to Jon Larson from Thief River Falls. Jon is associated with the Larson Music Company. They have three children Grant, Derek and Kent.

Dr. Thomas G. Fellman married Kathy Lawmán of Edina. They have one daughter, Jill. Tom is a dentist and recently started his own practice at Fargo, North Dakota.

Joan is a dental hygienist and is presently working at St. Paul.

During his lifetime, Judge Fellman served as President of the Minnesota Pro-

bate Judge's Association, served as County Red Cross Chairman for a number of years, and was one of the few twenty year members of the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department. He was active in the Commercial Club of Red Lake Falls and secretary of the county fair association for many years.

Glen died in 1964. Eleanore was appointed Clerk of Probate Court in 1964 and is presently the Deputy Clerk of County Court.

FINDEISEN FAMILY

William Findeisen was born April 18, 1857 in Wuerttemberg, Germany and was raised on a farm. He came to America alone at the age of fourteen, locating at Decorah, Iowa, where he learned the blacksmith trade. In 1876 he went to Northwood, Iowa and worked at his trade until 1882 when he returned to Germany where his parents and sisters still resided.

After their marriage in 1884, in their native country of Germany, City of Heilbromme, William and Margaret Marie Findeisen came to live in the United States, settling first in Minneapolis. They lived there two years, then moved to Fergus Falls, where Mr. Findeisen started a wagon and carriage factory. In March 1888 they came to Red Lake Falls and were engaged in the blacksmithing and wagon making business. He also handled a complete line of farm implements. The following ad was taken from the Gazette in 1902: "Our Christmas Advertisers — William Findeisen, agricultural implements of all kinds, has been in business here fifteen years. He is a natural born leader and a man of depth and strong convictions. He carries a very large stock of goods and has built up an extensive business. Mr. Findeisen is a hard worker and a careful and successful businessman, who by honorable dealings with all, has gained the highest confidence and respect of the entire community and has prospered greatly. He has served as mayor, president of the school board and president of the council several terms."

William's brothers Carl and Fred lived in Chicago, where Fred was later to build the Edgewater Beach Hotel. William Findeisen died in Minneapolis of a tragic gas poisoning accident on May 9, 1908. He had gone there to purchase goods for his implement establishment. He was a member of the Odd Fellow and Woodmen lodges.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Findeisen made her home in Red Lake Falls until 1923, when she went to Grand Forks to become house mother at the Alpha Theta sorority, at the University of North Dakota. She lived at Grand Forks for seven years, going to Minneapolis in 1930, where she served for four years as house mother for Alpha Xi Delta sorority, at the University of Minnesota. She was a charter member of the First Presbyterian Church in Red Lake Falls and the Rebekah Lodge and belonged to the Royal Neighbors. Margaret Marie Findeisen died in Minneapolis, April 4, 1946.

Three children were born to William and Marie Findeisen: Eleanore Lillian born 1885, married Thomas Germo and died 1961; Maude C. Findeisen, born 1886, taught in Red Lake County and Warren schools, married Samuel E. Hunt, 1915 and died 1968. Herbert Schyler Findeisen, born 1890, graduated from the Red Lake Falls High School in 1908. Herbert took over the family business, along with the Ford and Buick dealership, until 1917,



Findeisen Family at home 1895. Maud knitting, Eleanore at the organ and Herb on floor.

when he sold to Henry Jensen. He served in the Army during World War I. On July 1, 1919 he married Bernetta Sophie Schusser. They engaged in farming at Badger Creek (now the Louis Hagl family farm) until 1928 when they moved to Red Lake Falls. Herb started with the postal department, as a rural carrier and served Route 1, south of Red Lake Falls until his retirement in 1960. He served as Commander of the American Legion, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northwestern Conservation Association, Elder of the Presbyterian Church, was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, National Rural Mail Carrier's Association, Odd Fellow's Lodge and the World War I Barrack's Association.

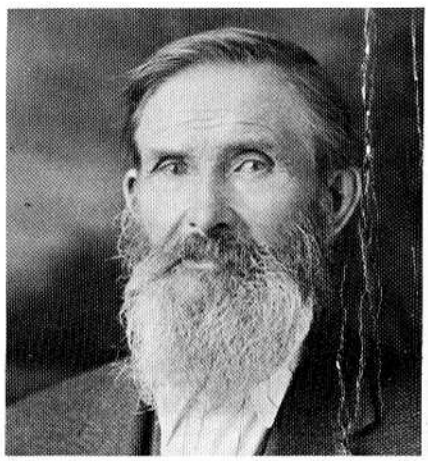
Herb and Bernetta still reside at their Northside residence, purchased from Joe Skala in 1928. They were always avid sportsmen — hunting and fishing being one of their greatest joys. In fact, a newspaper account of their wedding concluded with this: "immediately following their marriage service, Mr. and Mrs. Findeisen left by automobile, on a fishing and camping trip thru the lake region of northern Minnesota and will be gone several weeks." But the years have, finally and sadly, forced them to leave those activities to the "younger fellows" and take up gardening.

LARS O. FLAGE FAMILY

Lars O. Flage came to Red Lake County around 1910 from a farm near Lamberton, Minnesota in Cottonwood County bringing his four children, Oliver, Julia, Clarence, and Albert. His wife died when the children were young. In his younger days he taught school in Cottonwood County, one of the first teachers around there. He purchased a farm home east of Red Lake Falls along the Red Lake River next to the Orr farm. He always admired the land along the rivers and streams. In those days the fish in the Red Lake River were so plentiful that one could make a hook with a safety pin, dig angleworms, and catch fish for supper. You could see the walleyes swimming all along the river. The land above to the east and north was mostly in native timber and that helped to hold the water level up in dry years so the river never dried up. The sloughs drained slowly into the river all summer.

Clarence Flage purchased a farm north of Red Lake Falls and married Freda Gornahl, a step daughter of Peter Matties. In later years they sold their farm and moved to Stanwood, Washington, where they purchased a home and a tract of land on Comana Island. He was a saw filer for a lumber company in the mountains for many years. He also worked on a salmon fishing boat off of the Puget Sound.

Lars Flage and his daughter, Julia, and



Lars Flage



Oliver Flage Family

son, Albert, moved to Washington to retire as the winters there were so very mild.

Oliver Flage purchased a farm in northwest Gervais Township where he lived the rest of his life. In 1919 he married Pauline Tillman, who lived between the Clearwater and Red Lake Rivers in Gervais Township. She had come to Red Lake County in 1900 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tillman from Gary in Norman County when she was eleven years old. It took them three days to get up here as they moved their cattle on foot across the open country in the fall. Fred Zaizer of Red Lake Falls helped move their furniture and machinery.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Flage have four children, Lucille, their oldest daughter, Lester and Leslie, twin brothers, and Delores, the youngest. Lucille married Waino Hill from eastern Red Lake County. They live in North Minneapolis where Waino is a foreman at Bemis Company. They have one daughter, Judy, who married Russell Lentz.

Leslie Flage purchased the home farm from his parents and is engaged in grain and cattle farming. He raises mostly hereford cattle. In order to make it a more efficient operation, he also purchased the Gjerberg farm, which joins his, when Fred Gjerberg died. He remains single.

Lester Flage teaches school in Red Lake Falls where he lives with his family.

Delores married Sam Genereux. They reside in Thief River Falls, where Mr. Genereux has an insurance office. They have three children. Tom the oldest is in the United States Navy. Patricia and Lee are at home attending school.

Oliver Flage and his wife, Pauline, were members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls. He was very active in community affairs and town board chairman for approximately twenty-five years. He was very interested in the co-operative movement, instrumental in the formation of the Farmers Union Oil Company in Red Lake Falls, of which he was a board member for many years. He was also interested in the liberal political movement in the county. He helped form the original Farmer Labor party of Red Lake County. He was county secretary for many years.

In early days when the Oliver Flages were first married, times were very hard and there were no decent roads. When Lucille, their oldest daughter, was born, Dr. Watson had to come out in a bob sleigh to the farm. He had to cross the river and come through the woods down a steep hill and narrowly escaped a serious accident on the hill as the bob sleigh fell onto the horses. All of the children were born at home. Mrs. Fred Kellogg was the attending nurse for three of the Flage children. They lived on the adjoining quarter to the north, a parcel that the Honorable Senator Frank B. Kellogg purchased a number of years before.

Dad's first tractor was an old Fordson that pulled two twelve inch bottoms. It had steel wheels and lugs. To make a little extra money to send us kids through high school, the family raised turkeys and chickens. In the first years we all had to dress the turkeys and ship them in wooden barrels after it got real cold to the wholesale house.

Mr. Flage passed away in June of 1967. Mrs. Flage resides at the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls.

LESTER FLAGE

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Flage were born and raised in northern Red Lake county not too far from Red Lake Falls. Lester Flage and Geraldine Busse were united in marriage on June 25, 1946, at the Immanual Lutheran Church in Wylie township. They purchased the Tom Sherry farm in Browns Creek township in the fall of 1946 and lived there until 1963. The farm was then sold to Donald Knott. After this the Flages moved to the Gjerberg farm in Gervais township. They resided there until the summer of 1974, when they purchased a house on the north side in Red Lake Falls where they now reside.

The family was blessed with six children, three boys and three girls. Pamela, the oldest daughter is married to Gerald Nelson. They now reside on the Arnold Bache farm in Gervais township, where they farm. Her husband is also a draftsman for Forsberg's factory in Thief River Falls. Penny, the second daughter, is married to Roger Dardis of Minneapolis. She and her husband both work as computer operators for the Peavey Grain Exchange in Minneapolis. Anthony, the oldest son, better known as Chuck, is farming in partnership with his uncle, Leslie Flage, in Gervais township. Debbie, the youngest daughter, is the musician of the family. She is the organist of St. John's Lutheran church. Lon and John, the two youngest sons attend school at Lafayette and Washington schools.

Lester Flage has taught school in Red Lake county for twenty years. He started out in a country school in eastern Red Lake county. Here he taught for three years. After this he spent two years in the Navy in World War II. Following the war the family farmed until 1958 when school teaching was again pursued. After two years in the Woodland school near Hubert Huot's, a position was taken in grade 6 here in Red Lake Falls, where he has been for the last fifteen years. One of these years was spent teaching in Crystal, North Dakota when he worked on his Master's degree.

Lester is the president of the Red Lake County Historical Society. The Flage family has enjoyed their lives in Red Lake County. They like the smaller town to raise a family in, and the wholesome atmosphere and cooperation of friends and neighbors.

OSCAR FLATELAND

Oscar and Helen Flateland moved to Oklee in February, 1968 after they sold their 320 acre farm in Chester Township, Polk County. Oscar was born in Chester Township. Both of his parents came from Norway. His dad had homesteaded here in 1894 and lived in a wagon box for the first summer. Wolves and moose that came right up to the wagon at night were his companions.

Oscar entered the Army in 1942 and served with the 37th Division in the Fiji



Islands, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal and Bougainville. While there he suffered multiple shrapnel wounds. He came back to the United States on rotation in 1944 and was re-assigned to the Air Force. He was discharged in 1945 and on November 9, 1946, married Helen Reitter in Madison, Wisconsin where he worked for a furniture company. In 1947 they came back to Polk County where Oscar started farming, and Helen began teaching in the Oklee Public School. He later worked as a carpenter, a trade he has been doing since 1958.

Oscar built a full set of buildings on the farm he bought from his dad. He also built their present home in Oklee.

Helen came with her parents to Trail in 1922 where her dad owned a garage. She was graduated from Gonvick high school in 1938 and from Bemidji State University in 1942. Her first year of teaching was in the white schoolhouse west of Trail, by the highway. On cold mornings she built her own fires and listened to the floors crack and creak as she walked. In the winter, the snow blew in through a fresh air vent on the stove and there was a continuous sizzling as the snow melted. One night after school a mole ran along the wall, sending chills up her spine. Her widowed mother put hot coals under the Model A Ford to get it started every morning so Helen could drive to her school. At times the roads from Trail out to the school were blocked, so she walked the four and a half miles to her school. She taught school in Oklee in 1943, 1947 and in 1950.

Byron was born in 1950 and Myles in 1954. In 1956 Helen started teaching in Oklee again and is still teaching second grade. Byron graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1973 with a Master's Degree in Electronics Engineering. He married Jill Williams in 1970 and is presently a First Lieutenant serving in the Air Force at Richards-Gebaur Air Base near Kansas City, Missouri. His wife, Jill was graduated from U.N.D. in 1972 and is presently employed as a nurse in the intensive care unit at Lakeland Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri.

Myles is a Junior in accounting at the University of North Dakota. Both boys worked with Oscar doing carpenter work during the summer months.

ALFRED FOLDOE

Alfred Foldoe was born September 10, 1892 in Norman County, Minnesota and came with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Martin Foldoe and one brother, Carl, to settle on the homestead in Garnes Township, Red



Standing: Joe, Carl, Gust and Alfred. *Seated:* Mabel, Belle, Anna and Laura.

Lake County. He attended rural schools and later when the family moved away from the homestead to live in Erskine for a time, he attended the school there.

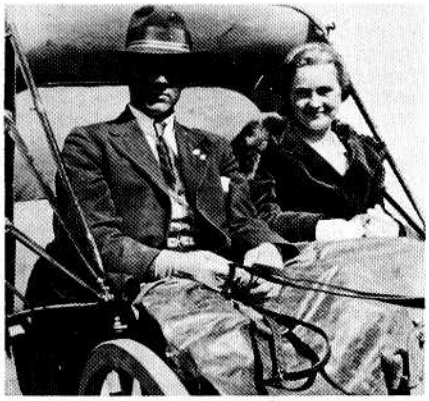
He married Anna Linder in September, 1918 and in October of that same fall was called into service. He started his military training at Fort Deming, New Mexico. Although the Armistice was signed on November 11, he was not mustered out of the Army until the following May.

Upon his return from the Army, Alfred went into farming, first in the Plummer community and in 1936 moved to the community northeast of Mentor. He farmed there until he retired from active farming.

Eight children were born to Alfred and Anna Foldoe. One son, Glen, passed away at the age of nineteen. One son, Leslie, is engaged in farming in Red Lake County and another son lives in Anoka. One daughter Eunice, (Mrs. James Wodahl), lives in Grand Rapids; two sons Maurice and Russell live in Tulsa, Oklahoma and the two youngest daughters live in Oregon, Ada (Mrs. Clyde Johnson), lives in Milwaukee, Oregon and Wilma (Mrs. Anton Olesen) in Albany, Oregon.

The family became members of Faith Lutheran Church at Mentor and were active in church work. Alfred has served as usher and deacon. Mrs. Foldoe passed away in November, 1958.

On June 24, 1965 Alfred was united in marriage with Mrs. Hannah Foldoe at age 83 and Hannah 82. They are still very active and live in their neat little farm home northeast of Mentor. They raise lovely gardens and Hannah does considerable canning and always has a store of baked goodies to serve with that good Scandinavian coffee that all visitors are treated to. As for Alfred, he manages to wear off some energy culling trees on his own farm and making them into firewood which he delivers to his customers in his pickup. For a more pleasurable pastime he tries his luck at spear fishing.



GUSTAF A. FOLDOE

Gustaf A. Foldoe, the sixth child of Martin and Mary Foldoe, was born June 2, 1905 while the family still lived on the homestead east of Plummer. He was about four years old when the family moved to the farm that was destined to become the future home for Gust after he grew to manhood. He attended the local school and remained at home helping his father with the work of running the farm.

After his father died, Gust took over the entire farm operation, renting at first, but before long arranging to buy the farm and go it on his own.

Gust Foldoe married Mabel Linder on June 27, 1928. Three daughters were born to them: Mrs. Dennis Brinkman (Audrey) of rural Thief River Falls, Mrs. Edwin Syverson (Mavis) of rural McIntosh, and Mrs. Linda Anderson of Bemidji.

Gust has been a very successful diversified farmer on this 240 acre tract of land northeast of Plummer. He bought a small frame house and had it moved to the farm to replace the old log house, and by his and his wife's ingenuity, added to this home and did extensive remodeling over the years, making it a very comfortable modern farm home.

The Gust Foldoe family were members of the Salem Lutheran Church north of Oklee. Gust served on the church board for many years and Mrs. Foldoe was a very active member of the Ladies Aid. She passed away in August, 1975.

Gust also served on the school board of District 233 until it became consolidated with the Plummer district. He was on the Board of Directors of the Plummer Co-operative for a number of years and has served for eighteen years on the Plummer Creamery Board and is still a member of this board.

He expects to retire from active farming in 1976.

HAROLD FORD FAMILY

Harold Ford is the son of the late Martin and Mary Pahlen Ford and has resided in Red Lake Falls all his life.

He attended the local schools and in January 1942 enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17.

Immediately following boot camp he was assigned to the newly commissioned battleship U.S.S. South Dakota. Along with the other two-thirds of the crew who were green recruits they left for the Pacific war zone.

While serving on the "SoDak" the crew and ship had a distinguished service record. They were in the battle of Santa Cruz, Savo Island, Gilbert Island landings, Guam, Okinawa, two large battles in the Philippine Sea, Iwo Jima and it was the first battleship to fire on the Japanese mainland. They had a record of three enemy cruisers sunk, 64 Jap planes shot down, and inflicted damage on numerous land fortifications besides other war ships. The ship was heavily damaged twice but was able to make it back to port for repairs and was present along with the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay on August 29, 1945 when the Japanese officially surrendered.

After his discharge from the service Harold has been employed by the Red Lake Electric Co-operative since 1946.

Harold Ford married Dorothy Meyer in 1948 and they have six children: Mrs. Courtney Kleven (Kathy); Mrs. Jim Potucek (Linda), Laurie, Kristi, Guy and Bryan.

JOHN FORD FAMILY

John Ford was born in Ireland, January 1841, but at the age of six he moved with his parents to Glasgow, Scotland where he resided until he was sixteen, when he came to America and settled in Hastings, Minnesota.

He served his adopted country for more than three years during the Civil War as a private in the 118th Illinois Infantry and he fought in thirty-eight battles. Among these were the Battle of Vicksburg, the Battle of Shiloh, and the Burning of Charleston. He was with General Sherman on his famous March to the Sea.

After being mustered out of the service he returned to Hastings where in 1868 he married Margaret O'Rourke. Twelve children were born to them: Joseph, Clarence, Frank, Steven, John, Earl, James, Delia (Zeller), Nell (McGinnity), Olive (Sullivan), and Catherine (Spencer). Another son died in infancy.

John Ford moved his family to Red Lake Falls in 1880 and took a homestead North of town in what is now Browns Creek Township. His wife died in 1894. Mr. Ford passed away at his home in 1927 at the age of eighty-six.

Of his surviving sons, Joseph is the only one who married. In 1934 he married Eleanor Gustofson. They continued to farm the homestead and raised their family. They had five children: Earl, John, Carol (Smith), Joan (Kalbakdalen), and David, who was drowned at the age of seventeen months in 1942. In 1944 the farm home burned to the ground and the family moved to Red Lake Falls. Joseph Ford's sister, Delia, continued to live on the farm and managed it until her death in 1954 at which time the farm was sold to Richard French.

Joseph Ford passed away in 1946, after six years as an invalid due to a stroke.

I never knew my grandparents but my aunts and uncles used to tell about having to ford the river to get to town. Once when John and Margaret Ford went to "the Forks" for supplies they returned to find the house had burned to the ground and all the children were gone. Well of course they thought they had all been burned to death, but they were all safe at the neighbors. I'm not sure but I thought when they said "the Forks" they meant Grand Forks. It was more than a day to go there and back with horse and wagon, and crossing the river was a hazard.

Also, John Ford had many brothers and sisters. When his children would ask about them, he said most of them died from hunger in Ireland during the potato famine.

I always thought that he had come here with two of his brothers, Patrick and Michael, but according to the obituary I have, his only survivor is listed as a sister, Jenny Dobie of Hastings.

Earl Ford is a Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy. John is also a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy. Carol Ford (Smith) teaches art and psychology in Memphis, Tennessee.

Joan married Maynard Kalbakdalen and they have six children: Robert, Debra, Gail, Jeffrey, Lisa and Daniel.

LEONARD FORD

Leonard, the son of Charles and Bertha Daugherty Ford, was born in Brown's Creek Township in 1917 and attended a one room school known as the "Little Red Schoolhouse."

He married Elma LaCoursiere in 1943 and they own and operate and are still liv-

ing on the farm on which he was born, and which is located six miles north-west of Red Lake Falls. They have three daughters: Yvonne, (Mrs. Henry Knott, Jr.), Beverly (Mrs. Linus Schmitz) and Verna, all living in the area.

Leonard was on the school board several years, is a member of the Sportsmen Club, Knights of Columbus, the Pathfinders Snowmobile Club and St. Joseph's Men's Guild.

PATRICK FORD

Patrick Ford was born in Cork County, Ireland in 1838. In the early 1840's he came to the United States because of the great potato famine in Ireland when thousands of people starved to death. He settled near Hastings, Minnesota.

When the Civil War broke out Patrick Ford enlisted in the army and served in the Minn. Eighth Regiment, 1862 to 1865. He fought first against the Sioux Indian Uprising in Southern Minnesota then with the Union forces in Tennessee and North Carolina. In one of the skirmishes, he lost the sight of his right eye and for this, received a pension for the rest of his life.

In 1869 he married Elizabeth King in Hastings and to this union nine children were born and raised to adulthood; Emma, Charles, Jenny, Anna, Martin, Robert, Elizabeth, James and Celia.

As the desire of most settlers was to own land of their own, the Ford family homesteaded six miles northwest of Red Lake Falls around 1890. They traveled to northern Minnesota by oxen-drawn covered wagons. They first built a log cabin and later built a large family home made from lumber they had cleared from their land.

Elizabeth Ford served many area mothers as a mid-wife. She assisted in the delivery of many babies around Red Lake Falls, Wylie, St. Hilaire and Dorothy and traveled with horses and a buckboard wagon.

The Ford men were all good horsemen and enjoyed hunting wolves from horseback. Pheasants, prairie chickens, and other upland game birds were plentiful and in the fall, waterfowl were numerous. The women made feather ticks and goose and duck down pillows for bedding.

Patrick Ford lived to the age of 81.

ANDREW AND LAURA FORE

Andrew, son of Rusmus Fore, lived with his parents until he entered the army in 1918 — during World War I. He returned home in 1919 and in 1920 he married Laura Riendal.

They had three children: Alden, who lives in Libby, Montana, and has two sons. Roger, who lives in Concord, New Hampshire, and has two sons and one daughter.



Andrew Fore Family

Delilah, has three children and lives in Tujunga, California.

Andrew helped thresh for the neighbors and did carpenter work. He used to go to North Dakota in the fall with his team, wagon, and rack to work in the harvest fields to earn extra money for the family. Later his brother, Nels, bought a threshing machine and he helped him thresh for the neighbors. Later he bought out his brother's share in the rig. In summer he and brother Lars ditched with horses and scraper to build up the roads to earn some extra money.

As a young boy of twelve years he stayed at the John Hanson home while John worked in the Dakota harvest fields. He herded the cattle, helped milk, and did all the farm chores for twenty-five cents a week. In winter he earned a bit of extra money hunting wolves. The bounty was one dollar per pelt. In spring and fall he trapped mink, muskrats, weasels, skunks or any animal whose hide was worth something.

When Laura was thirteen years old she worked for Mrs. Oscar Lillo who had a new-born baby and no help. She did all the housework, took care of the other three children, milked the two cows, did the washing on a washboard, ironing, cleaning, and working for one dollar a week. She was real happy when she went home in three weeks and had earned three dollars.

Andrew and Laura celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1970 with all their children and grandchildren present. Andrew died in 1973 and Laura still lives in their home in Oklee.



Mr. and Mrs. Nels Fore

HERMAN LILLO AND NELS FORE FAMILIES

Herman Lillo and his wife Emma Legvold Lillo had five children, two died in their early life, and three are still living; Maurice, Obert and Alvin. Our mother died when we were quite young so our family was split up. I, Alvin, was adopted by Nels and Ida Lillo Fore.

Nels and Ida owned a hundred and twenty acre farm in section thirty-four of Equality Township and it was here that I got started in my farming career. All our work in the early days was done with horse power and one bottom sulky plow, or if we had horses enough, a two-bottom gang plow was used.

I had a run away with three horses on a six foot disc when I was about eight years old. The horse in the center got the bridle off and they started off in a gallop. My feet did not reach the disc frame, so I fell down in the frame and hung on for awhile, but I finally got knocked out and went under the



Alvin Fore Family

disc. I was all bruised but not injured seriously.

Maurice, Obert and I received our elementary education at Shadow Lawn School which in later years was consolidated with the Oklee School. The schoolhouse was sold and now all that remains is the lot on which the building stood.

Nels Fore was engaged in road construction work at one time, so Maurice and I did some of the work. Most of the work was done with tractor and grader, some with horses and fresnos and some with elevator grader and dump wagons drawn by horses. Nels built miles of roads in the neighboring townships and also a road one mile east and one mile west out of Fosston in 1924. The following year he built about seven more miles of road east of Fosston.

After Nels went out of the road construction business we concentrated more on farming, milking cows and grain and grass seed production. He bought a saw mill and we sawed a considerable amount of lumber. Most of the logs we hauled from the Indian Reservation which was about fifteen miles from here. It was on one of these trips with a load of logs and four horses pulling the sleigh that I had another runaway and came very close to going under the sleigh. When we came to a plank bridge across the road, the lead team was a little reluctant to cross and held back a little then made a leap forward and busted the lead rod. I was sitting on the front end of the log load so when they jumped they pulled me off the load down between the team on the sleigh which by that time had scared and started running in a gallop. As I fell, I tried to grab the harness straps but I had on large driving mitts and I could not get a hold of anything. I fell down between the horses and hooked my right arm over the sleigh pole and my leg straddled a tug of the harness. Luckily these horses were trained to stop for the word "Whoa," so when I yelled "Whoa" they stopped or I probably wouldn't be here today to write this history.

My dad, Herman Lillo, married his second wife, Elsie Wichterman, in 1918. They have six children; Eldore, Norman, Leona, Milo, Ardith and Renaldo.

In 1934, Gladys Fossum and I were married in the Clearwater Church and we started farming on our own. We bought a hundred and sixty acres of land, known as the Ole Wistad farm, which is the north east quarter of section twelve in Equality Township. We have since acquired other adjoining farms and today we own one thousand and eighty acres. We are now living on the north west quarter in section one on which we built or moved in all of the buildings as there were no buildings here and hazel brush was seven feet tall, so thick you could not see through it.

We have now remodeled and added on

to the house which we moved to our land from the Fossum farm. We also built two large pole sheds for cattle, one quonset, two well houses and drilled two wells, each producing plenty of soft water.

We have four children: Joyce, Barbara, Judy and Arlan. All are grown up and married. Arlan and I are now farming together, owning and operating two thousand ,and twenty acres. Operations consist of growing certified and registered grain, certified timothy, beef cattle and hay. At times we have up to four hundred head of cattle as we sell the increase as yearlings and do not market any calves.

This year we received the recognition as Conservation Farmers of the Year by the Soil Conservation Service. In 1966, my wife and I received the Valley Farmer and Homemaker Award.

I am at the present serving as secretary of the Clearwater Church. I have been serving on the board of directors as secretary and at the present time as President of the Oklee Farmers Co-op Elevator Ass'n since 1948. I served as president of the Oklee Farmers Union Local for a number of years and at the present time I am President of the Red Lake County Farmers Union, a position I have held since 1951.

RUSMUS FORE FAMILY

Rusmus Fore came as a young man from Stavanger, Norway, to Iowa. He had one sister who lived in North Dakota. Aasa Inga, his wife, also came to Iowa with her mother and brother. Rusmus and Aasa were married there and traveled to the Fosston area where they lived on the northeast corner of White Fish Lake.

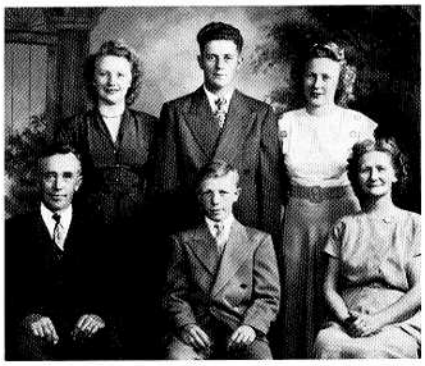
In 1897, Rusmus, Aasa and their seven children came to Equality Township in a wagon pulled by oxen. They carried their personal possessions and tools and settled in section fifteen. Their first log house was long and narrow and very small. Later they built a larger house with logs from the Clearwater River logging drives. Russel, their eighth child, was born after the family moved to Equality.

Rusmus had several teams of oxen which he used in his grain farming. He also had cattle, sheep and pigs.

Rusmus and Aasa helped to start the Clearwater Lutheran Church and continued to be active in its work during their lives. Many times Aasa walked to Fosston to visit her mother who had a livery barn there. She also had made several trips on foot to Red Lake Falls.

Rusmus and Aasa had eight children: Jens married Annabelle Rolandson and had nine children, all living at present; Alice, Agnes, Alma, Orville, Arlie, Milo, Roy, James, and Elmer. Lars married Myrtle Barsness. They had four children; Lillian, Dorine, Virgil and Eunice (deceased). Nels married Ida Lillo. They adopted two children, Alvin (Lillo) Fore and Mavis (Anderson) (deceased). They also raised Maurice Lillo as a young boy. Andrew married Laura Reindal. Their three children are Alden, Roger and Delilah. Russel married Anna Asklund. They had seven children, four who are living; Adline, Phyllis, Delano and Ronald. Edwin died in early life. Martin died as a young man.

Rusmus farmed with his sons until his death in 1918 and Aasa lived on the farm with her son Russel until her death in 1930. All of their children are now dead.



Russel Fore Family

RUSSEL FORE AND ANNA ASKLUND FORE

Russel took over the family farm after his father's death and continued to raise grain, cattle and sheep. He married Anna Asklund in 1927 and they continued to improve the farm. Russel and Anna were both active in church work and he was a member of the school board.

Seven children were born to them, four of whom are still living: Adeline, Mrs. Howard Stone, lives at Sauk Centre, Minnesota; Phyllis, Mrs. Don Peterson, lives at Thief River Falls and has three children; Ronald married Wanda Vettleson and lives on the home farm. They have five children; Delano and his wife, Addie, live at White Sulphur Springs, Montana.

Russel sold the farm to Delano in 1968 and moved to Thief River Falls. When Russel died in 1972, Anna moved to Oklee where she now lives.

The farm was sold by Delano to Black Gold in 1972. The buildings still stand.

ARTHUR FOSSUM AND GLORIA BRAATEN FOSSUM

I, Gloria Braaten Fossum, moved with my parents Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Braaten and three sisters, Jean, Delphine and Merle to the former John Greenwald farm 1¼ miles west of the Village of Plummer in the year 1943 from Dunseith, North Dakota.

I attended Pershing High School and graduated in the year 1947. Those days were most memorable. I especially remember cheerleading and playing in the band under the direction of E. Palmer Rocksvold. I give Ed Greenwald and daughter, Wilma Greenwald Arlt, much credit for my enjoyment of band music. We would get together many evenings and play outdoors. Ed played the bass horn, Wilma the cornet, and I the E flat alto horn.

My husband, Art, moved with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Fossum and four sisters, Evelyn, Asta, Johanna and Arlene to a farm 1½ miles east of Plummer in the year 1944 from Aneta, N. Dak. On Feb. 9, 1948, we were united in marriage in Immanuel Lutheran Church in Plummer with Rev. J. M. Runestad officiating. We lived on the Fossum farm while his parents made a six month trip to Norway. In the fall of 1948, we moved to California and returned in April, 1950. We purchased the Olaf and Evelyn Thompson farm 4 miles west of Plummer and resided there until 1955 when we moved to So. Milwaukee, Wis. where Art became employed by Bucyrus Erie Company. He now has 20 years of service there.

We have four sons, Richard 24, Michael, 22 who were born in Crookston, Minn. James is 18 and Robert 15. Richard married Nancy Knudtson January 18, 1975. They reside in Vancouver, Wash. We make one and two trips every year to the Plummer area to visit relatives and friends and enjoy them very much.

GEORGE FOSSUM FAMILY

George Fossum is the son of the late Peier Fossum, who had homesteaded in Equality township in 1913. George attended country school through eighth grade and was confirmed into the Lutheran faith at the Clearwater Lutheran Church, where he has been a member ever since.

He married Hazel Wedger from Gully in 1944 and bought the homestead farm from his dad, which he later sold. He purchased a quarter of land near the homestead and later bought the Husby farm nearby and the Bendickson farm both in Equality township.

They had five children: Gene died soon after birth, LaVonne, born 1945 married Lowell Enerson from McIntosh and lives on a farm in Equality township. Gary, born in 1948, married Diane Kostrqewski of Argyle and lives in Thief River Falls. Larry, born in 1950, married Karen Violette from Oklee and lives in Duluth, and Donna, born in 1954, married Jeff Sundrud from Oklee and lives there.

REIER FOSSUM FAMILY

Reier's parents were Reier Christonsen and Olia Olsen. He went through the ordinary school and was in the army for three years. He was married in 1899 to Ragna Andreasen, also from the same place in Norway. She was born in 1880.

He immigrated to the United States in 1904. Ragna came later with their three children. Here he took a free homestead in Hanguard township, Clearwater County, Minnesota, the same year, proved up his homestead and got citizenship in 1910. Later he sold his homestead and bought a farm in Equality township in 1913 where he lived until his retirement when he and his wife moved to Proctor, Minnesota. They lived there until their deaths. Reier died in 1956 at the age of seventy-nine. Ragna died in 1958 at the age of seventy-seven.

Reier also did carpenter work besides farming.

They were members of the Clearwater Lutheran Church. He helped with the construction of the church and later built the basement for it. He made the first pews, the baptismal font and some tables. He was also on the church board for several years. Ragna was a member of the ladies aid.

They had eleven children of whom three died at an early age.

Alf, was born in 1900, married Louise Burman from Oklee and settled in Duluth. They had six children. Alf died in 1970. Ole, born in 1902 and died when fourteen years old. Magne, born in 1903, died when eleven years old. Oscar, born in 1906, died



Reier and Ragna Fossum

when eight months old. Ralph, born in 1908, married Irene Lynch from Oklee. Living at Proctor, Minnesota. They had six children. Millie, born in 1913, married Elmer Brovold from Gully. They had two children. Gladys, born in 1915, married Alvin Fore, lives in Equality township and had four children. Ole, born in 1916, married Louise Branden from Gonvick and settled in Proctor, Minnesota. They had four children. He died in 1973. Bjarne, born in 1918, married Orpha Frigstad from Gully, Minnesota. Living in Great Falls, Montana. Had two children. Arnold, born in 1920, married Alice Branden from Gonvick, Minnesota. Living in Proctor, Minnesota. Had two children. George, born in 1923, married Hazel Wedger from Gully. Settled in Equality township. Had five children (one deceased).

ALEXIS FOURNIER, JR.

Alexis Fournier was two years old when he arrived in this country from his place of birth in St. Ursule, Quebec, Canada in 1865. He came with his parents, Alexis Fournier, Sr. and Emerance Doneau by horse and wagon to where they settled in sections six and seven in Poplar River Township. The family lived on this land until 1901 when Alexis, Jr. married Antonia Langlois and Alexis, Sr. moved the family to a farm south of the Beau Gerlot School where he had purchased more land.

Antonia Langlois who was born in 1873 came with her parents, Moise Langlois and Anne Levine, three sisters and three brothers from St. Jean, Quebec, Canada to settle on a plantation near the Turtle Mountains. After living there several months, Antonia's mother was taken ill and died. The family then moved to Red Lake County where the Langlois girls were placed in foster homes. Antonia lived with the Rivard family in Terrebonne and there attended school for a few years.

Antonia and Alexis, Jr. settled on a small farm in Poplar River Township following their marriage on July 29, 1901. Their house was a small structure with three rooms downstairs and bedrooms upstairs. All cultivation was done with horses and small machinery. They both milked the cows they raised and they also had horses, hogs, chickens, geese and turkeys. Antonia was an excellent cook. She also had a large vegetable garden and did an enormous amount of canning and preserving to feed her family of nine children. When the children were eight or nine years old, they learned to milk the cows and help with the chores. The children walked a mile to and from their country school and the family attended St. Anthony's Catholic Church where all of the children were baptized and received their religious instruction.



Alexis Fournier Family

Antonia and Alexis lived in a very friendly neighborhood where the people often visited and played cards, especially in the winter.

Alexis Jr. died on December 17, 1941, from a heart ailment he had developed a few months previously. Antonia died on January 22, 1960. She had been in failing health for some time. They are both buried in the Catholic cemetery in Terrebonne.

The children of Antonia and Alexis, Jr. are: Adrian (b. 1902-1970) married Georgiana Thibert and they made their home in Terrebonne; Leo (b. 1903) married Loretta Gervais. They live on a farm near Gentilly; Blanche (b. 1905 — d. 1966) married Leon Mercil; Anna (b. 1908) married Joseph Montreuil. They live in Detroit, Michigan; Mayme (b. 1911) married Philip Dufault. They live on a farm near Gentilly; Thomas (b. 1912) married Anette Caillier. They are retired and make their home in Lyons, Oregon; Bernice (b 1915) married Leo Gervais. They live on a farm near Gentilly; David (b. 1919) makes his home with the Leo Fourniers. Vivian (b. 1925) married Milton Sorsoleil and they reside in Minneapolis.

ISAAC FOURNIER

Isaac Fournier came with his father, Alexis, his brother, Alexis, Jr., and his six sisters, Agnes, Zelia, Amanda and three others, from Canada in the 1880's to homestead in Terrebonne Township. Isaac had one son, David, from his first marriage. He married Marie LaCoursiere in 1895 and eight children were born to them. Four of these children died in infancy and those surviving were: Albert, Verlaida, Lumina and Walter. All of these children were born in a log cabin, but the family moved into a new home in 1911 which is still standing.

Albert bought the homeplace from his father in 1920. He married Alma Fournier in 1924 and they had two daughters.

Verlaida married Albert Bergeron in 1924; they had three boys and two girls.

Walter married Dorothy Turgeon and their only child, Ann Marie, married Marlin Hammer.

Lumina married Clifford Piche in 1921 and they had their wedding dance in her parent's home. They lived near Wylie for four years and at Detroit Lakes for five years before buying the home place from Albert Fournier in 1930. Cliff and Lumina still live on the home farm. They have two sons, Elmer born in 1924 and George born in 1926.

Elmer married Mary Ann Wetch in 1963. George Piche is married to Bette Karver and they have four sons, Bennie, Dennis, Roger and Wayne. Bennie (b. 1948) married Sylvia Bevolden. They have two children, Renae (b. 1971) and Scott (b. 1973). Dennis (b. 1951) lives near Red Lake Falls and works on the farm. Roger (b. 1952) lives in Arizona and Wayne (b. 1964) is in school.



FRITZ FOURNIER FAMILY

My parents, Cecilia Baril and Alfred (Fritz) Fournier, met in the fall of 1927. At that time, my mother was employed at the Red Lake Falls Creamery as a bookkeeper and my father was working for his uncle, Ted Fournier, at Ted's Bar which is now known as Champeau's Bar. They were married May 31, 1932 with Doria Baril and Vern Fournier as attendants.

My dad started working at the Red Lake Falls Liquor Store at the time it opened in 1934, where he continued until he retired in 1967. He had been manager for the preceding eight years.

My mother had been employed with the Garden Valley Telephone Company and at the County Court House from 1955 where she is presently working for the Register of Deeds.

There are four children: Richard (Father Denis), English Professor at Mary College, Bismarck, North Dakota. He was ordained at Richardton, N.D. and said his first mass in Red Lake Falls June 1960; LeRoy, Manager — Parts Division for Seders Pontiac/Cadillac Garage, Mason City, Iowa, has five children; Ramon, Production Engineer for Indiana General, Peru, Illinois, has two children; and I, Nancy, am Office Manager for the Formac Corporation in Minneapolis, MN.

THEOPHILE FOURNIER

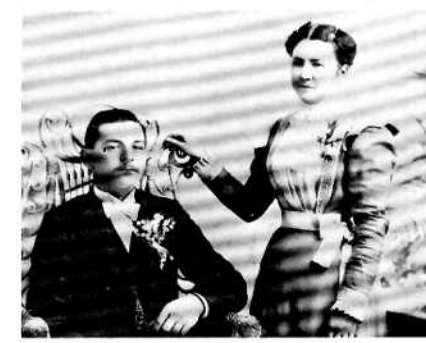
Theophile Fournier was born in 1876 in Two Rivers, Quebec and came to the Terrebonne vicinity when he was quite young.

He married Euphorates Blondid in 1899 and they settled in the Poplar River Area. Euphorates was born March 1881, also in Two Rivers, Quebec and came to Terrebonne with her family at an early age. Her father had a grocery store in Terrebonne.

Theophile died March 1919 during the flu epidemic at the age of forty-three.

They had six children (one died at birth): Alfred (Fritz) of Red Lake Falls, Leo of Warren, Leah of Fargo, North Dakota, Theodore (Ted) of Selah, Washington, and Louis (died May 1974) Seattle, Washington.

Euphorates married Amedie Gagner in 1925. She died in 1953 and Amedie died February 1956.





Hjalmar and Adella Fredrickson with daughter Helen.

HJALMAR H. FREDRICKSON

Hjalmer H. Fredrickson was born at Varmland, Sweden on July 14, 1874, son of Fredrick Olafson and Kerstin Kamberg. Because of the early death of his mother, he was raised by his grandparents, Nils and Karen Kamberg until he immigrated to the United States in 1892.

Hjalmar left Bodanaset, Skillingmark, Sweden, at the age of 17 years. On April 12, 1892, he and eight friends boarded a large ship at Oslo, Norway and came to America. They arrived at Fertile, Minnesota, on May 1, 1892. Hjalmar worked for farmers during haying and harvest seasons and cut cord wood.

He married Adella M. Anderson, daughter of Frank and Mary (Martin) Anderson of Fertile on January 14, 1897. She was born at Waterville, Iowa, on August 3, 1880, and moved to the Fertile area with her parents as a young girl. After their marriage in Crookston they farmed in the Fertile area until 1904 when they moved to the Plummer area. Two children were born to this couple: Helen in 1897 and Chester in 1901. Their daughter Helen died of polio in 1910. Chester grew to manhood and farmed with his father.

They purchased farms in Gervais Township and grain and dairy farmed until retirement.

Friends and community activities had always been important to them involving church, numerous farmers clubs that flourished in the earlier years of this century and the exchange of work to tame a new land. Hjalmer served as secretary-treasurer of the Plummer Co-Op Creamery Association for 26 years, was on the elevator board for 8 years, served on the school board, and was a long time member of the board of directors of the Plummer Co-Op Store.

Hjalmar and Adella Fredrickson celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in 1972. They lived on their farm home until the spring of 1973 when they moved to Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls. Hjalmer died October 3, 1973 at the age of 99 years. Adella still resides at Hillcrest at the age of 96 years.



CHESTER M. FREDRICKSON

Chester M. Fredrickson, son of Hjalmar and Adella (Anderson) Fredrickson, was born at Fertile, Minnesota, on August 8, 1901. He moved with his parents to a farm in Gervais Township in 1904 where he attended Wildwood School and grew to manhood.

He spent the year of 1922 in Tacoma, Washington, and on July 14, 1928, he married Ida A. Westerlund, daughter of John and Mary (Nelson) Westerlund of Gervais Township. They were the parents of four children: Floyd, Thief River Falls, Minnesota; Mrs. Vern (Merlyn) Perreault, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota; Mrs. Gladys Borshiem, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, and Mrs. Harold (Clarice) Wilcox of Fargo, North Dakota.

They resided on his father's farm and were involved with dairy and small grain farming until his retirement in 1952. He was employed in Chishom, Plummer and Fisher until his complete retirement in 1965.

Chester and Ida Fredrickson resided on their farm in Gervais Township until their deaths. Ida died on September 28, 1969, and Chester died on May 6, 1975. They were members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Plummer and are buried in the Emardville Cemetery.

LORENZO AND AGNES FRENCH FAMILY

Lorenzo and Agnes French moved to Red Lake County in 1952 from Grafton, North Dakota where they sold their farm to purchase the Joe Hirsch farm in Red Lake Falls Township and they are still living and farming there.

There are nine children: Connie graduated from St. James Academy, Grand Forks and attended Mayville State College and taught school for several years. She married Dean Vatthauer. They farm south of Red Lake Falls and have three children.

Brother Paul (Douglas) is a member of the Order of Christian Brothers and holds a doctorate in literature from Loyola University. He is a professor in the English Department and chairman of the Liberal Arts program at Lewis University in Lockport, Illinois. For the past five years during the summer months, he has studied and researched in humanities in both London and Paris.

Agnes Marie graduated from St. James Academy, Grand Forks and from the School of Beauty in St. Cloud. She is married to Bud Keller and lives in St. Paul. They have five children. Bud is office manager of Swift Meat Packers.

Audrey graduated from Lafayette high school and worked as an executive secretary in Rockford, Illinois. She married Dr. Peter Paesant, endodontist and instructor at Northwestern University of Dentistry. They live in Rockford, Illinois and have three children.

Betty graduated from Lafayette high school and worked for Minnesota Mining in Hutchinson. She married Vance Zihringer of Clinton, Minnesota and now lives in Hutchinson. Vance teaches science at Silver Lake and they own and operate a hotel in Hutchinson. They have two children.

Margie (deceased) attended Lafayette high school. She married Lowell Kalbakdalen (also deceased). They lived in Bismarck, North Dakota where Lowell Kalbakdalen was program director of KFYR television under the name of Dave Scott. Four children survive: Janelle, David, Kimberly and Scott who make their home with the paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Kalbakdalen of Red Lake Falls.

Michael, now Brother Mike, graduated from Lafayette high school and attended Moorhead State University where he received degrees in Spanish and music. A member of the Order of Christian Brothers, he teaches Spanish and religion at Montini high school at Lombard, Illinois.

Phillip graduated from Lafayette high school and spent four years in the Air Force. He married Linda Rodriquez. After he attended the University of Texas he completed his degree in psychology at Moorhead State. At present he is doing post-graduate work at Laredo, Texas. They have one son.

Debbie also attended St. Joseph's and Lafayette high school. She attended Moorhead State for two years and then worked in Minneapolis at Thomas Designs and for Travels Agency. At present she resides in Red Lake Falls.

What originally attracted the Frenches to this area were the better dairy facilities and good fishing. They have since phased out the dairying but the fishing interest still holds.



Lorenzo French Family

RICHARD FROILAND

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Froiland are the fourth generation to live on the Froiland farm in Emardville Township, homesteaded in 1892 by his great grandparents, Peder and Kajsa Erickson. Peder Erickson came from Sweden to St. Peter, Minnesota in the early 1870's, a widower with a little daughter, Christina. In 1875 Kajsa Ericksdotter, a widow with a six year old daughter, Ida,

came to her sister's home near St. Peter. Peder and Kajsa were married and moved to Park River, North Dakota some time in the 1880's. Here Christina met and married Herman Henke and moved to the Red Lake Falls area. In 1888 Ida married Johann Froiland who was born in Sokendal, Norway, March of 1863. He worked as a sailor on the Atlantic Ocean for eight years before coming to Park River.

Peder and Kajsa Erickson heard of land being opened for settlement in what was then Polk County, Minnesota. They left Park River in 1892 and staked their claim. They built a log house and barn and attempted to prove up the homestead. In 1899 because the work became too difficult for them, they persuaded their daughter, Ida and her husband to come. Their daughter Christina's husband had just passed away and she was ill.

In June 1899 Johann and Ida Froiland rented their farm and started the journey for the Erickson homestead in Minnesota. They stretched a tarp over a hayrack which held all their possessions and was drawn by a team of horses. With them were their six children, Albert, Clara, Henry, Ben, Pete, and Ann. They had food along and camped at nightfall, stopping at farm homes along the way to buy milk, eggs and to get water. After a five day journey they arrived at the home of their parents. They started work immediately on a house and by fall Johann and Ida took over the homestead. Christina passed away leaving a daughter, Emma, who made her home with her grandparents. That fall Alma was born and later William, Mabel, Helmer, Bertha and Arthur. Helmer passed away at the age of three. Johann Froiland became ill and after a lingering illness passed away March 1, 1911. Arthur was born in June of that year. There was no aid to dependent children or food stamps, but with the help of the older children Ida continued on the farm.

In 1918 Ben and Henry were called in the army both seeing action in Germany. Albert married Laura Vandervaal from Brooks who taught school in District 214, the school attended by all the Froiland children. Albert and Laura moved to the Froiland farm at Park River. Clara married Victor Medchill and farmed a few miles east of the home place. Henry married Vivian Huffman from Barnum, a teacher at the Plummer school. Ben worked several years in banks in Oklee and Langdon, North Dakota, and was business manager of the Bratrud Clinic at Thief River Falls. He married Verna Liden. Pete married Alma Bakke of Park River and worked in a hardware store there, later moving to Grand Forks where he worked as a hardware salesman. Ann taught in several rural schools and married Ed Whaling, a county auditor of Itasca County. He passed away and Ann went back to teaching at Coleraine. Alma married George Blake who had a restaurant in Detroit Lakes and Grand Rapids.

Bill worked for the Ford Motor Company of Thief River Falls and later was Register of Deeds of Pennington County. He married Peggy Peterson and was killed in the tragic plane accident in January, 1974 when he was a member of the city council and the group that was enroute to Owatonna on business. Mabel, a teacher, married Russell Bradshaw who passed away. She and her son continue to operate Bradshaw Gravel Company of Arvilla, North Dakota. Bertha, a nurse, married Russell Williams and lives at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Arthur decided to stay on the farm and married Avis Sorenson of Garnes Township. They had two children, Richard and Marie and lived with his mother, Ida, until 1956 when she passed away. Marie married Les Foster and lives at Roseau. Richard married Arlene Lundeen of Oklee and took over the farm in 1968. They have three girls. Arthur and Avis moved to Plummer where he is employed at Plummer Elevator, and Avis works at the school as a teacher's aide.

PETER BELLO GAASS

Peter B. Gaass was born in Pella, Iowa, in 1868. Due to his efforts, the Gaass family genealogy has been traced back to Herman Gaass, father of Johan Heinrig Gaass, born 1780 in Westercapel, province of Mechlenbury, Kingdom of Hanover. Johan went to Zwalle, Holland in 1815 where the name was changed to its present spelling, GAASS. In Holland he became a merchant dealing in linens. Johan Gaass and his wife, Lucia Bello had four children. Pieter Gaass was born in 1816. He continued in the family business, adding to it by dealing in paper. Pieter and Gerrit Gaass had four children. Dirk William Gaass, father of Peter Bello, was born in Zwalle, Holland in 1847.

The Gaass family came to America in 1850, and settled on a farm near Pella, Iowa. Dirk W. Gaass married Henrietta VonDonselaar in 1867. They had eight children who were all raised on the home site. Peter Bello was the oldest of the children and attended schools in Iowa. After graduating from high school and attending business school, he worked on the railroad, and later in a bank at Des Moines, Iowa.

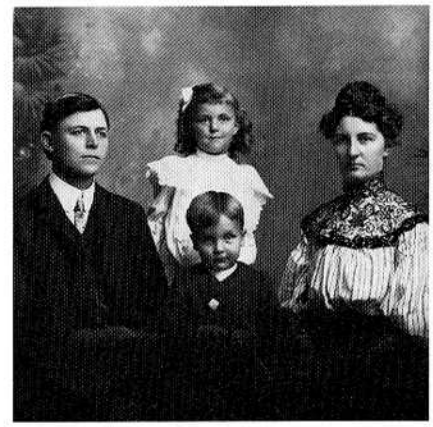
In 1893, he set up a loan, insurance and land office and continued in this business until 1900, when he sold the business and moved to Red Lake Falls where he organized the Union Land, Loan and Investment Agency, a partnership with A. W. Wood. In 1902 he became the sole owner of the business. He was interested in farming operations and introduced sweet clover in Red Lake County. He excelled in hunting and fishing.

P. B. Gaass married Nettie Glass in 1897, an aunt of John Glass of Red Lake Falls, and a sister of Mrs. Doc (Dora) Wilkenson. Dr. Wilkenson was a physician in the community, and served as Commander of the Legion post while here.

The Gaasses had three children. Wanda was born in 1898 in Iowa, but attended schools in Red Lake Falls and business school in Crookston. She worked in the land business until her death in 1959. Harold was born in 1902 in Red Lake Falls and attended grade school there. He graduated from Wentworth Military Academy, and attended business school in Crookston. Wallace was born in Red Lake Falls in 1906, and died the same year. The Gaass family moved to Crookston in 1920, where Mr. Gaass was in the real estate business until his death in 1943.

Harold married Alfa Sjoberg in 1926. They had one daughter, Carol Jean, who is Mrs. Albert Valley of Bloomington. Alfa Sjoberg Gaass died in 1938.

In 1940, Harold Gaass married Fern Bartholomay. They had three children: Janet Elizabeth, Sharla Rae, and a son who was born and died in 1941. They lived in Detroit Lakes until Harold's death in 1945.



P. B. Gaass Family

In 1947, Fern B. Gaass married Willard Zutz of Red Lake Falls. Janet and Sharla attended grade and high school and St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls until 1960 when the family moved to Moorhead. Janet is married to Jack Eagen and they have one son, Mark. They live on Island Lake near Detroit Lakes. Sharla is married to Fred Foulkes. They live in Longmont, Colorado, and have two daughters, Lisa and Elizabeth.

Two sons, Marvin and Daniel, were born to Fern and Willard while living in Red Lake Falls, and they attended schools here and in Moorhead. At present they are associated with their father in the farming operation in Red Lake County.

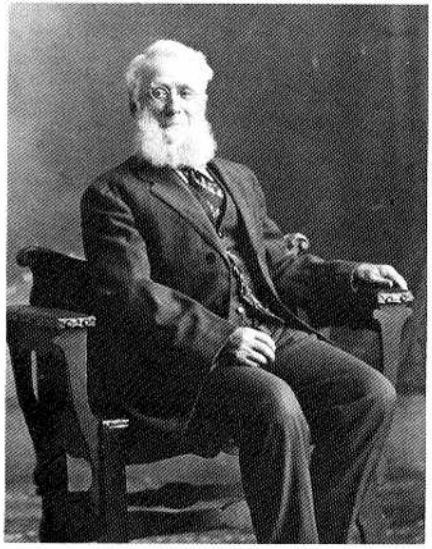
WINTON AND RUTH GACKSTETTER

Winton and Ruth Gackstetter moved to Red Lake Falls in August of 1950. Winton taught seventh and eighth grade science and also Industrial Arts at Lafayette High School.

Four children were born to the Gackstetters. Shelley arrived in July, 1951; Lynette in June, 1954; Melani in July, 1956; and Randal in April, 1960. All attended Washington and Lafayette schools. Shelley also attended Northland Jr. College, Bemidji State College, and graduated cum laude from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1973. She worked as a field advisor with the Girl Scouts of America after graduation with a field office in Red Lake Falls. Lynette married Bill Krause of Oakland, Iowa and Laporte, Minnesota in June, 1975 and they made their home in Laporte and Fairbanks, Alaska for a time. Shelley married Kent Spears, also of Red Lake Falls in December of 1975 and lives in Red Lake Falls. Lynette and Melani both attended Moorhead State University following high school graduation.

In 1971, Winton became the Vocational Center Director and carpentry instructor in Red Lake County. He joined the staff at Crookston Regional Inter-district Council as Special Needs Coordinator in 1974 and later became Director of this educational cooperative serving twenty-two school districts in Northwestern Minnesota.

Ruth began teaching again in 1964 when she worked with the Head-Start Program and taught kindergarten when classes officially opened in January, 1965. She has also worked in the SLBP program at Washington Elementary School.



Laurence Gagner, pioneer

LAURENT GAGNER FAMILY

Laurent Gagner was born in 1834 at St. Roman Trois Samaine in Quebec, Canada. He was married to Angel Carriveau, born 1835 and they came as early settlers to Terrebonne Township, homesteading two miles south of the village of Terrebonne in 1885. They had come to Minnesota in 1883 and lived in the Minneapolis area where Laurent worked in a flour mill. Their family consisted of nine children who were all born in Canada. Eight children spent their adult lives in Red Lake County. They were Napoleon, Mary Louise Fontaine, Octave, who married Rose Ann LeBlanc, Amede, married Rose Ann Gervais and later Frossie Fournier, Arshield married Delima Generoux, Soufernie married George Therorault. Julia married Remi Fartier; Phileomon married Ida Toupin, and Zephyr married Eda Perreault.

The Gagner name was changed sometime after the family came to Minnesota, the original name was Gagne dit Belevance. Zephyr and Eda had two children; Leo Thomas born at Terrebonne and married Ruth Linnihan (daughter of William Linnihan). Leo attended the Society of the Divine Word Seminar at Techney, Illinois. Leo has sold for Investors Diversified Services since 1937 and the family has lived in Crookston since 1945. Ruth and Leo have three children, Sally Rae Staggert, Dorothy Eda Monahan, and John Leon of Crookston.

Clara, second child of Zephyr and Eda, was born in Terrebonne and married Leo LaTendresse of Red Lake Falls. Leo LaTendresse passed away in January 1944. Clara then married Leo Deshene of Argyle. They have four children, Roland, Elizabeth, Lloyd and Carol. Clara resides in Crookston.

From the Red Lake Falls Gazette, November 10, 1921:

SAD ACCIDENT IN TERREBONNE

Zephyr Gagner, age 42, one of the prominent farmers of Terrebonne township, was killed in a runaway near the Felix Rossignol farm five miles southeast of Terrebonne at 11:00 Monday, November 7, 1921. His neck was broken by the wheel of the wagon and he was dead when found. Mr. Gagner was driving from his farm to Brooks with a load of hay and a few sacks of grain upon a light wagon. Though he was alone at the time, it is presumed that he was reaching around to straighten some of the sacks which were about to fall off, when the horses suddenly started up and Mr. Gagner was thrown head first off the load and fell in such a position that the wheel passed over his neck breaking it.

The family has the sympathy of all in this sad accident which has left two orphans.

The flu of 1918 was disastrous to the Gagner family. Three wives died within three weeks of each other. Eda Perreault Gagner, wife of Zephyr, leaving two children motherless; Emma Rock Gagner, wife of George Gagner, son of Octave, leaving two daughters motherless; and Roseanne Gervais Gagner, wife of Amede, leaving two young adults. This was one of the most significant tragedies of the Gagner families. There were no public funerals or wakes because of the fear of the flu. Almost all pregnant women who contracted the flu, died of viral pneumonia.

Philemon Gagner and wife, Ida Toupin, had twelve children: Louis, Florentine Roy, Thomas, Theo who was married to Vivian Morn, Blanche Black, Maurice, Lawrence married to Doris Gauthier, Alma, Henry married to Lorraine Marcotte, Harvey married to Marianne Erickson, Teresa LaCoursiere, and Cheri Ann Peterssen.

Philemon and Ida were very active members of St. Anthony's Church, Terrebonne and all community affairs. Ida was a member of school board district 36 for many years. She died in 1967 and Philemon in 1960.

Another Gagner, Albert, was born in 1904 in Terrebonne, son of Amede Gagner. He married the former Alice Hebert at Brooks in 1921. They farmed south of Terrebonne on the former Amede Gagner farm until 1950 when they moved to Detroit Lakes and celebrated their golden anniversary in 1971. Alice died in November 1975.

They had five sons, Melvin of Minneapolis, Hilaire, Herby and Duane of Seattle, Washington, and Donald of Terrebonne. Also four daughters, Mary Shaffer of Chisholm, Ida Anderson of Seattle, Lucy Fitzgerald of Sabin, and Betty Ackerman of Detroit Lakes.



Philemon and Ida Gagner

ANNA GAGNER

Anna Gagner was born 1899, the daughter of Ameda Gagner and Roseanna Gervais of Terrebonne township.

She attended local Red Lake county schools and became handicapped at the age of eight from what is now known as polio. However, her handicap never kept her down and she supported herself all of her life, working at any task at home as well as for many other people. She worked for many years in Crookston, Gentilly, and Freeport, and for five years for Euclid Mercil in Gentilly. Ann was Father Paquin's housekeeper for five years while he was priest at St. Anthony's Church, Terrebonne. She never married.

Anna now resides at Hillcrest Nursing home, where she makes and sells much handiwork, plays piano on many occasions, writes letters for other residents, does all of this with a willing smile and is always ready to joke and have fun.

One brother, Albert, resides at Detroit Lakes.

CLARENCE R. GAGNER

Clarence Gagner, son of Robert and Rose Gagner of Brooks, was married to Dianne Gunderson, daughter of Torkel and Ragna Gunderson of rural Oklee in September of 1965. Clarence graduated from Plummer High School in 1961 and attended Bemidji State University. Dianne, after graduation from Oklee High School in 1963, also attended Bemidji State University, graduating in 1967 with a degree in secondary education.

Having both been raised on dairy farms of Red Lake County, Clarence and Dianne are very familiar with rural life. However, since their marriage and being subjects of social change, they have become involved in different means of a livelihood. They have lived in the city of Brooks since 1965. Clarence has been employed as the Postmaster of that community since June of that year. Dianne has held teaching positions in the Red Lake Falls and Oklee Public School systems.

Mr. and Mrs. Gagner have maintained an active engagement in civic affairs of their community, county, and state, with Clarence now serving on his second term as a member of the State of Minnesota Executive Board for Postmasters.

However, careers have not held priority in their family living as they have a family of a boy and girl. Timothy Ray, now 9 years old and Stephanie Ann who is six. Both children are at this time students of the elementary school system at the Plummer Public Schools.

DONALD GAGNER

Donald Gagner, County Commissioner from District Two serving his first term, was born in 1931, the son of Albert and Alice Hebert Gagner. He is one of a family of ten children and grew up on the family farm in Terrebonne Township. He received part of his education in the country school nearby and graduated from the Mentor High School.

Donald married Merle Braaten, daughter of Oscar and Louise Braaten of Plummer, in 1953 at St. Anthony's Church in Terrebonne. Don and Merle have seven children: Debra (Mrs. Mike Andvik), Vickey (Mrs. Steve Parenteau), Jacqueline, Ronald, Chuck, Carolyn and Bruce.

The Gagners purchased the home farm in 1960 and are at present farming twelve hundred acres in Terrebonne and Poplar River townships. He is a third generation Gagner to operate this farm.

Don was chairman of the town board for nine years; vice-chairman of the Democratic party for six years and chairman for four; chairman of the Brooks Elevator Board for fourteen years and was chosen King Agassiz for Red Lake County in 1967. Don also has numerous board and committee appointments through the county.

ROBERT GAGNER

From the marriage of Octave Gagner and Pearl (LaBlanc) Gagner in March of 1903 a son was born to this family on the home farm in Poplar River township. The fourth child of this nine member family, he was baptized in the name of Robert (Joseph Roby) Gagner. Sister and brothers include George, Louis (deceased 1952), Marie (deceased 1952) (Mrs. Dona Rivard), Emma (Sister Marie Denise), Arthur, Evelyn (Mrs. Roy Derosier), Leonard, and Florence (Mrs. Jesse Spear).

Being of French origin and from a family devoted to farming, Robert also chose this life style. Educated in the local country school through the third grade he then began devoting his time to a career in farming. He assisted his father Octave on the family farm learning all the tricks of this trade in a diversified method of raising livestock and small grains. Dairying also became a specialty.

Upon reaching young adulthood in the early 1920's and having already roamed around Red Lake County some by this time, Robert asked the neighbor girl to become his bride. Rose Anna Mercil, daughter of Joseph Mercil and Addie (Lafaivre) Mercil became the wife of Robert, after the work was all done in the fall, on November 2, 1924. All Rose's brothers and sisters were present for the wedding ceremony. They were Leon, Medore, Louis, Leah (Mrs. Horace Daoust), Mary (Mrs. Wallace Fournier), Wilfred, and Ralph.

Robert and Rose farmed their first three years of married life on the farm owned by older brother George just across from the Octave Gagner home farm. During this time their first child, a boy (Medore) was born, but sadly lost at the age of only eight months.

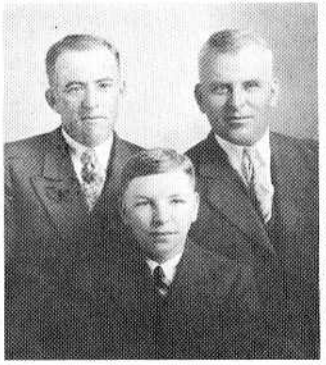
In the fall of 1927 they had the opportunity to acquire a farm of their own, so with the help of Octave Gagner and Joseph Mercil, Robert and Rose moved from the farm 3½ miles west of Brooks to their new location ½ mile north of that same town, a move of some 4 miles. There they re-established and continued their farming and family operation expanding to a total of some 30 milk cows, 480 acres of land and the addition of 11 more children during their farming and family productive years. The cows names are not all remembered, but the children are Mae (Mrs. Louis Wichterman), Jerome (deceased 1958), Freddie (deceased 1960), Angela (Mrs. William Stone), Mary Lou (Mrs. Vernon Cyr), Roland, Barbara (Mrs. Vernon LaCoursiere), Robert Jr., Clarence, Mike, and Ritchie (Poncho).

In the earlier years Robert's farming was done mostly with horses. He was able to convert to tractor horsepower when he purchased his very own B Allis-Chalmers in 1939, a tractor he kept until around 1960.

During their entire working years the Gagners devoted all their time, talents, and efforts to providing a livelihood from the sole source of diversified farming.

As of this writing and after more than fifty years of married life they still live on the same farm they moved to in 1927. Their retirement from active farming came in 1968. They now spend their summers keeping up the lawn and garden and their winters are occupied visiting the most distant of their remaining nine children who have since left the farm and are now settled in areas of our country from Minnesota, to Washington, to Arizona.







Regis Gagnon and sons, George, Ernest and Harvey. Daughters, Sister Lillian, Feleca, Lumena and Laura.

REGIS GAGNON FAMILY

It is with a feeling of nostalgia that I sit and reminisce, recalling facts and stories that were told to our family by my father, Regis Gagnon. He was the son of Louis Gagnon and Marie Ann Deziel, born in St. Justin, Quebec, on July 28, 1865 and one of a family of twelve children. Finding it difficult to secure a job and money, Regis and his brother Gedeon, and Harmidas Clement worked their way down to Minnesota by way of Marquette, Escanaba and Ishpeming, Michigan, earning money working in lumber camps.

They arrived in Red Lake County (what was then part of Polk County) in the year 1889. They were eager to come to Minnesota knowing their former friends and neighbors were already homesteading here.

Arriving in the fall of 1889 Regis purchased 160 acres of land on Section 6 in Terrebonne, an area completely covered with brush. It meant a lot of hard work the first year, breaking the land with a team of oxen. On November 22, 1894 Regis Gagnon married Lumena St. Yves at St. Anthony's Church in Terrebonne. She was the daughter of Louis St. Yves and Arize Laurent and was born on August 26, 1876 in St. Justin, Quebec. Also born in Quebec were her sister Florestine and a brother, Justin. The remaining members of her family, Edward, Willie, Elie, Harvey and Emma were born and raised in the Terrebonne community. Lumena Gagnon's parents, the Louis St. Yves, had homesteaded a farm on Section 7 in Terrebonne.

Nine children were born to Regis and Lumena Gagnon. Two died in infancy and seven grew up in and around the Terrebonne community. George was born in 1895, Ernest 1897, Lumena 1901, Laura 1904, Felecia 1906, Sister Lillian 1907 and Harvey 1913. Surviving are Ernest, who is retired and still living on the home place, Laura living in Terrebonne is still very active, serving her many customers. Sister Lillian who entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph at Crookston in 1927 is presently teaching in the Marshall Parochial school in Marshall, Minnesota. Harvey and his wife Aloha are temporarily residing in Dhangarhi, Nepal, where he is employed as a mechanical engineer by the U.S. Government for a period of two years. Regis and Lumena Gagnon retired in the spring of 1937 and purchased a home in the village of Terrebonne. Laura is living in the same house.

The original house that was built the first year the Gagnons homesteaded, though remodeled, is still on the home place. Ernest and his wife Malvina still live there.

Of the many hardships encountered, was traveling to Crookston to make their tax payments, a two-day trip with horses. The extreme cold during the winter season, when these trips were made forced them to stop along the way to warm themselves, the children, and rest the horses. Encountering wolves on these trips was a common thing.

GEORGE GAGNON

George Gagnon was born in 1885 to Regis Gagnon and Lumina St. Yves Gagnon. His father came from Canada and homesteaded in Red Lake county in 1889. He had six brothers and sisters: Ernest, Lumina, Laura, Feleca, Lillian and Harvey.

George attended school in Red Lake county. In 1928, he married Anna Kotlan of Thief River Falls. They had four children: Robert, born in 1929, who taught elementary school at Wildwood school in Gervais township for two years, graduated from N.D.S.U. in pharmacy and now owns and operates Gagnon's Drug Store in Two Rivers, Wisconsin; Vernon, born in 1930, farms the home farm near Terrebonne and works part time for Ken's Electric; Lloyd, born in 1933, an electronic technician at Kansasville, Wisconsin; and Raymond, born in 1936, an electrician at St. Francis, Wisconsin.

George farmed all his life in Terrebonne and Gervais townships. He and his wife were awarded the Red Lake County Valley Farmer and Homemaker Award at the Winter Shows in Crookston in 1952.

Anna taught in rural schools for many years. She was a 4-H club leader and a Modern Woodman leader.

In 1949 a kitchen and utility room was added to the house and in 1950 George built a new barn.

George died in 1952 and Anna in 1963.

VERNON GAGNON

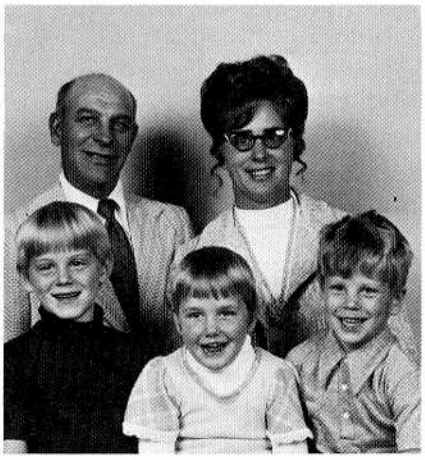
Vernon Gagnon was born in Red Lake county in 1930 to George Gagnon and Anna Kotlan Gagnon. He is a grandson of Regis Gagnon who homesteaded in Red Lake county in 1889.

Vernon attended grade school in Red Lake county and graduated from Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls in 1948.

He has three brothers: Robert, Lloyd, and Raymond.

Vernon worked at the American Crystal Sugar Company in East Grand Forks until 1952, when his father died and he took over the operation of the family farm until 1954, at which time he entered the U.S. Army. Upon his return in 1956, he again operated the farm.

In 1958 Vernon married Valiere Strnad of Roosevelt, Minnesota. They have three



Vernon Gagnon Family

children: Tim, born in 1968, is attending St. Joseph's school; Tony, born in 1969 is a kindergarten student at Washington Elementary school; and Lynette, who was born in 1970.

Vernon owns and operates 640 acres in Gervais and Terrebonne townships, land he bought from his mother in 1963, raising wheat, barley, and oats. He also had a Holstein dairy herd which he sold in 1974. In 1961, he was awarded the Honorman's Dairy Award. He also works part time for Ken's Electric.

Val taught in Red Lake county schools for twelve years. She is also an organist at St. Anthony's Catholic church of Terrebonne which the family attends.

Vernon is presently the commander of the American Legion Post of Red Lake Falls, vice-president of St. Anthony's parish council, and secretary of the Farmers Union Oil board of Brooks. He has served on various other boards such as the Brooks Senior Citizens Board for eight years, and was an A.S.C.S. township committeeman.



LAWRENCE GALE AND EMMA OLSON GALE

Lawrence Gale was born in Vandrup, Denmark, and came to the United States when he was fourteen years old. Emma Olson was born in a log house in Castle Rock, Wisconsin. She was from a family of fifteen children.

Lawrence Gale and his brother-in-law came to this area in 1910 to look for land. While here he purchased the Frank Jeffers farm which is located four miles northeast of Red Lake Falls.

In 1911, Mr. Gale brought the cattle, horses and machinery here by freight train from Montevideo, Minnesota. A week later, Mrs. Gale and their three daughters arrived by passenger train and were met at the depot by Mr. Gale who was driving a team of strawberry roan horses and a surrey with the fringe on top.

The farm was mostly brush and larger trees, with a small field here and there. The family worked hard clearing the land and improving the house and other buildings.

The three Gale girls attended school and high school. Mildred, the youngest, died in 1927. Florence, Mrs. August Hinrichs, died in 1973 and her husband in 1975. The Hinrichs had six children, nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Lillie, Mrs. Harvey Knott, is still living. Her husband died in 1971. The Knotts have seven children, forty-four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Harvey and Lillie Knott bought the Gale farm in 1943 when the Gales retired and moved to Red Lake Falls. The farm is still in the family as Orville Knott, the youngest son of Harvey and Lillie, now owns the land.

Lawrence Gale died in 1967 at the age of ninety-four and Emma Gale died in 1963 at age eighty-three. There are no descendants to carry the family name.

THEO. G. GARCEAU

Theo. Garceau, pioneer businessman of Red Lake Falls, was president of the First State Bank and for many years identified with the business interests of the city. He was born in South Bend, Indiana and attended Notre Dame University.

Theo. came to Red Lake Falls in the summer of 1882. He taught school for a time and later entered the employ of James Smith who conducted a general store in the old Kretzschmar block on the north side. Later he was elected assistant cashier of the First State Bank that was then located in the Hollow on the corner of North Main. Bang's Mercantile was also located on the same corner, and it should also be noted that most of the businesses in Red Lake Falls before 1900 were conducted on the north side on the four corners near the Matt Skala store and in the Hollow.

Later Theo. was made cashier of the bank and purchased the controlling interest of James I. Wyer in the early 1900's and became bank president. Theo. also helped establish and build the Newton Milling Co. at the junction of the two rivers. Two Garceau brothers followed Theo. to Red Lake Falls. "Little" Ed went into business with Theo. forming up a mercantile business known as Garceau Bros. although Ed later sold to Helmuth Zaiser. Garceau and Zaiser operated for several years until Zaiser sold to Andy Rubertus. A brother, "Big" Ed Garceau, worked at the W. A. Schreiter Drug Store operated in the Hollow on East Main just South of the Kaus store. Fred Borchers was operating a saloon just across the street and Dr. Watson's office was on the corner of South Bottineau and Main.

On June 28, 1884, Theo. Garceau and Miss Zabille Rubertus were married. Eight children were born to them: Etta (Mrs. Leland E. Healy) a lifelong resident of Red Lake Falls, Harry, Theodore, Walter, Lenora (Mrs. Chester Fowler), Lester, Marie (Mrs. Lawrence Fertig) and Russell. Mrs. Zabille Garceau died in 1909 and a year later Theo. married Mrs. Mary Baril. Theo. Garceau also served on the board of education for many years and died January 11, 1913.

JOHN R. GAUTHIER

John R. Gauthier (Goteia) pioneer of Red Lake County, was born November 17, 1862 in Quebec, Canada, and came to the United States with his parents when he was but five years old to settle in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

In 1882, John came to Minnesota, took a homestead in River Township and married Roselyn Corno in 1886. She also was from Rice Lake, Wisconsin. John lived in a sod shanty on his quarter section for almost two years before relatives helped him build a log house where six children were born.

In the spring of 1908, a house from the sawmill town of St. Hilaire was moved onto a stone foundation on the farm. Chester was the only Gauthier child born here and not in the log house.

John Gauthier was a lumberjack and a log driver on the Red Lake River east of his farm. To aid him in clearing and working the land, he walked the long distance to Fisher's Landing to get his first team of partly broken oxen. One night Gauthiers and a neighbor paired off two fast oxen and two slow oxen for a race. That same evening the team of fast oxen showed their prowess in a runaway with a wagon of visitors and their belongings, scattering same all over the countryside. It took the families into the next day to gather all their goods. Remember the "Gee" "Haw" days? "Gee" to the right and "Haw" to the left?

John R. lived on his homestead until his death in 1948. His wife, Roselyn died in 1936. Seven children survived: Philip of Elgin, Illinois; Alice (Mrs. Paul Pike) of Memphis, Tennessee; Eileen (Mrs. Monroe Pautz) of Elgin, Illinois; Roy, Willmer, Clifford and Chester of Red Lake Falls.

RONALD GEISMAN

Ronald Geisman, the present pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Red Lake Falls and of the Brooks-Plummer Presbyterian Church in Plummer, began his ministry here on September 1st, 1972.

Mr. Geisman was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. Following graduation from high school he attended Florida Presbyterian College (now named Eckerd College) in St. Petersburg, Florida. He graduated from there in 1967 with a B.A. in Germanic Literature. Following graduation he entered the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While at Harvard he spent a great deal of his time specializing in the area of pastoral counselling, including work in a general hospital and extensive training at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center in Boston. While at Harvard, he took a one year leave-of-absence from the Divinity School to serve as the acting Project Administrator of a research program sponsored by NASA at the Harvard College Observatory. He graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1971 with an S.T.B. in Pastoral Psychology and Religion.

Following graduation and ordination by the Presbytery of Cleveland in June, 1971, Mr. Geisman was appointed a Resident in Pastoral Care at the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, Connecticut, in a program affiliated with the Divinity School of Yale University. While there, he completed a year of certified Clinical Pastoral Education and served as one of two Protestant chaplains in this Roman Catholic hospital.

Following the completion of his residency in New Haven, he accepted a call to be the pastor of the two Presbyterian con-



Gauthier Family, *Back:* Clifford, Alice, Roy, Phillip and wife Alta, and Eileen. *Front:* Chester, John (father), Lucille, Mother Roselyn and Willmer.

gregations in Red Lake County. While here he has served as the chairperson of the clinic building committee which worked with the Clinic Corporation to build the present medical clinic building in 1973-74. He has also been chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Red Lake County Health Planning Council. He is presently active in the program departments of Red River Presbytery and of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. He is also a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey.

MATT F. GERARDY

A farm in Emardville township along state highway 59 (E½ Section 29), was the home of the Matt Gerardy family from 1919-1948.

When Matt and Christine Reiff Gerardy and their infant daughter, Florence, moved from Fairfax, Minnesota, to Plummer, they made the 300-mile trip in two days in their Model-T Ford. Their livestock and other property was shipped by rail, and was accompanied by Matt's younger brother, Peter, who also settled in the area.

Farming in those days was a series of continuous hardship, especially during winters and the depression years. Chopping wood in winter for the year's supply, doing farm chores, and driving to town with horses and sleigh were often bone-chilling experiences. When the wood in the parlor stove burned low on extremely cold nights, it was not uncommon to awaken in the morning with frost on the blankets around the face. In summer there wasn't the pleasure of an ice cold drink, ice cream, or anything really cold and fresh. Ice cream freezing was an activity for July 4th, and an extra special treat. One of the greatest problems was keeping good work horses, as many horses died of sleeping sickness and from other causes. Thus, farm life changed markedly with the days of tractors and rural electricity. After years of hard work and not much progress, things began to get better and farm and home improvements were made. Matt's skill with carpenter tools was useful when he helped build the Plummer Community Hall during the depression, and when he remodeled the home and other buildings.

The Gerardys were active members of St. Vincent's Catholic Church, and Matt was on the rural school board and was township assessor for many years. They were named Red Lake County honored dairy couple at the Red River Valley Winter Shows.

Four more children were born to them during these years: Marion (Mrs. Lynn Keifenheim) of Red Lake Falls; Gerald of San Diego, California; Walter (who was killed in a car-train accident at Plummer in 1946); and Louella (Mrs. C. J. Chapiewski) of Bloomington.

In 1948, the Gerardys decided to retire from farming and return to their former hometown of Fairfax. Mr. Gerardy contracted carpenter work there until his death, April 21, 1966. Mrs. Gerardy continues to make her home in Fairfax.

Florence, who was married to Raymond Rausch of Thief River Falls, died April 5, 1960.

Another member of the Gerardy family who moved to Red Lake County from Fairfax was Matt's sister, Agnes (Mrs. Henry Bruggeman). The Bruggemans with their daughter, Harriet, farmed in the Plummer and Terrebonne areas before retiring in Red Lake Falls. Another brother, John and his wife, Helen, also farmed in the Plummer area a number of years before returning to Fairfax.

PETER GERARDY

Peter Gerardy moved to the Plummer vicinity in 1919 from Fairfax, Minnesota, when he accompanied the rail shipment of livestock for his brother, Matt. He farmed in partnership with another brother, Bill, for a few years, and once was recruited to teach in the rural school for a term.

In 1927 he married Barbara Jaeger in Plummer, and went into the garage business in Plummer which he continued for a number of years. They moved to Madison, Minnesota, but returned to Plummer after about a year to go into farming.

Four children were born to the couple: Doris (Mrs. Ken Lalliberte), Mesa, Arizona; Ron (married to Celeste Pierce), Thief River Falls; Noreen (Mrs. Merle Johnson), Hutchinson, Kansas; and Jerry of Plummer.

Pete Gerardy has been active in community affairs. He has been on the Creamery Board, has held offices in the Shipping Association, Group Health Association, and has been a member of the Town Board and has acted as clerk for many years. Both are active members of St. Vincent's Church and Barbara is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The home farm where the family grew up was taken over by his son, Jerry, about ten years ago. Jerry married Carol Davis of Brooks, and they are the parents of eight children: Tammy, Charles, Kevin, Nancy, Peter, Tony, Barbie, and David.

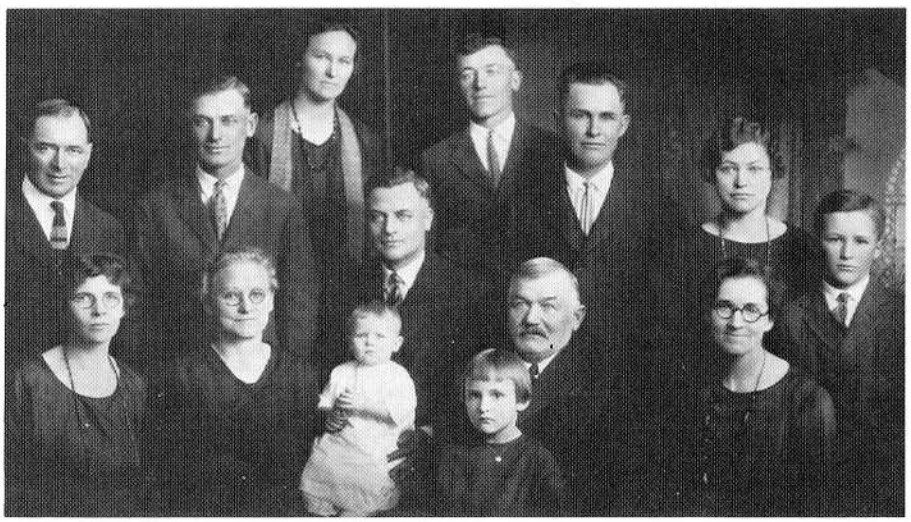
Jerry and Carol are active members of St. Vincent's Catholic Church, 4-H, and other organizations. At present Jerry is serving on the Plummer school board and the Creamery Board.

Pete and Barbara built a new home across the highway from the home farm, and are now enjoying semi-retirement.

JOHN GERLACH AND SONS

John Gerlach was born in 1819 in Germany where he grew up. He married Dorothea Neldnar and with their four sons, Carl, Gottlieb, Daniel and John Jr. migrated to America in 1857. John Jr. died enroute and received an ocean burial. They settled in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and engaged in lumbering and farming. In 1883 John and wife came to Minnesota, bought some land in what was then Polk County and Polk Centre Township. He farmed this until his death in 1889.

Carl Gerlach was born near Breslau, Germany in 1847. He came to United States in 1857 to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where he grew up. He married Minnie Krahn and had six children; Daniel, Henry, Anna, Herman, Carl Jr. and Augusta. His wife died in 1882. With his children he followed his parents to Minnesota. Carl Sr. married Christine Franz in 1886. They had



Gottlieb and Eva Gerlach 50th anniversary.

seven children: Ernest, William, Minnie, Edward, Adolph, Wanda and George. All except Wanda grew up in Red Lake Falls Township on a farm he purchased.

Carl was one of the first to diversify farming. Besides raising grain he developed one of the first dairy herds and an apiary. He practiced carpentry and helped with many buildings in the neighborhood, built and donated an altar and pulpit to Immanuel Lutheran Church of which he was an active member and served on council and as layman reader in absence of a pastor. He was one of the promoters of Mutual Fire Insurance for farmers and served on town and school boards.

Carl Gerlach Sons are: *Daniel Jr.* owned a threshing rig and did grain threshing for local farmers for many years. *Herman* and *William* moved to Wisconsin and engaged in lime kiln and foundry work. *Ernest* was a clerk at Labissioniere's Big Store for several years. In 1900 he married Albina Lemieux, daughter of Dr. I. Lemieux and then moved to Seattle, Washington. *Carl Jr.* learned shoe repairing at Harren's Shoe Store, Red Lake Falls. *Edward* after his discharge from service in World War I, was clerk in Great Northern Depot, Seattle, Washington. *Adolph* attended college and was a parochial school teacher at New Ulm for many years. *George* served in World War I and then taught school. *Henry* farmed in Red Lake County all his life.

GOTTLIEB GERLACH

Gottlieb was born near Breslau, Germany, 1849. At the age of eight he came to the United States with his parents to Sheboygan, Wisconsin. In 1874 he married Eva Schwallenberg and they had five children: Albert, Mattie, Freda, Ferd and Emil. In 1884 they moved to Minnon, a farm near Wylie. In 1899 he sold his farm and moved to Red Lake Falls and was manager of the Palace Hotel. After it burned he worked for Great Northern. In 1906 his family moved to Duluth where he and Albert worked in the iron mines. His later years were spent near and in Fergus Falls where Ferd and Emil were engaged in farming. Emil was also on ASCS committee for many years. Gottlieb and wife are buried at Fergus Falls and also Mattie, Freda, and Emil.

DANIEL GERLACH

Daniel Gerlach was born in 1851 in Gros Perschmitz, Germany. In 1857 he came with his parents to the United States and settled in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood and was engaged in farming and lumbering. He was married to Johanna Kind in 1871 and then lived near Rentuel, Wisconsin. Here their first five children were born: Carl, Emma, Bertha, Ida, and Louise. In 1883 he and his father came to Minnesota and bought land in Polk, now Red Lake County. The rest of his family came by train to Wylie and moved into a log house on his land. Later he sold this land to his brother Carl and bought a quarter section in Polk Centre, now Wylie Township. He built a house on this and in it the family grew up.

Daniel was a progressive farmer and was first to own a McCormick binder in his vicinity. He owned a threshing machine and steam engine with which he threshed grain for himself and neighbors. He cut and sawed all the wood for heating the home and the cooking range.

In 1888 he donated five acres of his land and on it a parsonage and church were built and a cemetery was laid out. The Gerlachs gave hospitality to arriving pastors and cathecumens who came from Fisher, Euclid and Red Lake Falls. Daniel died in 1912 in his farm home and is buried in Immanuel Cemetery where also his wife, father, mother, and nine children are buried. Louise (Mrs. William Krueger) was manager of the Grand View Hotel for many years. Lydia (Mrs. Arnold Zutz) taught rural schools for four years, was Secretary and President of St. John's Ladies Aid, held several offices in V.F.W. Auxiliary, First President of Forget-Me-Not Garden Club and President for Senior Citizens Happy Hour Club.

Of the thirty Gerlach children only two are living: Ferd Gerlach, son of Gottlieb, lives at Sylvan Lake near Brainerd, Minnesota, where his daughter owns a resort. Lydia (Mrs. Arnold Zutz) daughter of Daniel Gerlach Sr., lives in Red Lake Falls.

Of the many grandchildren scattered throughout the United States, six are living in Red Lake County: Carl Lehrer, son of Augusta Gerlach Lehrer; Gust Gerlach, son of Henry Gerlach; Arnold Lehrer, son of Ida Gerlach Lehrer; Ruben Lehrer, son of Ida Gerlach Lehrer; Willard Zutz, son of Lydia Gerlach Zutz; Faith Knutson, daughter of Lydia Gerlach Zutz.

HENRY AND GUSTAV GERLACH

Henry Gerlach came to the Red Lake Falls area in 1884, with his father, Carl Gerlach, and five brothers and sisters. They settled on a farm northwest of Red Lake Falls, now known as the Kuld Farm.

There Henry worked with his father and three brothers clearing the land and building up the farm until 1894 when he married Louise Franz and moved to a farm in Louisville Township where he farmed most of his life. He served on the school and town boards and for many years was president of the Wylie Co-op Elevator Company. He was preceded in death by his wife in 1940. Henry passed away in 1951.

There were four children: Clara, August, Walter, and Gustav.

Clara married Emil Gother in 1917 and they had two daughters, Dorothea (Mrs. Vern Engl of Montebello, California), and Elaine (Mrs. E. Fenstad of Grand Forks, North Dakota). Both Mr. and Mrs. Gother passed away in 1962.

August and Walter died in infancy.

Gustav worked with his parents on the farm and in 1938 married Luella Jahnke. They continued farming until 1955 when they sold their farm interests to his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Gother of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Gustav Gerlachs moved to Red Lake Falls where they owned and managed Gerlach's Clothing for two years, until they moved to Viking, Minnesota and managed the Farmers Co-op Store for two years, coming back to Red Lake Falls in 1960. Gust worked for School District 630 as janitor for eight years. Luella has been employed as cook at Hillcrest Nursing Home for fourteen years.

Their son, Gary, is a graduate of Lafayette High and the Area Vocational College. He has been employed by the Red Lake County Highway Department and at present is employed by Border States Paving Company of Fargo, North Dakota.

ISAIAH GERVAIS AND EMILY SEMPER GERVAIS

Isaiah Gervais was born within the walls of Fort Garry, (now Winnipeg, Manitoba) Canada, on December 10, 1831, while his parents were migrating to what is now known as St. Paul, Minnesota. The Gervaises were the first settlers and founders of St. Paul, a settlement then known as "Little Canada".

Isaiah grew to manhood there and married Emily Semper. They engaged in farming a plot of 198 acres in that vicinity. Eleven children were born to this union: Louis Henry (b. 1856); Charles Isaiah (b. 1860); George Sydney (b. 1863 — d. 1865); Jessie Addie (b. 1864); Horace Emmett (b. 1865); George William (b. 1867); Jeanette Delphine (b. 1869); Norman Rueben (b. 1871); Mary Josephine (b. 1873); Martha Emily (b. 1875) and Wilfred Joseph (b. 1880). Wilfred was the only child of Isaiah and Emily to be born in Red Lake County. All of the others were born in "Little Canada."

In 1876, after a large two-story log cabin had been erected on their new homestead, Isaiah and his family came with horse-drawn covered wagons from Little Canada to what is now Gervais Township in Red Lake County. They were the very first settlers in the area. The log house had been built on the banks of the Clearwater River and was the very first structure erected in the area. The homestead was a government grant, and was about two and one-half miles from present Red Lake Falls.

The Pierre Bottineau family moved into the Gervais log house the following spring and lived with the Gervais family while their own cabin was being built. Tutors were hired to school the children, and a section of the second story of the Gervais house was sealed off to form a school room. A piano-forte had been brought with the household furniture, so the children were introduced to piano lessons. The very first Catholic Masses said in Red Lake County were celebrated in the Gervais cabin by an itinerant priest.

While farming the homestead, Isaiah purchased various other tracts of land, some adjacent to his property which he deeded to his sons. Isaiah was bitten by the bug of adventure, and leaving his sons to oversee his holdings, he undertook to do some exploring and to work in the Idaho Copper mines for a short time. He also became known in different sections of the country, and upon recommendation was chosen to act as a guide to the English lords who came to hunt buffalo in the Lewis and Clark Territory. He also ventured into California after the gold-rush there. During the Civil War, he was appointed as a scout master for the government and led a troop of seven hundred men to protect the white settlers' families who had taken refuge in Fort Abercrombie in South Dakota during the Great Sioux uprising there and in the vicinity of what is now Redwood Falls, Minnesota. An account of this episode can be found among other papers in this regard. At the Fort, three thousand Sioux Indians were killed during the encounter with the troops. He was cited by the U.S. Government for his bravery and valour and was offered a pension which he refused to accept, believing his deed had been done for humanitarian reasons and not for payment.

Isaiah died on the homestead on November 2, 1888, at the age of fifty-seven as the result of serious injuries sustained in a run-away accident.

Isaiah had always been a gregarious person and was exceedingly generous to all he knew. He was buried from St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake

Falls and his remains were interred in the Paul Cyr Cemetery west of town, the cemetery then used by the church.

Emily Semper Gervais was born at Berthier-en-haut, in Canada, in the Welland Canal region, on April 14, 1835. Her father was a flour packer and had worked in the flour mills in Buffalo, New York, at which time Emily attended St. Mary's Academy located on the heights overlooking Niagara Falls. Later, her father moved to Dubuque, Iowa, and then to St. Paul (Little Canada).

Shortly after the death of her husband in 1888, Emily discontinued farming and moved into Red Lake Falls to a small cottage on Third Street. The cottage no longer stands, as it was dismantled to give space for newer homes. She suffered three paralytic strokes and passed away on February 5, 1900. Emily was buried from St. Joseph's Catholic Church and was laid along side her husband in the Paul Cyr Cemetery where their remains still rest, the same not having been removed at the time Father Eugene Lemire had most of the other remains in that cemetery exhumed and re-buried in the St. Joseph's Cemetery east of the City.

Emily's mother's remains also rest in the same spot in the Cyr cemetery. She had resided all of her widowed years with Emily, her only daughter. She had suffered a stroke and had been a bed-ridden invalid for fifteen years. One of her sons was killed in the battle of Antietam during the Civil War.

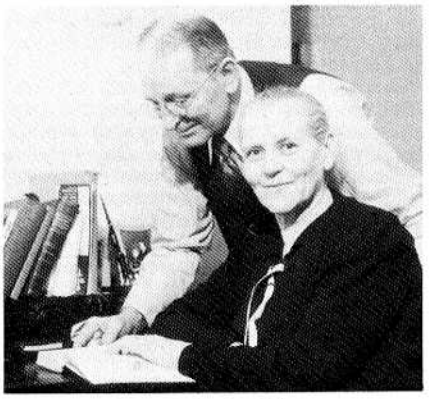
ISRAEL GIBEAU, PIONEER

Israel Gibeau and his wife Elmire LaPlante Gibeau migrated to this country about 1879 from Canada. They settled in Lambert Village located a few miles west of what is now Oklee and Highway 92.

Israel Gibeau was a blacksmith and had a shop in Lambert. Later he also operated a little country store. They had four children, all born in Canada: Sam, Philip and twin daughters, Rosalie and Elmire. Sam Gibeau married Alexine LeBlane and they made their home in Red Lake Falls. He worked in the Merchant's State Bank for years and was a first county commissioner. Philip Gibeau and his wife Elmire Hince farmed all their lives in Lambert Township. They had a large family of thirteen children. Elmire Gibeau married Arthur LeMay, raised a family of five children, and they lived most of their lives in Idaho. Rosalie Gibeau married Joseph Morinville, raised a family of eleven children and lived in Red Lake Falls and Terrebonne.



Israel Gibeaus with sons Samuel and Philip and daughters Rosalie and Elmire.



Sam and Alexine Gibeau

SAMUEL GIBEAU

Pictures in Gibeau family albums begin with tintypes taken in Red Lake County in the 1880's. They portray the handlebar mustaches and watch fobs; the long, dark dresses and severely pulled-back women's hairstyles of that period.

These family albums illustrate people, places and events in the lives of the Samuel Gibeau family and their descendants.

Samuel and his four younger brothers and sisters came to Red Lake County when it was Polk County in 1879. They came with their parents, Israel and Elmire LaPlante (Lerige) Gibeau, who were natives of Canada. Family stories trace forbears to the "*Evangeline* country" of Arcadia; family records contain magazine clippings about the pioneer missionary priest, Father Pierre Gibault, who helped frontiersman George Rogers Clark secure the Middle West for the U.S.A. In the priest's Vincennes, Ind., church, the Northwest Territory changed ownership from King George III to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 1890 Samuel Gibeau opened a general store and became postmaster in Lambert — then a community, now a township. Three years later he married Alexine LeBlanc, who had come to Terrebonne in 1888 with her mother, Emma DuRocher LeBlanc, the widow of John (Cead) LeBlanc, who is buried in St. Joseph, Kan.

Mrs. LeBlanc was born in New Orleans, La., Sept. 26, 1849. Family records and tradition say her parents immigrated to Louisiana from France, and that either the DuRochers or the LeBlancs owned a plantation before the Civil War. Louisiana plantation maps from the period indicate it must have been . the LeBlancs.

While in Lambert, Samuel Gibeau was township clerk and politically active. In 1894 the Gibeaus moved to Red Lake Falls, to a home affluent for the community in those times. It still stands on Third Street. Mrs. LeBlanc came with them and lived there until her death July 20, 1922.

When Red Lake County was formed in 1896, Sam was elected first chairman of its board of county commissioners. On June 26, 1898, his son, George Joseph, was born. In 1899 Sam became register of deeds for the county, until 1905.

From 1901 until his death in 1940, Sam was a director or officer of banks in Red Lake County (the Merchants State Bank of Red Lake Falls, the Bank of Red Lake Falls, the First State Bank of Oklee) and for many years, until he died, he was president of the Security State Bank of McIntosh, S.D.

He also was at various times an officer of area business firms, city assessor, school district clerk and trustee, and active in civic clubs, fraternal and Catholic Church organizations.

Mementoes extant in the family indicate wide-ranging interests: home photographs abound; travel to many parts of the United States is recorded. The invention of the automobile is indicated with careful photographic documentation of just which early years and models were owned by which Gibeaus. A handmade fishing reel attests to the mechanical bent of which Sam was proud; sample after sample of warm knitted clothing and exquisitely fine knitted lace — from collars and dresser scarves to bedspreads and church altar coverings — show the skill of Emma and Alexine.

George Joseph Gibeau grew up a graduate of St. Joseph's Grade School and Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls; he went on to study liberal arts at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul and civil engineering at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. After three years assisting the county engineer of the Red Lake County Highway Department, he joined the Minnesota Highway Department, with which he was associated for 40 years.

Many of those years were spent in the Twin Cities, but George also worked in Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and throughout Minnesota.

He returned often to Red Lake Falls, which he loved. He returned Sept. 28, 1936, for his marriage to Adelia Maland, who had grown up in nearby St. Hilaire and had taught school in the area. An occupational therapist, she is a graduate of Western Michigan State University, Kalamazoo, Mich., and worked in Michigan hospitals.

The new Gibeau family returned again to Red Lake Falls when Alexine Gibeau died April 30, 1939, and when Samuel Gibeau died June 19, 1940. At that time he was chief engineer for the Fiber Products Company. George, after his father's death, became vice president of the Security State Bank in McIntosh until its liquidation in the late 1940's.

George and Adelia returned again — to live in Red Lake Falls — in 1948, when George became Red Lake County highway engineer until 1954. With them came daughter Dawn Mignonne Mary, born Sept. 2, 1938, and son George DuRocher David (known as a child in Red Lake Falls by his family nickname, Rocky), born Nov. 29, 1941. As had their father, the children attended St. Joseph's Grade School. Dawn also attended Lafayette High School.

While living in Red Lake Falls, George Joseph served on the school board for Lafayette High School.

In 1954 the family moved to St. Paul, where Adelia makes her home. George Joseph Gibeau died May 20, 1968. He is buried in Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, near where he served in the U.S. Army during World War I.

Dawn Gibeau is a cum laude graduate of Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis., and worked for the *Catholic Bulletin* (newspaper) in St. Paul and in public relations for Hennepin County (Minneapolis). Since late 1972 she has lived in Kansas City, Mo., where she is managing editor of the independent *National Catholic Reporter* (newspaper). She is the author of two small books; her news stories have appeared in *The New York Times*, and recently — in November-December 1975 — she reported on the World Council of Churches fifth general assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa.

George D. Gibeau is a graduate of St.

Thomas Military Academy and the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul. During two years of service in the U.S. Peace Corps in Sabah, Malaysia, he met Sarah Jane McConnell of Hendersonville, Tenn., whom he married in Madison, Tenn., June 1, 1968. They have three children: David Wesley, born May 5, 1969; Mary Ellen, born April 19, 1971, and Katherine Mayland, born July 30, 1975.

After several years as a planner with Minneapolis and Duluth firms, George — a member of the American Institute of Planners — formed his own company in 1975: Gibeau Research and Planning, Inc., of Duluth. He revisited Red Lake Falls several times in conjunction with plans for American bicentennial projects.

THE GILBERTSON FAMILY OF EMARDVILLE

The Hans T. Gulbranson family homesteaded on 160 acres in Emardville in the year 1898. Hans T. Gulbranson was born in Sondre Land, Norway on July 17, 1851. He came to America in 1869 and was married on March 25, 1874 to Barbro (Barbara) Sanden at Spring Grove, Minnesota. She was also a native of Norway. They moved to Gary, Minnesota in 1878, where they lived until they moved to Emardville, 20 years later. Eight children were born to this union: Christine, Gilbert, John, Bernhardt, Theodore, Elmer, Helma, and James. Elmer is still living. He was born on May 7, 1885 and resides in Mequon, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Gulbranson passed away on November 10, 1902 and Hans on January 23, 1931. The name Gulbranson was "Americanized" to Gilbertson and all of the children used the latter spelling. James, (Jim) the youngest of their children, remained on the family farm and on December 16, 1914, married Bessie Hofius. She and her family had moved to Poplar River Township in 1912 from Freeborn County. She was the daughter of Fred and Lydia Hofius.

Jim and Bessie Gilbertson purchased the "home" farm from his father in 1919 and continued to make it their home. Hans lived with them until his death. It remained in the family until 1971. One child was born to them — Barbara — who now resides in Middletown, Ohio with her husband, Howard Torstveit. They are the parents of 2 daughters: Sharon — Mrs. R. M. Hasbrouck of Upper Marlboro, Maryland and Wendy — Mrs. Stephen Dobrozsi of Middletown, Ohio. They have one grandchild, Kimberly Erin Hasbrouck. Howard Torstveit was born in Hazel, Minnesota and moved with his parents to Plummer in 1924 where they owned and operated a general merchandise store until 1948.

Many stories were told of the "early" years on this farm — the Clearwater River passes through this property and logging was an interesting and important activity at that time. "Log-jams" were quite exciting to behold. The first Plummer creamery was built on the Gilbertson property and later a new one was built in Plummer where it is still in operation.

The Lutheran Cemetery was immediately adjacent to the north edge of this farm, on land belonging to A. J. Hemstad and on the banks of the Clearwater River. It was often called the "Gilbertson Cemetery" because the only access road, until very recent years, was through the Gilbertsons' land, passing right beside their house.

A tax statement shows that Hans T. Gulbranson's taxes for the year 1899 for the full 160 acres were $16.24.

Jim and Bessie Gilbertson were active in township, county, church, and community affairs and both served on many boards during their years in Red Lake County.

Bessie Gilbertson passed away on October 29, 1970 at age 75 and James Gilbertson on March 2, 1974 at age 84.

JAMES AND BEVERLY GILBERTSON

James and Beverly Gilbertson and daughter Sheryl moved to Red Lake Falls July 1965 when Jim took the position of Spanish Instructor at Lafayette High School. Jim was born in St. Hilaire, attended Hazel grade school and graduated from Lincoln High School of Thief River Falls. After working for the Minnesota Highway Department, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and was stationed two of the four years in Alaska.

Following his graduation from the University of North Dakota, Jim took a teaching position in Kennedy, where he taught three years before moving to Red Lake Falls.

Beverly was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota and attended school at Niagara, North Dakota and one year of Business College. She was employed in the Grand Forks Credit Bureau for six years.

The Gilbertsons have three daughters, Sheryl, Mary Beth, and Katherine.

O. P. (BUD) GJERDINGEN

Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Gjerdingen came to Red Lake Falls in 1965, when they purchased stock and acquired controlling interest in the Red Lake County State Bank.

Bud had been a banker in Winger, Minnesota, with his father, O. B. Gjerdingen, who had owned and operated the Farmers State Bank. Mrs. Gjerdingen, the former Lorri Skalicky, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Skalicky of Mahnomen. Both are graduates of the University of Minnesota.

There are two children, Robert and Kris, who attended grade school and high school in Red Lake Falls. Robert graduated from the California Institute of the Arts in 1974 and Kris will graduate from Smith College in 1976.

Bud is president of the Plummer State Bank, treasurer and director of Garden Valley Telephone Company of Erskine, member of the County Health Planning Council, the city planning commission and the commercial club. Lorri organized the Red Lake Falls City One-Fund Drive and the Candy Striper Program at St. John's Hospital. She served as treasurer of the Red Lake County Agricultural Society for ten years and in 1975 she was elected to the Board of Governors of St. John's Hospital.

GLASS FAMILY

The story of the Glass family is a history of five generations that farmed in Lake Pleasant and Red Lake Falls Townships.

A fire in 1900 destroyed the all-purpose building that housed the granary, machine shed and the barn belonging to the John Henry Glass family at Estherville, Iowa. At this time, P. B. Gaass, a real estate agent in Red Lake Falls and brother-in-law of John Henry, persuaded the family to move to Red Lake County where they purchased a farm in Lake Pleasant Township at $10.00 an acre and settled here in 1901.

Leonard Glass, son of John Henry, his wife, Grace Helen and their children, Earl, John and Ralph also moved to Red Lake County at the same time and settled on a farm in Red Lake Falls township for a short time until 1903 when they moved to Dugdale and then Tilden. Here were born five more children, Marie, Raymond, Leland, Roland and Glen.

Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Glass and son, Roy, continued to live on the farm in Lake Pleasant Township where Mr. Glass died in 1920. Roy and his mother stayed on the farm until 1925. Roy Glass is now eighty-six years old and lives at the Pioneer Memorial Home in Erskine.

John Glass, son of Leonard and grandson of John Henry, married Myrtle Rustad in 1920 and lived in Tilden until March of 1924 when they moved to the Glass farm in Lake Pleasant Township. John has always been active in community affairs. He has served on the Town Board since 1942 and was named chairman for many years. In 1953 he was instrumental in the organization of the Rural Fire Protection Association. He served for many years as director of the Red Lake County Agricultural Society and as president of the organization since 1959. He has been equally involved in community affairs of Red Lake Falls on the board of the Red Lake Falls Development Corporation and the Red Lake County Health Planning Council.

Myrtle Glass, during her life, was also actively involved in special services, the County Extension Board, Homemakers Clubs and in her Church. She died April 1964.

John and Myrtle Glass had two sons. Virgil married Doris Dubuque in 1945 at Red Lake Falls. They have three children, David, Marilyn and Randall and five grandchildren. The Virgil Glasses live in Polk County near Mentor. Marilyn married Louis Doyea; David who married Donna Dalton is the fifth generation Glass family member in Red Lake County and lives on a farm in Terrebonne Township. They have three children, Darin, Deann and Devin.

Darrell Glass, second son of John, married Evelyn Wangsness of Thief River Falls in 1956. They have three children, Peggy, Rodney and Judy. In 1971 they built a new home on the John Glass farm in Lake Pleasant Township near his father's home.

FRANCIS GOULET, PIONEER

My grandfather, Francis Goulet was born near St. Halifax outside of Quebec in 1848. He married Marie LaSond there. When my mother was only two years old in 1878, the family came to Red Lake Falls, traveling by train to Crookston and then by ox team to their homestead on the Black River north of Huot. Grandma's brother, Ed LaSond came with them and spent many years as a log driver on the Red River.

Nine children were born to this union. All lived and died in this area. They are Delina: Mrs. David LaCoe; my mother, Marance, who married three times, first to Joe Noel, then my father, Epheim Chatel, then Steve Patnode; Mary: Mrs. Henry St. Marie; John Goulet; Olivine: Mrs. Joe Harold; Obeline: Mrs. Cash Cartier; Rose, who died at the age of 12; Delvina: Mrs. Walter Warren; and Theophile Goulet, the youngest. Fifty grandchildren and many great grandchildren are descendants, many of whom are still in this area.

The family belonged to the Catholic Church, which was near the Huot store

and later was moved to Dorothy.

I was only eight years old when Grandfather died but I still remember the stories of the hard times they had and also how he was always afraid of black bears. He never went to the fields without his loaded musket. They did all their plowing by hand plow and oxen. They cut all their grain and hay by hand scythe.

I am Marance, daughter by mother's second marriage and I wed Emery J. LaCoursiere. We have five living children. They are: Rolland in Kansas, Rita in Connecticut, James in Thief River Falls, Gerald in Eveleth, and Mike of Minneapolis. I also have 14 grandchildren.

Grandfather died in 1920.

JOSEPH F. GRAY

Joseph F. Gray and Elizabeth Anderson Taylor, b. 1858, were married in Belladune, New Brunswick. Four years later, in 1892, they moved to a farm near Red Lake Falls, the old Steele farm southeast of the city. They were one of the pioneer families of this area, and Mr. Gray was a ditching contractor and also worked in lumber and logging camps.

Later they lived near the old Tow Mill and still later on the corner of 6th and St. John's Ave. where the Ed Keifenheim family was later raised. That house was dismantled in 1966.

Their four children were: Pearl (Mrs. W. J. Sherk), Ednah, b. 1895, (Mrs. Ed J. Keifenheim), Robert and Gordon. Gordon died at age 16, and Robert drowned at age 10.

Mr. Gray died in 1923, and Mrs. Gray died October 24, 1937.

Mrs. Sherk died in Winnipeg in 1963, and Mrs. Keifenheim died March 13, 1971.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Gray

RALPH GREEN

Ralph Green was among the many homesteaders in what is now Equality Township. He came here in May of 1896 from Wahpeton, North Dakota. Later that year he built a log house and in the spring of 1897 he brought his wife and five children here where they made their home. Five more children were born here in the log house. Two of the children are living today; Florence of Seattle, Washington and Lloyd who owns the home place where he lives.

Ralph Green, along with other settlers, organized school district number ten and also helped to organize the township of Equality. He lived here until his death in 1943; Mrs. Green died in 1946.

ED GREENWALD STORY

Ed Greenwald was born in Spring Lake Township, Scott County, on March 23, 1888. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lydia Methodist Church, attended school, and grew up in that area. He worked in saw mills, on the family farm and in the fall threshing.

The occasional visits he and his brother, Pat, made to their brother John's home in Emardville, the friendships he made, and the appeal this country had, were factors in his decision that here would be his home. In 1914 he and Pat bought some wild land and built a shack over an old homestead cellar where he and Pat set up bachelor quarters.

The three brothers John, Pat, and Ed operated a steam threshing rig, with Ed and Pat running the steam engine and John managing the thresher. Charlie Christiansen drove the water tank team. They enjoyed their work and were proud of it.

Ed still tells of those colorful days, particularly of the "Advance" steam engine he worked with that was lightheartedly known as "Noisy Joe". It had the delightful characteristic of shooting up huge smoke rings when the going was tough and heavy. Besides being used in threshing, it was put to work pulling stumps and frequently used at the Plummer Creamery. The highlight of working with Plummer Dam Bridge and into Plummer tandem style with the help of the John Norby's steam engine.

Ed always enjoyed band music and took part in the band while still living in Scott county. He belonged to the local Plummer Band under the direction of Albert Martin and he occasionally directed the Plummer School band when the regular director wasn't able to do so. He still enjoys the Sousa Marches.

The first World War broke out and in February 1918 he entered the army. He took basic training at Camp Dodge, Iowa and was in the 39th field Artillery as a First Aid Ambulance Driver.

While on military leave he married Nina Buskirk of Brooks on June 30, 1918, and on August of that year sailed on the transport, "Empress of Britain" for France. There was a feeling of animosity between the English crew and the American soldiers.

The "Empress of Britain" sailed in a convoy of thirteen ships: Six Transports sailing three abreast, six Destroyers and one speedy Submarine chaser that kept darting all around from one side to the other of the convoy. It reminded him of a worried Mallard duck busy keeping her young together.

He tells of the time when the convoy reached somewhere in a mid-ocean. A heavy fog rolled in and cable about a quarter mile long were strung from bow to port to the ship behind with a light set at the middle of the cable so crewmen could judge distance and prevent a collision. The fog stayed with them until the afternoon of the next day. When it did lift, about half of the convoy was missing, so their part of the convoy stopped. Around dusk they saw a flashing light on the horizon. Then finally the lost convoy appeared sailing toward them, full speed, the signal lights flashing continually between the two sections. At the right moment the waiting convoy put on full speed and in one neat maneuver sailed into perfect formation and sailed on to France. Ed was in France when the November 11th armistice was signed, and was there, too, when the terrible Spanish flu broke out.

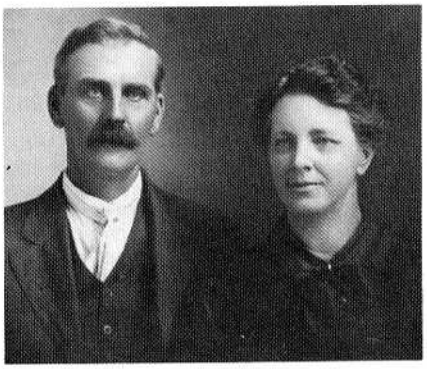
He was discharged in February in 1919 and returned on the Transport ship "La Lorranine". He tells of the bountiful farewell meal the soldiers were given. Then it was onward home to his wife in Red Lake County where he continued his life as a thresher and developed a dairy herd selling cream to the Plummer Creamery. In the winter he did fur trapping and in the warmer months broke new land for several local people. In 1936 he was appointed to the Plummer School Board, where he served for about ten years.

When the State of Minnesota promoted a Firearm Safety Program in 1955, he was one of the state endorsed instructors along with Russell Pahlen and had the rewarding satisfaction of instructing his three grandsons and several children of persons he had watched grow up. He stayed with the Firearm Safety Program until 1969.

In 1969 he had a minor stroke which curtailed many of his activities but he did regain much of his former health and still lives on the land he bought in 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Greenwald have two daughters: Dorothy, born September 29, 1920, and Wilma, born May 28, 1926. Dorothy attended Plummer school and graduated in 1938. She worked a few years in the Twin Cities area and in Thief River Falls as telephone operator. She became ill in 1944 and became a paraplegic.

Wilma attended Plummer School and graduated in 1944. She is now Mrs. Arnold Arlt and lives in Gervais Township, Red Lake County. They have three sons. Arnold works for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

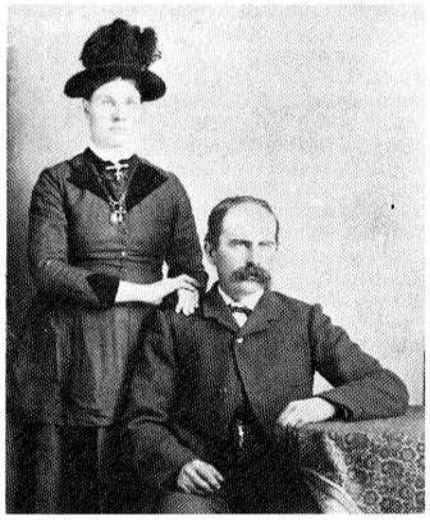


Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Green

FRANCOIS (FRANK) AND MARIE GRENIER

Francois Grenier was born on June 7, 1853 at St. Ferdinand d'Halifax, Quebec, Canada, where he grew to manhood. On November 27, 1876 he married Marie Goulet, who was born on October 26, 1856 at St. Bernard, Dorchester County, Quebec, Canada. At the age of 19 years, Francois went to work in the lumber camps, where he worked for a number of years.

Francois Grenier was the only one of his family to come to this area from Quebec, Canada. He left Canada with his wife and two sons, Frank and Desiré, on Christmas Day, 1879 and they settled at Corcoran in Hennepin County, Minnesota. Their third child, Virginia, was born there in May of 1881 and when she was two weeks old, the family came up to Louisville Township by railroad. They stayed with the Pierre Raymonds at their homestead, where Medy Beauchene now lives, until they



Francois Grenier and wife Marie.

moved into their own home in Section 13, where his grandson, John (Bob) Grenier now lives.

Also born to Francois (Frank) and Marie Grenier were Melina, in 1883, Eugene in 1885, Ombeline in 1887, Henry in 1889, Celina in 1891 and Roseanne in 1893.

Frank P. Grenier served as County Commissioner for many years and was also employed by the railroad, married Hulda Rosch, who still resides in Red Lake Falls. They had no children. Frank died in 1961.

Desiré married Mary Dupont and they had one child, Paul Grenier, who lives in Crookston. Desiré died when his son was three months old.

Virginia married Alfred Brunelle and they also settled in Louisville Township. They had the following children: Florida, who married John Kuld and has one daughter, Iona Tenter of Vergas, Minnesota; Henry and Lawrence, who are still living on the home farm; Patrick, who has two daughters, Patricia Reed of Thief River Falls and Gloria Roy of Omaha, Nebraska; Enthyme, who was killed in Italy during World War II; and Blanche, who died at the age of five years. Virginia Brunelle, the last living member of the Francois Grenier children, and her son Patrick, are at this time residents of Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls. She is 95 years of age.

Melina (Minnie) married Joseph Raymond and they had one daughter, Adele Hallameck, who now resides in Minneapolis. She has one son, Thomas who lives at Kirkland, Washington. Melina died in 1973.

Eugene married Alyda Laliberte on January 11, 1915 and they lived on the home farm, where they raised the following family: Anne, married to Harold Weber, who had five children, Richard, Wayne and Keith all of the Crookston area, Geraldine Swem at Neosho, Missouri, and Karen Knutson at Apple Valley, Minnesota; Cecile, married to Abe Magnan, who had two children, Rosanne Werges, in California and David Magnan, in St. Paul; John Robert, married to Lillian Huot Grenier, who had 5 children, Linda Johnson, Raymond, Jeffrey, Carol and Mary; Donald, who died in 1954 and was married to Lillian Huot, who had four children, Gary, in the Air Force and now located in Arkansas, Stephen, who died in 1960, Susan, living at St. Cloud and Gail, now living with her grandmother at Huot; and Eileen, who died in 1952. Eugene died in 1956.

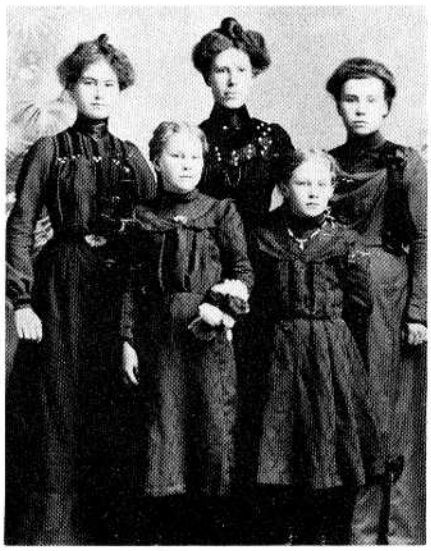
Ombeline married Majoric Latendresse and had the following children: Vina, who married Bernard Scheuring and had one son Bernard; Leo, who married Clara Gagner and who died in 1944; and Dave, living in Red Lake Falls. Ombeline died in 1919.

Henry married Mary Kuld and they were the parents of eight children: Gloria (Sister Marie Henri) of St. Paul; Rose, Betty and George, all of Minneapolis; Donavon of Stillwater; Willard at Kalispell, Montana; Charles in California and Joyce Bren in Fargo, North Dakota. Henry died in 1970.

Celina married John N. Helm and lived in Red Lake Falls until her death in 1975. They had no children.

Roseanne died in 1905 at the age of eleven years.

Frank and Marie Grenier lived on their farm in Louisville Township until 1902 when they retired and moved to Red Lake Falls. They left the farm in the hands of their sons, Frank P. and Eugene. Henry worked for some years in the gold mines in Alaska, returning late in 1914. When they moved to Red Lake Falls, they built a house near the water tower, where Jerome Ducharme now resides. Frank was janitor at the Court house for many years and also was a cabinet maker. Marie died February 25, 1932 at the age of 75 years. He lived alone until 1941 when he disposed of his home and moved in with his daughter, the John Helms. He died May 8, 1946 at nearly 93 years of age.



Grenier Daughters, *Back:* Ombeline, Virginia and Melina. *Front:* Celina and Roseanne.

WILLIAM GRIMM AND ANNA DUESING GRIMM

The Grimm family history is told to me by my great-grandfather, Wilhelm Max Grimm, better known as Willie. Willie was born near Medford, Wisconsin in Taylor County on March 3, 1888. His father, Albert Grimm, and his mother, Mary Schellman Grimm, had a farm near Medford where they had a few milk cows and did a little farming. They had nine children: Alma, Albert, Carrie, Elsie, Willie, Alvina, Rose, Gust and Lydia. Alma is presently living at the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls and has two daughters, Eleanor Christianson of Oklee and Mrs. Leonard Peterson of Plummer.

Willie's dad had rheumatism and heart disease so his mother had to do most of



Willie and Anna Grimm wedding 1910.

the milking and chores. Willie told me that his favorite time of the day was when his mother was milking. He then would come to the barn with his cup and she would give him some warm milk. He can remember cutting hay and putting it into stacks and receiving only fifty cents a day for it.

A mile away lived Ferdinand Duesing and his wife Emilie Lindow. They had nine children also and one of them, Auguste Emilie Anna Duesing, whom we call Annie, later became Willie's wife. She was born in Michigan on January 10, 1889.

Annie and Willie went to an English school until they were twelve years old, then they went to a German school for two years. They attended four days a week and had to walk three miles, but didn't attend regularly because sometimes they had to work or it was too cold to walk that far.

As Willie grew to manhood, his main occupation was logging. Later he was given the job as head cook.

Willie and his dad came from Wisconsin to Minnesota and bought land. They then returned to Wisconsin where Willie and Annie were married on August 31, 1910. They packed all their belongings in a railroad car and moved to a farm in Lambert Township where they made their home.

Willie and Annie had five children; Orville of Brooks, Evelyn of Warren, Doris (Mrs. Lloyd Nelson) of Oklee, Violet (Mrs. Maynard Ferden) of McIntosh and LaVern of Brooks.

LaVern married Nora Nelson of Oklee. He then took over his father's farm in 1938. They have lived on the same farm with Willie and Annie up until May of 1974 when Willie and Annie moved to the MacManor Nursing Home in McIntosh. LaVern and Nora had two children: Beverly (Mrs. Melvin Johnson) of Brooks and Larry who lives in Cannon Falls. Larry and his wife, Erlyss, have two children, Corey and Willie, who is named for his Great Grandfather.

My parents, Melvin and Beverly Johnson, were married in June of 1956. Our family lived in Oklee until 1968 when we moved to a farm west of Oklee. My Dad had always been in some kind of trucking business. He is now driving a bulk truck for the Farmers Union Oil Co. of Brooks and also farms. My Mom works in the Oklee Public School. There are two children in our family, Myself, and my brother Jeffrey who is a sophomore in high school.

My great grandparents, Willie and Annie, just recently celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary, and they are just as active as ever.

ARTHUR AND PAULINE GUILLEMETTE

Arthur Guillemette was born in September, 1917, the son of Ernest and Ella Cyr Guillemette. They farmed in Red Lake County for many years; Ernest died in 1958 and his wife died in 1969.

Pauline Baril was born in May, 1925, the oldest daughter of Arthur Baril and Mayme Clement Baril. Pauline grew up on a farm south of Red Lake Falls on which her father was born. Her parents died in 1971 and 1974, respectively.

Art and Pauline were married in July, 1947 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Prior to her marriage, Pauline was a secretary at the Red Lake County Welfare office. Art owns and operates an auto body shop, and is an active sportsman.

They are the parents of seven children, and have four grandchildren. Jay is married to Karen Audette and is Red Lake County Treasurer. They live in rural Red Lake Falls and have a son. Gail is married to Arnie Swiderski and lives in White Bear Lake; they have a son and a daughter. Tim is now working in Alaska. Jan married Ronnie Kennedy and they have a son and live in Thief River Falls. The three youngest, Lori, Paul and Marc, are at home and going to school.

REV. CHARLES L. GUNDERSON

Charles L. Gunderson was born in 1930 at Madison, Wisconsin. His primary and secondary education was completed in the Madison public schools. Charles Gunderson graduated from Madison East high school in June 1948. In September of that year he enrolled at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota and graduated with a B.A. Degree in 1952. That fall Charles enrolled at Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota and graduated in 1956. In June of that year Charles was ordained a Lutheran pastor.

Charles Gunderson and Marlys Ringdahl were married in 1954 at Boe Memorial Chapel on the St. Olaf College Campus. Marlys and Charles have had the blessings of five children, Mary, John, David, Paul and Elizabeth. Mary is married to Mitchell Marquis and they reside in the Goodridge area. John is a student at Golden Valley Lutheran College, Minneapolis, Minnesota. David, Paul and Elizabeth are all living at home and are attending the Oklee public school.

The Gunderson family has been living in Oklee since September 1965 when Charles became pastor of the Oklee Lutheran Parish. Prior to serving in Oklee, Pastor Gunderson served a parish for six years at Larslan, Montana. Before moving to Montana, Charles was an Air Force Chaplain. His primary tour of duty was at McDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida. The family lived in Florida for the first three years following the Pastor's ordination.



Charles Gunderson Family



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gunderson

SAM AND TORKEL GUNDERSON

Sam Gunderson was born in 1872 in Satesdalen, Norway. He was an adventurous young man and wanted to see America. After graduating from school he turned down a job and left Norway. He came to Crookston in 1892 and worked as a farm hand near Fisher, and Grand Forks, North Dakota at the Kestone Farms for a few years. He met Mary Lande, who came to America with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Torkel Lande in 1891. Sam and Mary were married in the fall of 1897 at Crookston. They came to Red Lake County and first lived on the farm homesteaded by Ole Lande, Mary's brother, now owned by Holver Groven. To this union seven children were born: Gunhild (Mrs. Amund Lintvet) born 1898 died 1972, Gunner born 1900 and died 1900, Gunder living at rural Oklee, Gladys (Mrs. Paul Hofstad) born 1905 died 1965, Thora of Fremont, California, Emma (Mrs. Scott Shieffield), Fremont, California, and Torkel of rural Oklee.

They came to what is now known as the Equality strip in 1899 and homesteaded in the Northwest quarter, Section 35. Here Sam built a sod house where they lived until 1903 when he built a two room log house. Sam drove with oxen to St. Hilaire to get lumber for the roof and top of the house, a trip of 35 miles.

He had to work in the woods at Effie, Minnesota to get extra money. He also helped open the Lost River using hay knives. Many cattle and horses were lost in this river before it was opened.

Sam made much of the furniture for their home. He helped build the Clearwater Church and the school house for District #8.

Times were hard in the early days. They had to walk to the small store which had a few needed supplies. Many times they walked in the rain and waded in water. There were no roads, just trails. The land was cleared by hand by grubbing stumps and trees. Mary sewed clothes for the children. She churned butter to sell and also sold eggs to buy sugar and flour. In the early days people would help each other out. The nearest telephone before Sam and Mary got one, was at the Ramsus Fore place half a mile away. Mrs. Ramsus Fore was a frequent visitor at Sam and Mary's. She always brought her knitting along and worked and visited at the same time. The children could not understand how she could knit without looking.

Wild berries were gathered and canned which was the only fruit used. Most people had gardens and the meat was canned or salted down or smoked so it would keep in the summer.

Sam passed away in 1924 and Mary and the family stayed on the farm. Gunder moved to Mayfield township and Torkel continued to farm the home place. He bought 40 acres in Section 26 in Equality in 1938 and married Ragna Hofstad in 1942. They lived on the farm and bought the Trask Farm, southwest Quarter of Section 35, in 1945. Their children are Arlene (Mrs. Robert Berry), East Grand Forks, Dianne (Mrs. Clarence Gagner) of Brooks, and Sheryl (Mrs. Dennis Wilde), of Thief River Falls. Torkel purchased the home farm from Mary in 1947, and lived in the same log house that Sam built and here they raised their three daughters. REA came in 1949 and the old log house was wired for electricity. REA was a great improvement for our community. Before we had to carry our kerosene lanterns to the barn and milked by hand. The old washing machine made so much noise that it had to be turned off every time the telephone rang.

In 1951 Ragna and Torkel built a new home and the old log house had to be torn down. We are still farming but we do not milk cows as we only have beef cattle now. We give thanks to our forefathers for the rich heritage they left us.



Torkel Gunderson Family

THOR GUNSTENSON AND ANNE LANGERAK GUNSTENSON

Thor Gunstenson and Anne G. Langerak were married at Fisher in 1893. Thor had immigrated to the United States in 1884 and she came in 1891. They settled in the Fisher area where Thor had been employed for seven years.

In the fall of 1896 they homesteaded in Equality Township and in 1901, sold their homestead and bought land farther west, south of the present Salem Church. Then in 1911, they sold this farm and bought one farther south in Garnes Township, the present farm of Clifford Hegge.

Thor Gunstenson was active in church and community affairs. He was one of the first school board members of Independent School District No. 1 of Oklee. He was one of the men who helped organize the Salem Lutheran Church north of Oklee, and in earlier days was the church custodian. On



Mr. and Mrs. Thor Gunstenson

Sunday morning when there were to be services he would go by horseback to church and build a fire in the stove, then go home to get the family, this time using horses and sleigh or wagon, depending on the season.

The nearest town was Plummer, and Thor and his family would have to go there for groceries and supplies. Later Edward Havik had a store and Post Office named "Grit" in Equality township. Sometimes Thor would take wheat to the mill at Terrebonne and exchange it for flour. Thor died in October 1940 and his wife died rather young in 1924.

The oldest son, Gunsten, became operator of the Oklee Creamery for two years. Later he owned a creamery at Strandquist, returning to Oklee in 1935 to buy and operate a farm machinery and supply company.

Gunsten was married to Ida Arvenson in 1924. They had five daughters, Adeline, Verna, Audrey, Erlys, and Beverly. Gunsten died in 1940. Ida now lives in Houston, Texas.

The second son, Gunnuf, also became a creamery operator and had his establishment in Highlanding, Minn. After several years he sold his creamery at Highlanding and became Pennington County Assessor. He married Bessie Hegland in 1931. They had two children Gene, and Anella. Gunnuf died in 1966. His wife Bessie lives in Thief River Falls.

The youngest son, Ole, helped his brother Gunnuf for a few years in the creamery. Later he had his own farm in Garnes township, the present Bishop farm. Ole died in 1953.



Mr. and Mrs. Knute Vake

Emma, the only daughter, married Knute Vake, October 21, 1936. They farmed for several years, until Knute's ill health forced them to sell and move to Oklee. Knute died in 1963, but Emma continues to live in the house they had bought. She keeps busy in various ways. In 1970 she took a trip to Norway, and visited her mother's and father's relatives in Setesdal.

TORGER GUNSTENSON AND BERIT (BOE) GUNSTENSON

In the late summer of 1897 we could have seen a covered wagon winding its way in the Crookston-Gentilly area. It was the family of Torger Gunstenson moving from the Fisher area to their homestead located four and one-half miles east of the present site of Oklee.

Torger Gunstenson and Berit Boe were married May 10, 1887 in Bygland, Norway and in a few days set sail for America to seek their fortune. Torger's parents, three brothers and a sister were already settled in the Fisher area. Torger found employment and later rented farms, but they longed for a home of their own so when land opened for homesteading they came here to the Oklee area.



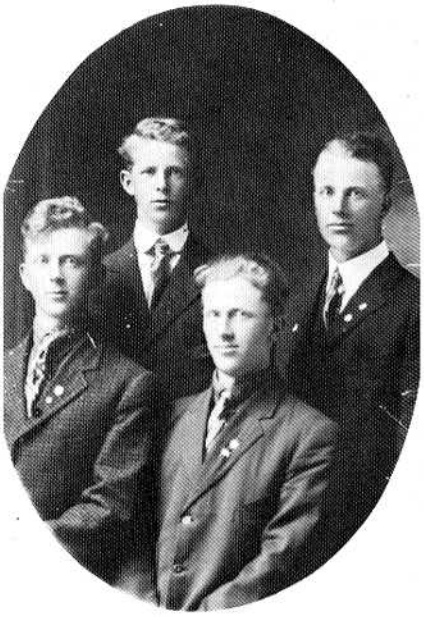
Torger Gunstenson Family 1896. Children, Gunsten, Emma, Sam, Thorald, and Anna on lap of Grandma Anna Boe.

Six children had already been born to them. Emma was now nine, Gunsten eight, Sam six, Tharald four, Anna two, and little Olaf, a mere infant.

As their covered wagon moved along, the boys started talking about Indians. Little Tharald said he was afraid of Indians but Sam who was six said, "I'm not afraid of Indians, I'll fight them."

They camped overnight at Gentilly and the next day reached their homestead where Torger had built a small house earlier in the summer. They encountered many hardships but their strong pioneer spirit prevailed. They had cattle and a few chickens and when drainage ditches were made they could plant a few crops.

Soon schools were built and the Gunstenson children thought nothing of walking two and three-fourths miles to school. How different from the beautiful buses that pick up the school children now.



Sons of Torger Gunstenson. *Back:* Ed and Sam. *Front:* Thorald and Gunsten.

Four children were born to the Gunstensons at their new home. Ed born in 1900, Kjersti in 1902, Ole in 1906, and Alfred in 1909.

Torger had to supplement his income by going to North Dakota to work in the harvest fields in the fall and sometimes he had to go to the Deer River-Big Fork country to work as a lumberjack in the woods.

Mrs. Gunstenson's mother, Mrs. Anne Boe from Norway, came to live with them from 1891 to 1899 when she died. She was very wise and devout and helped Berit with bringing up the children. Torger and Berit were both active in church work. Torger was active also in work in Chester Township.

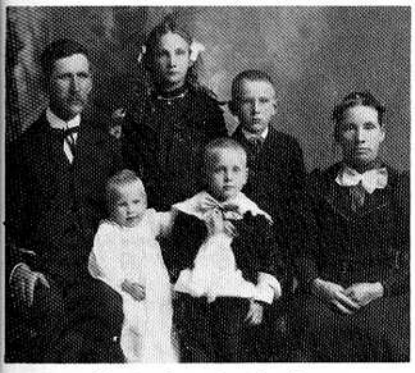
The Gunstenson children as well as all pioneer children of the community found entertainment in going to Young People Societies, Basket Socials, and community affairs of various kinds. A Fourth of July celebration was held many a time at the Knute Homme farm, the present Russell Norberg farm in Equality township. Later, baseball playing was quite popular.

Torger and Berit enjoyed their farm home even though it was so different from their homeland of Norway with its majestic mountains and beautiful fjords. Torger died in 1938 and Berit in 1943. The farm was sold in 1968.

The children are all departed now except Kjersti and Ed who live in Oklee, and Alfred and his wife who live in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Ed retired in 1972 from working in Montana for many years. In 1943-1944 he had the interesting experience of working in the Yukon Territory and in the Aleutian Islands.

Kjersti retired in 1968 after teaching for twenty-two years in the Oklee School. She had also taught school in Polk county rural schools and at Lockhart, Minnesota. She has her own home in Oklee and finds retirement enjoyable.



Charles Gustafson Family

CHARLES GUSTAFSON

Charles Gustafson was born in 1858 in Corentort Asdro, Sweden. He came to New York in 1889, and from there to Gervais Township where he homesteaded. He built a log cabin on his land and then sent for his sweetheart, Hannah Anderson, of Sweden. Charles and Hannah were married in Crookston, in 1890. They cleared their land and farmed, using oxen as their power and transportation.

They had 4 children: Mattie, Henry, Elmer and Edith who is the only survivor and lives in Hillsboro, Oregon. Charley died in 1903 leaving Hannah to raise the 4 children, the youngest being only 3 years old.

Hannah sold half of her homestead to her sister's family to enable her to take care of her children. She added a bedroom to her home to board teachers for extra financial help. She also made and sold many pieced quilts besides having a few cows to trade home-made butter for groceries in a store at Red Lake Falls. At one time she could not decide if she should buy a pair of bloomers, but made the remark, "To heck with the bloomers, I will take sugar for all that is left."

Hannah had the misfortune of breaking her hip which caused her to walk with a limp for the rest of her life. Her doctor treated her injury by placing a raw potato on it to draw out the poison. Hannah Gustafson was known as a very kind and a good-hearted person, helping anyone she could.

In her later years she lived with her married daughters. Her daughter Mattie married August Arlt, and Edith married Herbert Arlt. Hannah died in 1930.

RUSSELL GUSTAFSON

In 1881 August and Otto Swanson, brothers, came to this country from Sweden and settled first in Crookston where they worked for a while before moving on to St. Hilaire where August homesteaded a farm close by.

Otto went farther east to find his homestead and also found time to work out to make the money needed for his farm supplies. In 1895 he married Ida Swenson, who had come from Sweden March 4, 1889 to work in New Brighton, Connecticut.



Mr. and Mrs. Otto Swanson

Two children were born to them, Arthur and Agnes. When Otto died in 1905, Ida and the children continued to farm the land until 1914 when Ida died. Agnes worked in Minneapolis some of the time and also helped on the farm. Arthur never married and died in 1955.

Agnes married Carl Gustafson in 1928 and they moved to Canada for a few years where their first son, Russell, was born in 1929. When they moved back to this area, they bought their own farm just south of the homestead. They had two more sons, Merle and Raymond.

Merle and his wife, Carol, have seven children and live on the Carl Gustafson home farm. Raymond and his wife, Jeannie, have four children and live on a farm near St. Cloud. Raymond also teaches school. Carl Gustafson died in 1957 and Agnes left the farm to live in Thief River Falls.

Russell Gustafson and Frances Ueland were married at St. Hilaire on November 7, 1953 and lived on the Carl Gustafson farm in a trailer home until they bought the Arthur Swanson farm in 1956. Otto Swanson, Russell's grandfather, had owned this farm that was to remain in the same family since it was homesteaded. They bought an additional forty acres from Fredolph Swanson in 1973 and in 1974 bought another forty acres from the Edgar Peterson estate. Gustafsons raised turkeys and chickens for a few years and Russell also worked on road construction, then decided to go into milk cows. Russell now works the farm full time.

They built a new house in 1962 and also added on to the barn a few years ago.

Russell and Francis have four children: Rick, Cathy, Kyle, and Jodi. They all go to school in Plummer. The family are members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Plummer.

Now a little about the Carl Gustafson family. Carl was born in Harcourt, Iowa in 1895 to Peter J. and Christine Gustafson. The family moved to Canada in 1905. They left Canada and came to this community around 1914 and bought the farm where Eugene Meyer is now living. They lived there until 1924 when they moved back to Canada. They had nine children. They are all deceased now, except Frank, who is in a nursing home in Canada.

JOHN G. HAGEN

John G. Hagen and his wife, Marthea and ten children came to Emardville township in 1907. They moved from North Dakota and purchased a farm 5 miles southwest of Plummer. The land was bought from Paul and Olive Benjaminson who retained 40 acres to live on. Several years later the Benjaminsons moved to Canada and sold their remaining land to the Hagens. The Hagen children were John M., Gudor, Gina, Sina, Mina, Inger, Ida, Ella, Emma and Jennie.

Mr. Hagen was active in his community and church and loved to hunt and fish. Sunday afternoons, in the winter months, were spent by the young folks of the area skating on the river by the Hagen home. They would all be invited in to have lunch and Mr. Hagen would lead them in games and was the life of the party.

Ida Hagen died at the age of 21 in 1913. Mrs. Hagen died in 1934 at 79 years of age and Gina also died that year. Mr. Hagen lived until he was 94 and died in 1949. After his parents' death John M. assumed the full responsibility for farming the land and continued to live there until his death in 1965. Gudor married as did Emma who married Louie Lohman and moved to Duluth, Minnesota. The rest of the girls went to Duluth also to go on to school or to seek employment, taking turns staying home to help with the farm work.

In later years the girls bought a home in Seattle, Washington, and at the present time there are three still living there, Jennie, Mina and Emma (Mrs. Lohman). The farm place was sold in 1968 to Robert Krieger.

FRANK HAGL

Franz (Frank) Hagl was born in 1865 in Germany. As a young man of eighteen, he left his homeland and immigrated to the United States. He lived in Michigan before moving to East Grand Forks, where he worked in a brewery.

In 1895 he married Therese Grimm at East Grand Forks. She was born in 1869 in Akron, Ohio to the parents Louis and Victore Grimm.

In 1897 the family moved to a farm in Lake Pleasant Township, and then purchased a farm in Red Lake Falls Township.

Mr. Hagl died in 1913 at the age of forty-eight. Mrs. Hagl died in 1917.

There were nine children: Mary (Mrs. Joseph Loeffler) of Thief River Falls, Laura (Mrs. Henry Vatthauer) of Red Lake Falls, Louis (deceased), Helen (Mrs. Pat Febro) and, Frank, of Red Lake Falls, Clare (deceased), Leo (deceased), Paul, and George of Red Lake Falls.

Frank Hagl was born in Red Lake County in 1904 to the parents Frank and Therese Grimm Hagl. He married Raphael Williams 1926 at Red Lake Falls.

Raphael was born in Eecloo, Belgium in 1902 to the parents John and Maria Williams. She and her family moved to the United States, living in Illinois and then moving to Red Lake Falls.

Frank and Raphael farmed in Terrebonne Township for a year then moved to a farm west of Red Lake Falls rented from Dr. L. Twete. Later he purchased the Emerson farm two miles southwest of Red Lake Falls. Their son Donald now lives on this farm and farms with Lawrence, his brother.

For twenty-nine years Frank threshed for neighbors around Terrebonne. He served on the Board of Directors of the Farmers Union GTA Elevator of Red Lake Falls.

Mrs. Hagl was the treasurer of the School District No. 40 in Red Lake Falls Township.

In 1967 Frank and Raphael moved to the city of Red Lake Falls. Frank still goes out to the farm and helps with the farming operation, driving combines and large tractors instead of threshing rigs. He has farmed all his life.

There are four children and all live in the Red Lake Falls area. Donald, Lawrence, Marianne (Mrs. Ted Schindler) and Delores (Mrs. Val Schindler).

DENNIS E. HAGLUND FAMILY

Dennis Edward Haglund was born on December 1, 1946 and raised in Moose Lake, Minnesota. He attended school there and graduated in 1964. That same year he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served eight years before becoming a resident of Red Lake County.

On September 30, 1967 Dennis married Nancy Jo Beyer, daughter of Irving and Adeline Weiss Beyer. Nancy was born in Crookston, Minnesota on February 7, 1949 and attended Franklin School in Dorothy through the sixth grade. After graduating from Lafayette High School in 1967, she worked as a receptionist for a real estate firm in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

While they were stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base, Dennis and Nancy had two children, Susanne Marie and Steven Edward. The family was also stationed at Fairchild AFB in Spokane, Washington for a short time.

The Haglund family moved to Red Lake County in 1972 following his discharge, and here Sara Sunshine was born.

Dennis is engaged in dairy farming with his father-in-law on the White Gold Farm in Wylie township.

Both Dennis and Nancy drive school buses for Red Lake Falls District 630. They are members of St. John's Lutheran Church and Dennis is a member of the American Legion Post.

CLARA SCHMITZ — MORRIS HAHNER

Clara Schmitz (deceased 1944) was the 12th child of Joseph and Louise Schmitz. She married Morris Hahner (deceased) and lived their short married life on a farm northeast of Thief River Falls. They were the parents of three daughters, one deceased.

Judy married Daniel Clement and they reside in East Grand Forks with their five children. Daniel has a plumbing and heating business.

Beverly married John Varrie and they reside near Onamia where John teaches German in the school. They have four children.

CLARENCE D. HALL

In 1925, Clarence D. Hall bought the Farmers Elevator in Brooks, and operated it under the name of C. D. Hall Grain Company until his death in 1939. "Clair" Hall had homesteaded north of Oklee and worked in the elevator there. In 1914 he returned to his home town of Sparta, Wisconsin and married Elizabeth Murphy. Upon their return to Oklee, they later moved to Brooks where he managed an elevator that burned to the ground in 1924, caused by a spark from a gas engine.

Mr. Hall took an active part in civic affairs in Brooks, played in the band and served on various boards and committees. Mrs. Hall passed away in 1931 after a lengthy illness. Surviving are two children: Mrs. Paul (Harriet) Grandbois, Red Lake Falls; and Clarence D. Hall, Minneapolis.

OMER HALL

Omer Hall was born October 29, 1882 at Braunville, Nebraska. He started working for the Great Northern Railroad in 1903 and was transferred to Red Lake Falls that year as clerk and operator. He was promoted to agent in 1910.

Omer Hall married Ida Lemieux May 22, 1906. They had two children, Esther and Kenneth.

In 1929 Omer Hall was transferred as agent to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where he served as agent until his retirement in 1956. He died March 14, 1964.

Mrs. Ida Hall lives in Grand Forks. Esther (Mrs. Anthony Gerszewski) lives in Mountain View, California and Kenneth Hall lives in Grand Forks.

Mrs. Hall has three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

J. H. HALLER FAMILY

The Hallers, Joe, Agnes and Dennis arrived to make their home in Red Lake Falls in August 1945. Fresh from a three-year stay in San Francisco, Calif. where we were engaged in a war effort industry, we once again felt liberated in coming back to the midwest with its four distinct seasons and the care-free style of life so typical of the Dakotas and Minnesota.

During our first year at Red Lake Falls, our second son, Lyle was born, April 10, 1946. In June of that year we purchased and moved to our present home at 102 W. Bottineau Ave.

Looking in retrospect over the 31 years at Red Lake Falls brings to mind some rather interesting changes. Having been an employee of the local school district for 27 years, five years as a teacher, and twenty-two years as Lafayette principal, I shall, of necessity, confine my remarks to the evaluation of the school system during my stay.

In the mid 1940's, public schools by and large, suffered due to the war effort, in that many well qualified teachers were either drafted into service or volunteered for more lucrative employment in industry.

My first impression of Lafayette high school was that it survived the war years in good style, having maintained a respectably balanced curriculum and staff. Due to the small enrollment, teachers in the special departments (Home Ec and Industrial Arts) were of necessity compelled to teach other academic subjects outside of their chosen field. Some senior subjects were offered on alternate years, a technique often used with limited enrollments and staff. Although many departments were well equipped, some, never-the-less, were antiquated — notably home economic and industrial arts.

The Industrial Arts Dept. consisted of three adjacent rooms on the basement floor. It was adequate in size and location, but needed additional equipment and a thorough general reorganization. Supt. J. A. Hughes was sympathetic and cooperative in putting new life into the department. In three years' time, a profound change took place which kindled better attitudes and workmanship in the forthcoming year. The present hot lunch dining area and teacher's dining room occupies the location where the former shop area was situated.

The Home Economics Department will long be remembered not so much for its obvious shortcomings, but rather because of the administrative conflicts it posed with the hot lunch program. The Home Ec kitchen was located where the present secondary principal's administrative area is located. It consisted of a single room, poorly equipped and inadequate for storage. In it were four tables with as many hot plates on each for cooking. This was the foods preparation area. However, to further compound the situation, the advent of free government surplus commodities and the resultant cheap hot meals for all school children transcended all other needs, and a new popular program was soon well entrenched, to further monopolize the already inadequate Home Economics foods area. To cook food daily for about 300 youngsters on the only available Home Ec. hot plates in the only available Home Ec. kitchen and still do justice to the teaching of foods preparation, posed an insurmountable task, which required more than just good will and tolerance.

To further compound this touch-and-go situation, we needed a dining area fairly adjacent to the kitchen. After due deliberation, it was decided to use the large home room study hall on the second floor (where the present library is located). Fortunately we had an open noon period in those days and the study hall upstairs could be used for a dining area. This daily trek and balancing food trays while walking up and down two flights of stairs was an ordeal — especially for the lower grade elementary students from Washington school. This seemingly round about routine stabilized, and in time seemed to be a tolerable situation in spite of a few periodic spills due to slipping on wet noodles along the way. The dining area also served as the general assembly. It had about eleven long rows of flip-top desks, solidly anchored to the floor. These individual desks had storage in them for books and other supplies. These desks were individually assigned to students. Anytime the student wasn't scheduled in a class or an activity, he or she was sure to be at his assigned desk in the assembly. Each desk had a hole in the top for an inkwell, and must have been manufactured before the days of ball point pens. This ink well hole was an ideal situation for kids with daring and imagination. Most every day, banana peels, parts of sandwiches, not to mention the assorted noodles were found stuffed into the inkwell hole, adding to the consternation of the student reaching for a book or school supplies.

The library facilities were minimal. The library was a single room, the size of a regular class room. The librarian generally taught a fairly heavy schedule of classes in addition to having the library assignment. With the eventual building addition the library was moved to where the general assembly used to be, much enlarged and staffed with a full time librarian.

The school system was entirely without gym facilities until the present gym was completed in 1958. The School District was able to rent the downtown community hall for all large-group activity. This facility was ideal in size, and enabled us to use it for Lyceum programs, school and class plays, all physical education classes as well as all indoor competitive sports as basketball and wrestling. In the 1940's school parties and dances were held in the main hallway of Lafayette to the tune of some phonograph records. Soon after that era, students used the downstairs at the community hall for their school parties and dances. This phase of activity revealed change — music became louder and the tempo faster as the students merrily jived along.

The post war years ushered in a rapid growth in school population and with that, the accompanying need for additional facilities, staff and a certain amount of curricular updating. Red Lake Falls was no exception to this national trend, and soon thereafter a bond issue was approved and passed for building the present addition to the existing Lafayette Bldg. With the addi-

tion and enlarged facilities we were able to do justice to the existing special departments, namely Industrial Arts and Home Economics, and hot lunch came out once again a winner in the process.

With the advent of the new addition, special departments were amply situated and provided with equipment and built in conveniences as well as adequate and full time staffing. In addition, new departments were added, namely chorus, special education, guidance counseling, instrumental music, as well as vocational education in the areas of auto mechanics, carpentry, occupational foods, health occupations and educational occupations. Most of the vocational classes are conducted at their respective places of work within the City of Red Lake Falls.

In the final aftermath of such a busy era of activity and growth, there emerged on the educational horizon yet another educational concept, modular scheduling, often referred to as flexible scheduling. Theoretically, students became masters of their own destiny. They were free to decide where or how they would spend their free time when not in a scheduled activity. Working with mods, which simply are blocks of time, made it easy to build an appropriate block of time for certain activities especially suited to the areas of shop, home ec., science lab and of course all vocational areas.

I really have not been with the system long enough to truly evaluate the pros and cons of modular scheduling, but I'm prone to believe that, with proper and timely modifications, it should be a welcome change from the old dogmatic regimentation. It seems to complement present day ideology, and in the final analysis, history still will remain replete with those who lead and those who are led.

One wonders how time escapes us. Dennis graduated from Lafayette in 1956. He served two years in the Navy, after which he enrolled at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. During his second year there he married Nancy Shallas, also a student at the University. Both continued at college and graduated with majors in Education. Presently, Dennis is the Principal at West Side Elementary school in River Falls, Wisc. Nancy's teaching career was interrupted by the birth of their daughter Wendy, now 15 years of age, and again when Sean was born eight years ago. Yet, in the interim, Nancy was able to teach in North St. Paul, and later at New Richmond, Wisc.

Dennis, Nancy and grandchildren will be at Red Lake Falls during the Centennial celebration on July 4th, which incidentally, is also our 40th wedding anniversary. We hope to have a pleasant time, as well as meet and host many friends.

IVER AND ANNA HAMRUM

Iver and Anna Josephine Hamrum moved to Red Lake County following their marriage in 1909 and settled in Poplar River Township near Brooks. A relative from Norway had encouraged them to come to this part of Minnesota.

They had nine children of whom four are living. Art and Ida live in Brooks and Oscar and Beatrice in Minneapolis.

Iver Hamrum died in 1951 and Mrs. Hamrum in 1957.

The farm has had many changes since the time the Hamrums settled in the country. Wooded land was made into farm land and highway 59 was constructed through



the farm. The farm is still in the family and the house is the original log house, remodeled.

The Hamrums were members of Immanuel Lutheran Church which was at that time in Emardville Township and in later years moved to Plumme.

ARLIE HAMS AND LILA WEISS HAMS

Arlie Hams, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hams, was born in Springbrook Township, Kittson County, Minnesota. He attended school at Karlstad after which he spent two years with the United States Navy. Following his discharge he attended Hansen's Trade School in Fargo, North Dakota. In 1947 he came to Red Lake Falls and was employed at Schantzen Motors and the Red Lake Falls Oil Co. In 1954 he started his own business in the building which is now the Town and Country Motors and also ran a restaurant there until 1957. That year he built Ham's Texaco Station which is now Jim's Mobil and sold it to Harvey Mercil in 1968 when he accepted a position as an instructor at the East Polk-Red Lake County Vocational Center here in Red Lake Falls.

Lila was born in Browns Creek Township. She lived on the farm with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weiss. The Hams are members of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Arlie and Lila have one daughter, Kathy, who is married to Michael LaPlante, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest LaPlante. Michael is head custodian at LaFayette High School and they have two children, Amanda Lyn and Paul Jason.

ALFRED HANCE FAMILY

Alfred was the third son of James Hance and Agnes Benoit Hance and the only one who stayed in Red Lake county through the greater part of his life. He was born September 23, 1905, and attended St. Joseph's School until the family moved to Dorothy in 1916. He finished grade school at Dorothy and later took a business course at Crookston at Sather's Business School.

In 1929 Alfred married Olivene St. Michel, daughter of Alfred St. Michel. Alfred Hance was then employed in his father's store and in 1935 he purchased the business, his father's health a reason for the transfer of work and responsibility to his son.

Six children were born to the Hances: Dolores, Leland, James, Edward, Joan and Thomas.

The Hance Store expanded through the years — a cream buying station, beer tavern, locker plant, gas and oil sales, and services such as putting in water systems and wiring homes for farmers. During the depression, when farmers were unable to meet their accounts at the store, moonshine liquor was taken in settlement, which in turn was sold to train men on the Northern Pacific line that went through Dorothy.

As the Hance children grew older, Alfred and Ollie realized the time was coming when the children would want to enter college, so they decided to move the family closer to institutions of higher learning and went to Milbank, South Dakota, in 1954 and opened an Our Own Hardware Store. After a few years there, they sold again and went into the same business in Hopkins.

The sons and daughters have obtained their various degrees in education. Leland and James have their own Our Own Hardware Stores; James bought his father's Hopkins store. Tom has a wholesale parts business. Edward is a lawyer in Minneapolis; Joan (Mrs. Gerald Kneist) is a physical therapist and works part time at her profession along with homemaking for her husband and two children.

Dolores (Mrs. Richard Trudeau) lives in Thief River Falls. Richard is associated with Arctic Enterprises there. Dolores is a teacher but has chosen the role of homemaker. They have four children (two by adoption). Recently Dolores and a partner, Jean Michalek, opened a unique business, "Thebothofus," offering unusual gifts and antiques and a tearoom.

Alfred died in 1970. Ollie continues to live in their home in Hopkins that is frequently filled with the members of her family who live nearby. She keeps busy as a baby sitter for her grandchildren and assists in the Hopkins store during rush season. She loves travel and has taken two trips to Europe and one to the Orient, this along with visits to relatives in Florida, California, Washington, and, of course, back to Red Lake Falls and the old home territory.



James Hance

JAMES HANCE FAMILY

James Hance was born in Austin, December 1872, one of six children of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hance, and came with his parents to this section in 1879, settling on a farm near Euclid.

He married Agnes Benoit, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Benoit, in 1891, and settled on a farm in the Huot area, then in Polk County. A few years later, he quit farming, moved to Perrault Station to operate the grain elevator there for five years, then came to Red Lake Falls and became

manager of the elevator in Red Lake Falls.

In 1914, he quit the elevator to become local agent for Robertson Lumber Company. After two years, he resigned to go into the mercantile business at Dorothy.

Jim was instrumental in founding the St. Dorothy Catholic Church. Through his efforts, a Post Office was established in his store and he became postmaster until 1935 when it was discontinued. Through the years James Hance built up a large general store business, also operated the Dorothy elevator, and organized the Hance Oil Company. Mr. Hance turned over the store to his son, Alfred, in 1935 to ease the work load for himself due to a heart ailment.

The Hances had twelve children: Adolph, born 1892; Annie, 1894; Emma, 1895; Alfred, 1905; Mae, 1906; Cecelia, 1908; and Louis, 1910. Four of the children died in childhood. Mrs. Hance passed away in July of 1912. In 1916, Mr. Hance married Mrs. Elizabeth Christensen and she died in 1921.

The following year he married Mrs. Alphonsine La Coursiere. Mrs. Hance died November 1936 and Mr. Hance in 1937. His three sons have since died, Louis in October 1957, in California, Adolph, January 1962 in Washington, and Alfred, February 28, 1970 in Hopkins.

Five daughters survived at this date: Emma (Mrs. Henry Paquin), Red Lake Falls; Eva (Mrs. Urban Schmitz), La Crosse, Wisconsin; Alice (Mrs. Albert Johnson), Centralia, Washington; Lorena (Mrs. Sid Marchildon), Tampano Beach, Florida; and Mae (Mrs. Waldo Whybrew), Sunrise, Florida.

Reflections of the eldest daughter who has tried to record these events in brief, seem incomplete without a few personal comments on the life of our parents.

Remember Dad's taking a correspondence course to further his meager education in boyhood, and studying evenings, but taking time to assist us with our homework.

There were always evening chores including feeding chickens, a couple pigs, milking a cow, and of course gardening to help provide food. In summer, there were wild strawberry picking expeditions, and nothing can equal the taste of those with ice cream and home baked bread, treasured memories.

There were occasional evenings spent on doing shoe repairs for the family, needless to say there were quite a number. Hunting rabbits and prairie chickens provided recreation, but also meat we all enjoyed.

Remember the desire and love of music, our first musical instrument, an organ, which gave me the opportunity for music lessons. Dad's playing the violin (self-taught) for house parties.

Mother's frail health thru several years, and her death at 38 years leaving a family of eight, brought difficult times for the family, but somehow father was able to keep the home and family together.

We are grateful for the parents who gave us so much to improve conditions for the family and community. Their example is our richest inheritance. I hope we have passed on to our children these fine qualities they possessed.

JOSEPH HANCE

I can remember my grandfather, Louis Christopher Hance, telling of his family's coming to northwestern Minnesota. Great-grandfather was Reme Hance who married Sophie Lindsay, an Irish girl who had been adopted by a French family. She was well educated and spoke beautiful French. Just when my great-grandparents came to Canada, we do not know. Louis Christopher Hance, father of Joseph Hance, was born in Canada in 1844, probably near the Maine border. Louis married Anna Billadeau and their first child, Mary, was born in Maine in 1863. Louis Hance was a carpenter and probably a farmer, as most people were at that time. Reme and Sophie, and Louis, Anna and Mary moved to Minnesota and settled around Austin in the late 1860's. Two of dad's brothers, Edward and James, were born there in 1869 and 1872. Another sister, Annie, was born at Freeborn. Then, in the late 1870's when northwestern Minnesota was beginning to be settled, the family decided to homestead in Polk County. Dad showed me the place when I was quite young while we were out picking blueberries. Reme homesteaded one quarter section of land and Louis the adjoining quarter section. This land was near Dorothy and one cabin was built for the two families. Half of the cabin was on Reme's land and the other half on Louis' land. Dad's sister, Selina, was born there in 1882, and dad in 1885. Dad's mother, Anna Billadeau Hance, died there and was buried in the Huot cemetery. Her grave is not marked, but she probably died around 1890.

When Dad was ten, grandpa Louis married Hermine Dupont Huot on October 12, 1895. She was my mother's mother. Shortly after this, Grandpa must have sold the farm as he moved to Red Lake Falls and built a brick house across the road from Peter Kilburg's home in the Klondike area. That's the place I remember and that brick house is still standing, being built with bricks from the Red Lake Falls brickyard.

Dad and mother (Louise Huot, daughter of Hermine Dupont Huot) were married in April, 1905. They moved to Rainy River, Ontario, where Dad worked in a sawmill and, when I was a year old, came back to Red Lake Falls and lived in a house near the Presbyterian church (the Leo Cartier house). Robert was born there and then we moved into Klondike where Dad had built a house . . . (Felix Raymonds live there today). We lived there about five or six years and our sister, Grace, was born there in 1909.

In the summer of 1912, we left the "red house" and spent the summer in Dorothy in Archie Marcotte's old house. This house was later moved to the Joe Boutain farm site and in later years was torn down and replaced by the house Mrs. C. W. Beyer lives in today. I was only six then and do remember playing with Walter Coe and that Rena (Mrs. Bert Walker) was born in 1912. I was sent to Grandpa's in Red Lake Falls when school started. When the haying season was over, we moved to a house in the Klondike which is still there (The Herb Jolly house). We stayed there that school year, then moved to Dorothy again and lived in an old creamery. In the fall we came back to Red Lake Falls and lived in a house next door to Mrs. Wolfe's in Little Canada. We stayed there until 1915 when we homesteaded a farm seven miles east of Red Lake Falls where George Reopelle now lives. I guess Robert's love for farming began then because he wasn't more than eleven or twelve when Dad would send him out to work the fields all day. We attended Wildwood School two miles away and always walked. We stayed on that farm until 1921, and then moved to the Bill Hunt farm. Grace died of diabetes in 1922. Robert and I drove to the Black Hills on a camping trip with Bill Malwitz and two of his sisters in 1928, quite an event for us. In 1930 we moved across the road to the present Robert Miller farm. Mother died February 28, 1937. Dad married Delima Benoit in 1940 and they remained on the farm until 1952 when Dad retired and moved into Red Lake Falls. He died in 1965, and Delima in 1969.

Robert married Irene Krueger in 1930, Rena married Bert Walker in 1931, and I married Irvin Johnson in 1937.

Not a very eventful family history, perhaps, but life was good with a lot of pleasant things to remember.

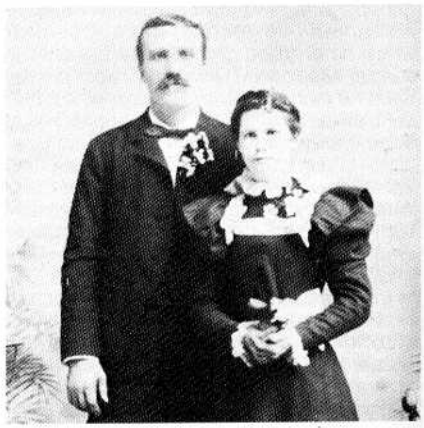
ROBERT AND IRENE HANCE

Robert Hance (b. 1907) the son of Joseph Hance of Red Lake Falls, married Irene Krueger in November, 1930. She was the daughter of the William Kruegers whose story appears elsewhere in this book.

Irene was a country school teacher and, after her marriage, was active in many organizations such as PTA and the county Democratic Party organization. Robert engaged in farming at an early age and bought a farm northwest of Red Lake Falls in 1935. This farm, known as Fair Oaks, was their home until his death in October, 1974. Irene died just seven weeks later.

Their family consisted of two daughters and one son. JoAnn, born in December, 1931, married Roger Thibert in 1953. Janice married Cal Christianson in 1958, and they live in Mankato. Robert, Jr. married Sharon Mortenson in 1964, lives in Forest Lake and works in the state office of the Department of Natural Resources.

Irene and Bob had ten grandchildren.



Peter and Harriet Hansel

HANSEL FAMILY

My father Peter Hansel, son of John and Catherine Enders Hansel, was born September 20, 1865, in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He was the eldest child of a family of twelve.

At an early age he left his home and went to Minneapolis, where he took a course in blacksmith work. When his course was completed, he worked one year in Minneapolis at the trade.

At the end of that time he came to what was then Polk County, and settled in Wylie. He chose Wylie because his first cousin, Jacob Thill, also from Wisconsin, had settled there prior to his arrival. That was approximately in 1887 or 1888.

He built a blacksmith shop there and

started his work about that time. Some years later he built a machine shop and had the agency for International Harvester farm machinery for many years, along with his blacksmith work.

He was an excellent horse shoer. Many horses were brought to him from miles around because blacksmiths in the surrounding towns refused to shoe horses. Sometimes the horse would have to be thrown to the ground with its feet tied, held there, and then the shoes were put on. This always brought quite an audience to the scene.

He was on the school board of School District #1, which was known as the Wylie School for several years.

In January, 1897, he met and married Harriet Dargan, the daughter of Maurice P. and Mary Dady Dargan, who had come to the Wylie area several years prior to my father's arrival. He retired from his blacksmith trade in Wylie in the fall of 1919. The family moved to Red Lake Falls, where we made our home, and my father was employed by the Great Northern Railroad Co. for many years. Some time later he was employed to do blacksmith work for the Pahlen Construction Company. My parents continued to make their home in Red Lake Falls until their deaths in 1941 and 1948.

My parents had seven children: Jacob, Hazel, Louis, Maurice, Marie, Mollie, and Mae. Of the seven children two are now living, Mae (Mrs. Al Buse) and myself, Mrs. Hazel Pahlen.

I was married to Theodore Pahlen in January, 1923. He was a road contractor and built many roads in north central Minnesota. He passed away in 1932.

We had three children and they are as follows: Mrs. Harley H. Kelly (Darlene) of Thief River Falls; Theodore (Ted) of Red Lake Falls; and Mrs. Elmer Fischer (Peggy) of Fargo, North Dakota, with whom I now make my home.

After my husband's death, I worked as a clerk in the LaBissoniere and Skala stores. I was also a telephone operator for the Kundert and Garden Valley Telephone Companies for several years. I was elected Clerk of District Court of Red Lake County and went into office January, 1943, where I remained until my retirement in December, 1969.

HEROLD — HANSON FAMILIES

John H. Herold married Evangeline Wingered in 1871 in Iowa. Some of his children were born in Fertile, but later he moved the family to Stump Lake, North Dakota, and again engaged in farming. Five of his family settled in or near Red Lake County.

Eva Herold married Truman Bartholemew and they farmed in Red Lake Falls township. They had two daughters, Cecile and Mary, and a son, Harold. Cecile married George F. (Tom) Hanson. They had one son, Edward. Mary married James Ridge. They had one son, James (Sandy) Ridge who is now retired from the U.S. Navy and lives in Poulsbo, Washington, and one daughter Donna, who is married to Mike Barendse and lives in Astoria, Oregon. Harold never married and farmed with his mother until his death. Eva Herold Bartholemew, at age 91, died this year, February 1976 in Red Lake Falls. She had been a resident of Red Lake County for 54 years, a real pioneer, and always bright and alert.

Minnie Herold married George Hanson in 1897 in Iowa, and later they farmed in Polk County north of Gentilly. They had seven sons. Clarence died at the age of twelve, and Edward died at age sixteen. Joseph married Anne Meyer and they farmed in Louisville township. George F. (Tom) married Cecile Bartholemew and farmed in Polk County. Their only son, Edward, married Marie Peppin and they had seven children. Edward Hanson died in April, 1971.

Harold married Lilly Casavan, and they also had seven children. Harold worked for the Farmers Union Oil Company until ill health forced his retirement. He died in September, 1963. Royal married Cora Casavan and they had one daughter, Angeline. He, too, farmed in Louisville township. John married Anne Kuchan in 1938, and they have four sons. Patrick married Paulette Kalinoski and they have two sons. Joseph married Shirley Cassavant; they have two sons and a daughter. Paul married Katherine Johnson and they are parents of three children. John, Jr. is single, and is trained as a diesel mechanic.

Patrick, Joseph and Paul own their own farms, but work with their father. Their operation consists of grain farming and livestock. Joseph H. Herold married Olivine Goulet in 1912. He farmed the P. B. Gaass farm in Louisville township. Because of poor health he had an auction sale and sold his horses for draft horses. They moved to a small farm just north of the city limits of Red Lake Falls, where he opened a gravel pit and hauled for the city and the county. In summer he graded roads with a team for the county. They had two sons and a daughter. Rollin was born in 1914, and married Mary Hesse in 1938. He was district representative for the Northern States Power and Ottertail Power Companies at Red Lake Falls until March, 1965. Their son, James, was killed in a car accident October 23, 1964. Rollin died in August, 1970. Another son of the Joseph Herolds, Pat, was born in 1920. He married Marion Constant in 1956. With their two daughters, Constance and Jacqueline, they lived in East Grand Forks. He was an employee of Northern States Power Company for twenty years until his death in July, 1972. The daughter, Bernice, was born in 1913, and taught in the rural Red Lake County schools before her marriage to Robert Larson in 1942. They farm in Louisville township. They have three sons and a daughter. Gary died in 1972. Drew and Lynn served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war. Their daughter, Karen, married Richard Hangsleben of East Grand Forks, and is a certified mid-wife in Vernal, Utah.

Clemence Herold lived with Minnie Herold Hanson at the time of his death.

Royal Herold was a farmer and part-time barber. He married a lady from Virginia, and they had seven children. He later returned to Red Lake Falls to retire.

The remaining children — May, Virginia, Jake and Henry — never lived in this area. However, Henry Herold, the youngest, married Bernadette Patnode. Since both Henry and his wife died at an early age, their daughter, Bernadette, was raised by her aunt and uncle, Eva and Truman Bartholemew. She married Martin DeHaan in 1948 and they have six children and two grandchildren.

AL AND JEAN HANSON

Al and Jean Hanson moved to Red Lake Falls in 1964 from Fargo, North Dakota.

Al is currently the local bulk distributor for Mobil Oil. Previously he was employed by Detroiter Mobile Homes. He has served as President of the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club along with other community and church organizations. He is a native of Twin Valley.

At the present time Jean is Director of the East Polk-Red Lake County Vocational Center. Previously she taught home economics for the Red Lake Falls Public Schools. She is President of the Minnesota Vocational Association for 1975-76. A graduate of North Dakota State University, the former Jean Thompson was from Ulen.

The Hanson children are Jill, 10, and Mark, 6.

The family purchased and remodeled the former Bethany Church in 1967 and have lived there since that time.

PEDER HANSON

Peder Hanson and his wife, Kari, came to Red Lake County in the early 1900's and settled near Plummer. They had two sons, Anton and Gilbert, with them. The Hansons also had an older son, Hans Pederson, who was married and lived for a few years at Plummer, and a daughter, Isabel Sophia, who was married to George A. Olson.

For several years Mr. Hanson worked as a shoe repairman and had his shop in the back of Lanager's Hardware Store in Plummer.

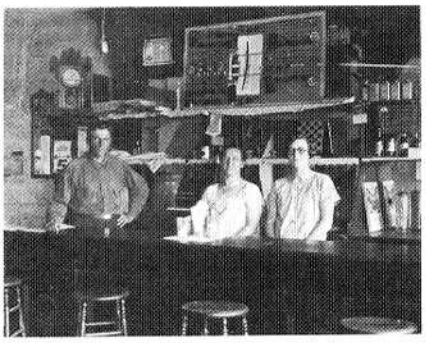
Mr. Hanson died in November of 1909 and soon after that, Mrs. Hanson and Gilbert moved to a home about one and a half miles north of Oklee. Gilbert died in 1914 and a year later, Mrs. Hanson moved to Canada to make her home with her son, Hans Pederson, who had moved there a few years earlier. Mrs. Hanson died in June of 1918.

Anton Pederson married Tonetta Thompson of Plummer. They made their home in the Oklee Area for many years. Anton died in 1918 and his wife in 1924. They had seven children and of these only the eldest, Arthur Pederson, of Oklee is still living.

SEVERIN HANSON FAMILY

Julia Hestvik Jacobson emigrated from Rorvik, Nomdahlen, Norway at the age of 21 in 1903. She lived with her uncle Edwin Jacobson on a farm in Emardville Township, about four miles from Plummer, and worked as a house maid for the Sortedahl family at Red Lake Falls to make enough money to repay her uncle for her passage to the U.S.A. The fare by boat via Quebec, Canada, down the St. Lawrence River into Winnipeg was fifty-two dollars. She worked hard and long hours to earn that amount of money. Occasionally, on weekends Julia would walk to visit her uncle on the farm. In 1905 she married Peter Tranby of Erskine. They homesteaded about a mile from the Jacobson farm and they had two children; Agnes, Mrs. S. J. Bredeson of Red Lake Falls, and Aagot, Mrs. C. C. Heen of Grand Forks, North Dakota and Santa Barbara, California. Aagot died in September of 1965. Peter died in 1910. In 1912, Julia married Severin Hanson, son of Marie and Severt Hanson who farmed in that area. Severin had emigrated from Oslo, Norway, at the age of nine years with his parents and family in 1891. Julia and Severin had three children: Selma, Mrs. Engvald Storvick of Pueblo, Colorado; Myrtle, Mrs. F. R. Frederickson, Devils Lake, North Dakota, and one son, Lloyd R. Hanson, Duluth.

In 1920, the Hanson family moved into Plummer and purchased the Mars restau-



Severin and Julia Hanson and Aagot.

rant. Mrs. Hanson ran the cafe with the help of her children and Mr. Hanson worked for the Soo Line Railroad. Mrs. Hanson boarded the local school teachers, and also had roomers. Meals were very cheap in those days, twenty-five and thirty cents for a complete dinner, including dessert and coffee. Pie and coffee — only fifteen cents. Mrs. Hanson had quite a reputation for her excellent food and was well liked and admired by many people for her sense of humor and her generosity. Many people referred to her as "Ma Hanson" and she treated everyone as though they belonged to her.

In 1937, the Hansons quit the restaurant business although Mr. Hanson continued his work for the railroad. They bought the old Levi Christianson home back of the Plummer school and lived there until Mr. Hanson's death at the age of seventy-one in 1953. Mrs. Hanson continued her residence in Plummer, spending winters with her children. In 1964 her health had failed and she became a resident of the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls. She passed away in February of 1967.

All of the Hanson children were baptized by the Reverend Kolstue in the Emmanuel Lutheran Church south of Plummer, and were confirmed by Reverend J. K. Lerohl in the Plummer Lutheran Church. Selma and Myrtle were also united in marriage by Reverend Lerohl. The children were all educated in the Plummer schools.

Morrisette's store was a stepping stone for three of the Hanson girls. Aagot, Selma and Myrtle all worked for Alcid Morrisette. It was hard work, but they were well trained by him and gained much from their experiences in a small town grocery and variety store. For sale were shoes, dress goods, canned foods, meats, dresses, nails and all sorts of hardware, tools, toys and kerosene for lamps. Eggs were bought and candled, packed in fifteen and thirty dozen crates and hauled to Thief River Falls to the wholesale houses. Many more items were handled including chick feed and even baby chicks.

Today when reminiscing about the olden days with our families and speaking of what we did for entertainment, we bring back memories of listening to the first radio set in town at the Roese and Priebe homes through ear phones; Sunday afternoons and evenings playing cards and having taffy pulls with the Rices and Kruegers; the many Sunday afternoons hiking to the Plummer Dam corner and back, then gathering around Mrs. Langlie's table enjoying all the good things she had to eat; spending so much time at the Morrisette home with their daughter LaVern, and the Sunday evenings spent skiing and sliding at the Alfred Waldahl farm with more good things to eat. We look back on beautiful memories of things we did that cannot compare with what our young people of today find for entertainment.

HARBALEN — QUICK STORY

Sjur Harbalen was born near Bergen, Norway in 1860 and came to America in the ship "Iceland" in 1887. He spent a short time in Madison, Wisconsin and the next year moved to Fertile, where he married Ingeborg Johannes, a neighbor in Norway, who had come to Minnesota in 1889, and the wedding took place in The Little Norway Church. Their son Michael was born in 1890.

Sjur and Ingeborg homesteaded a 160 acre farm located ten miles east of Red Lake Falls in Gervais township. Later they purchased 80 acres joining the homestead. The deed was signed by President McKinley and C. H. Brush, Recorder of the General Land Office, in 1898.

Eight children were born in Red Lake County. Joannes, Martha (Mrs. G. Emil Quick), Johanna, Nels and Anton. Carrie (Mrs. Gust Christopherson) in Plummer, Sivert who married Clara Craft, rural Red Lake Falls, and Agnes (Mrs. Charles Christianson) of Deerwood.

Carrie recalls going to the "Harbalen" school. A suggestion was made to change their name to his father's name, Mickelson (Mickel's son).

Uncle Sivert tells of questioning his parents as to why they chose to locate where they did. Looking at the map of openings for homesteading, grandfather was impressed by the word "Lake" on Section 13 in Gervais. The lake was never found, only slough grass and cattails in the middle of the section.

Grandpa Harbalen brought one cow with him from Fertile. Later a calf and another cow were added. These were trained to bear a yoke and be driven. When anyone was going to town, oxen furnished the means of transportation and neighbors often sent their wares too, to be exchanged for groceries. Red Lake Falls was the usual destination, except when they craved lutefisk and went to St. Hilaire — only later did the French people cater to these Norwegians and provided lutefisk in exchange for their homemade butter.

Times were hard in those early days. A box that the cream separator came in, covered with a little straw, doubled for a bed at night and served as a bench to sit on during the day. Grain was stored in one room in the house. The winter meat was mostly rabbit, hunted, cleaned and frozen or packed in salt brine.

The creamery that Sivert Mickelson helped organize near the James Gilbertson farm was organized in 1900 and moved to Plummer in 1904. The present Plummer Creamery was built in 1918. There was no church so Pastor Kolstoe, who lived a short distance away, went to the homes and held services, sometimes on skiis.

My mother sheared the sheep and washed the wool and carded and spun it and then knit stockings and mittens for the whole family. The oldest girls helped and everyone got something knitted for Christmas.

On our way to Red Lake Falls we glance to the south as we pass the place west of Robert Miller (section 27 — Gervais). "See that high narrow house beyond the present house. Russell's father built that in his bachelor days."

There he came wooing and winning Martha Mickelson and G. Emil Quick and Martha were married November 18, 1914 by Rev. Albin Olson of St. Hilaire. They lived on a farm in section 35 Gervais Township. Five of their twelve children were born there, Harold, Earl, Vernie deceased, Lester and Hazel. Russell, along with two sisters and another brother joined the family ranks during their jaunt to Wisconsin. Later Quicks moved to Borup, Minn. and resided there.

Russell purchased the farm after the Uncles' deaths and moved here in April 1969. We have two children, Nona and Roy.

Roy was born on July 10, 1970, and was the first baby in the NEW HOUSE which was built in 1927.

Several little treasures we found were a lunch box Uncle Anton used, and the blueprints and invoices for the barn 34 x 80 — made of Western Fir lumber, cement and windows included — all for $1340, built in 1922.

We are proud to play a wee part in the history of Red Lake County. Not many children can say, "I live on the place my Great Grandfather homesteaded. This is MY HERITAGE."

CALVIN HARMONING

Calvin Harmining, son of Clarence Harmoning and Elsie Seeger, married Susan Melby, daughter of Orrin Melby and Viola Berry Melby of Oklee, on October 30, 1965. They lived in an apartment in the Martin Healy home on Bottineau Ave. in Red Lake Falls.

Calvin milked cows on his father's farm in section seven of Red Lake Falls Township and rented land from Henry Grenier, Rollin Herold and Esther Kankel. In 1967 they rented the southeast quarter of section seven from Bill and Cora Goerke and purchased it and his father's quarter in 1968.

Cal and Susan moved into the farm home in which Cal was born in January of 1968 with their son, Joel, who was born June 1, 1967. They have a daughter, Beth, born on January 17, 1970, and twin boys born on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 1971, of which Kurt was the only one who lived.

They purchased the Grenier quarter in 1974.

Calvin is a member of the Bethany Lutheran Church and has held various offices on its board. He is a member of the National Farmers Organization and is presently serving as county president. He also belongs to the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, The Red Lake County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and the Farmers Union. He served with the U.S. National Guard for six years.

Susan is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and its Ladies Guild, is the Regent of the local Catholic Daughters of



Cal Harmoning Family

America, secretary of the MEM homemakers club, on the board of the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for life of Red Lake County and vice-president of St. John's Hospital Auxiliary.

Calvin Harmoning was the King Agassiz nominee from Red Lake County at the Red River Valley Winter Shows in 1976.



Clarence Harmoning wedding 1933. Elsie Seeger and Reuben Harmoning attendants.

CLARENCE HARMONING

Clarence Harmoning married Elsie Seeger on December 2, 1933. They lived on the Fred Seeger farm in Section nineteen of Red Lake Falls Township for a year and then bought a quarter in section seven of Red Lake Falls Township from the state of Minnesota for $4500.

They had three sons: Robert, born August 26, 1936, who is married to Lola Gwin Slininger of Ulen. They have two girls and a boy and live in Red Lake Falls.

Calvin was born August 19, 1938. He married Susan Melby of Oklee and lives in Red Lake Falls township on the home farm. They have two sons and a daughter.

Harlan was born February 2, 1941, and was killed in an auto accident when he was seventeen years old.

Clarence sold his farm in 1968 and moved into Red Lake Falls, he died on February 20, 1975. Elsie Harmoning died on May 19, 1960.

HENRY HARMONING

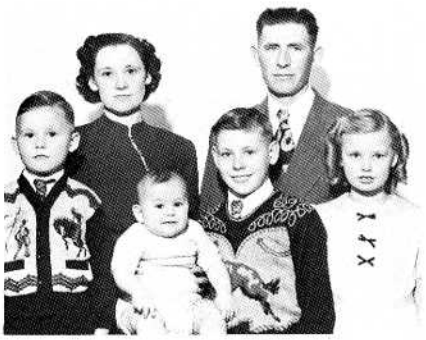
Henry and Otilie Diers Harmoning and their four sons, Clarence, Reuben, Harry and Howard left Tolley, North Dakota on June 17, 1932, for a new life in Red Lake County. Besides their personal belongings they walked their cattle, milking the cows and separating cream along the way. They had eight horses pulling four wagons. They also took sheep, pigs and geese. They arrived on July Fifth and lived in section nineteen of Red Lake Falls Township on a farm owned by Fred Seeger. In April of 1933 they bought a half section of number twenty-seven in Terrebonne Township.

Their only daughter, Josephine, was already married when they left North Dakota and she and her husband, Walter O'Claire, remained in Tolley. Clarence married Elsie Seeger on December 2, 1933 and they had three sons. Reuben married Lucille Seeger on June 28, 1938, and they moved to Iowa. They had three sons and one daughter. Harry married Lola Hartman of Mentor in December of 1939. They had six girls and two boys. Howard lived with his parents until 1963 when he bought a farm in Lambert Township.

Otilie Harmoning died on April 22, 1953 and Henry died on August 12, 1963.



Front: Josephine, Henry Harmonings. *Back:* Clarence, Reuben, Harry and Howard.



Reuben Harmoning Family 1950

REUBEN AND LUCILLE HARMONING

Reuben Harmoning married Lucille Seeger in June 1938. They lived on the Earl Kirschman farm for two years and then moved to Lambert Township Section 29, where they farmed until 1943 when they moved to North Dakota.

They had four children: Roger born in 1939 is married to Barbara Stevens of South Dakota and they have two girls and one boy. They farm in Gervais Township and Barbara teaches in the Red Lake Falls school system.

Leona, born in 1942, is married to John Gustafson. They have three girls and one boy and farm near Viking.

Dennis, born in 1946, is married to Marian Slawson of Minneapolis. They have two sons and he teaches in Annandale.

Arlan, born in 1950, is married to Connie Lea of Moorhead. He is attending NDSU in Fargo, N.D.

Reuben died in May of 1957 and Lucille moved her family back to Red Lake County to Section 20 of Gervais Township. She sold the farm to her son, Roger, in 1963 and built a home in Red Lake Falls on River Drive. She is employed by Red Lake Falls schools.

ROGER HARMONING AND BARBARA STEVENS HARMONING

Roger Harmoning was born in 1939, the son of Reuben and Lucille Seeger Harmoning of Red Lake Falls. The family moved to Brooks when Roger was age two and then to Tolley, North Dakota, where the family resided until 1951. Following Reuben's death the family, including Roger's mother, two brothers and one sister, returned to Red Lake Falls where they purchased the Joe Nimesgern farm in Gervais Township.

Roger purchased the farm in 1961. In 1964 he married Barbara Stevens of Lake City, South Dakota, who had come to Thief River Falls in 1960 to teach second grade. Following their marriage, Barbara taught in the Red Lake Falls public schools until 1968. At the present time, she is a Title One Tutor.

There are three children, Ruth, age nine, Renae, seven and Michael, age six. All are students in the Red Lake Falls school system.

The family are members of the Bethany Lutheran Church. Roger and Barbara are both active in the County National Farmers Organization and Barbara is a member of the Friendly Circle Homemakers Club.

JOSEPH A. HARREN AND JEANNE DESCHENES HARREN

While a senior in law school, Judge J. A. Harren visited Red Lake Falls on a business assignment for his employer and was impressed by the natural beauty of the city. It was also located nearly halfway between his home town in Stearns County, Minnesota and that of his fiancee, Jeanne Deschenes, who was a practicing Registered Nurse in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Later, upon his discharge from the Army in January, 1952, he opened a law practice in Red Lake Falls. In June of the same year he married Miss Deschenes in Winnipeg. They have lived in this city since their marriage.

The names of their children are: John, Dick, Bill, Jeannette, Susan, Jacqueline, Mark, Peter, Sheila and Paulette.

In 1964, Judge Harren was elected Judge of Probate Court, a position which permitted him to continue his law practice on a limited basis. In 1968, Marshall County was added to his jurisdiction. In June of 1971 he became the first County Court Judge in the State of Minnesota under the new Court Reform Law and presently holds the office of Chief Judge of the Marshall-Red Lake-Pennington County Court District.

JOSEPH P. HARREN

John P. Harren, one of our early pioneers, came to Red Lake Falls in 1883 and established a successful shoe business. He was born in Stearns County and lived for a time in other Minnesota localities before coming to Red Lake Falls. He and his wife, Mary Peebles Harren, were the parents of two children; Joseph and Rose (Mrs. Emil Albrechtson).

Joseph was born in 1888, grew to manhood here and was a partner in the firm of J. P. Harren and Son until his father's death in 1919 when he took over the store. He took an active part in community affairs, was a member of the American Legion and served as Commander of the local post. He was a main stay of the Red Lake Falls band and the orchestra which for several years played for dances at the pavilions at Maple Lake and at the Old Fair Ground. Several others, well remembered in that orchestra, were Robert Poirier Sr., Clem Brunelle, Omer Hall, and Hazel Zaiser La Crosse.

In 1917 Joseph Harren married Rhoda Jarchow at her home at Laverne, Minnesota. She was a native of Iowa, but moved to Minnesota in early childhood. She came to Red Lake Falls in 1916 to work at the P. B. Gaass Land Agency.

Joseph sold the shoe business in the early thirties and became District Insurance Supervisor for the Catholic Order of

Foresters. He retired from active work at the age of seventy. Mrs. Harren was employed during the War years at the O.P.A. office, a government agency dealing with the rationing program.

After several years of failing health, Mr. Harren died in 1964. Mrs. Harren sold her home on Champagne Avenue and moved to Fairview Manor in 1973.



JACK G. HARRIS, D.D.S.

Dr. Jack G. Harris is the son of the late Dr. and Mrs. John W. Harris. His father was both M.D. and D.D.S. but he practiced dentistry at Morris, and raised a family of seven children. Two attended the University of Pennsylvania, and five attended Northwestern University. Three of the sons, and one brother practiced dentistry in northern Minnesota. He was the nephew of the late Samuel R. Van Sant who was governor of Minnesota from 1900 through 1904, and who later became the national Commander-in-Chief of the G.A.R. A grandson, Dr. Robert Harris, is presently practicing dentistry at Roseau. He is the father of five. His sons, John and Robby, are well known golfers and hockey players.

Dr. Jack Harris came to Red Lake Falls in 1928 and he has practiced dentistry in this location continuously, except for three and one-half years during W.W. 2, when he served with the Navy on Marine duty in San Diego, in the South Pacific, and in the Philippines. In 1935 he married Mildred Lee of Shevlin, who at that time was a teacher at Washington Elementary School. Their son John Michael passed away in 1939, as did Mrs. Harris in 1963. Their daughter Jill, Mrs. Richard L. Main, of Statesville, North Carolina, is the mother of a daughter and two sons.

While in the service Dr. Harris became very interested in the fluoridation program as a result of having seen so many young Marines who were free of dental problems. In almost every case he found that they came from areas where the water was naturally fluoridated.

Upon his return from the service, Dr. Harris worked closely with Dr. William A. Jordan, who was then head of the Minnesota Department of Public Health, and also with the University of Minnesota. Through their cooperation, and after many trips to Minneapolis, plans were completed.

In April of 1951, Red Lake Falls became the first city in Minnesota to add sodium flouride to the communal water supply. Ten years later an examination of all children from the first through the sixth grades, revealed a nearly seventy per cent reduction in dental decays. In 1969, after eighteen years of fluoridation, Dr. Harris again examined the same age group, and again found a remarkable reduction in dental decay.

An amusing incident occurred back in 1951. The late Mr. George W. Christie was very interested in the program, and being editor of the Red Lake Falls Gazette, he would make weekly reports on the progress that was being made. The workmen at the water plant had informed him that they would be ready to start on Friday of that week and it was so announced in the Thursday issue of the Gazette. However, early on the morning of the supposed starting day an equipment problem developed that would cause a ten day delay. On the third day following the mistaken announcement a lady came into Dr. Harris' office and very loudly said, "I've decided that you should be the first person to know that the terrible poison that has been put in our water has killed my goldfish". Dr. Harris explained that nothing had been put into the water, nor would there be, for at least one more week. He suggested that she return to her home and try to determine just what might have caused the death of her fish.

Since 1951, nearly all cities in Minnesota have been adding sodium fluoride to their communal water supply. It is now Minnesota state law that this requirement be met.

Proper fluoridation has proven itself to be one of the most important and far-reaching preventive dental measures in the history of dentistry.

Red Lake Falls is proud to have been the first city in Minnesota to instigate this dental health program.

HUBERT AND GEORGE HAUPT FAMILIES

Hubert Haupt was the seventh child of Peter Haupt who migrated from Monreal, Rhineland, Germany to Chicago, Illinois. Hubert was born there in 1844 and was living there at the time of the big Chicago fire and the time of Abraham Lincoln's funeral.

Hubert moved from Chicago to Sibley county, Minnesota and farmed near Arlington where his wife passed away. In 1901 Hubert and his three sons, Louis, Peter and George and his daughter Ida came to Red Lake county and bought a three hundred twenty acre farm in River township.

In 1909 George Haupt married Rosetta Geddie who also had lived near Arlington and had come to Red Lake Falls in 1901 with her parents, the Christ Geddie family.

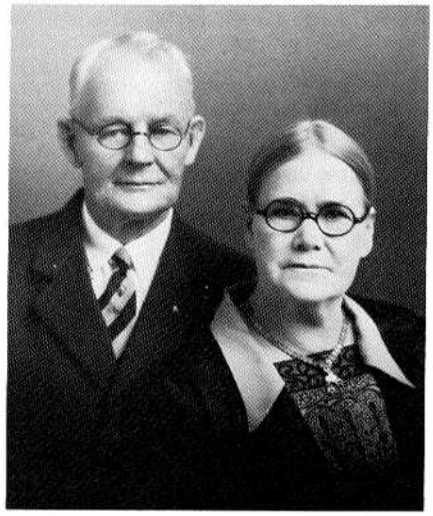
George and Rosetta were the parents of nine children: Martin, Elizabeth (Mrs. Steve Dondoneau), Katherine, (Mrs. William Ford), Edward, Agnes (Mrs. Ernest Carriere), Mary (Mrs. Don Columbus), Clara (Mrs. Richard Wichterman), Cecilia (Mrs. Richard Ste. Marie), and John. George died in 1957 and his wife Rosetta in 1969.

Hubert Haupt had lived with his son George and family for many years until he moved to Paul's Hotel. He lived there until the place was destroyed by fire. He was seriously burned and this contributed to his death at the age of ninety-three in 1937.

HEALY FAMILY

Five generations of the Healy family have lived in the three story house built on the west bank of the Clearwater River in Red Lake Falls. Edward L. Healy purchased the dwelling in 1901, and it was here that his father, Lucius Maltby Healy lived for a short time until his death in 1917.

Edward Healy, Red Lake Falls pioneer,



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Healy

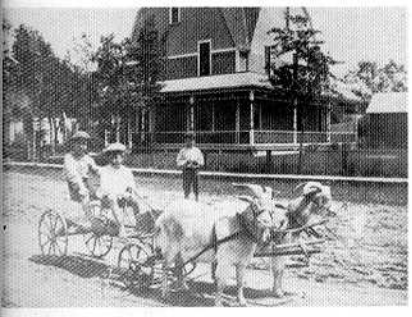
was born at Southbridge, Massachusetts in 1852 and moved with his parents to a farm near Cannon City, Rice County where he grew to manhood. He married Janet Struthers in 1877 at Faribault and settled in Marshall where he was engaged in the grocery and crockery business. Here were born five children, Harry, Leland, Vernon, Ralph and Hazel. In 1895 they moved to Morris where Ed had another general merchandise business.

The Healy family arrived in Red Lake Falls just at the turn of the century. Edward came up from Morris arriving here January 1, 1900 to survey prospects for a new business. Real estate was moving fast in those days in this northern Minnesota county, and he immediately decided to engage in this business and moved his family in the spring. The Healy Land Company was established. Fertile valleys were just opening up and land was relatively cheap. Ed Healy persuaded a great many families to move from other locations and settle in the area and business was good. It was also at this time that he purchased his home in the "Hollow."

Ed also purchased a dam site and a flour mill located below the junction of the Red Lake and Clearwater rivers, thereafter known as the Healy Dam. The big milling companies were not competing with the smaller ones in those days and when running at capacity, the Healy mill could turn out 500 barrels of flour a day. Eventually, the mill passed to another owner and Mr. Healy devoted his entire time to the real estate business. When Lee and Vern finished school, they joined the firm. Ed Healy died at his home in 1931, his wife four years later in 1935. Both were active in the affairs of this community and the Presbyterian Church.

Lee Healy, born 1882, was 18 when he came to Red Lake Falls and entered school. He was the first boy graduate of Lafayette in the class of 1902, and a few years later married Etta Garceau in 1910, the girl next door, whose father was Theodore Garceau, local business man and president of the First State Bank. Most of his adult life was in the real estate business with his father and brother, Vern. In later years, he was appointed deputy state bank examiner in charge of the liquidation of a number of closed banks in the northwest. His avocation was music and he was associated with several music organizations. Lee died in 1949 and Etta in 1957.

Martin Edward, the only child of Lee and



The Healy residence was built in 1897 and purchased by Ed Healy in 1901.

Etta Healy, married Anne Skala, daughter of Joseph and Alice Skala, in 1940. Both had attended local schools and the University of Minnesota. Martin joined the Healy Land Company firm in 1947, became junior partner with his uncle Vern, and purchased the business in 1965.

He has served on the park board, Volunteer Fire Department, is a member of the Commercial Club and director of the local development corporation.

Anne is a radio news editor of KROX and broadcasts a program of local news events every weekday from the Red Lake Falls studio. She is past president of the Commercial Club, board member of the City Planning Commission and the Red Lake County Health Planning Council, Director of the Red River Valley Historical Society and is presently employed at the Red Lake County State Bank.

The Martin Healys have eight children, Patricia (Mrs. Darrell Marsh), Donald, Mary (Mrs. Peder Furuseth), Alan, Charles, Mark, Jane and Pamela. Four grandchildren, Michelle and Margo Marsh, Amy and Benjamin Furuseth are sixth generation family members who visit the old "Homestead" on Bottineau Avenue and walk in the footsteps of their many pioneer ancestors, some who settled Red Lake County as early as 1878.



Vern M. Healy

VERNON HEALY

Vernon Mark Healy was born in 1884 and came to Red Lake Falls with his parents, three brothers, and a sister when he was sixteen. Upon graduating from the Red Lake Falls High School, he attended a Crookston Business College. His first job was with the Crookston Milling Company, then located on the Red Lake River in the vicinity of the Marshall Dam in Red Lake Falls. This was before cars were very common and he traveled to and from work on his trusty bicycle. Even while attending Business College in Crookston, he traveled the distance home and back again on weekends, on his bicycle.

The eldest Healy son, Harry, was at this time living in Missoula, Montana, and as that seemed to be a fast growing city back in those days, the four Healy brothers; Harry, Lee, Vern, and Ralph decided to go into business there and started the Healy Piano Company. It is not known how long this company remained in business, but Lee and Vern decided that their father, Edward L. Healy, needed someone to assist him in the Land Office so they stepped out of the piano company and came back to Red Lake Falls to sell real estate and insurance. Vern remained in this business until 1965, when he sold out to his nephew, Martin Healy, who had become his partner in 1959.

Vern Healy married Belle Foldoe of the Plummer community in 1921. They had two daughters, Eva Best, now living in Mountlake Terrace, Washington and Marcia Carlson of Minot, North Dakota.

Vern was a respected citizen of Red Lake Falls. He was never too busy to listen to other people's tales of woe and lent a helping hand whenever he could, even though it meant working many long extra hours doing his business. For instance, one bitter cold winter night on his way home after having worked until the early hours of the morning, he discovered a car lodged in a high snow bank at the corner where the Plummer road leaves Highway 32. The driver of the car was trying to shovel out while his lady friend was huddled in the car trying to keep from freezing. She had no overshoes, gloves or mittens. Vern took them into his home, built a big roaring fire in the fireplace, and awakened Belle to make some hot coffee for all. This was around three thirty a.m. After the unexpected guests were warm, had been fed, and the lady fitted with overshoes and mittens, Vern drove them to Plummer, getting back around five o'clock to begin his night's rest.

Vern Healy was a civic minded person. He was elected to the Board of Education in Red Lake Falls for several terms, and served as president of the board. He was a member of the World War I Draft Board and was on the Welfare Board for fourteen years. He was Deputy Clerk of Court and was Justice of the Peace for over twenty-five years. He was a member of the Red Lake Falls Fire Department and the Red Lake Falls Band. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Church and was treasurer for many years.

Vern Healy was an enthusiastic sports participant in his youth. He was a member of the track team that won honors over all other track teams and even competed with the Winnipeg Team. He was an important member of the baseball team, played tennis, and was a very good, strong swimmer and was credited with saving one young girl from drowning in the Clearwater River in a very swift current.

Hunting and fishing were Vern's favorite pastimes. He usually brought home his share of game.

Vern Healy passed away at age eighty in 1965 after several months of illness. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, and nine grandchildren.

GJERMUND T. AND KARI SYVERSRUD HEGGAR

Gjermund T. Heggar came to the United States from Norway in 1892 and took a homestead at Grit, later Oklee, in Equality Township in 1898. Kari Syversrud who was later to become his wife, came to the United States in 1896, and she also homesteaded in Equality Township. Mr. Heggar spent the winters at Moorhead where he was employed and attended Concordia College. Kari Syversrud spent the winters at Crookston where she was employed.

Gjermund and Kari were married the fall of 1903 and made their home on Mrs. Heggar's homestead where they lived until their deaths. Gjermund passed away in January 1919 and Kari Heggar's death followed in September, 1923. After their parents' death, the three children, Elmer, Mildred and Gladys remained on the farm until 1927. The family retained ownership of the homesteads until the 1940's when Gjermund's homestead was sold to the Kvasager family and Kari's homestead to Annie Flatgaard. Her son now owns that property.

Mr. and Mrs. Heggar were both active members in the Salem Lutheran Church in Equality and community affairs. Mr. Heggar served as Assessor of Equality Township for many years.

Elmer Heggar married Mae Wickstrom of Plummer. They have a family of four children and two grandchildren. The Heggars live in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Mildred Heggar also lives in Grand Forks. Gladys married Russell Wood and passed away at Anchorage, Alaska in 1972.

FRANK J. HELM

Frank J. Helm was born at Red Lake Falls on October 31, 1896. He was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Helm. He attended local schools and graduated from Lafayette High School whereupon he then attended St. John's University at Collegeville where he also graduated.

In 1918, he married Miss Marie Ostrander at Minneapolis. To this union were born three children, Robert F. (deceased), Marian Helm Spencer of Osseo, and Walter Gerald (deceased).

Frank lived the major portion of his life in Red Lake Falls being associated with his brother John N. Helm in the implement business. In 1945 he purchased this business from John N. Helm and operated it with his sons. His wife and two sons continued to operate the business after his death until it burned to the ground some years later.

On Wednesday morning, April 9, 1947 the community was shocked to learn of the sudden death at the age of fifty of Frank J. Helm from a heart attack he suffered that morning. He lived only three hours after the attack. Mrs. Helm died April 28, 1962 at Osseo.

Frank J. Helm was a prominent businessman and he enjoyed the friendship and respect of the entire community.

JOHN N. HELM

John N. Helm was born in Red Lake Falls, January 10, 1889 to parents Joseph Helm and Anna Ziegler. He attended local schools and in 1908 graduated from St. John's University, Collegeville. From 1903 to 1907 he was employed by the firm of Garceau and Zaiser in the general merchandise store.

On April 22, 1913, John married Miss Celina Grenier in Red Lake Falls. They did not have a family, but they helped his sister, Mrs. Rose Joyce of St. Paul, raise her four sons. These boys lived with the Helms during the summer months.

Upon completion of his studies, Mr. Helm worked for his father in the implement business until March 1915 when this concern was sold to F. E. Murray. In December of 1915, John purchased the business from Murray and was engaged in its operation until January of 1945 when he sold the firm to his brother, Frank J. Helm, and retired. From 1912 until 1918, he had been associated with his two brothers, Joseph and Oscar, in an automobile firm.

Mr. Helm served on the local fire department for 15 years and was a member of the local school board from 1942 to 1952. He was a director of the Commercial Club for three years and a director of the Minnesota Implement Dealers Association from 1940 to 1943.

John N. Helm passed away suddenly Sunday morning February 28, 1960, while he attended the 7 o'clock mass in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. Death was attributed to a heart attack. His wife, Celina Grenier Helm passed away May 7, 1975 in Riverview Hospital at Crookston, at the age of 84. Death was attributed to several strokes.

JOSEPH HELM, PIONEER

Joseph Helm was born February 15, 1857, in Bavaria, Germany. At the age of fourteen years, in company with his uncle, Reverend Krauthahn, he left his native land for America, arriving in Chicago on the ninth of October when the great fire almost destroyed the whole city. From there he went north to Wisconsin and witnessed the great fires at Peshtig, where hundreds of people lost their lives.

He attended college for two years at Calvary College, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. In 1873 he started out at his trade as house and sign painter and worked mostly in the cities of Milwaukee and Waukesha, Wisconsin.

In 1880 he visited his parents in Germany and after a six months' visit in all the principal cities of Europe, returned to the United States, accompanied by his brother and sister.

In July 1882, he came to Red Lake Falls and opened the Pioneer Paint Shop and afterewards the Blue Front Store, with a fine stock of painters' supplies, wall paper, etc. In 1889, he enlarged his business by buying the Hardware Stock of Mr. Soards and continued the same until May 1894, when he sold his business to Messrs. Hunt and Wyer. Since that time Mr. Helm carried on the farm implement business. He, at first, had Mr. L. P. Berton in the firm with him. Later his own sons, Joseph J., John N., Oscar, and Frank J. carried on the implement business.

He married Anna Ziegler in Red Lake Falls in 1883 and to this union were born the above named sons as well as a boy named Sylvester, who died at the age of seven, they also had two daughters, Rose (Joyce) and Isabelle (Kirkpatrick). Joseph Helm died in 1911.

Anna Ziegler was born at Tirshenreuth, Bavaria, Germany on January 2, 1861. She came to Red Lake Falls in 1883 and was married the same year to Joseph Helm. Anna died in 1933 at age seventy-two.



Helm Family: Isabelle, Joseph, Rose, Jos. J., John N. Oscar, Frank, Mrs. Anna Helm and Sylvester (d. 1905).

JOSEPH J. HELM

Joseph J. Helm was born in Red Lake Falls, November 13, 1885 and with the exception of one year spent in the west, lived in Red Lake Falls his entire life. He was educated in the local schools and attended St. John's College at Collegeville. Upon his return, he went into the implement business with his father, Joseph Helm, Sr., and after his father's death in 1911, he managed the business for the Joseph Helm Estate.

In partnership with his brother, John N. Helm, Joseph organized the Helm Brothers Implement Company and later the Helm Brothers Auto Co. The former concern was sold to John N. Helm, and the latter to the People's Auto Co. in 1917. Joseph Helm was president of the People's Auto Company since its inception. Joseph Helm, in company with Carsten Mead and others also organized the Red Lake Falls Oil Co. and served as its secretary-treasurer until his death.

When the Farmers State Bank of Middle River was moved to Red Lake Falls in 1933 and incorporated as the Red Lake County State Bank, Joseph J. Helm was elected a director and second vice president and served in those offices until his death.

He was a director of the Red Lake Falls Hotel Company ever since it was organized in 1919, and director of the Red Lake Falls Improvement Company. At various times he served as an officer of the Commercial Club and was associated with many other semi-public organizations during his lifetime. He was first elected to the school board of Independent Dist. No. 15, in 1927, and he served continuously, becoming president of the board in 1936, which office he held upon his death.

For many years, Joseph Helm also served on the city council being first elected as alderman-at-large in 1917, serving one term. In 1931 he returned to the council as third ward alderman. In 1933 he was elected as alderman-at-large and again in 1937. Together with Alderman Theo. Steinert and Alderman Rudolph Helm, as members of the council, they established the municipal liquor store and Joseph J. Helm was elected chairman of the city liquor commission to manage the operation.

Joseph J. Helm married Laura Cyr on November 15, 1910 and they had six children: J. Cyrus, Wilbur J., Ione M., Ralph M., Lois M. and Vivian A. Joseph died suddenly at his desk on Jan. 11, 1940. He was 54 years of age.

LAURA CYR HELM REFLECTIONS ON EARLY LIFE IN RED LAKE FALLS

The Bicentennial furor of 1976 is creating new interest in family backgrounds and history, and natives have started digging out data for community and state records.

I have been urged to write a few chapters, concerning my life in the good old U.S.A.

I will be 86 years old in 1976, and it seems to me that I have been living a long, long time. I was born in Lake Pleasant township in 1890. My mother was born in Oslo, Norway and her name was Bena Torburg, but after immigrating to this country, many Norwegians added "son" to their first name. Her father was named "Jacob", so her name was changed to Jacobson. My father, Joseph Cyr, came from New Brunswick and could only speak French, so my mother learned French and taught the family French. She spoke three languages, but we always spoke French at home until we attended school and learned English.

My mother told me that they lived in a log house with dirt floors, a mattress filled with straw was in a corner and an apple box with shelves held the dishes. I was about eight years old in 1898 when we moved to the beautiful red brick house on Clearwater River which was just located a little east of Red Lake Falls. That was a happy time of my life. We were told that Pierre Bottineau once lived in this home. He also lived a half mile west of this brick home. Mr. Bottineau was not living at the time that we lived in the brick home, but I remember his wife and family well. We used to go picking wild strawberries with them. I remember that one time we offered green onions to Mrs. Bottineau who commented "I like them, but they do not like me". I think my grandfather, Elzear Cyr came to Red Lake Falls

the same year as Pierre Bottineau. We used to go to the river banks when the log drives were going by, and visited the Wanagan where their cook would hand us hot cookies from the oven. We exchanged milk, butter and eggs for raisins, brown sugar and other items. The logs were cut by a saw mill in Klondike, where the trap shoot area now is located. Most people had slabs, a by-product, for heating and cooking. My brother, George Cyr (still living in Yakima, Wash.) built me a play house from those slabs.

I was 10 years old when we moved into Red Lake Falls to live in the square pink house on Third Street (now owned by Robert Guillemette — a relative). I attended the 6th and 7th grades at St. Joseph's School and had Sister Ursula for a teacher.

My mother came down with arthritis and spent many years in a wheel chair. I fed and took care of her during the nights when I attended high school. I graduated from Lafayette High School in the class of 1908. Herbert Findeisen, a classmate, and I are the only two who remained all of our lives in Red Lake Falls. Most of our classmates have passed away, but I am waiting hopefully to have some one call on me in 1976.

After High School, I taught in two different country schools for one year in each school.

In 1910, I married Joseph J. Helm (deceased — 1940) and from this union, we had 6 children: J. Cyrus — (deceased — 1959), Wilbur J. — (deceased — 1945), Ione Helm Bendel, Ralph M. Helm, Lois M. Helm and Vivian Helm Soland.

My immediate family consisted of three girls and four boys and a half-sister. Namely: William Cyr (deceased), Fred Cyr (deceased), George and Norman — both living in Washington, Ella Cyr Guillemette — (deceased), Sarah Cyr Gervais — (deceased), myself and Jeanette Cyr Gruel — living in Florida.

As an old lady, I have voiced some of my experiences and leave you with an old epitaph. "Stranger stop and cast an eye, As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you will be. Prepare for death and follow me."

NICHOLAS AND MARIE SCHLESINGER HELM

Nicholas Helm, a pioneer resident of Red Lake Falls, was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1867. He migrated to the United States at the age of fourteen and settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with his older brother.

Marie Schlesinger came with her family to the United States from Austria a few years later and they, too, settled in Milwaukee.

Marie and Nicholas were married there in 1886 and three years later came to Red Lake Falls where they spent their entire lives. Nicholas worked for his brother and for several years was employed by the Frank Hunt Hardware store before starting his own business as painter, paper hanger and decorator. He also did carpenter work and sign-painting.

The old Washington grade school, Lafayette High school and the Court House were all painted by Nicholas when they were first built. He also did painting at the old Marshall Mill, the Steinert Mill and Terrebonne Mill, often taking flour as payment for his work. He built three houses in Red Lake Falls and remodeled another.

In 1935 he retired and did cabinet work at his home. Ill health forced him to abandon his work and he died in 1946. Mrs. Helm survived him until 1949.

Eleven children were born to Nicholas and Marie Helm, one who died in infancy: Rudolph, Elizabeth, Joseph, Clara, Emil, Roman, Nick, Gisela, Mildred, and Marie. Only four are living at this time: Mrs. Clara Schaefer of Gresham, Oregon; Joseph of Lancaster, California; Mrs. Gisela Burns of Minneapolis; and Mrs. Mildred Paul of Red Lake Falls.

There are nineteen grandchildren, fifty-two great grandchildren and twenty-six great, great grand hildren.

OTTO HEMME

Otto Hemme was born in the province of Oldenburg, Germany in 1907 and immigrated into Canada in 1927. He came to the United States in 1931 and has been a resident in Red Lake County to this day. He has been in big demand as a farm laborer on various farms. He never married.

PAUL AND DOROTHY HENG

Paul Gerald Heng was born August 24, 1929 at Emmetsburg, Iowa, to Jasper Heng and Annie, nee Gunn. The family moved to Barnesville when he was about seven months old. His father drowned while the family was on a picnic outing on the Fourth of July, when Paul was three and a half years old.

His mother was re-married in 1935 to Fred Wetenkamp, and the family then moved to Red Lake Falls. Paul went to two country schools, Hilltop and Meyer and graduated from Lafayette high school in 1948. He served with the U.S. Army in Germany from 1952 to 1955. After his discharge from the army he drove for the Greyhound Bus Company from 1956 to 1958 and in 1959 he became part owner of the M-D Trucking Company which contracted to haul government meat for the army and navy to the west coast for Elliot Packing Company of Duluth.

In 1957, while driving for Greyhound, he met Dorothy (Bonnie) Biendara, who worked for Greyhound at the depot in St. Cloud. They were married June 26, 1959 at St. Cloud and lived the first three years in Brooklyn Park. Dorothy worked as a secretary in Osseo until sometime before the birth of their first daughter, Darla Marie, on November 28, 1961. In 1962 they bought a farm in Louisville township, Red Lake County and moved there in March of that year.

Since then, three more children have been born; Marcia Ann, August 24, 1963; Steven Paul, June 15, 1969; and Rebecca Lee, September 22, 1970.

In addition to farming, Paul was employed by Detroiter Mobile Homes. He also worked as a special policeman, as a bartender at the Liquor Store, and as manager of the American Legion Club. Paul served as Commander of the American Legion Gunder Austad Post in 1971-1972 and Commander of the V.F.W. in 1974-1975. He has been active in the planning, remodeling, and opening of the new V.F.W. Club in Red Lake Falls.

Dorothy worked at the Falls Cafe when it was owned by Bob and Doris Wetenkamp.

The family are members of St. John's Lutheran Church where Dorothy is secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School. Dorothy is secretary of the V.F.W. Auxiliary Unit 5628 for the 1975-76 year.

The children attend schools in Red Lake Falls and are active in school and church activities as well as in 4-H.

JOHN C. HENDRIX FAMILY

John Hendrix came to Red Lake Falls in early 1946 following his army discharge. His wife, the former Bernice Johnson, daughter of Walter and Mary Johnson, was already there. They were married at Ft. Wood, Missouri, in 1943 where both were stationed, Bernice as an army nurse and John in the Engineer Corps. They were sent to Europe separately but managed to meet in Holland and Germany. Soon Bernice was discharged and came to Red Lake Falls to await the arrival of their first child. That is why John, a native of Fulton, Missouri, came to Red Lake Falls. Bernice had come in 1932 with her parents. The Hendrixes lived here until July 1974 when they moved to Huntsville, Arkansas.

The Hendrixes have six children, all graduates of Lafayette High School, except Tom. Mike, the eldest, is a pharmacist and worked for Dodds Drug for several years and is in Anchorage, Alaska now. Mary went to Jamestown College and William and Mary Law School. She is assistant city attorney in Norfolk, Virginia, and married to Michael Keating. Jane, a Moorhead State College graduate, is the wife of Steve Demarais, has two sons and lives in Foley, Minnesota, where Steve teaches. Laura, a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus, is in the Navy Hospital Corps and is looking toward a medical career. She is married to Joe Winters, also Navy, and lives in San Francisco. Tom is a senior at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut. He is a graduate of the Phillips Exeter Academy and is married to Josette Despotova. Bob is employed in Anchorage. He spent six months in Arkansas but missed snow and skiing.

John was active in business, church and community affairs during his twenty-nine years in Red Lake Falls. He was a partner in Hendrix and Johnson Implement Company. Bernice also participated in a variety of organizations. She was employed as nursing supervisor at Hillcrest Nursing Home from 1962 to 1967, leaving to become the county's first school nurse. She served Brooks, Plummer and Red Lake Falls schools for three years and then taught Health Occupations at the Vocational Center while continuing as school nurse at Lafayette and Washington Schools until June 1974.

CLARENCE AND DELLA HENKE SR.

Clarence was born at Wiconia, Minnesota in 1904 to Henry and Bertha Swalbe Henke. He had two brothers and five sisters. His parents and one sister passed away.

Clarence attended school in Minnesota and Montana. He married Della Darr in 1931 at Billings, Montana. Della was born in Glidden, Iowa in 1913. Della had three brothers and one sister. Her father and two brothers passed away when she was five years old. Her mother married George Doeden two years later.

Clarence and his father-in-law, George Doeden, left Montana in 1933. They moved their belongings in a wagon with six horses to Hensel, North Dakota. It took them thirty-one days to cover the distance. Della came with her mother, brother, and sister in a truck and a car.

Della and Clarence worked on a farm at Hamilton, North Dakota for ten and fifteen dollars a month. They worked on this farm till 1934 when they moved to a farm at Walhalla, North Dakota in 1936. From there

they moved to Fordville, North Dakota and farmed till 1947.

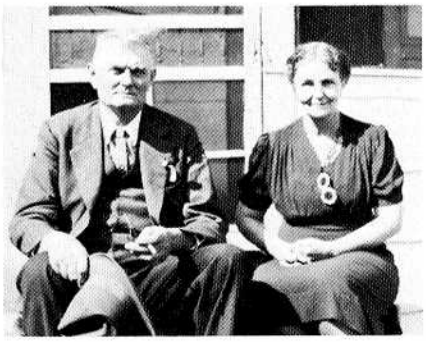
Clarence and Della with their family moved to Red Lake Falls area to a farm bought from Ray Linnihan near Dorothy. They have two children Clarence Jr. and Marilyn. Clarence Jr. married Linda Duff (McPherson) and they have two children. Marilyn married Henry Wieland and they have three children.

Clarence Jr. bought the farm and Clarence Sr. and Della moved to Red Lake Falls in 1970. They bought the Joe Hance house where they now make their home.

MELVIN AND PEGGY DAHL HESSE

Melvin, one of the twelve children, was born to George and Alma Hesse in River Township. He has lived most of his life in Red Lake County, except for several years spent serving in the U.S. Army and working away from home. He met Peggy Dahl in Minneapolis in 1955. She was also a native of Northwestern Minnesota, having been born and raised in Marshall County. They were married on July 13, 1957 at United Lutheran Church at Gatzke. In December of 1958, they moved to a home in Emardville Township, the farm formerly owned by Charles Hulst about two miles southwest of Plummer. They operated the Hesse Grocery from 1964 to 1972, at which time it was sold to Larry and Gaylene Ness.

The children and birthdates are: Dean, born at Litchfield, July 28, 1958; Marcie, born at Thief River Falls, March 21, 1960; passed away April 24, 1961; Dan, born at Thief River Falls, May 17, 1962; Brenda, born at Thief River Falls, August 29, 1963.



Mr. and Mrs. V. M. Higinbotham

VICTOR M. HIGINBOTHAM

Victor M. Higinbotham was a native of Forest City, Iowa where he graduated from high school. He attended Northern Illinois Business College at Dixon, worked for a time in a Thompson, Iowa bank, and a law office in Charles City, Iowa before moving to Red Lake Falls in 1901. At that time he opened a real estate and insurance office in this community.

In 1902 Vic was united in marriage to Clara B. Tousley of Climax. They made their home in Red Lake Falls where they lived until their passing. Mrs. Higinbotham was born in Port Huron, Michigan. Her father was a sawmill worker, and worked at various mills in this area.

Vic died at the age of 83 in February 1962; Mrs. Higinbotham passed on at the age of 87 in December of 1966.

The Higinbothams had five children. Maurice, the oldest, died in 1928 at the age of twenty-two. At the time he was employed by the Red Lake county highway department. Jessie, their only daughter, is retired and living in Lorton, Virginia. Clifford is retired from the Bell Telephone Company, and lives in Santa Rosa, California with his wife Birdine, who is a native of Thief River Falls. Paul and his wife Medora are living in Chelmsford, Massachusetts after retiring from government service, having left here in 1942 to go to work for the government. Medora Parenteau is a native of Terrebonne where her father ran a store for many years. The youngest son, Bruce and his wife Lois Fellman, live in Red Lake Falls where both were born and raised. Lois is at present teaching kindergarten in Washington Elementary School.

Vic (or Hig as he was often referred to) was active in community affairs, served as mayor of Red Lake Falls from 1942 until 1946 and was also on the City Council for several years. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Red Lake Falls Hotel Company of which he was secretary for many years, and also the Red River Valley Development Association for which he was a director and past president. Hig was also a past president of the Commercial Club.

During those early years the land business went through many phases. In the early 1900's they would trade land for just about anything of value. At one time they traded for a complete clothing store stock, and in order to get their money out of it they rented space over one of the stores here and sold it off as best they could. This writer can still remember a box of tam-o-shanters in our attic plus other goodies that would be worth a mint as antiques, had they been saved. Just junk at the time! They traded for cars, hardware, or what-have-you.

One of "Hig's" favorite stories about land agents had to do with the agent selling a piece of land that was full of rocks. He tried his best to keep the prospect from seeing them, but was not successful. When the prospect brought up the subject of all the rocks, he was told by the quick thinking agent that they were there to pick up heat during the day and release it all night long, making the crops grow better. About this time the prospect spotted a huge pile of rocks in one corner of the field and wanted to know how come they were piled there if they were so valuable. "I'll be damned," said the agent, "he just got in a new shipment!"

E. E. HILL

On March 27, 1913, the day they were married, Mr. and Mrs. Earl E. Hill departed southwestern Wisconsin for northern Minnesota, leaving the security of family and friends for the relative wilderness that Red Lake County was at that time.

They arrived by train in Brooks where they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Strand in the Strand living quarters above the bank. They had purchased a farm northeast of the town and since it had no buildings, or even a fence-post, they lived temporarily on what was called "The Payment Place" on Lost River while a granary was being built on their 160 acres in Poplar River Township. The granary served as their home until the house was built. Transportation was then by wagon or horse and buggy over narrow, muddy roads or by sled in winter.

Mr. Hill was a graduate of Jones Auctioneering School in Chicago and had been working as an auctioneer and livestock dealer in Wisconsin. He continued on in those lines of work as well as in farming and he became widely known in Red Lake and surrounding counties.

He was one of the persons instrumental in bringing Rural Electrification to Red Lake County and served on the first REA Board. He was elected to the Board of County Commissioners from the Fifth District and served on the Fair Board for a number of years.

Mr. Hill also served on the board of Public School District 126, the Red River Valley Farm Crop Show and the Farm Bureau Association. He was active in the Republican Party and at the time of his death in 1949 was party chairman of what was then known as the Ninth District.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill were active in the First Presbyterian Church of Brooks. They had four children; Arlene, now Mrs. Gordon Rinde of Minneapolis; James, of Livingston, Wisconsin; Marguerite, Mrs. Harry Kitchener of Silver Spring, Maryland; and Rachel, Mrs. Joseph Brekke of Minneapolis.

The children remember hearing the howls of the wolves that roamed at night between Lost River and Hill River — and in fact, the children had some encounters with the wolves on their two-mile walk to school.

Mrs. Hill continued making her home on the farm until she passed away in 1957.



DR. HERMAN HILLEBOE

One of Red Lake Falls' most unforgettable citizens was Herman Ertresvaag Hilleboe, physician, public health pioneer and statesman, Assistant United States Surgeon General, Commissioner of Health of New York State, and DeLamar Professor of Public Health Practice at Columbia University. He was born in Westhope, North Dakota, in 1906. In 1922, Peter Hilleboe came to Red Lake Falls with his wife and two younger children, Herman and Paul, who were in high school. Mr. Hilleboe came to manage the flax mill. The Hilleboes had six boys and two girls of their own, and took in four Ertresvaag boys.

Herman went to Lafayette High School where he met and later married Alida Claire Champeau in 1922. After graduation in 1923, he went to Minneapolis and worked his way through the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota Medical School.

It was said at his death that there has scarcely been any major health movement in the United States in the past 30 years that did not bear something of his imprint,

and that the nation lost a great leader in the health field. Indeed, he had an unusual gift of identifying and pinpointing critical issues in public health, as well as the political expertise and intense drive to move toward their resolution. He was a dynamic leader who had an amazing ability to communicate the excitement of public health practice to all levels of people, ranging from the grass roots of his own staff, to students, to the three governors of New York under whom he served and international health leaders with whom he worked. His commitment to social medicine and his love of and interest in his work were communicated to his own family as well. His son has a Master's Degree in Public Health as well as in Education and is currently working in health education in Syracuse, New York. His oldest daughter, Joyce, also has a Master of Public Health degree and worked for 16 years in the World Health Organization in Copenhagen, Denmark and is currently working in cancer research in Buffalo, New York. His second daughter, Theresa, is a trained physiotherapist.

Herman died suddenly on April 11, 1974. He is survived by Alida, Joyce, Terry and Herman, Jr., and 6 granddaughters. He is missed and remembered with pride and aspiration by many people, both those who knew and loved him well and those whose lives he barely but palpably touched.

ERNEST F. HILSE

Ernest F. Hilse was born in Schlossen, Germany on December 1, 1856. He immigrated to America in 1882 arriving in Connecticut where he worked for some time and later went to Chicago and from there to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked at his trade as butcher and sausagemaker. He moved from Cincinnati to Wykoff, Minnesota, where he worked on a farm and in 1885 came to Crookston where he lived for two years.

In 1887 he was united in marriage to Marie Simmon. She was born in Germany on May 26, 1860. Ernest and Marie settled on a farm in Louisville township. Seven children were born to them: Rose, Fred, Mary, Amelia, Henry, Sophie and Ernest, Jr. There are also thirteen grandchildren, twenty-nine great grandchildren, and forty-two great great grandchildren.

Ernest F. Hilse died in 1920 and Mrs. Hilse continued to live on the farm with her sons, Fred and Ernest, Jr., until she died in 1941 at the age of eighty-one. All of the children are deceased except Mrs. Fred Weiss and Ernest Jr. who both make their home in Red Lake Falls.

ELMER HINCE AND MARIE WICKS HINCE

Both raised in Red Lake County, Elmer H. Hince and Marie Wicks have made their home in the Oklee community since their marriage in 1931. Elmer (Happy) was born in July of 1906, son of Peter Hince and Rosilda Asselin Hince. Marie was born in Long Prairie, in January of 1909 and came with her parents, Paul Wicks and Ida Parsons Wicks, to the Plummer area when she was four years old. Happy is presently self employed as a barber, a trade he learned as a young man from his brother-in-law, Nap Miller. He has also been employed in Greenland, Alaska and California, work — in factories or on construction.

The children born to Elmer and Marie: Bonnie (b. 1932) married Ernest Roisland.



Peter Hince Family. *Back:* Albert, Mary, Cecile, Anne, Rose and Peter, Jr. *Middle:* Roselda, Elmer and Peter. *Front:* Napoleon and Emma.

Their children are Liane, Kerry, Jan, Vicky and Keven; Sherry (b. 1936) married David Kankel (see history); Kathleen (b. 1942) married William McDonald and their two children are Chad and Jodi; Mary Lou (b. 1945) is married to Rudy Gunderson; Robert (b. 1946); Joan (b. 1947) is married to Leslie Lien and they have one daughter, Dana Rae; Donald (b. 1948) is married to Erika Martin and they have one son, Thorsten; Margaret (b. 1950).

HERMENEGILE HINCE AND ADELINE ASSELIN HINCE

Hermenegile Hince, son of Louis Hince, Jr. and Marie Gobeil, married Adeline Asselin (b. 1879), daughter of Cyprien Asselin and Celina Henri, in 1899. They lived and farmed in Lambert township. Three children were born to this union: Marie (b. 1900) married A. D. Collette; Celina (b. 1902) married Albert Riel: Joseph (b. 1906-d. 1957) married Emma Bachand.

Hermenegile died in 1962 and Adeline in 1955.

JOSEPH HINCE AND EMMA BACHAND HINCE

Emma Bachand Hince, the fourth child of Antonio and Vitaline Bachand, was born June 4, 1911 in Lambert Township. She attended the Turgeon School, District 151, and had Josephine Richards (Mrs. Stainbrook) as her first teacher.

Emma married Joseph Hince, son of Hermenigilde Hince and Adeline Asselin, in April of 1930 and they lived on a farm near Oklee until 1941 when they moved to Red Lake Falls. Joseph worked at the Tow Mill until it closed and at various other jobs until the time of his death in 1957 at the age of 51.

To this union ten children were born, seven girls and three boys: LeeRoy (b. 1931) married Patricia Morinville and they have six children; Madonna (b. 1932) married Bernard DesRoches, they have five children; Elizabeth (b. 1933-d. 1939); Evelyn (b. 1934) married Paul Prudhomme, they have seven children; Richard (b. 1936) married Gerri Schulky, they have four children; Yvonne Elizabeth (b. 1938-d. 1938); Yvonne (b. 1941) married Joseph Noel, they have four children; Robert (b. 1942) married Tama Yasuka, they have three children; Laura Jean (b. 1944); JoAnne (b. 1945) married Frances Dufault, they have five children.

PETER HINCE AND ROSILDA ASSELIN HINCE

Peter Hince, a pioneer business man and farmer in the Oklee community, came to this area when he was sixteen years old. Peter was born in the Three Rivers area of the Province of Quebec, Canada, on December 16, 1864. His parents, Louis Hince and Elenore DeRoche, had a family of ten children: Louise, Elenore, Cecille, Louis Jr., Adeline, Carolyn, Odile, Leonard, Peter and Adolph. Carolyn, Odile and Leonard died at an early age.

Louis remarried following the death of his first wife and he and his new wife, Angelic Gobeil, came to the Crookston area in 1879. With them were several of



Hermenegile and Adeline Hince with children Marie, Joe and Celina.

their children, although Peter remained in the east at Bangor, Maine, making his home with a sister and earning his living by working in a cotton mill. When Peter moved to the city of Bangor, it was his first experience at living outside a rural environment. Seeing himself for the first time in a full length mirror dressed in his first store-bought clothes was an amusing incident that he related many times.

Louis and Angelic homesteaded in Lambert township in 1879. The children born to this union were Odelle, Adelore, Parmelia, Arthur, Zephirin, Wilfred and Elmire.

Peter and his sister joined their family in the Crookston area the following year. During the time he lived in the Crookston community, Peter was able to acquire a brief education. He had learned to read and write in the French language through his catechetical training in Canada, but his education in English, however brief, enabled him to become a successful business man. Peter loved music and learned to play the piano and organ. He used this talent all through his life by playing the organ in church and playing for dances and parties and in the community band.

He was strong and well-built and this enabled him to work as a farm hand and in the lumber camps even as a young boy. His nickname was "Big Pete". When Peter became of age he took a homestead on the NW quarter of section 12 in Lambert township, just on the southern edge of the present village of Oklee.

He was twenty-eight years old when he chose Rosilda Asselin, daughter of Cypren and Celina Henri Asselin to be his bride. Rosilda had been born in Canada in 1876 and, as an infant, moved with her family to Windsor Locks, Connecticut. In 1888 she came with her parents, five sisters and two brothers to Red Lake Falls by train and then by ox team to the Lambert township area where they took a homestead. The children of Cypren and Celina Henri Asselin were: Cypren, Mary, Eliza, Joseph, Clifford, Malvina, Onezime, Elmire, Amanda, Rosilda, Adeline and Victoria. The family arrived in November and were unprepared for the hardships of life on a homestead in the winter months.

The Asselin homestead was only a short distance from Peter's own farm and the family included several daughters of a marriageable age. The French-Canadian Catholic background of this family made the Asselin household a very promising place to go courting.

Rosilda was only sixteen when she married Peter in 1892 and they made their home in the cabin Peter had built from the logs he had hauled from the area north of Gully. They lived in the log house until 1912 when their large frame home was built. In 1915 they moved to the village of Oklee to a new home located across the street from the Catholic church.

Peter preferred being a business man to being a farmer. He had the first livery stable in Oklee and was the first Standard Oil agent there. Later, he became associated with the People's Oil Co. and continued in this business until age seventy when he retired. He also bought and sold cattle and sold school supplies. Although he was a business man, Peter always owned land which he considered true security.

In the years following their marriage, Peter and Rosilda were blessed with ten children, and all except Joseph (b. 1898-d. 1898), grew to adulthood. Rose (b. 1894-d. 1965) married Napoleon Miller and their children were Lucille, Louella, Hazel, Ambrose, Maurice, and Kenneth; Mary (b. 1896) married Arthur Lambert and they had one daughter, Irene; Peter (b. 1899) married Marie Kubin and their children are Peter, Jr. and Pamela; Cecile (b. 1901) married Rufus Patnaude. Their three children are James, Patricia and Virginia; Albert (b. 1903-d. 1963) married Anne Nomland and they had one daughter, Yvonne; Elmer (b. 1906) married Marie Wicks. Their children are Bonnie, Sherry, Kathleen, Mary Lou, Robert, Joan, Donald and Margaret; Anne (b. 1908) married Selmer Hjelmhaug and their children are Carl and Sally Ann; Napoleon (b. 1912-d. 1972) married Loretta Hughes. They had two children, Michael and Margaret; Emma (b. 1913-d. 1960) married Alfred Brandt. Their children: John, Gene, Judith, Rosalyn, William, Mae Beth and twins, Robert and Richard.

Peter died in 1957 at the age of ninety-two and Rosilda in 1945 at age sixty-seven.



Claus Hinrichs golden anniversary.

CLAUS HINRICHS

Mr. and Mrs. Claus Hinrichs came to Red Lake County in 1897, bringing two oxen and a horse, and making the journey from Crystal Lake, North Dakota, by covered wagon. They settled on a farm northeast of Red Lake Falls in Gervais Township and there they raised their large family of fourteen children. Those living are: Louise Biliske, Warmen, Saskatchewan; Rose Biederman, Clam Falls, Wisconsin; Hilda Linnertz, Aitkin; Florence Marwitz, Red Lake Falls; and Marie Hallstrom, Akeley. Deceased are: Lydia Bullert, Emma Glockzin, Mathilda Randorf, Ida Weiss, Sarah Hirsch, Hubert, August, Ernest and Henry.

In that first year, Claus put in 40 acres of cropland, and that summer cleared sixty additional acres to plant into flax, a crop that made enough to pay for the farm.

It wasn't easy plowing with two oxen and horses, and the oxen refused to work under the hot summer sun. Claus arose early, about 4 o'clock in mid-summer, guided the animals until mid-morning and resumed work again in late afternoon.

Mrs. Hinrichs raised vegetables in a huge garden and always churned the butter to supply the family. The work was difficult, never easy.

Claus and his wife celebrated their Silver and Golden Wedding Anniversaries. They were one of the first to start the St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls in 1903, where he was the first trustee.

He was on the school board, town board, elevator board at St. Hilaire, and helped organize the Oak Grove Cemetery Association.

Claus and his wife retired in 1936 and moved into Red Lake Falls. Mrs. Hinrichs died in 1940 and Claus in 1953.

CONRAD HIRSCH

Conrad Hirsch was born in Austria on November 21, 1855 and came to the United States with his parents in 1882. In 1889 he married Catharine Coleman, also of Austria and the girl he had known in the Old Country. She was born November 12, 1868 and had come to the United States with her parents and family in 1885 first settling in Butte, Nebraska, then Le Sueur.

The Hirsches lived in Fairfax until 1905 when they came to Red Lake County and purchased a farm in Red Lake Falls Township. When they retired they moved into the city in the Hirsch home on Hamilton Avenue. Mr. Hirsch died October 21, 1938 and Mrs. Hirsch in 1939.

There were thirteen children: Joseph (deceased), Agnes (Mrs. Ed Bahner), John (deceased), Louis (deceased), Thomas, Sophie (Mrs. J. B. Caron), Felix (deceased), Katherine (Mrs. Chester McIntyre), Francis (Mrs. Joseph Schmidt), Thersia (Mrs. Edward Reinschmidt), Sister Mary O.S.B., Gertrude (Mrs. F. L. Jose), and George who died in infancy.

LEO HOEFER FAMILY

Leo Hoefer was born in Blunt, South Dakota in 1921, the son of John and Gertrude Hoefer. After his mother passed away, Leo, his father and sisters moved to Minnesota in 1937. After seven years of drought and no crops, they moved to Pennington County where they lived a few years before they moved to Red Lake County, Lake Pleasant Township in 1943. Leo's father bought a farm in this area.

Leo married Veronica Schindler in 1943, a daughter of John and Mary Schindler, who had lived in Pleasant Lake Township most of her life. She attended one room country schools.

Leo and Veronica rented farms the first few years before they bought Edgar Trudeau's farm in 1950. They have since purchased the entire section in Lake Pleasant Township. The Hoefers raise grain and beef cattle and are dairy farmers. In 1960, they were named the honored dairy couple of Red Lake County by the Red River Valley Winter Shows.

Leo served on the township school board before the school consolidated with the Red Lake Falls district. He is now on the township board and is active in various church and community organizations.

Veronica is also active with St. Joseph's church groups and community affairs and works for the Red Lake County Nursing Service as a Home Health Aide.

Veronica and Leo have nine children: Mary (b. 1944) is a graduate of Bemidji State College and married to LeRoy Paz-



Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hoefer

dernik, a doctor of chemistry. They live in Montreal, Canada and have three daughters, Mary Kay, Melanie and Jenipher; Genevieve (b. 1946) is a graduate of LaFayette and was employed at the Red Lake County State Bank. She and her husband, Orville Knott, live and farm in Red Lake Falls Township. Their children are Sheila, Jay and Randy; Gerald (b. 1947) is a graduate of Northland Junior College and Bemidji State University. He is married to Barbara Priebe and they live in Lake Pleasant Township where they farm in partnership with his uncle raising beef and hogs. They have one daughter, Leah; Henry (b. 1949) is a graduate of Northland Junior College and Bemidji State University. His wife is Cynthia Hanson and his children are Matthew and Christopher. They make their home in Coon Rapids, and Henry works in Minneapolis for Northern States Power as an Operations Analyst; Russell (b. 1951) is a patient at Fergus Falls State Hospital; Yvonne (b. 1955) is a graduate of LaFayette and a student nurse at Hibbing. She is married to Thomas Schue, a lab and x-ray technician, and they make their home in Fargo with their daughter, Bridget; Duane (b. 1958), Timothy (b. 1960) and Katherine (b. 1962) are all students at LaFayette.

FRED HOFIUS AND LYDIA CHRISTIANSEN HOFIUS

Fred Hofius and Lydia Christiansen Hofius moved from Albert Lea to Red Lake County in 1912. Both were born in Iowa, Fred on November 23, 1865, and his wife, Lydia, on July 19, 1870. They purchased a farm in section five of Poplar River Township and lived there until their deaths. Fred died in 1924 and Lydia in 1943. Five children were born to this union: Ira, Lula, Laura, Bessie and Howard. Lula died in infancy and Ira died in a snowstorm in 1918 while in his twenties. He never married.

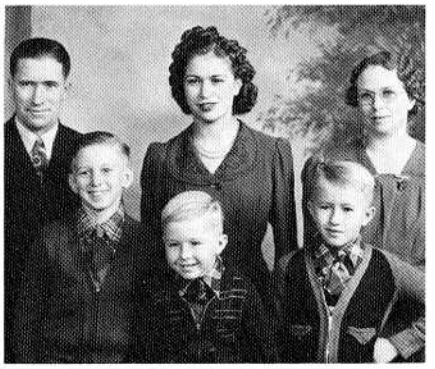
Laura Hofius married Joe Thamert and lived in Bejou, until 1939 or 1940 when they moved to the state of Washington. They had seven children.

Bessie Hofius married James Gilbertson in 1914. They lived on the homestead of his father, Hans Gulbranson, in Emardville Township all of their married lives, except for a few years in the early 1940's when they moved to the state of Washington. One daughter, Barbara, was born to them in 1920. Bessie died in October of 1970 and her husband, James, died in February of 1974.

Howard Hofius married Amanda Whitely in 1924. (See Howard Hofius history)

GORDON HOFIUS

Gordon Hofius was born on December 15, 1905, in Pleasant Creek, Iowa, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hofius. He came to the Plummer community as a child with his parents, settling in Emardville Township in 1912. He attended school in District 214. On January 21, 1929 he married Hettie Jones. Hettie came to Emardville Township from Baker, Minnesota in 1920 settling on a farm across the creek from the Hofius farm. Except for a period of five years when they resided in Des Plaines, Illinois, they have always made their home in Plummer where Gordon farmed and worked on road construction. For a number of years he was a committee member of the ASCS in Red Lake County before being appointed Red Lake County Assessor in 1960. This position he held until the automobile crash which claimed his life in 1966. The Hofiuses were members of the Brooks-Plummer Presbyterian Church. They had four children; Donna (Mrs. Russell Pahlen); Gail (Mrs. Ernest St. Michel); Gary, married to Larith Ludtke and Jacqueline (Mrs. Clayton Moen).



Howard and Amanda Hofius, Lois, Milo, Marvin and Dalton.

HOWARD HOFIUS — AMANDA WHITELY FAMILY

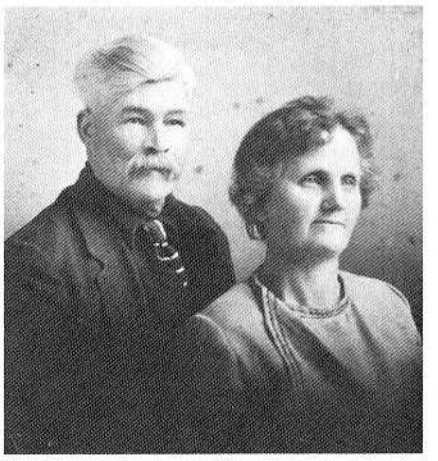
Howard Hofius married Amanda Whitely in 1924. Amanda was from the Oklee community and had been a teacher in District Number 103, Lambert Township, for two years. Howard and his bride took over the farming operation on his father's farm in Poplar River Township, as that was the year his father passed away. They lived on this farm for nineteen years. To this union four children were born: Lois, Dalton, Milo, and Marvin. Lois is now Mrs. Charles Lines of Villa Park, Illinois. They have four children. Dalton married Leona Miller. They have six children. Milo is now teaching in the Robbinsdale, Minnesota school system. He is the father of five children. Marvin was married to Elaine Norton and they had one son. Marvin died of cancer in 1961 at the age of twenty-five.

In the fall of 1943 Howard Hofius was appointed Red Lake County treasurer, and the family sold the farm and moved into Red Lake Falls. He held that office until his death in 1950. After this, his wife, Amanda, was appointed to succeed him. She served as Red Lake County treasurer for the next twenty years, retiring in 1970. Howard was active in many civic affairs, serving on the Red Lake County fair board, Red Lake Falls fire department, Commercial Club, treasurer of the Red Lake County DFL committee, and president of the Sportsmen's Club. He enjoyed sports and was an active baseball player and served as manager of the Red Lake Falls team. He was an elder of the First Presbyterian Church, and died in November of 1950 at the age of fifty.

JOHN HOFIUS FAMILY

John Hofius was born at Maquoketa, Iowa, on August 11, 1864. He was united in marriage to Miss Doreas Christenson on February 11, 1888, in a double wedding ceremony with Mr. and Mrs. James LaFayette.

John and Doreas spent the first years of their marriage in Maquoketa, DeWitt and Belview in Iowa where John worked in the lime kilns. Their first four children, Edward, Olin, Harold and Lester contracted diphtheria and with no modern vaccine to



Mr. and Mrs. John Hofius

help, three of the children died in three days and Lester died six months later. In those days everything had to be burned to stop the spread of infection.

Later, five more children were born to them in Iowa; Myrtle, Bill, George, Naomi and Gordon. The family moved to Albert Lea, where they spent one year before coming to Red Lake County in 1912 settling in Emardville Township.

They were very active members of the Brooks Presbyterian Church. Myrtle married Roy Hallas and they lived in the Plummer and Brooks communities for nine years before moving to Minot, North Dakota and then to Portland, Oregon. William married Irene Lemon and they lived in Des Plaines, Illinois. George never married. Naomi married Hans P. (Shorty) Hanson. They made their home in Garnes and Emardville Township. Gordon of Plummer, married Hettie Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hofius and Mr. and Mrs. James LaFayette celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1938.

OSMUND HOFSTAD AND MARIE JOHNSON HOFSTAD

Osmund Hofstad was born in Deer Park Township on January 24, 1904. His parents were Gunder Hofstad and Bertine Legvald Hofstad. He was the eldest of their children. Two of the children died in infancy. Thomina (Wildmo) lives in Burner and Selmer, Tommy, Oliver and Ole live in Deer Park Township. Ole is married to Mabel Mostrom and Sarah and Gladys reside at Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls.

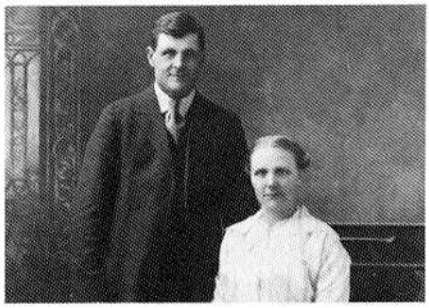
Osmund received his education in the rural Lintvet School. He left home in the 1920's to work in lumber camps and as a farm laborer. It was at the Ole Flaat farm near Fisher, where he was employed, that he met Marie Johnson, a hired girl, who became his wife on November 7, 1929. Osmund and Marie lived in the Grand Forks, North Dakota area until 1943 when they moved their family to a farm in Equality Township.

Osmund was active in community groups and organizations until his death on December 12, 1964. The Hofstads were active members of the Lutheran Church.

Osmund and Marie raised nine children: Stanley, the eldest, farms the family farm; Orlando has served in the U.S. Air Force for twenty-five years and will retire in 1976. He is married and has five children; Lois (Mrs. B. R. Westmoreland) lives in Shreveport, Louisiana, and has two children;

Doris (Mrs. Wallace Nelson) lives on a farm south of Oklee. She and her husband have seven children; Leslie is married and lives east of Plummer and teaches at the Plummer Schools; Raymond is married and has one child. They reside at Maple Lake; Elaine (Mrs. Delbert Braker) is a teacher and lives at Bismarck, North Dakota; Carol (Mrs. Kerry Roisland) and her husband live in Grand Forks, North Dakota; Paul died in 1963.

Mrs. Hofstad makes her home with her son, Stanley, on the family farm.



ROLF HOFSTAD FAMILY

Rolf Hofstad and Anne Nygaar were married in 1900 in Satesdalen, Norway and in 1902, decided to seek their fortune in America. Their first child, a son, Paul, was born in 1901. He was six months old when they left Norway. They began their trip by boat going to Hull, England, then by train to Liverpool where they spent a week sightseeing. They continued their trip to Quebec, Canada by boat. On the boat they were very seasick so strangers took care of their six month old son. Rolf's brother, Thomes Hofstad, was with them from Norway. From there they took a train to McIntosh, Minnesota, where Rolf worked on the railroad for two years before moving to Red Lake County. Here they settled north of the Clearwater River in 1904. This land had just opened up and the farm they settled on is located north and east of Oklee in the Northwest Quarter of Section 27. Their son, Paul, still farms it today. In 1904 Rolf paid $7.00 per acre for the land.

When Anne and Rolf moved to their homestead, they were the first settlers on the North side of the Clearwater River in what is now known as Equality Strip. They built a small log house with a sod floor and sod roof that leaked, when it rained, and everything had to go under the table. To get supplies and trade cream, butter, and eggs for sugar, coffee, and flour, they would have to cross the river to a small country store and Post Office called Lillo. They had a boat to cross the river but sometimes they had to wade and carry the baby. This store was over two miles cross country. One time Anne lost her balance and fell out of the boat leaving young Paul to go downstream alone in the boat. Anne had quite a time to get the boat back again.

Indian families often camped in their yard. They would bring their small babies into Anne and Rolf's house while they put up their tents. Anne was very frightened many times as she was alone much of the time.

They had oxen to break up the land and Anne, also, could drive the teams. They were named Dick and Buck and Jim and Barney. They worked small patches of their 160 acres grubbing and clearing with axes and hard labor. In the winter Rolf would have to go out working in the logging camps by Elfie and also the mines in Hibbing. This helped to buy seed and supplies and pay for the farm. This left Anne alone much of the time to milk the cows and do all of the chores. They helped build the Clearwater Church and were active members in school and community affairs.

Anne and Rolf raised nine children on their homestead: Paul was born in Norway; Grude was born in 1903. (The times were tough and they had the misfortune of losing him at the age of seven from pneumonia.) Martin was born in 1905 — deceased in 1933 from a fall. Next came Iven who now lives in Billings, Montana, Adolph has moved back to Oklee from Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Myrtle was born in 1912 and died in 1937 from burns; Anne, Mrs. Archie Ruffalo, lives in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Grudy was born in 1917 and died of sunstroke in 1940; and Ragna, Mrs. Torkel Gunderson, who lives in rural Oklee.

In 1907 they built a one room house with an upstairs. In 1912 they moved this house to another spot on their land. This was about a half mile away on the same quarter and part of this house is still in use. In 1925 it was added on to. In 1927 Rolf and Anne purchased another quarter of land from Tarjie Mandt. This farm adjoined theirs. A big highlight in 1928 was when Rolf's brother, John, came from Grand Forks, North Dakota with an airplane and many had their first ride.

In 1938 Rolf purchased additional land in Equality about three miles away. This now is owned by Elmer Rustan. Before Mr. Rustan purchased it, Adolph Hofstad who had married Mavis Anderson, had bought this quarter from his dad in 1940. Adolph and Mavis lived there until 1951 when they sold it to Elmer Rustan and moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with their children: Shirley, Mrs. Robert Simpson, of Cudahy; Gene also of Cudahy, Wisconsin; and Kieth of Vesper, Wisconsin. Mavis passed away in 1967 and Adolph retired in 1972 and moved to Oklee.

In 1942 Paul married Gladys Gunderson. They moved on the Tarjie Mandt places and lived and farmed both places. In 1947 Rolf passed away and Anne lived at the home place alone for one year. Then a house was moved from the Mandt place to her youngest daughter, Ragna. The farm was sold to Paul in 1948 and Paul and Gladys moved to the home place. To this marriage there were three children: Merlyce, Mrs. William Lemly of England, Rene of Oklee, and Gayle at home. Gladys passed away in 1965. Paul still operates the farm with his sons. His daughter, Merlyce and her husband recently visited the place in Norway where her dad was born.

There were many good times in Rolf and Anne's lives and many sad ones also. Rolf helped pay for his sister, Thilda and brother, John, to get to America and helped them get started. They had many good friends here. Among a few were Sam Gundersons, A. A. Bolandsons, (Mrs. A. Rolandson was a midwife to most of Anne's children). The neighbors helped each other out in many ways.

Around 1913 there was an old horse doctor called "Old Man Jones" who came around to the farms to treat sick animals also Peddlers would come and the people would put them up for the night in the homes and also care for the teams. Coffee peddlers would come around to sell their wares.

Some of the big purchases in the life of Rolf and Anne besides the land were the first team of horses in 1914, first tractor bought in 1928 from the city of Grand Forks, the first car they had was a Model T Ford in 1923. Before this purchase Rolf would walk to McIntosh to get supplies and carry them home on his back. To go to Ladies Aid meetings it was to walk and wade in water and the children would have to be carried or walk sometimes seven miles away.

Anne lived with her daughter, Ragna and son-in-law, Torkel, until she was ninety years old and entered Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls. She was ninety-three years old May 1975 but died November 15.

CHARLES T. HOWARD

Charles T. Howard was born in Champaign County, Illinois, in 1875. His wife, Clara May Sanford, was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1872. They were married at Canton, Mississippi, then moved to Illinois where they lived for several years before moving to Iowa.

The Charles Howard family moved to Minnesota in 1918. While still living in Iowa, Charles Howard helped Billy Bristow move from Iowa to a farm in Red Lake County, southwest of Red Lake Falls. He liked the country so well that he, too, bought some land in this part of the country. At that time an unimproved farm here could be purchased for the price of an acre in Iowa.

A daughter, Florence, and a son, James, were born in Illinois — Florence in 1898 and James in 1900. A son, Laurence, who was born in Iowa, passed away at the age of two years. Lloyd was born in 1904 in Iowa.

In the spring of 1918 the family moved to Gervais Township. During that summer Charles Howard and his son, James, helped build the brick creamery in Plummer. In the fall the family moved to what was known as power company land along the Red River and later owned by the Ed Johannecks.

We milked many cows and hauled the cream in cans by horse drawn vehicle, summers and winters, to the Plummer Creamery. In the winters we followed a trail through the swamps, as they were called then, but very good farm land.

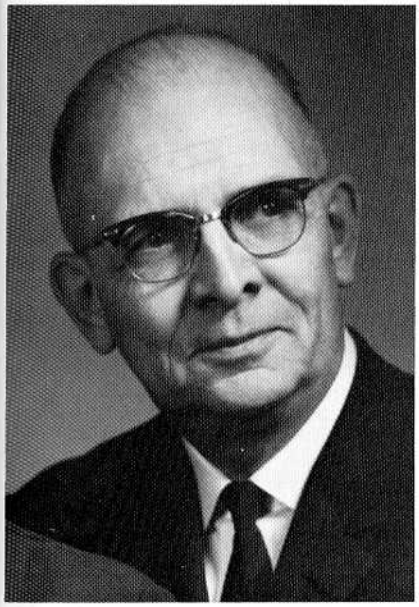
I can remember the large patches of wild strawberries that grew on that farm and often picked by people from Red Lake Falls. I remember that the farmers held turkey, duck, and geese raffles in the fall to get rid of their poultry when the market prices were poor.

Clara Howard passed away in 1933 and Charley Howard in 1949. Florence Howard married Helmer Mahla in 1921. They have two children Mrs. Loren Parkin, (Gertrude) of Euclid, and Arnold Mahla, North St. Paul. Arnold served in the Korean War.

James Howard married Leah Mae Mandlin in 1935 at Urbana, Illinois. He passed away in 1972. They had five children, two boys and three girls. James worked for Red Lake County many years when the road patrols were pulled by horses. Leah passed away in December, 1975.

Lloyd Howard married Alpha Marmorine of Gonvick at Red Lake Falls in 1924. They had eight children. Alpha Howard passed away in 1958. Lloyd passed away in 1969. At one time he worked at the air base in Antigua, West Indies, and also on the Alcan Highway.

The only Howard descendants living in the Red Lake County are Mrs. Helmer (Florence) Mahla and one of Lloyd's sons, Dwight Howard and family.



J. A. HUGHES

Mr. Hughes accepted the superintendency of the Red Lake Falls Public Schools in the spring of 1925. He arrived with his wife, Helen, (nee Helen Allison Hutchings of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota) August 10, 1925, after attending the first summer session at the University of Minnesota where he began graduate work which was not to be completed with a Master's Degree in education until 1940.

Hughes had previously been superintendent at Russell, Minnesota, for one year, and at Willow Lakes, South Dakota, for two. Mrs. Hughes was an elementary teacher in both places. Born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, March 8, 1898, Hughes came to Grand Meadow, Minnesota, in the fall of 1910 with his parents and one sister. He was graduated from Grand Meadow High School in 1915, and from Carleton College in 1919. He taught one year each at Tracy, Carleton College, and Shattuck School, Faribault, before entering the superintendency.

Lafayette High School had an enrollment of about forty-five in grades 9-12 in 1925. There were six elementary teachers and five high school teachers, including the superintendent and the principal, both of whom taught. The curriculum was essentially college preparatory, although eighty percent of the students had no plans for post high school education. Two years of industrial arts and two years of home economics were offered. A schedule of eleven man football games was maintained with great difficulty. There were no facilities for basketball, track, or baseball. Declamation, a girls' glee club, and a junior class play constituted the remaining extra-curricular activities.

Students from the rural areas were few in number. The school offered no transportation. Young people from farm families occasionally rented a room in town. Some worked for board and room. Others were brought in on Monday morning by their families and picked up again after school on Friday. In some cases, they brought food with them and got their own meals during the week. There was no school lunch program. It was extremely difficult for youngsters who lived in the country to get a high school education.

The school grew slowly in numbers and breadth of curriculum offerings. The great depression of the thirties was felt here as elsewhere, and progress was slow. A commercial department was added and the high school became a combined junior-senior, or six year institution. The construction of the community hall made basketball and physical education possible. Transportation routes were developed and enrollment grew.

During his tenure in Red Lake Falls, he served in various capacities outside the school system. He was Worshipful Master of Red Lake Falls Lodge #308, A.F. & A.M., commander of Gunder Austad Post No. 22 of the American Legion, served in District 31 and Region 8 committees of the Minnesota High School League, president of the Northern Division of the Minnesota Education Association, a member of the delegate assembly of the MEA, and chairman of a committee of the State Department of Education responsible for writing a curriculum bulletin in arithmetic.

Our daughter, Jean, was born August 10, 1929. She was graduated from Lafayette High School in 1947, and from Carleton College in 1951. She now resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Her husband, Dr. George E. Temp, is an educational psychologist associated with Educational Testing Service. They have two children, John Arthur and Tracy Louise.

Mrs. Hughes died in April, 1964. During her residence in Red Lake Falls, she was active in church work, teaching in the Sunday School of the First Presbyterian Church and singing in the choir for many years. She sang vocal solos on many occasions, often accompanying herself on the piano. In the earlier years, she was accompanist for the girls' glee club. Mr. Hughes directed. She was also active in the American Legion Auxiliary.

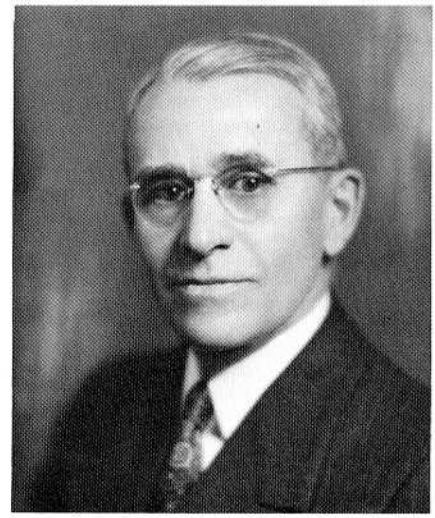
Mr. Hughes accepted the superintendency at Forest Lake in 1950. While in Forest Lake, he served on the state Fulbright Committee, was Grand Orator for the Grand Lodge of Masons in Minnesota in 1952, and served as a member, and later as chairman, of an advisory committee to the State Board of Education in science and mathematics. He was a member of the selective service board for Washington County for a number of years.

Mr. Hughes returned to Red Lake Falls following his retirement at Forest Lake. He married Mrs. Belle Healy, June 25, 1966. After several years of substitute teaching, he taught English at Lafayette High School (1968-1969). He was editor and manager of the Red Lake Falls Gazette from December, 1969, until January 1, 1971. He served as County Sanitarian and Zoning Administrator from January 1, 1972, to October 1, 1973. He served on the City Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment.

THE HUNT FAMILIES

Frank Ellery Hunt, pioneer merchant of Red Lake County, was born at Little Compton, Rhode Island in 1853, the son of Samuel Ellery Hunt and Lucy Hart Borden. When he was sixteen years old, he moved with his parents to Wisconsin. Later, as a young man, he went to St. Paul, Minnesota, and for several years traveled out of that city. He married Miss Mertie Steele Hamphill at St. Paul in 1879.

In June 1878, Frank Hunt established the first general store in Red Lake Falls when "the place was without bridges on the rivers and had all the inconveniences of a howling wilderness." This was before the days of the railroad and he had to haul



Samuel E. Hunt

his stock of goods from Crookston. The first store was located in "The Hollow" on lower Main avenue, and later was moved south into a fine brick building. Frank was in partnership with C. C. Jackson, later with M. A. (Henry) McClatchie, and then with James I. Wyer who started the First State Bank of Red Lake Falls. He purchased Mr. Wyer's interest in 1903 and operated the store alone until 1912 when he announced that he had sold his hardware store to his sons, S. E. and W. O. Hunt, and C. O. Kankel who would operate the business under the name of the Hunt-Kankel Hardware Company. The brothers bought out Mr. Kankel's interest in 1918 and the firm was known as Hunt Bros. Co. The partnership incorporated in 1936 with Samuel E. Hunt, president, William O. Hunt, vice president and treasurer, and Clayte M. Paul, secretary.

Frank Hunt was county commissioner of Polk County, encompassing Red Lake Falls at the time, and a member of the first park board. A Presbyterian, he was chairman of the board of trustees for the church.

Frank Ellery Hunt died in December 1922 from a stroke. His wife died in 1937 at Sauk Centre. Frank and Mertie had seven children.

Samuel Ellery Hunt, president of Hunt Bros. Co., was born in 1880 in Red Lake Falls. He was educated in the Crookston high school since Red Lake Falls had no high school in those days. In 1915, he married Maud Findeisen of Red Lake Falls. They had one son Samuel E. Hunt, Jr., who married Marcia Kundert of Red Lake Falls, daughter of the Charles Kunderts. Marcia died in 1968. Sam and Mrs. Betty Paddock were married in Fort Worth, Texas in 1969. They have retired and live in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

During his lifetime in Red Lake Falls, Sam, Sr., was active in civic affairs. He was one of the first county commissioners, president of the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club, one of the Ninth District delegates to the Republican National Convention at Chicago, member of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian Church for a number of years, early promoter of athletics in this community, sponsor of the annual football banquets for years, chairman of the board of Hall Hardware and of Hardware Mutual Insurance Co., and the Hardware Indemnity Insurance Co., of Minneapolis, positions he held until his death.

Hunt Bros. store was sold to A. M. Bjerke

of Montevideo, Minnesota, in 1955. Sam and Maud had been living at Mesa, Arizona, for several years prior to the sale of the store. Sam died there in 1956. His wife died in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1968.

Elizabeth Stuart Hunt was a daughter of Frank Hunt. She taught country schools in the Red Lake Falls area and married Dr. John Argue, a dentist of this city. They moved to Washington. Both are deceased.

William Oliver Hunt, second son of Frank, was born in Red Lake Falls in 1885 and grew to manhood there. He was associated with the Hunt Bros. Co. and active in community affairs. He served several terms as a member of the school board in Independent School District No. 15. He married Miss Margaret Jahnke of Red Lake Falls. They had three children. Lois, Mrs. Don Gullickson, lives in Moorhead. Peggy, Mrs. Don Steiner, is in Rochester, and Bill, Jr., deceased. William, Sr., died of a heart attack at a Crookston hospital in 1942. Margaret is now living at Alexandria.

Lucy Borden Hunt taught school at Sauk Centre, Minnesota, for a number of years. She moved to Seattle, Washington, and operated a children's clothing and gift shop with her sister. Rebecca Frame Hunt was a member of the first graduating class of Lafayette high school. She also taught school in Sauk Centre for a number of years before moving to Seattle. Lucy died in 1955, Rebecca in 1949.

Frank Edward Hunt (Ted), third son of the Frank Hunt family, was also born in Red Lake Falls. He married Ami H. Krohn of Thief River Falls and they had two children. He was manager of Nash-Finch Co. at Glenwood from 1929 to 1943 when he moved to Red Lake Falls to be associated with Hunt Bros. Co. as vice president and treasurer. Ami died at Red Lake Falls in 1944. Ted moved back to Glenwood in 1947 and established Hunt's Resort on Lake Minnewaska. He married Mrs. Laura Johnson in 1947.

THE LEON HUOT FAMILY

Leon Huot was born in St. Etienne, in the province of Quebec, Canada, in April of 1856, the son of Joachin Huot and Perpetule Mathieux. In the spring of 1879 he came to Minnesota and found work in lumber camps. He helped grub out trees for some of the streets in the early days of Crookston. Two years later he filed a claim in Section Three of what is now Parnell Township in Polk County and lived there for six years. His brothers Eucharest and Regis joined him; later their parents came from Canada to join their sons. Some years later the three brothers owned adjoining farms in Red Lake County and their elderly parents lived with both the Leon Huot and Regis Huot families.

Olympe Quillierier was born in the province of Quebec on September 17 in 1861. When she was a young child, her mother died and she was raised by a schoolteacher aunt with whom she made her home till she was a young woman. In the spring of 1881 she and her brother, Noah, came to Minnesota to join their father, who lived in Parnell Township where she met Leon Huot a short time later.

Leon and Olympe were married February 2, 1882 by Rev. Father Bouchard at Gentilly and lived on his claim in Parnell Township until 1887. Sickness, severe winters, and lack of roads and transportation made life hard for all the early pioneers in those years. Mr. Huot used to tell of walking to Crookston, pulling a sack of flour and other groceries home on a little sled.

In 1887 they bought a farm in what is now Section Thirty-three of Wylie Township in Red Lake County where they made their home for thirty-three years.

To this union were born eight children, seven of whom grew to adulthood: Homer, Orore (Mrs. Fred Richards), Theodore, Rose, Eva, (Mrs. Art Marleau), Leon Jr., and Hubert.

An old book containing family and financial records reveals some interesting facts about farm prices in those days. For example, in 1898 wheat sold for fifty cents a bushel and oats for twenty-three cents. In 1900 a man's wages were $1.50 per day for threshing. Wheat was fifty-four cents a bushel, oats twenty-three cents and butter was fourteen cents a pound. In 1902 cows were worth $20, yearling calves $10, and the average selling price of eggs for the year was thirteen cents a dozen.

Mr. Huot was very active in community affairs, served on the town board and the school board of District 17 for many years. He was also instrumental in establishing St. Dorothy's Catholic Parish, later in building the church in Dorothy in 1919. He served on the board of trustees until they left the parish.



Leon Huot Family: *Seated:* Mrs. Huot, Eva, Hubert and Mr. Huot. *Standing:* Leon Jr., Orore, Homer, Rose and Theodore.

In the fall of 1920 they retired and moved to Red Lake Falls, leaving their son, Hubert, to operate the family farm which he later purchased. After moving to town, Mr. and Mrs. Huot operated a small gas station in front of their home on Main Street, across the street from the present Mobil Station.

Mr. Huot died on May 14, 1936 and Mrs. Huot, with the help of a young grandson, the late Daniel Richards, continued to operate the station for a time. Later she lived with a daughter, Mrs. Art Marleau, near Red Lake Falls until her death on May 3, 1942.

Hubert is the only surviving member of the immediate family. He married Alexine Suprenant in 1919 and they had two daughters, Stella (Mrs. Ronald Kennedy) and Lucille (Mrs. Irvin Ostlund). Alexine died in 1922, and in 1927 he married Mildred Schultz. To this union were born twelve children: Mary Jean (Mrs. Ronald Donarski), Bernetta (Mrs. Adolph Donarski), Lorena (Mrs. Harry Nohre), Dolores (Mrs. Alan Montreuil), Donald, Elaine (Mrs. Larry Ricard), Genevieve (Mrs. Bernard Ricard), Leonard, Edward, Wilfred, Darlene (Mrs. Bill Ryan) and Marie who died in infancy.

Hubert and his wife still live on the family farm where he was born and has spent his entire life. In 1961 he retired and his sons, Donald and Leonard, took over the operation of the farm, plus another nearby farm he had bought. A few years later he sold the family farm to Leonard, who with his wife and family lived in another house on the farm. Donald bought the other farm and has built a home there for his wife and family.

Hubert, now almost 80, still enjoys the farm and is often a very willing helper driving the tractors and other machines.

LOUIS HUOT FAMILY

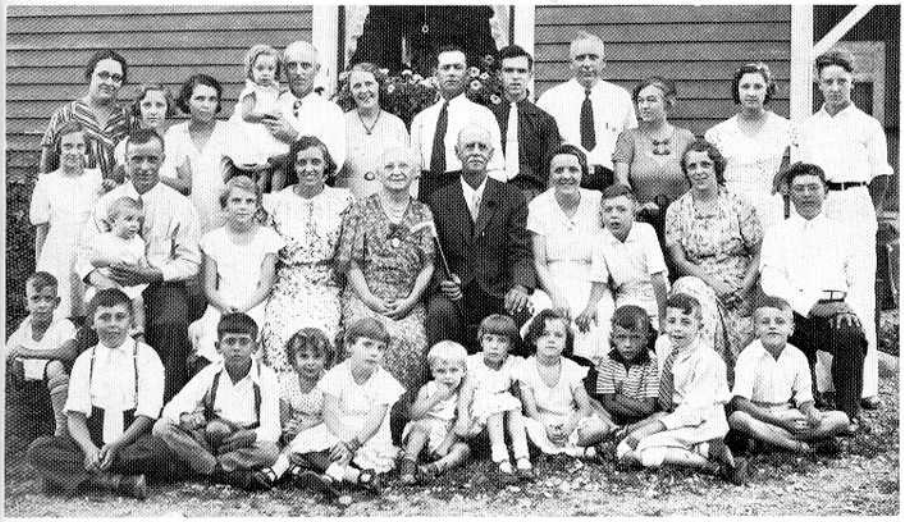
From Church records at L'Ange Gardien, Quebec, Canada, it was learned that the first Huot recorded came from France and was married at L'Ange Gardien in 1671. Our Huot ancesters came from there and settled at Corcoran, Minnesota, in Hennepin County.

Louis Huot left Corcoran, in the spring of 1876 bringing his wife and family to settle in the area that now bears his name. According to a record book kept by Lillie P. Huot, granddaughter of the pioneer, the families who came with them on this trek were: Leon Audettes, Peter Audettes, Nick Pouliots, Simon Patnodes, Cyril Patnodes, Mose Patnodes and Baptist Patnodes. They came by covered wagon, drawn by teams of oxen, taking six weeks to make the trip. It has been written that the Louis Huot family slept in a tent at night, while most of the others slept in the wagons. At one time, the oxen got away and Onezime Huot (son of Louis) and Cyril Patnode went back as far as White Earth to retrieve them.

When the parties reached McIntosh, the roads were so bad they had to put all six teams of oxen to the wagons to get them across some places. In other places, they made a "pavement" of willows.

Huot, Minnesota was named after Louis Huot, as was Louisville Township, and some families who came later were the Mercil Patnodes, the Noels and the Raymonds.

In 1877 the first ferry at Huot was operated just below the mouth of the Black River. The riggings were brought down from the head of the Clearwater River with



Henry P. Huot and Emily Pepin Huot golden wedding anniversary.

logs. To pay for the ferry, Henry Huot and his brothers, sons of Louis Huot, had to dig snake root, which they sold for medicinal purposes.

Louis Huot first married Marguerite Raiche and they had two children, Onezime Huot and Philomene Huot (Patnode). After her death, he married Henriette Patnode. Their children were Mary Huot (Dolbec), Emily Huot (Garon), Delima Huot (Belair), Henry P. Huot, born in 1862, Arthur Huot, Charles Huot, Godias Huot, John B. Huot, and Rose Huot (Pepin). Henriette died at the age of forty in 1875.

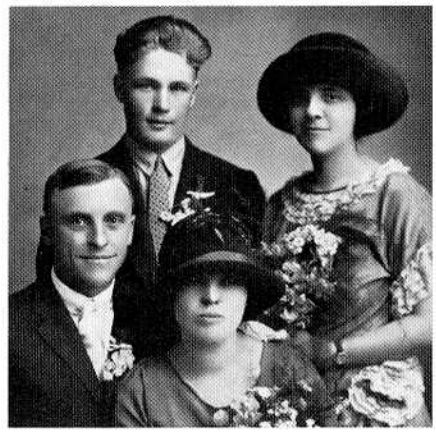
In 1885, Henry Peter Huot married Emily Sophie Pepin, daughter of Ferdinand Pepin and Sarah LaBelle. Emily was the youngest of eight children born to Ferdinand and Sarah. After Sarah's death in 1871, Ferdinand married Mary Doyea and they also had eight children, one of whom, Ferdinand, still resides in Red Lake Falls.

Henry and Emily Huot lived for a time on a farm that they homesteaded near Dorothy, where Ernie and Dorothy Franklin now live. About 1893 they moved to Eau Claire, Wisconsin where Ernest, Lillie and Vivian were born. When they left Eau Claire, they lived for one year in Minneapolis, then came back to Huot and settled where the Lawrence Goulet family now lives.

Henry and Emily were the parents of eight children, Lilian, who died in infancy, Louis and Eugene, who settled in St. Paul and established the still existing Huot Manufacturing Company there in 1926, Leonore (Mrs. Homer Roi), Rose (Mrs. Leo Callery, mother of Mrs. Lawrence Goulet, a Red Lake County resident), Ernest, Lillie and Vivian. When Vivian died in 1973, she was the last member of the family of eight children.

Ernest Isidore Huot (better known as E. I. or Ernie) married Emma Rose Benoit, daughter of Joseph C. Benoit and Florida Corbeil, on August 27, 1923. Ernest and Emma lived at Huot, where they operated the Huot Store which he had taken over after his Uncle, John B. Huot, retired, some years previous. They purchased the store in 1934 from Edward and Delima Huot, son and daughter of Arthur Huot (brother of Henry). E. I. Huot also farmed with his father and did some trucking. Huot Post Office was located in the store for many years and Ernie was also the Postmaster until the Post Office was discontinued in 1936. Ernest died in 1938 and Emma is still living at Huot Store, serving her neighbors and customers.

Ernest and Emma had nine children, Lillian (Grenier), Ernest, Jr., Mae (Gjerstad), Patricia (Ruth), Jean (Beyer), John B., Thomas, Dolores (Glass), and Rita (Hagl). There were fifty grandchildren and at this writing there are six great-grandchildren. They also raised a niece, Sharon, daughter of Arthur Benoit and Mary Jane Sauve.



Ernest Huot and Emma Benoit wedding.

STEVEN AND PATRICIA HUOT

Steven Allen Huot was born at Minot, North Dakota, on September 14, 1951 to Allen Huot and Faith Zutz Huot. He was raised in Red Lake Falls attending St. Joseph's and Lafayette schools graduating in 1969. He continued his education at Bemidji State College, Northland Junior College and Moorhead State University.

Steven Huot married Patricia Beyer in 1973. Patty was born June 18, 1951, daughter of Irving Beyer and Adeline Weiss Beyer. She attended the Dorothy School through the sixth grade and graduated from Lafayette in 1969. She entered the Swedish Hospital School of Nursing in Minneapolis graduating in 1972, and was employed in Moorhead until her marriage.

Following their marriage, Steven and Pat lived in Roseau where he worked for Trailmaster, Inc. and she at the Roseau Area Hospital. When Trailmaster moved its headquarters to Red Lake Falls, Steve transferred to this city and they have lived here since. Pat worked at St. John's Hospital until the birth of Benjamin Grant Huot on December 2, 1974.

ANTTI HUOTARI FAMILY

The Antti Huotari family left northern Finland for America in 1902 and settled in Monessen, Pennsylvania, where he worked in the steel mill for about eleven years. He heard about the wonderful Minnesota land from an agent for the Soo Railroad who owned land around Plummer.

Some of his friends made a trip here to see for themselves and they came back with the news, that it was "out of this world." The grass grew so tall that you could only see the horns of cattle when they were in it. (This later proved to be cattail and swamp grass.) These men, August Kaakkonen, Thomas Maatila, Peter Kahkonen, and John Nurmi bought tracts of land. They had Peter Kaakkonen start building houses on the tracts, so they had something to move into. Antti Huotari made a blind deal and bought a hundred and twenty acres in Garnes Township Section 19, and had a house built on it. In 1912 they moved to a house in the woods, sixteen by thirty-two with two rooms downstairs and one unfinished upstairs. The land was all brush and woods. They had to start from the door step to clear land, all done with the grub ax. They had to have water so while dad was busy with other things, mother started digging a well. She didn't finish the job but she started in the right place. It has taken care of the farm needs up to date.

Dad bought a team of horses. For a while we didn't have a barn, so they were tied to the wall of the house. Sometimes at night they would wake us up by pawing on the wall. The neighbors all had oxen. Once we were riding with Maattilas to a party, and it was hot and the flies were bad. The oxen went in the ditch filled with water to get relief. The kids were all crying when the water came in the wagon box.

The snowshoe rabbits were plentiful, and coyotes could be seen most any day. Their howling was an every night concert. There were few deer.

As there weren't enough Finnish people to support a local church, they had a minister from Duluth come once a month with services held at homes and in the school house. After about eight years, the other families that came with us went back east.

Antti Huotari died in 1948 at eighty years of age, and Mrs. Antti Huotari died in 1965 at ninety-two years of age.

They had six children: Helen, (Mrs. Christiansen) who died in 1922 at twenty-one years of age, Marie, (Mrs. C. Christiansen) lives in Superior, Wisconsin, Ann, (Mrs. Ben Weakley) lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, Lillian (Mrs. Jack Granholm) lives in Mesa, Arizona, Ray of Superior, Wisconsin, and Tom on home farm is married to Wilma Eskeli. They have one son, Russell.

RUSSELL HUOTARI

Russell Huotari, county commissioner of the fifth district, took office in 1970 and is presently serving his second term.

He is the son of Tom and Wilma Huotari and was born and raised in the Plummer area and graduated from the Plummer school.

In October of 1960, Russell married Lorna Peterson, daughter of the Leonard Petersons of Plummer, and they have continued to make their home in that community. Russell became manager of the Plummer Creamery in 1965 and is president of the Northern Dairy Council. He and his wife are active in the civic work of their

community and in their church, Immanuel Lutheran.

Russell and Lorna have three children: DeeAnn, age 13; Cynthia, age 11; Neil Allen, age 6.



MERVIN HYDE FAMILY

Mervin and Edna Blair Hyde and sons, Gerald (Karel) age thirteen and Dennis, fifteen months, came to the Brooks area in 1947 and located on the Berry farm, one and a half miles west of Brooks, which they purchased from Alfred M. Berry, retired mail carrier of Brooks. The family moved here from Neche, North Dakota. Roger, their son, was born in Red Lake Falls in 1953.

The Hydes are members of the Brooks-Plummer Presbyterian Church and the Local Farmers Union. Mrs. Hyde is a member of the Holly Hock Homemakers Club and the W.P.O., has served as a chairwoman of the Red Lake County Homemakers Council, the Ladies Aid, and the Holly Hock Club.

Gerald graduated from the Plummer High School, attended the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, enlisted in the navy during the Korean War, and is now with the Independent Life Insurance Company at Titusville, Florida. He married Bobbie Warren of Pelham, Georgia and they had three daughters, Sharion Kay, Tammie and Dawn. Bobbie Karel passed away in 1969, Gerald married Lorraine Frigel and she is employed at the Kennedy Space Center.

Dennis attended the Brooks school and graduated from Plummer High School and Moorhead State College and is with the Bankers Insurance Company of Fargo. Dennis married Colleen Tinkham of Fisher and they have twin daughters, Stacey and Stephanie. They live in Moorhead.

Roger graduated from the Brooks school and Plummer High School and is employed as a heavy equipment operator.

The Hydes sold their farm in 1973 and later purchased the Gordon Hofius farm south of Plummer where they now reside.



WILLIAM JACKSON

William Jackson and family moved from San Bernardino, California to Red Lake Falls in August, 1966.

He was hired by Independent School District #630 to serve as Elementary Principal at that time and continues to serve in that capacity.

He, his wife Donna, and children Kevin and Koni reside at 215 Hamilton Avenue. His residence is also known by many people as "the Brady house."

Kevin, who is presently attending Lafayette Junior High was born on January 17, 1963 in San Bernardino, California.

Koni, who is presently attending Washington Elementary School, was born on July 27, 1964 in Bemidji, Minnesota.

EDWIN H. JACOBSON

Edwin H. Skar was born on February 18, 1897 in Knute Township, rural Erskine, Minnesota to Elias and Helmine Gorvik Skar. His parents and a brother Einar, came to the United States from Norway in 1889. A brother and four sisters were born at Erskine.

After the death of his parents, Edwin was adopted by his godparents, Edwin and Louise Jacobson of rural Plummer, Minnesota. He attended school and was confirmed in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Emardville Township.

In 1918 he enlisted in the Army. After his return from the service he farmed with his father for some time before coming to Plummer. In 1921 he took over the Star Route to Rhoda from Ole Hemly. This was a forty-two mile route, and before this time there had been four inland Post Offices; Garnes (Gjernes), Grit (Havik), Lillo (Rolandson) and Rhoda (Singer). By 1921 all had been discontinued but Rhoda. Ed carried this route until it was discontinued in 1925, and a rural route started and this route was carried by Ed for thirty-two years until his retirement. The route had been extended from a thirty-two mile route to seventy-four miles in that time. Only three of the original box holders were still getting their mail on this route when Ed retired.

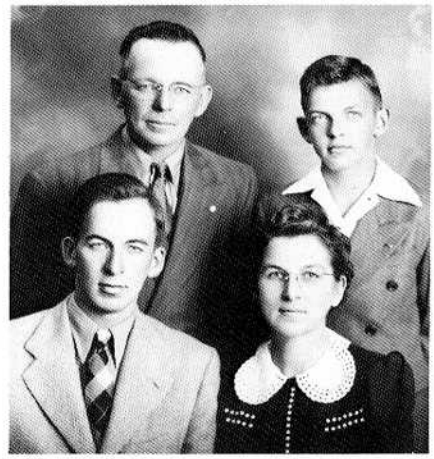
One of them when hearing of Ed's retirement said, "I don't know who will be replacing you, but this I'm sure of, he won't go through the hardships you did on this route."

Roads were very poor and often after heavy rains, became almost impassable. Cars, horses, and tractors were used, and sometimes it became necessary to walk distances to reach all the boxes.

In 1929, Ed built a "do it yourself" snowmobile from a Model T chassis, added reduction gear auxiliary axle, two wheels with track and two runners. This was a great help in getting through in snow, and too, he was often called upon after returning from routes, sometimes late at night, to make emergency calls, taking people to the doctor. Sometimes meeting the doctor who had started out and stalled, often to meet the midnight train from Thief River Falls to bring folks home, and many was the time he was called upon to get Mrs. Asp (a nurse) who was always willing to come whatever the time or the weather, a woman all the old timers remember with a great deal of love and respect.

Ed and I (Hilda Schjelderup) were married December 2, 1922. We have two sons, Roy and Norman, both boys graduated from Plummer high school and confirmed in the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Roy served three years in Maritime Service in World War II, and on October 11, 1947, married Mabel Lintvet, daughter of Amund and Gunhild Lintvet of rural Oklee. They have three children, Lyn Nell (Mrs. Thomas G. Carlson), Lee Roy, and Julie. Roy and his family live at Silver Bay, where they own and operate a hardware and building supply business.

Norman served four years in the Army and was a helicopter pilot, first at Thule, Greenland, and later in Korea. He married Audrey Holmes, daughter of Mrs. Hannah Blackwood of Floodwood, Minnesota on November 4, 1961. They have two daughters, Lisa and Amy, and make their home in Palos Verdes, Peninsula, California where Norman is employed with Hughes Helicopters.



Edwin and Hilda with Roy and Norman

LUDOLPH H. JAHNKE SR.

Ludolph H. Jahnke Sr. (1857-1928) was born at Lauenburg, Germany, the son of George L. Jahnke and Maria Helm Jahnke. On Christmas Day, 1880, he married Miss Elsie Meyer (1864-1925).

In 1888, they came to Minnesota with their three children, and for the first year lived in the Euclid-Sherrack area where his cousins, Ludolph Giese and Ernest Helm and his brothers, Ferd, Henry and John, were all living.

The next year he moved to Black River township where he rented the Schirrick farm. In 1890, he bought land in Red Lake Falls township, three and a half miles northwest of Red Lake Falls. Their first home was a log-sod house.

These early pioneer farm families worked hard all year. The summers could be hot, dry or humid, and the winters long and cold. No records were kept, so many events worthy of mention were lost.

There were thirteen children. Hugo and John died as youngsters. Elvina never married. Ludolph H. Jr. married Anna Rosch and operated a farm. Their daughter, Pearl, lives in Minneapolis.

Hannah married Albert Meyer, a farmer. In their family were Margaret (Mrs. Clifford Heigen) of Montevido, Myrtle, (Mrs. Peter Larson) Santa Maria, California, Gustave and Arthur. Carl married Charolette Lehrer. They had three children: Luella, (Mrs. Gustave Gerlach), Gertrude (Mrs. Oscar Peterson), and Wilfred. Carl farmed and did trucking.

Ferd married Ella Schultz. In 1975 they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Ferd farmed and in later years was a carpenter, but always he is an artist with wood. Their sons are Wilbur, of Vancouver, Washington; Russel, Mission Hills, California; Leroy, Seattle, Washington; and a daughter, Carolyn (Mrs. Kenneth Head) of Glendora, California. Elizabeth married Carl Wilkens. Their family, Harold, Ralph and Marian, make their home on the Iron Range, Hibbing and Chisholm.

Herman married Grace Westphall. He was an electrician. Their two children, Don and Shirley, live in Vancouver, Washington. Walter married Bernice Sargent. He worked for the elevator at Rapid City, South Dakota. Their son, Gary, lives in Gillette, Wyoming, and a daughter, Dona, lives in Rapid City. Olga married Emil Fredrick-

son, a salesman.

Margaret married William (Bill) Hunt, Our Own Hardware merchant here in Red Lake Falls. They had three children; Lois (Mrs. Donald Gullickson), Margaret (Peggy) (Mrs. Donald Steiner) Rochester, and William Jr. (Billy).

Wilfred married Joyce Suprenant. Their daughter, Shawn, graduate of University of Minnesota is a Director of the Senior Citizens Center in Plainville, Connecticut. Wilfred works on road construction; Joyce was a teacher in public and parochial schools.

Here in Red Lake County we have seen the worst of times, as well as the best. We are in our 50's and can reminisce selectively. We prefer to remember the good times.



Johannecks 1953. *Front:* Gertrude, Edward, Mr. and Mrs. Johanneck and Leona. *Back:* Frances, Sylvester, Agnes, John Jr., Raymond, Evelyn, Clem and Eleanore.



FRANK JEFFERS

Frank Jeffers was a prominent figure in the early history of Red Lake County and in the political life of this area. Mr. Jeffers was born April 17, 1870 at Richland, Rice County, the son of Michael and Mary Jeffers, and came with his parents to Polk county in 1880 residing near Crookston for three years. He married Marcellean Rose in 1895 and also taught in the Terrebonne School.

When Red Lake County was organized by being set off from Polk county in December 1896, he was appointed the first rural superintendent of schools, which office he held until 1900 when he filed for, and was elected to the office of register of deeds, an office he held until he resigned in 1926.

Frank Jeffers was a lifelong Democrat (Populist) and was associated for several years with Chas. E. Boughton, Sr. in the ownership and publication of the Red Lake County Courier which they bought in 1898 and later sold to John E. King to be consolidated with the Gazette. In 1926 he moved from the city to become associated with the Minnesota Wheat Growers Association. He was later employed as secretary of the Montana State Farm Bureau, then with the Federal Farm Board and later with the Northwest Grain Growers organization. He died March 4, 1936 while making a speech in St. Paul.

JOHN JOHANNECK, SR. FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. John Johanneck came to live in this area in 1911 from Wabasso. She was the former Elizabeth Zins.

The parents of both immigrated to the United States from Austria and Germany, respectively, about the 1870s. The old store still stands as an historical site in West Newton township, near New Ulm, Minnesota, where Mr. Johanneck, as a small boy, bartered butter and eggs for other groceries and clothing. A cave dugout in the side of a hill was the first home for him, his parents and thirteen brothers and sisters. Many stories of hardships, family experiences, rough winters and blizzards, horse runaways, Indian and gypsy episodes were told over many times. Mrs. Johanneck recalled the time she was kidnapped by a band of gypsies; they were down the road several miles before she was missed and her father, on horseback, caught up to them to rescue her.

The Johannecks were married in Wabasso in 1903. They lived there seven years: he was employed at the flour mill, then as city policeman. The song, "The Old Lamplighter", always brought back memories to him, since lighting the street lamps one at a time each night was one of his duties as policeman.

Due to serious illness and the advice of his doctors to move north for his health, and since Mrs. Johanneck already had two brothers, the late Adam and Joe Zins, living here, they also decided to make it their next home and arrived here in the fall of 1911. Their first home was the former Arthur LaCourse house. He was first employed at the old tow mill which was then located near the present sportmen's park area. They moved to a farm in Red Lake Falls township three miles north and east of the city in 1916. Besides the farming operation he also worked with steam engine threshing rigs with the late Henry Weber, John Schmitz, Sr. and others. They resided on this farm for fourteen years, then after a four-year stay in Almena and Turtle Lake, Wisconsin, returned here to live on the former Chester Swain farm, now owned by Lawrence Kees.

After retiring in 1948, they made their home with their son, Sylvester, in Brown's Creek township. They both passed away in 1961, Mrs. Johanneck at the age of 79, and Mr. Johanneck at the age of 88. They and their family were members of St. Mary's parish, and later St. Joseph's parish here.

Members of the family include Edward, deceased since 1967, who farmed in Gervais township and was supervisor of the township board for several years; Raymond, who farms also in Gervais township; Gertrude Molitor, housewife, Cold Spring; Eleanor McBryde, housewife, Coos Bay, Oregon; Agnes Fecteau, housewife, former grade school teacher in Red Lake county and recently bank teller in Two Rivers, Wisconsin; Sylvester, farmer and Brown's Creek township supervisor, is a veteran of WW II, served in the Air Force as a gunner on a B-25 in the Pacific Theater of operation, and has been county chairman of the National Farmers Organization for eight years; Clem, Red Lake Falls, employed by American Crystal in Crookston; Evelyn, on the farm in Brown's Creek township, active in NFO, also worked as bookkeeper and at the Hanford, Washington atomic plant during WW II; Francis Marcotte, housewife and employed at Hillcrest Nursing Home; John, Jr., served in the navy for four years during WW II, is now a heavy equipment operator and resides in Oak Creek, Wisconsin; Leona Boughton, housewife, also office worker, Woodland, Calif. There are 44 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

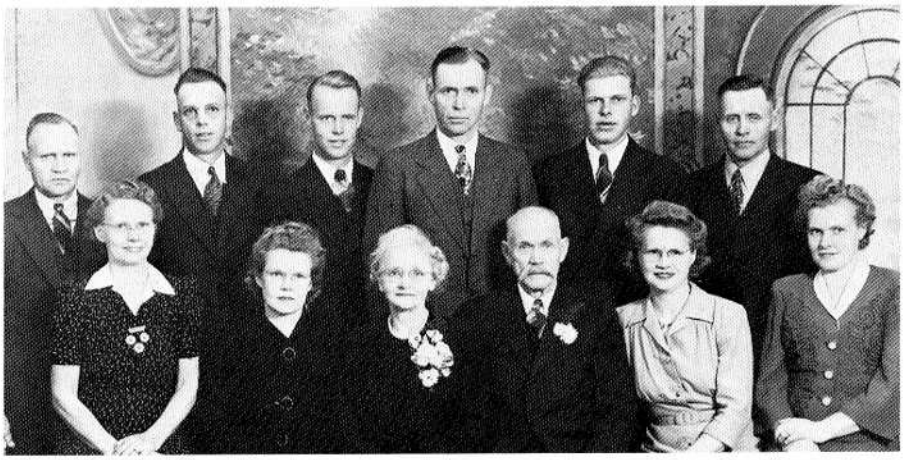
HERBERT JOHANNECK

Herbert Johanneck, Alderman of the First Ward in Red Lake Falls, is presently serving his third year on the city council.

Herbert was born March 13, 1940 to Ray and Gladys Johanneck on the former Nimesgern farm, later owned by A. W. Opheim. He attended St. Joseph's and Lafayette schools in Red Lake Falls. In 1958 he joined the United States Navy taking his basic training in San Diego, California, and aviation school in Oklahoma and Tennessee. The remainder of his service years were in Beeville, Texas as aviation metalsmith. After his discharge from the Navy and employment in several cities, he settled in Red Lake Falls in 1962 where he was employed at Detroiter Mobile Homes before he engaged in the plumbing and heating business. He also was a snowmobile dealer from 1968 to 1970.

In 1973 Herb began the manufacture of Whitestone Decor products, marketing the plaster statues, plaques and figurines to hobby shops and stores throughout the northern half of Minnesota and western North Dakota and expanding into an ever larger area. The factory is located in Park Addition in a new building east of the old Northern States Power Company plant.

Herbert Johanneck married Lois Peterson at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. They have three children, Tammy, Daniel and Donald.



Charly Johnsons 1946. Golden Wedding. *Back:* Melvin, Clarence, Leonard, Arthur, Otto and Albert. *Front:* Josephine, Gladys, Mary, Charly, Inga and Selma.

CHARLY JOHNSON

Charly Johnson, born on July 30, 1867, came to America as a young man from Skane, Sweden. His first job was manning a hand shovel digging in the sewer for the city of Duluth. His wage was a dollar a day.

Being interested in farming and especially in homesteading, he moved on to the Red River Valley. He worked for a number of years as a farm hand in North Dakota at the Grandin farm during the summer and cared for the horses during the winter months.

Mary Anderson, who later became Charley's wife, was born on December 12, 1873. At the age of eighteen she emigrated from Sunsdahlen, Norway. Mary worked at the hotel in Fertile for six years. After their marriage they farmed in the Maple Bay area near Woodside. Charly's yearning for homesteading brought him to Red Lake County in 1901 with a family of three children. They rented the farm on which Ray Rosten now lives, until the reservation opened up for settlement. The southwest quarter of section twenty-five seemed to satisfy his quest, so with nothing there but swamp and brush, he set about to build a homestead house and stable and, with his family and livestock, set up his headquarters. In later years he bought the rest of section twenty-five, but for years he farmed only one quarter of land. His farming was very diversified with chickens, turkeys, geese, pigs, sheep, cows and horses. A variety of grain was raised. Fly, the faithful mare, had a colt each year to furnish the power needed for the farm work. Bill is remembered as perhaps the favorite of all her colts. He served faithfully for twenty-eight years. Oxen were used, too, during those first years of farming. Dairying was, perhaps, the main source of income. Cream was at first brought by horses to Plummer, and Charly was among the first patrons of the Oklee Creamery.

Life on the homestead was anything but easy. With no drainage, the land was swampy and often because of floods, grasshoppers, hail or other reasons, the crops were often meager. Then Charly would find it necessary to take a team and go to the harvest fields of North Dakota to earn two dollars a day to help tide the family over the winter months. In 1910 the barn was built with lumber hauled by team from St. Hilaire, the closest saw mill. Cost of lumber was three dollars a load.

School and church services were at first held in homes. Later District 33J was built. Early teachers were Jane R. Tuff and Martin O. Hanson. The first church in the area was the Salem (Garnes) Lutheran Church. But later the Ebenezer church was built and to this we belonged. Reverend Kolstoe, our first pastor, served the people well and patiently. Mary Johnson told of his stopping by for a cup of coffee while on his way to Malone (Austad's Place). Because there were no roads and the ground was wet and swampy, the Reverend had his trousers rolled up to his knees with his shoes and stockings hung around his neck. It was a common occurrence to have babies baptized in the Johnson home at Ladies Aid Meetings. There were no hospitals nearby and no doctor on call, so the neighbor ladies helped one another whenever a new baby was born or when there was sickness in the family.

Pastor Leirfallom and Reverend J. K. Lerohl were pastors who served the family for many years. Many of the children of the Johnson family were confirmed and married by one of these two pastors.

The first mail service was from Garnes, but there was no delivery from there and the mail had to be called for. Mrs. Hemly was mail carrier from Plummer. She faithfully brought the mail with a team of horses. Her route took her east to Rhoda (Singer's Place) where she changed her team of horses for a fresh team, then continued on to Plummer. Later the postoffice was at Rhoda and then Oklee.

Threshing of grain in those days was something to remember. Mostrom with his stationary steam engine (pulled by horses) had the first threshing run. Later Klove and Ed Anderson had a steam engine and threshing rig. Knut Anderson and Frank Linder threshed the run for many years. Big crews were needed to maintain the rig and the women had to plan and prepare for days to feed them. With no refrigeration, this often caused hardships.

Ten children were reared in the Johnson home of which all are living at the present time: Melvin Johnson (b. 1898) now lives on Charly's homestead farm; Josephine Boyd (b. 1901) lives in Northwood, Iowa; Arthur Johnson (b. 1902) lives in Plummer; Selma Nelson (b. 1906) lives at Zahl, North Dakota; Clarence Johnson (b. 1909) lives near Oklee; Gladys Magnell (b. 1912) lives in Belle Fourche, South Dakota; Inga Linder (b. 1914) lives in Plummer; Leonard (b. 1917) and Otto (b. 1920) Johnson are farming north of Oklee and Johnny Anderson (b. 1923) lives in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

The Charly Johnsons celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the Ebenezer Church in 1946. All of their children were in attendance.

On February 1, 1949, Charley Johnson passed away. Mary lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Linder, for twenty-one years. At the age of ninety-seven, Mrs. Johnson died. The family burial plot is at the Ebenezer church north of Oklee.

CLARENCE JOHNSON FAMILY

Clarence Johnson, son of Charlie and Mary Johnson, and Leah Magnell, daughter of Carl and Betsy Magnell, were married June 29, 1935. They began farming in Garnes township not far from where their parents had homesteaded in the early 1900's. From 1935 to 1946 they owned and operated a 240 acre farm 8 miles north of Oklee. In 1946 they purchased a 400-acre farm one mile west of Oklee in Lambert Township. They farmed there for 27 years. In 1973 Clarence retired from active farming and purchased a house and 80 acres of land a half mile north of Oklee in Garnes Township where they are presently living.

Their farming operation consisted mainly of small grain crops. In the first years of farming they also had dairy cattle. Clarence did custom threshing in earlier years and later custom combining. Clarence also did carpenter work in the immediate area and in California.

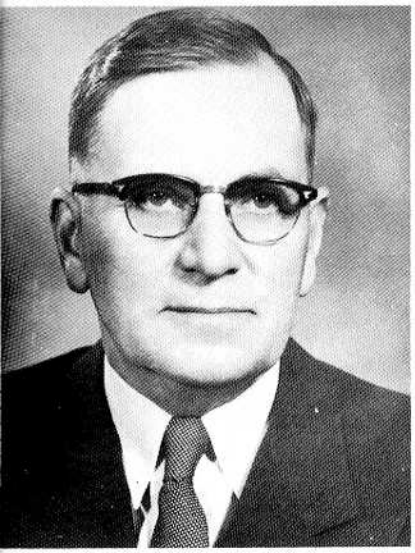
Clarence and Leah have spent many winters in the South. Over 20 winters have been spent in the San Diego, California area. They owned property there for several years.

Clarence and Leah have two children and two grandchildren. Lyla is married to Verdell Rice of Fertile, Minnesota and presently lives in Huron, South Dakota. They have two children. Curtis is married to Carol Dinges of Casper, Wyoming and they presently live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

OTTO JOHNSON AND ETHEL BURMAN JOHNSON

Otto Johnson and Ethel Burman were married in December of 1948 and live four and one-half miles north of Oklee on the former Ingvald Husby farm which they bought in 1950. Otto and Ethel have lived in Red Lake County all of their lives. Otto spent four years in the U.S. Army in World War Two and has since been active in farming. Ethel has taught school in country schools and has also worked for the Inter-County Community Council for four years.

The Johnsons have five children: Betty Lou, a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a degree in Home Economics Education. She is married to Milton Leiran of Thief River Falls and they live at Hopkins, Minnesota. The Leirans have a daughter, Heather Colleen; Marlene Joy is a graduate of Moorhead State College with a degree in Accounting and is employed by Pete Marwick and Mitchell Accounting firm of Minneapolis. She is married to Daniel Bourdage of Grand Rapids and they live in Bloomington, Minnesota; Charlie Allen attended the vocational school at Thief River Falls in 1971 and 1972 and since has farmed with his father. He married Lora Jean Laniel of Brooks and they live in Oklee; Mary Robyn and Brenda Jo live at home and attend school in Oklee.



WALTER JOHNSON, BANKER

Walter Johnson was the banker in Red Lake Falls for more than 30 years. The family moved to Red Lake Falls in 1933, when he and his associates moved their bank from Middle River, Minn. and renamed it the Red Lake County State Bank. He was the active manager of the bank until the bank was sold to O. B. Gjerdingen and O. P. Gjerdingen, bankers, who moved to Red Lake Falls from Winger.

During his active years he was influential in promoting new industries and progress in Red Lake Falls. He was a director of Alma Trailer Co., Steelman Products Co., and director and treasurer of the Garden Valley Telephone Co. for many years until ill health forced him to resign in 1970.

Walter Johnson was born June 14, 1895 in Muurasjarvi in central Finland. The family came to the United States in 1906, residing briefly in upper Michigan before homesteading near Cromwell, Minn. He left the farm early, managing a co-op store in his teens, then working for the bank in Kettle River. He was a partner in a lumbering operation for a few years, then returned to the Kettle River bank. In 1929 he joined in starting a bank in Middle River, which was moved to Red Lake Falls in 1933. He died in 1971 and is buried in Red Lake Falls.

Mary Mattson was born January 2, 1896 in Automba, Minn. (The family later moved to New York Mills.) She married Walter Johnson in 1917 at Moose Lake. She died in 1948 and is buried in Red Lake Falls.

Walter married Lucille Pinsonneault of Red Lake Falls in 1951. She survives and lives in the Johnson family home in Red Lake Falls.

Walter and Mary Johnson had two children. Edmund was born November 5, 1918 in Superior, Wis. (while the family were refugees from the October 1918 Cloquet forest fire which had burned out Kettle River.) He was graduated from Lafayette high school in Red Lake Falls, and studied aeronautical engineering and journalism at the University of Minnesota. He was a pilot and radar instructor in the Army Air Forces in World War II, worked on newspapers in Minot and Fargo, North Dakota, then spent 15 years in the advertising business in Minneapolis. Since 1969 he and George Christie have owned weekly newspapers in Mora and Braham, Minn.

Ed married Lillian Christie in Red Lake Falls in 1941. They have three daughters: Christie (Mrs. Stephen Coffin), an architect on the faculty of the University of California of Berkeley; Julie, teacher at New Trier high school, Winnetka, Ill.; and Leslie, student (class of 1976) at the University of Minnesota in Duluth.

Bernice Johnson was born July 17, 1921 in Moose Lake, Minn. She was graduated from Lafayette high school and the University of Minnesota as a public health nurse. She served as an Army nurse in World War II and married John Hendrix of Fulton, Mo. in Europe. John operated Hendrix and Johnson implement company in Red Lake Falls from right after the war until 1974. Bernice worked as a nurse and high school teacher. They now live near Huntsville, Arkansas. There are six Hendrix children, all graduated from Lafayette high school: Mike, a pharmacist who worked for Dodds Drug in Red Lake Falls until moving to Alaska in 1975; Mary (Mrs. Mike Keating) an attorney in Virginia; Jane (Mrs. Steve Demarais), Foley, Minn.; Laurie (Mrs. Joe Winters); Tom, student at Wesleyan University in Connecticut; and Bob, also in Alaska.

HOWARD JOHNSTON

Frank and Alice Johnston came to Red Lake Falls in 1927 from Lancaster, Minnesota. Frank was employed by People's Auto Co., owned by Joe Helm, and Mrs. Johnston was a dressmaker. Frank died in 1943 at the age of sixty-three, and Alice died at age fifty-six in 1944. The couple had three children, Florence, Howard and Lucille, who were all born at Lancaster.

Florence had been married before the family came to Red Lake Falls and Howard (b. 1913) and Lucille (b. 1916) came here with their parents. Lucille married and moved from this area. She died in Minneapolis in March of 1975.

Howard worked as a projectionist at the local theater before starting his gravel business about 1937. In 1954 he established the Howard E. Johnston Insurance Agency and still operates both businesses. He was married in 1938 to Mildred Sorenson of Oklee. They had two daughters: Cleo (Cookie) was born in 1938. She was a 1956 graduate of LaFayette and lives in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, with her husband, Tom Hagen. Sandra, born in 1941 at Red Lake Falls, is a 1959 graduate of LaFayette. She lives at White Bear Lake, Minnesota with her husband, Erv Walhof, and three sons, Ross (b. 1967), Barry (b. 1970) and Reed (b. 1973).

Millie died in April of 1972. On June 1, 1974, Howard married Mrs. Evelyn Spears of Red Lake Falls.

GUNSTEIN AND SIGNE JORGENSON

One of the early pioneer families of Equality Township was the Gunstein Jorgenson family, who settled on their homestead in 1897. Gunstein Jorgenson was born December 9, 1868 in Getesdal, Norway. As a very young boy he came with his parents, Jorgen and Margit Odden Jorgenson, to near Fisher, Minnesota where his parents homesteaded, and here young Gunstein grew to manhood.

In March, 1893, Gunstein Jorgenson was united in marriage to Signe Langie. She also came from Setesdal, Norway arriving at Fisher in 1892, one year before they were married. They lived at Fisher for four years and then moved to Equality Township where so many of their friends and acquaintances had already settled.

Grandfather Jorgenson would take the train from Fisher to McIntosh, then go by foot to visit his son's family, a distance of about twenty-five miles.

Eight children were born to the Jorgensons. Jorgen and Margaret were born at Fisher and the others in Equality Township. Jorgen died at the young age of 20, in 1913.

Annie, Mrs. Steen Birkeland, died in 1929. Mrs. Margaret Gunstenson resides in Fisher; Mrs. Sarah Onsager lives at Northwood, North Dakota; and Mrs. Fritz Thorpe (Bessie) lives in Oklee.

The father, Gunstein, died in 1909 and the mother, Signe, in 1938.

Thilda, Ole, and Paul still live on the old Jorgenson homestead where they are engaged in grain farming and cattle raising.

JUNEAU FAMILY HISTORY

Edward Juneau, Sr. came from Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada with his wife (Marcelline Sauve) and four children, and on December 10, 1881, purchased a farm at Badger Creek now owned by Millard Dailey.

The Edward Juneaus were parents of ten children: Antime who never married, Zelia married George Dupont, Rosealba



Alcime Juneau Family 50th anniversary 1952. Joseph, Rose, John, Clara, Edward, Dorothy, and Alcime Jr. with father and mother.

married Wm. Dupont, Alcime married Georgianna Lefaivre, Victoria married Henry Vaillancourt, Aristide married Sarah Laniel, Marie (Sister Bertha), William who died young, Joseph never married, Roseanna married Emmerie Bouvier.

Edward Juneau sold this farm in 1889 and bought one in Garnes Township where they lived until he passed away in April, 1902. Mrs. Edward Juneau died in March 1901. His son, Alcime, married on April 13, 1902 and remained on his fathers' farm. Alcime was a farmer and lumberjack before he married. They lived in Garnes until 1908 when they bought a farm one and one-half miles east of Terrebonne near the Clearwater river, the homestead of the late Dr. Tessier. They lived there until 1927 when they moved back to the old homestead near Terrebonne. They retired in 1953 and moved to Red Lake Falls. Georgianna passed away December 22, 1959, Alcime passed away August 8, 1965.

The Alcime Juneaus raised nine children: Alcime 1903, Mathilda 1904, Isidore 1906, John 1908, Edward 1909, Dorothy 1910, Rosealba 1913, Clara 1916 and Joseph 1919.

Surviving are Alcime who is retired and resides in Oklee, Edward is retired and lives in Duluth, Dorothy recently retired from St. John's hospital and resides in Red Lake Falls, Rosealba is employed in Crookston, Clara of Downy, California, and Joseph farms near Terrebonne.



MELVIN KALBAKDALEN

Melvin Kalbakdalen and Gladys Fisher were married May 25, 1933. They lived in the Grafton, North Dakota area until April 1948 when they bought and moved to the farm formerly owned by Joe Carriere, east of Red Lake Falls. They are parents of six children: Maynard born in 1934; Jean in 1936; James in 1938; Marlys in 1939; Lowell in 1942 and Dean in 1950. The children all attended a little country school known as Badger Creek, District #27 until consolidation, when they were bussed to Red Lake Falls.

Maynard married Joan Ford on December 13, 1954 and they have six children; Robert now in the Navy, Debra, Gail, Jeffrey, Lisa and Daniel. Maynard works for the Soo Line Railroad and lives in Red Lake Falls. Joan works in the office at DMH Company.

In January, 1956, Jean married Leo Ogletree of Tucson, Arizona where they reside with their children; Lyle, Lynn, Laine and Valorie.

James married Joyce Waldal of Plummer on August 30, 1958. They have three children; Kathy, Timothy and Laurie. Kathy was born in Hawaii, during the time James was stationed there while in the Army. James is a telegraph operator in Thief River Falls and Joyce works at the Red Lake County State Bank. They make their home in Red Lake Falls.

Marlys married Gerald Audette, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Audette, on January 22, 1958. They had four children; Monica, John, Michelle and James. In 1971, Marlys and James were killed in a car accident as they were returning from a drive-in movie, just a short distance from their rural Mentor



Melvin Kalbakdalens. Sons, Jim, Lowell, Dean and Maynard. Daughters, Marlys and Jean.

farm home.

In December, 1961, Lowell married Margaret French. They were the parents of four children; Janelle, David, Kimberly and Scott. Lowell was program director and newscaster for T.V. Station KFVR at Bismarck, North Dakota where they were residing. Lowell also had a band known as the "Scottsmen". Lowell's wife, Margie, died of cancer on January 7, 1973 and on September 6th of the same year Lowell was killed in a motorcycle-train accident in Bismarck. The four children are making their home with their grandparents, the Melvin Kalbakdalens.

Dean, the youngest son, is a train dispatcher working with the Soo Line Railroad out of Minneapolis.

Melvin owns and operates his farm and Gladys works part time as a nurse's aide at Hillcrest Nursing Home. The Kalbakdalens are all members of St. John's Lutheran Church.

OTTO KANKEL

This history is taken from a 1902 book entitled "Compendium of History and Biography — Northern Minnesota".

"Otto Kankel, one of the oldest settlers, and doubtless one of the best known men of Polk County, is identified with the financial interests of that locality as a business man and proprietor of a fine farm. His home is at Fertile, where he has extensive Milling interests.

Mr. Kankel was born near Berlin, Germany, May 5, 1845 and was the fourth in order of birth of six children born to William and Mary (Nogel) Kankel. He became a millwright in his native land, and there also served three years in the German Army. He served in the war of 1866, receiving three bullet wounds. With a desire to better his financial condition he came to America in 1870 and after remaining eighteen months in Wisconsin he went to Watertown, Minnesota, where he obtained employment as a miller and remained thus engaged three years. He then spent two years in Alexandria and then located at Fergus Falls, where he worked for Ernest Buse. Later, in partnership with Mr. Buse, he erected a new mill near Fergus Falls. In 1878 Mr. Kankel became identified with Red Lake Falls and he and Mr. Buse operated the pioneer mill of that region. In 1880 he sold his interest to Mr. Buse and went to the Sand Hill River, where, about a half-mile south of the present site of Fertile, he and Mr. Sohler constructed a dam of logs in the river, and soon completed a grist and flour mill, fitted with a set of French buhr millstones. This mill had a daily capacity of about thirty barrels. In 1882 they erected a mill at Faith, twenty miles southwest. Mr. Sohler took charge of the new mill and Mr. Kankel remained at Fertile. In 1884 the Garfield roller mill was erected about one and a half miles west of Fertile, on the Sand Hill River; a mill was also put up in Caledonia, North Dakota, and in 1889 Mr. Kankel became sole owner of these four mills. He soon afterward disposed of all but the two Fertile mills. In 1893 Mr. Nick Hoss became a partner with Mr. Kankel in the milling business, and they now operate extensively. The Garfield roller mill is a frame structure, three stories high, fitted with the latest improvements in the way of machinery and has a capacity of one hundred barrels. The power is water, with a twenty-four foot head, and a twenty-six and one half inch turbine wheel. This water power is one of the finest small powers of the state. The old mill south of Fertile is now fitted for grinding feed, meal, buckwheat, graham and rye. In 1895 Mr. Kankel erected a fine residence near his old mill, at a cost of seven thousand dollars. It is modern throughout, with water works, and its equal will be hard to find in northern Minnesota. Mr. Kankel borrowed ten dollars with which to cross the ocean, and without other assistance he has gained a position among the substantial men of Polk county. He is the owner of five hundred acres of land.

Our subject was married in 1873 to Miss Lizzie Zieczer. Four children were born of this marriage, Charles, a miller of Ulen; Otto W., a practicing physician; Gustaf and Arabella."

Otto Kankel died in 1914.





Charles and Olga Kankel

CHARLES OTTO KANKEL

Charles Otto Kankel, born at Ashby in Ottertail county on February 2, 1875, was the only child of Charles O. and Elizabeth Newman Kankel. His father had come to the United States at age twenty-three in 1870 from Sandow, Germany, with a brother, Otto Kankel and was drowned in 1874 before Charles was born. His mother

died just three years later, leaving him an orphan. Charles made his home with relatives until he was eleven years of age, at which time he began to earn his own way.

He went to Caledonia, North Dakota, and there worked in the flour mill as an oiler and sweeper for one year. He worked in the Fertile mills for his uncle, Otto Kankel, until 1894 when he came to Terrebonne and invested his savings in the flour mill there. (see Terrebonne mill story)

Charles O. married Olga Foss at Fertile in June of 1899. Olga was born to Mr. and Mrs. A. Morvig at Madison, Wisconsin on November 13, 1879, and moved to Fertile with her parents when she was two years old. Olga, too, was orphaned, and raised by the Foss family. Following their marriage, Charles and Olga moved to a new home which he had built at the millsite in Terrebonne and the family lived there until 1912 when they moved to Red Lake Falls.

While residing in Terrebonne Charles served that district as a county commissioner; for twenty-eight years he was a member of the school board of Independent District #15 and from 1912 until 1918 he was a partner in the Hunt-Kankel Hardware Co.

The children born to Charles and Olga were Elizabeth (b. 1900), Mrs. G. C. Weigand; Arabelle (b. 1901-d. 1918); Carl (b. 1904-d. 1959) married Esther Ness; Ralph (b. 1905-d. 1908); George (b. 1910) married Edna Erickson; Lillian (b. 1912) married Stanley Eukel; Donald, died at birth.

Charles and Olga both suffered lingering illnesses before their deaths. He died in March of 1949 and she in 1950.

CARL A. KANKEL AND ESTHER NESS KANKEL

Carl A. Kankel who served the county as sheriff for seventeen years, took office in 1930 when he was elected on stickers over two other contestants and at that time was the youngest sheriff in the state and nation. He led a varied and interesting life (see feature) and was widely known and liked.

Carl was born to Charles O. Kankel and Olga Foss in 1904 at Terrebonne and moved with his family to Red Lake Falls in 1912 where he graduated from LaFayette High School in 1919. Carl married Esther Ness (b. 1909), daughter of Edward Ness and Christine Revdahl of Thief River Falls, in 1934. Two sons were born to them, David (b. 1935) (see history) and Charles (b. 1939).

Charles, a graduate of LaFayette High School and the University of North Dakota, served in the U.S. Army for eight years, two of them in Viet Nam. He is presently a civilian employee of the Army, writing courses for the Officers Training Program. Recently he completed his master's degree and is working toward a doctorate in psychology. Charles married Barbara Ronig and their children are Tonia, Rochelle, Kent and Charles Walcott. The family resides in Columbus, Georgia.

Carl Kankel died suddenly in November of 1959 and Esther continued to act as deputy sheriff and dispatcher, a job she still holds.

DAVID KANKEL AND SHERRY HINCE KANKEL

The families of both David and Sherry Kankel have been county residents since the early settlement here.

David (b. 1935), son of Carl Kankel and Esther Ness, has been a life-long resident of Red Lake Falls and graduated from LaFayette High School in 1954 and Bemidji State College in 1958. Sherry (b. 1936), daughter of Elmer Hince and Marie Wicks, was born in Equality township and raised in Oklee where she graduated in the class of 1953 from the Oklee school.

Following their marriage in 1959, they resided in Thief River Falls for two years before moving to Red Lake Falls.

At age 26 in 1963, David was elected to the office of county Auditor and at that time was the youngest person holding that position in the state. Similarly, his father, Carl Kankel, was also age 26 when he was elected county sheriff and was the youngest sheriff in the nation.

David has continued in his position as county auditor since that time and both he and Sherry have been involved in Church and community service.

The Kankel children are Kristen (b. 1960), Tracy (b. 1962), Nancy (b. 1963), Carol Jo (b. 1964), Erika (b. 1966) and Karl (b. 1969).

THE KAUPPILA FAMILY

Jacob Kauppila and Lempi Helen (Piikila) Kauppila, with sons John, George, Olaf and daughter Martha, came to the Plummer area from West Virginia and homesteaded on a farm in Emardville township in the spring of 1912.

As told to me by my mother they bought this land, sight unseen from a real estate salesman while they were still in West Virginia. Several families came together who had bought land here in this same manner. Asked why they came to Minnesota they answered that they were told the land was good and rich, similar to the land back home in Finland. However, they found there were no roads, so trails had to be made to get through, and the land was all woods, swamp, stones and very rough. Large areas of water had to be crossed if one wanted to go anywhere. Many a time shoes and stockings had to be removed while wading in the stretches of water and swamp just to go visiting the neighbors who lived only a couple of miles away.

Because of the hardships several of the families returned east soon after they came. My mother's family decided to stay and make the best of it. The first building erected was a two room log sauna because they could also live in it while the two story house was being built. It amuses me that while the sauna was strictly unique to the Finnish people then, in recent years it has become quite a status symbol among more affluent families! A well was hand dug and buildings followed, such as the barn. Then came the clearing of land, ditching for drainage and building of roads. Water, mosquitos and flies were three elements to put up with as well as the grass and peat fires.

Later Jacob Kauppila returned to the eastern states to work in the factories to make extra money to support the family. Mother was left here to take care of the family and livestock. About once a week she hitched our white horse named Baby to the buggy to make an all day trip to Plummer for the family necessities. In the face of all the hardships and adversities, my mother, who then was in her prime of life, had a will to conquer and achieved her goal. The older children would also have to work hard to help.

A school was built about three miles east of Plummer, District 234, and was commonly called the Finn school because the pupils were primarily of Finnish descent. All of us children had to walk several miles to school through swamp, water and during the winter months, through deep snow. The families had a social life that included meetings and parties and did a lot of visiting with the neighbors. My mother's family as well as all the other Finnish families, brought with them their staunch religious beliefs and soon began to hold prayer meetings in each other's homes. A preacher usually came about once a month to hold a formal service. A cemetery association was formed in the early years and is still in existence. The Young People's Society Hall was built and this is where Midsummer Festivals were held each year, a band was formed and practiced regularly here and later at dances and the parties that followed. Local cooperative activity was also begun in the early years and consisted mainly of groceries. It was started by a few families banding together as a purchasing unit to order their needed supplies directly from wholesalers. The first small building used as a store was located in my parents' yard. Later a building was bought in Plummer and the Plummer Co-op Store was started.

My mother was united in marriage to I. Willie Waha in 1920 and he died in January 1962. My mother was born in 1885, in Jalasjarvi, Finland. She came to America with her parents at the age of four. She died in April 1944.

Eight children were born to my mother's family. In 1917 diphtheria took two of mother's children just a few days apart. Martha Louise born 1909 died November 3, 1917; John Emil born 1904 died November 8, 1917. Also deceased are Elmer Ahti 1913-1932; George Leander 1906-1946; Arvo Iver 1920-1960, surviving him are his widow, Edna, and three daughters Karen, DyAnn and Cindy. Wiljo Albert 1916-1972, surviving him is his widow Ruth. Living is my brother Olaf Jacob Kauppila who was born in Charleston, West Virginia. He lives in Thief River Falls with his wife, Lila and seven children, Eugene, Robert, Janice, Gregory, Gordon, Sharon and Gloria.

Laina Marie Kauppila married Woodrow Ray Eskeli on July 20, 1943 and we live on a farm south of Plummer. We have four children; two daughters Evelyn and Glenyce and two sons, Rodney and Bruce.

Blessed is the memory of my mother's family.



, Laina and Woodrow Eskeli

DOUGLAS AND CAROL CASAVAN KEES

Douglas and Carol were born at Crookston and raised in Red Lake Falls. Their parents are Lawrence and Philomen Hoefer Kees and Lawrence and Eleanor Wieland Casavan, all of Red Lake Falls.

Doug and Carol attended LaFayette High School and both graduated in 1969. They were married on May 8, 1971 and have two children, Bradley and Tricia. Douglas is employed by the Kelly Springfield Tire Company in Freeport, Illinois and they make their home in Juda, Wisconsin.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kees

MICHAEL KEES FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kees were born in Germany. He was born in 1868 and she, the former Caroline Useldinger, was born at Remich Luxemburg in 1878.

Mr. Kees arrived in the United States at the age of seven and lived in Illinois one year before moving to Chilton, Wisconsin, in 1876. In 1888 he came to Red Lake Falls and settled on a homestead north of the city remaining here until his death in 1938.

Mrs. Kees, as a child came to the United States by boat with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gregor Useldinger. Her father had worked in a wine factory in Germany. They settled on a farm near Euclid, Minnesota, where she helped her parents with the farm work, driving teams of oxen, plowing, or putting in the crop. She later worked in a dress shop in Crookston, Minnesota.

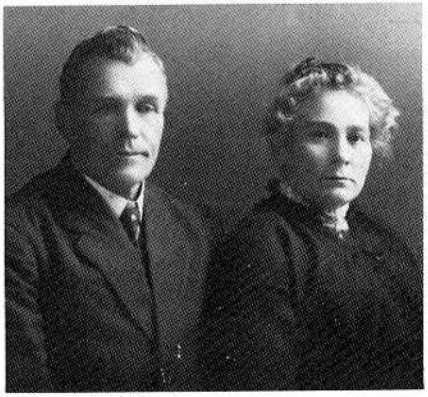
Michael Kees married Caroline Useldinger in 1899 in Red Lake Falls. Six children were born to this union. They are John, deceased, Anna (Mrs. Hubert Linnertz), Magdalene (Mrs. Lyle Kirschman), Joseph married Louise Schindler and lives on the home place. Lawrence, married Philomena Hoefer, and Bernard, who died in World War II.

Mrs. Caroline Kees, a Gold Star Mother, died at the age of ninety-six years and five months on November 25, 1974.

Caroline Kees was especially adept at working with wood and spent a great deal of her time, especially in her retirement, sawing and hammering out decorative shelves, yard figurines, and dozens of pieces of craft work.

JOHN KEIFENHEIM, SR. FAMILY

John Keifenheim, Sr. (b. 1859) came to America with his parents from Coblenz, Germany, when he was four years of age.



Mr. and Mrs. John Keifenheim, Sr.

The family first settled at Calvary, Wisconsin, and John Keifenheim, Sr. grew to manhood in the vicinity of Fond du Lac. From there he went to Wahpeton, North Dakota, to manage a bonanza farm.

On November 16, 1885, at St. John's Catholic Church, Wahpeton, he married Gertrude Lotzer, who had been born and raised in Chilton, Wisconsin. They resided in Wahpeton and Breckenridge for fourteen years prior to their moving to Red Lake Falls in 1899. They operated the Grandview Hotel for one year, and Mrs. Keifenheim was later employed at the Steinert Mill for several years. He also operated the Duffy farm just one mile south of Red Lake Falls for a number of years, and was employed as a patrolman for the Red Lake County Highway Department prior to his retirement.

In 1907, when rural mail delivery was first established in the Red Lake Falls area, John Keifenheim, Sr. served as the first mail carrier when he held a temporary appointment for a few months. He was succeeded by his son, John P. Keifenheim, Jr. who held the position for fifty-one years before retiring in 1959.

John Keifenheim, Sr. passed away in 1937, and Mrs. Keifenheim passed away at the age of 96, in 1961. She was one of the early residents of Hillcrest Nursing Home.

The couple had six children: Mary (Mrs. Milton A. Converse), John P. Jr., Edward, Josephine (Mrs. William D. Linnihan), Frances (Mrs. Carsten Mead) and Telesphore, who passed away at the age of 28 in 1928.

JOHN R. KEIFENHEIM, JR. FAMILY

John R. Keifenheim, Jr. was born in 1891 at Wahpeton, North Dakota, where the John Keifenheim Sr. family lived until 1899. They then moved to Red Lake Falls and remained here all their lives. John grew up here and in 1910 was married to Zelia Perusse.

John was the first rural mail carrier to be appointed under civil service in Red Lake County in February, 1908. Delivering rural mail in the early days was an arduous occupation with poor roads and severe winters to contend with. John had two teams of horses which he used in delivering mail, leaving Red Lake Falls at 8 A.M. and returning at three or four P.M. In 1934, he bought a Model T, the thirty-fifth car to be purchased in the county, and he used this in the summertime. In 1927, he sold his horses and used a snowmobile for winter delivery. He retired as a carrier in 1959 after fifty-one years of service. For sixty years he was a member of the Rural Letter



Mr. and Mrs. John Keifenheim, Jr.

Carriers Association and he received a citation and fifty year pin from the association in recognition of his many years of loyal service.

In 1909 he volunteered as a fireman and remained in the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire organization until 1947. He still bears scars received in a fire at the Ducharme home when a chimney collapsed on him. While disabled from that accident, he witnessed the burning of St. Joseph's Church in 1922.

John was an avid sportsman and hunter. At one time when the limit of ducks taken was fifteen and thirty in possession, he often got his limit.

Mrs. Keifenheim is an active member of the Royal Neighbors of America since 1912, and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. St. Joseph's Church activities and the annual bazaars found her to be a willing helper.

The John Keifenheims had four children: Vern married Margaret Troumbly and now lives in Grand Forks; Helen, Mrs. Lance Patchell of Seattle, Washington, Ruth who lives at home, and Lester, married to Marion Olson, living in Red Lake Falls.

In 1975, the John Keifenheims celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary. They are enjoying their retirement in Red Lake Falls.

EDWARD J. KEIFENHEIM AND LYNN KEIFENHEIM FAMILIES

When the John P. Keifenheim, Sr. family moved to Red Lake Falls in 1899, Ed J. Keifenheim was eight years of age. He and his brother, John, spent many boyhood hours herding cattle on horseback, these cattle being owned by the townspeople and driven to the countryside to graze during the day.

The Keifenheim home for many years was on 4th St. where the addition to Lafayette School is now. Ed operated various businesses as a young man, among them a harness shop and bowling alley, and was an extremely avid baseball player. He managed several teams, some of them traveling teams, and for a time played for a semi-professional league.

He married Ednah Gray in Red Lake Falls in October, 1913, and their home throughout the family's growing-up years was on the corner of 6th and St. John's avenue, since then torn down. They owned and operated a grocery store for many years, and also did some farming. Besides playing baseball until he was up in years,



Ed and Ednah Keifenheim

another of Ed's hobbies was playing trombone and he was a member of the Ninth District American Legion Band until shortly before his death in 1968. Mrs. Keifenheim died in 1971.

Ed and Ednah Keifenheim were the parents of five children: William of Fergus Falls, Edward Lynn of Red Lake Falls, Shirley (Walach) of Los Angeles, Donald of St. Paul, Marjorie (Sullivan) of Minneapolis.

The Lynn Keifenheim home, which they built in 1966, is across the corner from the site of his boyhood home. After working in his father's grocery store following high school, Lynn began work at the Red Lake Falls post office as a clerk in 1939. He joined the National Guard and spent the years from 1940-1945 in active service with the United States Army, attaining the rank of Captain.

In April, 1945, at Plummer, he married Marion Gerardy, who had been employed at Moorhead. After his discharge from the army in October of that year, they returned to Red Lake Falls where Lynn resumed work at the post office, and also continued schooling with the Reserve and National Guard units, retiring with the rank of Major. In 1959 he was appointed to a rural carrier position with the post office.

Lynn has been active in most organizations in the city and has held offices in many. Projects to which he contributed a special amount of time and labor were the Riverside Arena, and the installation of artificial grass greens at Oak Knolls Golf Course. Marion also has been active in several organizations. At present Lynn is President of the St. John's Hospital Governing Board, and is a member of the Centennial Committee.

Marion and Lynn are the parents of six children: Jim of Minneapolis; Gary (wife, Mary) of Elk River; Carole (Mrs. Volker Hennig) of White Bear Lake; Patrice of St. Paul; Bruce, a graduate of Moorhead State University; and Charles, a student there. They have one grandchild, Erich Hennig who is a year old. The family always enjoys coming back to Red Lake Falls to see the places and people, and to reminisce their childhood days here.

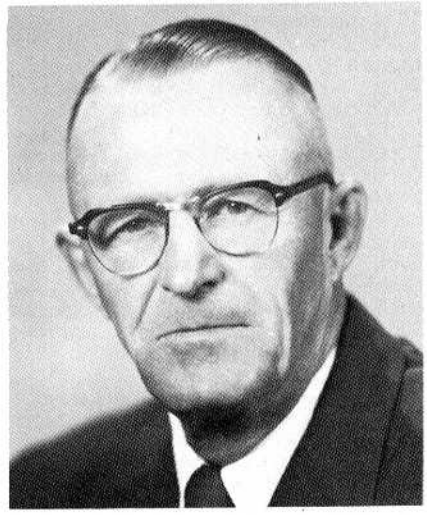
EDWIN F. KILAND AND FAMILY

Edwin F. Kiland came to Red Lake Falls in 1925 to teach latin, geometry and other academic subjects at Lafayette High School at a salary of $1440.00. He was born on June 17, 1893 at Willmar, the son of Norwegian emigrants, Ole and Gusta Knudson Kiland. He was graduated from the Willmar Seminary in 1913 then attended Luther College at Decorah, Iowa where he earned a B.A. degre in 1917. After teaching briefly at Sheldon, North Dakota, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and saw active combat duty in France and Germany during World War I. Following marine service, he taught at Sheldon, Hettinger and Elgin in North Dakota and at Grove City in Minnesota. In addition to his teaching he was High School principal at Sheldon and Grove City and superintendent at Elgin.

In 1926, in addition to a full teaching schedule, he became principal at Lafayette High School and continued in this capacity until June, 1938. His salary as principal in 1926 was $1530.00. For a number of years, he assisted with coaching football teams through some very successful seasons. There was no financial support for athletics from the school budget. Facilities and equipment were limited. Various fund raising activities helped to support the athletic program and dedicated faculty like superintendent, J. A. Hughes and principal Edwin F. Kiland made football possible. The salary of this high school principal and teacher edged upwards to a peak of $1700.00 in 1928 and remained stable until 1933. The depression was then being felt in Red Lake Falls, unemployment was high, some banks failed and many taxes were delinquent. School budgets were reduced and a 15% cut brought his salary to $1445.00 where it remained until 1937 when it was raised to $1500.00, his final year of teaching in Red Lake Falls.

On August 8, 1932, Edwin F. Kiland was married to Anne E. Jensen, the daughter of Matthias and Olive Jensen. Anne was born on April 22, 1904 at Rushmore, and as a child moved with her family to a farm in Louisville township, in Red Lake County. She was a graduate of the Crookston Business College in Crookston, and for a number of years was employed as bookkeeper and stenographer by the Healy Land Company of Red Lake Falls. During World War II, she served as county chairman of Red Cross War Production Relief. Anne was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. Mary Lou, born on September 15, 1944, was adopted by Edwin and Anne on November 6, 1948. Anne died on August 1, 1949 at 45 years of age.

Though a dedicated classroom teacher with a profound interest in all his students, in June 1938, Edwin F. Kiland resigned from his position at Lafayette High School to look for work that was less demanding and financially more rewarding. After two years as the representative of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S., he was appointed in March 1940 to be the first project superintendent for the Red Lake Electric Co-operative Inc. Small rooms in the basement of the Healy Land Co. housed the office and was the base of operation at that time. Rural residents were being signed up to request electric service from the co-operative. Many were reluctant, not believing that electricity, could in fact, be made available to the farming areas at a cost that they could afford. The publication of their own newspaper was started with the appropriate and catchy name "Volts and Jolts" coined by Mr. Kiland. In October 1942 he left the Red Lake Electric Co-operative Inc. to accept an appointment as rural mail carrier serving Rural Route No. 2 out of the Red Lake Falls Post Office. Later, following the consolidation of mail routes, he served R.R. No. 4. Following 21 years as a rural mail carrier he retired on June 29, 1963.



"Ed" was proud of his Norwegian ancestry. He spoke the language fluently, subscribed to and thoroughly read the Decorah-Posten, a weekly newspaper published in Norwegian, in Decorah, Iowa. He made four trips to Norway where he visited relatives in the homeland of his parents. He loved to talk about the Kiland Fjord and the beauties of Norway. In addition to the Norwegian language, he had studied French and German and was able to communicate with resident allies while serving with the marines during World War I. This frequently resulted in hand-outs of food from residents. A loaf of fresh bread was a welcome supplement to the sometimes meager field rations.

He served as adjutant and as commander of the American Legion Gunder Austad Post No. 22. He was Red Lake County Chairman of the U.S.O., and was a member of the Red Lake County Draft Board. He was a member of Veterans of World War I of U.S.A. and worked in various capacities for the Red Cross. He was the first scoutmaster for the Red Lake Falls Boy Scouts, served on the School Board of Ind. District No. 5, was an active member of Bethany Lutheran Church and a member of Masonic Lodge 308 of Red Lake Falls.

He was faithful to his alma mater, Luther College, and seldom missed a homecoming. At homecoming in 1967 he was present to celebrate the 50 year reunion of the class of 1917.

"Ed." maintained a keen interest in sports. Many years he took a few days of his vacation to attend the Minnesota State Basketball Tournament. He was a Minnesota Twins fan, went to games when he could and attended the Twins World Series games played at Metropolitan Stadium in 1965, but football was his favorite spectator sport. He was loyal to both the Vikings and the University of Minnesota and was on hand to watch Minnesota play in the Rose Bowl. He enjoyed a good game of golf and looked forward to the opening of hunting and fishing seasons each year.

On June 17, 1956, Edwin F. Kiland was married to Alice Cockerill in St. Paul. That fall they built a new home at 421 Chicago Ave. SW in Red Lake Falls.

Following a period of failing health, he died at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester on January 19, 1971 at 77 years of age and was buried at his boyhood home of Willmar.

Mary Lou Kiland, born September 15,

1944 was adopted as an infant by Edward T. and Alma Rogge Kiland of St. Paul, not related to Edwin F. Kiland. Soon after Alma's sudden death in 1947, Mary Lou was brought to Red Lake Falls to be cared for by aunts Esther Rogge Lonson, Melba Rogge Rose and Mattie Rogge. On November 6, 1948 she was adopted by Edwin F. and Anne Jensen Kiland. Following Anne's death on August 1, 1949, Mary Lou, again without a mother, returned to St. Paul to live with Anne's sister and family, the Chester and Mabel Jensen Larsons. She attended school in St. Paul through the fifth grade then returned to Red Lake Falls to live with her father who married Alice Cockerill a year later.

Mary Lou was graduated from Lafayette High School in 1962 and entered Luther College of Decorah, Iowa that fall. Following one year of college she worked for two years as a technician at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. She then returned to Luther College and was graduated with a B.A. degree in 1968.

On August 28, 1966 she was married in the Bethany Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls to Phillip R. Johnson of Blanchardville, Wisconsin, also a student at Luther College. Following college graduation the Johnsons lived at Biloxi, Mississippi while Phillip was assigned to Keesler Air Force Base and on foreign duty in Thailand. At the time of his discharge from the air force Phillip held the rank of captain. While living in Biloxi their son Travis Kiland Johnson was born on December 9, 1969.

Following service in the Air Force, the Johnsons lived in Blanchardville, Wisconsin for a short time before moving to Madison, Wisconsin in 1972 where Phillip is employed in the office of the controller at the Affiliated Bank of Madison and Mary Lou is a technician and a member of the cardio-vascular team at the Methodist Hospital. Travis attends kindergarten in Madison.

As an adult, Mary Lou was adopted for the third time by Alice Cockerill Kiland on December 20, 1971.

Alice Cockerill came to Red Lake Falls in January 1937 to teach home economics at Lafayette High School for a salary of $105.00 per month.

Alice Cockerill, the daughter of Wm. H. and Emma Sagar Cockerill, was born on June 8, 1909 near Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Following graduation from high school at Rice Lake in 1927, she attended Stout Institute at Menomonie, Wisconsin, (now, University of Wisconsin, Stout) receiving a B.S. degree in 1931.

Her first teaching was in Superior, Wisconsin where she taught home economics at the Vocational School and at several junior high schools. During this period, banks closed all over the country, some Superior banks did not reopen. Salaries were cut drastically then teachers and other municipal employees were paid with local script that was redeemable when city funds were available. Exemptions were made if one had proof of a pressing need such as an insurance premium that was past due, but U.S. currency was scarce.

Though hired to teach home economics at Lafayette High School, other classes were added to make a full teaching load. In 1937 and for several more years this was biology. Later, it was junior high art. Physical Education classes were held in the Community Hall. All the girls taking phys. ed. were in one large class and a second teacher helped in getting the girls to the hall, through the showers and back to



Alice Kiland

Lafayette. One year, Miss Cockerill was that assistant. During these years, all high school teachers had some extracurricular responsibilities. Alice Cockerill coached declamation and assisted with some of the plays. She also supervised the very limited school lunch which began during these years. One hot food such as cocoa or soup was available at a minimal cost. The food was prepared in the home economics department by a part-time cook and served in the study hall. (now the library) Pea soup was the favorite dish served.

In 1943 she resigned from the position in Red Lake Falls and that fall began teaching home economics and supervising the school lunch program at Benson. While teaching at Red Lake Falls and at Benson she attended summer schools and in 1947 earned a M.S. degree from Stout Institute at Menomonie, Wisconsin. In 1948 she resigned from the position at Benson to accept an appointment as Assistant Professor of Home Economics at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, North Dakota, continuing in this capacity, teaching textiles and clothing courses until 1956. During this period she served one term as vice president and a term as president of the North Dakota Home Economics Association and was active in Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Phi Upsilon Omicron, a home economics honorary fraternity.

After her marriage to Edwin F. Kiland on June 17, 1956 she returned to Red Lake Falls, planning to be a full time homemaker for her husband and an 11 year old daughter, Mary Lou. This was not to be. In the fall of 1957, a need developed at Lafayette and after an absence of 14 years she returned to teach home economics to the next generation of students. Many things had changed. Ind. Dist. No. 15 was then Dist. No. 630 and had expanded in all directions from Red Lake Falls. Former students, Neil Prenevost, Willard Purath and Kenneth Tischart were serving on the school board. A fleet of district owned school buses was transporting students daily. One addition had been built at Lafayette and another, to include a new home economics department, was being planned. Metal lockers lined the halls and cloakrooms were being converted to offices and other uses. The library had outgrown its space and had been moved to a larger room on the first floor, later the superintendent's office. An expanded school lunch program was serving a full noon meal and was located in the basement rooms where all of the commercial classes and some shop classes had been held. There were no more daily trips to the Community Hall as physical education classes, basketball, plays, concerts, the prom and other school parties were using the new gymnasium and stage facilities. The squeaks were gone from both main stairways. The single burner open coil hot plates were gone from the home economics department and the hollow square arrangement of tables had been changed to unit kitchens. Some modern equipment had been added, most treadle sewing machines had been replaced with electric models and visual aid equipment was being used. Spanish had replaced Latin in the curriculum. With the increased enrollment and more faculty, most teaching assignments were within a narrowed subject-matter area. A contract to teach home economics meant just that. Administrators were doing little or no teaching. With the exception of Lois Ludwig there had been a complete change in school personnel. This generation of students was different but in many ways similar to their parents in those earlier years. The children of Irving and Adeline Beyer could be spotted without a class list and the children of Pauline Seeger Knott all seem to have inherited their mother's smile. There were several married women on the faculty and Mrs. Ruth Cords was living in St. Hilaire and commuting daily. In earlier years married women and commuters were not permitted on the local school faculty. Yes, there were many changes in the Red Lake Falls Schools between 1943 and 1957.

In 1961, Alice Kiland retired from regular teaching but continued on a substitute basis for several more years. Gardening, home and family plus some travel and her participation in community and professional activities quickly filled the void that comes with retirement. She has served as a deacon and as an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Red Lake Falls and has been active in its Women's Association. For a number of years, she has been superintendent of foods at the Red Lake County Fair. She is a life member of the Minnesota Retired Teacher's Association and served a term as secretary of the Northwest Minnesota Division of this organization. She is an active member of the Northwest Minnesota Home Economists and is serving as treasurer of this group. She does volunteer work for St. John's Hospital Auxiliary and is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Gunder Austad unit No. 22. In 1972 she was appointed to a four year term as District VI Councilor (Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota) of Phi Upsilon Omicron, an honorary fraternity in home economics. On December 13, 1975 at the winter commencement of the University of Wisconsin, she was the recipient of the Stout Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Mrs. Edwin F. (Alice) Kiland continues to live at 421 Chicago Ave. S.W. in Red Lake Falls. From early spring until late fall, the days are never long enough to do all the things that she would like to do in her yard and garden.

PETER KILBURG

Peter Kilburg was born in Luxemburg June 26, 1851. He attended school there where he learned both German and French and studied the same subjects we do here in the United States. Peter came to the United States in 1875 on the steamship Egypt, one of the largest steamships of the day. It just missed hitting a giant iceberg on

this journey. After landing in New York, he came to Minnesota and settled in Wabasha County where he became employed and also attended school.

In 1879 Peter came to Crookston. He married Miss Maria Schnirch at Red Lake Falls in 1890 and settled on a farm in Black River Township, one-half mile east of Wylie which they homesteaded. They carted lumber for their buildings from Crookston using oxen. Mr. Kilburg was active in township affairs as treasurer of School District No. 43, member of the town board through the 1880's. Mr. Kilburg had become a United States citizen as soon as eligible and took pride in voting in all the elections. He read constantly and was well posted on affairs of the nation.

Maria Schnirch was born January 23, 1862 in Bautch, Austria, and came to the Red Lake Falls area in 1889 when she married Peter. They had two children: Peter Jr. and Clara, a teacher for 37 years, many of which were in Red Lake Falls.

Peter Kilburg, Sr. died in 1948 at 97 years of age. His wife Maria died in 1928.

CLARA KILBURG

Clara Kilburg, only daughter of Peter and Maria Kilburg, was born February 9, 1896 in Wylie, Polk Centre Township. She graduated from the Normal Training Department of the Red Lake Falls High School in May 1913. The instructor was Miss Sedate M. Brown and Edward I. Cooke was the superintendent of the school at that time.

In 1933 Miss Kilburg was graduated from Moorhead State Teachers College with the standard two-year diploma. She continued adding credits and attending summer school sessions to improve her vocation. She taught thirty-seven years, in Red Lake County in District 14 from 1913 to 1916, three miles south of Brooks where she stayed with the John Noyes family, also at District 88 from 1916 to 1918, and then to Solway where she was the principal, and in Red Lake Falls public schools from 1947 to 1958.

Clara Kilburg was a well known local artist and showed her paintings and landscapes in many of the local and surrounding area exhibits. She was also a member of the Red Lake Falls Garden Club.

Miss Kilburg died in 1973.

LAWRENCE KING FAMILY

Lawrence Paul (better known as Ned) King was born September 19, 1919, in Argyle to Wilfred King and Anna Bergeron King. He was baptized and confirmed in the St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church and was educated through the eighth grade in the rural one-room school nearby. As he grew to manhood in the great depression, he was sent to Civilian Conservation Camps instead of high school. When he was seventeen, he and a friend jumped a freight and went west seeking work. He had many interesting tales about the hobo camps. He was soon called home to help his father with the farming and returned to Argyle.

In 1940, Ned married Marguerite Morin, who was also born and raised in Argyle, where she graduated from high school. Her parents, Joseph and Azelia Gooler Morin, owned a grocery store and her father was also a carpenter by trade. They had two sons and a daughter: Paul, the oldest, died in August, 1974, Marguerite and Charles survive at this writing as both parents died before they were fifty years old.

Lawrence loved the land, and his heart broke when he sold his farm in Argyle (as it was too small for a good livelihood), and bought a section of land in Red Lake Falls Township, moving his family here in 1958.

Lawrence and Marguerite had seven children, the first born son dying on his first birthday from whooping cough. The six surviving children are: Nancy, became an LPN and later a surgical nurse, and married Joseph Gardner. They have three children, John, Ria, and James and live in Fort Meyer, Florida. Jerry, left college to enter the United States Navy, where he was trained in electronics and served for four years. He married Julie St. Marie and they have one daughter, Kathy. Jerry is an electronics engineer for Control Data and they live in White Bear Lake. Thomas, attended Moorhead State College and Bemidji State College and is now teaching and coaching at Indus. He married Carol Cota and they have a son, Brian. Alan, attended Thief River Falls Junior College and Bemidji State College before enlisting in the United States Naval Air Force and has also been trained in electronics. He had two tours of duty in Vietnam and is presently stationed in Virginia. Bonnie Gail, is married to Richard Knott and they have two children, Amy and Andrew. They reside in Red Lake Falls. Mary Jo, attended Thief River Falls Junior College and graduated from Bemidji State College in 1975. She married Terrence Schmitz.

In 1966, Lawrence moved the family to White Bear Lake where he was employed at Federal Cartridge and Marguerite worked for the State Highway Department and later at Honeywell. In September, 1968, Lawrence suffered a severe heart attack which took his life on November 4, 1968. As there were two daughters and two sons in high school and college at that time, Marguerite returned to Red Lake Falls to make a home for them. She went to work for The Red Lake Falls Gazette, a job she still maintains today.

Lawrence will always be remembered for his love of the out-of-doors. His favorite sports were hunting and fishing and his hobby was working on gun stocks or blueing the barrels. Many were the evenings he spent loading shells and exchanging hunting and fishing yarns with his friends.

SIDNEY E. KIRK

Sidney E. Kirk was born at Naigara, North Dakota in 1906, the son of Ernest Kirk and Anne V. Cunningham. He attended grade school at Niagara, North Dakota, High School at Larimore, North Dakota, and Architectural School in Chicago, Illinois. Because of bank failures, he was forced to discontinue his education and engaged in farming with his father and brother, Harvey. He has one sister, Dorothy Ann, living in Grand Forks, North Dakota. In the year of 1932, the Kirk family moved to the former Ferguson farm at Mallory, Minnesota, and continued to farm.

In 1936, Sidney married the former Verna Lutjen at East Grand Forks, and moved to the John Nisbet farm. In 1940 they adopted a son Freddie. The family moved to Louisville Township in Red Lake County in 1942 and continued to farm on the Kaiser Savard farm, located three miles south of Dorothy. In 1942 they adopted a second son, James. Because of his wife's poor health, he gave up farming and purchased the L. L. Hance Oil business at Dorothy, a distributor of Socany Vacuum Oil Company Products. The company is now known as Mobil Oil Corporation. His wife, Verna, passed away on July 3, 1946, and his son Freddie died one year later. On September 3, 1948, Sidney married the former Esther King at Detroit Lakes, and adopted her daughter Jacqueline, by a former marriage.

Esther King was born in Polk County in 1914, the daughter of John F. King and Mary O. Hunter. Her parents were some of the early settlers of Polk County, migrating from Canada to the Mallory Community. She was the ninth child of a family of ten. She has five sisters and two brothers still living, with the oldest sister being eighty-one years of age. Esther received her education in the Polk County school system and graduated from St. Joseph's Academy of Crookston, and the Victorian School of Beauty Culture in the year 1932. After her marriage to Sidney, they continued to live in Dorothy. On July 22, 1950 twins were born to them, a boy Jeffrey and a girl Jennifer. Jennifer lived only thirty-six hours.

The family has been active in Community affairs. Sidney Kirk was assessor for Louisville Township from 1944-1954, served on Dorothy School Board. From 1955 to 1971 he was one of the County Commissioners for Red Lake County, was appointed to the Northwest Mental Health Board in 1960 and still serves. In 1965 appointed to the Inter-county Community Council known as OEO and served as first Treasurer and still is serving in the same capacity. 1968 appointed to the Northwest Regional Library Board, 1970 appointed to the Northwest Tuberculosis Control Clinic and still serves. 1971 elected to the Midwest Minnesota Community Development Cooperation and still serves. 1975 elected Councilman for St. Dorothy Church. He served as agent for the Northern Pacific Railroad for twenty-four years and retired because the railroad was discontinued through Dorothy. He retired from Mobil Oil Corporation on February 1, 1971 after twenty-eight years of service. The family plans to continue to make their home at Dorothy and also own a lake home in the land of 10,000 lakes They feel it is a great place to live.

Jeffrey J. Kirk was born July 22, 1950 where he was one the first set of white twins to be born at the then, new, St. Francis Hospital in Crookston. He was educated in the Red Lake County school system. After high school he was nominated to the Air Force Academy at Colorado and also received a nomination to West Point, New York, but because of his eyesight, failed to pass. In 1970, he graduated from Corbett College, where he received a Liberal Arts Degree. He continued his education at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota, receiving a B.S. Degree in the field of Chemistry. On August 26, 1972 he married the former Rosalyn Rock, daughter of Lester D. Rock and Dorothy Huot. They moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota where he continues his studies in the field of Chemical Engineering.

Rosalyn, wife of Jeff Kirk, was born in 1951 in Thief River Falls. She graduated from Cathedral grade school and Mount St. Benedict High School. In 1971 she graduated from Corbett College in Crookston. She taught second grade for three years at the Sacred Heart Grade School in East Grand Forks.

Jacqueline Kirk was born in 1942 in Crookston. She graduated in 1960 from Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls,

and was employed by the People's Gas Company in Rochester. In 1961 she moved to Crookston, and was business manager for the Northwest Mental Health Center. On August 19, 1964 she married Robert F. Mercil, son of Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Mercil at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. She continued to work while her husband continued his education. Bob received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering in June 1967 from the University of North Dakota. He went to work for Westinghouse in Baltimore, Maryland as a field engineer. They have lived at Baltimore, Maryland, Orlando, Florida, Severna Park, Maryland, and Sunnyvale, California. They have two children, Jennifer Leslie and Nicole Marie.

WILLIAM KITZROW FAMILY

TRAGEDY: On Saturday, October 3, 1936, William (Bill) Kitzrow and his wife, Bertha Kitzrow were involved in an automobile accident. For Bill, it proved fatal. He was killed instantly when the car he was driving collided with a train at the railroad crossing near the Red Lake County courthouse. Mrs. Kitzrow was hospitalized for a broken pelvis until December 24, 1936. It was Arnold Zutz' sad duty, as a good friend of the family, to inform them of this tragic occurrence.

Bill and Bertha Kitzrow, nee Bertha Hess, were married at New Ulm, Minn. Bill's father, Charles Kitzrow came to this country from Mecklenburg, Germany. Bertha's father, Ernst Hesse, came from Strassburg, Germany. The German immigrants settled in the vicinity of New Ulm. Bill's parents homesteaded in Sibley County where Bill was born on January 29, 1872. Bertha Hesse Kitzrow was born on January 29, 1875. She died September 5, 1957.

The Kitzrow family moved to Red Lake Falls in 1913. They lived on the North side for about nine years, then took up farming in the Wylie vicinity, northwest of Red Lake Falls. Bill Kitzrow had many occupations; he dug wells, operated threshing machines, farmed and spliced rope for area farmers. Mrs. Kitzrow's brother, Henry Hesse, is still farming (at his ripe "young" age) northwest of Red Lake Falls.

During Bill's and Bertha's marriage, they had six children: Jerome, (born August 14, 1899, died April 25, 1973, in Florida) Jerome married Berget Fristad, who survived him and is currently living in El Jobean, Florida. They had no children. Jerome served in the Army for one year. Jerome farmed in Red Lake and Pennington Counties, and also ran and owned a Bait and Fish Supply Shop at Little Falls until he retired and moved to Florida. The name Jerome remained with him only while he was in Red Lake Falls and the vicinity. When he moved from Red Lake County he was known as Jerry. Lewis Zutz was a close friend of Jerome's.

La Reine Kitzrow Uran attended high school in Red Lake Falls for three years and graduated from Crookston High School. She taught school at Mahnomen where she met George Uran and married him. He died March 6, 1970 at El Jobean, Florida where they had established a winter home. His lineage is documented to William the Conqueror and the Chippewa Indians. The Urans farmed in Wylie vicinity and the Moorhead vicinity. George became Chief Engineer for a large downtown office building in Minneapolis, and La Reine worked for Sears in Minneapolis. La Reine is an artist and world traveler. She resides in Minneapolis in the summer and in the winter at Fort Meyers, Florida.

Waldemar Kitzrow, known in later years as Wally, farmed in Red Lake County and worked in Minneapolis. He moved to California in 1947, married Ruth Babb in 1955 and has one daughter, Terry, and one adopted daughter, Karen Green. He lives at 295 Cruzere, Ojai, California. At the present time he is garden farming, "You can take the boy away from the farm, but you can't take the farm away from the boy."

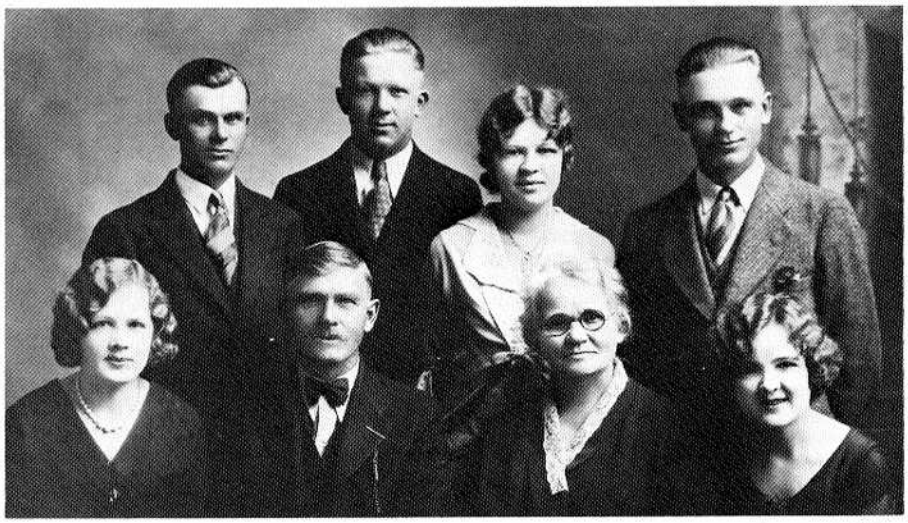
Elvira Kitzrow Becker married Lester Becker, a past farmer, pavillion owner, storekeeper and executive from Wisconsin. They have no children. Elvira keeps busy expressing herself through her artwork, painting life as she sees it and placing it on canvas in oils. The Beckers have a summer home at Route 1, Box 191A, Turtle Lake, Wisconsin, and a winter home at El Jobean, Florida.

Hildegarde Kitzrow Norsetter, completed grammar school at the Little Red School House, east of Wylie. She graduated from Nurses Training at Physician's Hospital in Thief River Falls and was employed at Oakland Park Sanitarium, Thief River Falls, for several years. She was then employed at the Community Hospital in Stoughton, Wisconsin, and also the Wisconsin State Sanitarium in Wales, Wisconsin. She and her husband, Howard Norsetter, have resided in Wisconsin since their marriage. The Norsetters have one child, Howard, Jr. and five grandchildren. Howard Senior, is manager of the Township Road Maintenance Department. Hildegarde is kept busy with their Christmas tree acreage and her arts, and painting, being a well known Rosemaler in her area. The Norsetters reside at Cottage Grove, Wisconsin.

Raymond Kitzrow, a professional Bachelor — (a rolling stone who gathers no *boss*), graduated from Lafayette High School, Red Lake Falls in 1930 under the direction of Supt. J. A. Hughes. Many sports fans know Raymond from his softball pitching ability. In a severe snow storm in the winter of 1931-32, Ruben Lehrer and Raymond had the sad responsibility of taking a team of horses and a bobsleigh through the storm to pick up Raymond's uncle, Bill Kuehn's body. He had died of a heart attack while walking to the Little Red School House, east of Wylie, to attend an election. Fred Weiss discovered Bill Kuehn's body, which by that time, was frozen. All the roads were snow blocked making access to the Kitzrow farm impossible. Two days after Raymond and his friend, Ruben Lehrer, picked up the body, the Coroner and Sheriff Carl Kankel, followed the snow plow up to the Kitzrow residence, to examine and take the body.

Raymond farmed in Wylie vicinity until the fall of 1941. The winter of 1941-42 was spent in Los Angeles, Calif. In May 1942 he enlisted in the United States Navy at Minneapolis. He was medically discharged because of asthma, and came back to Red Lake Falls, but not for long. When the snow came and the crows started flying South for the winter, he left for "sunny" California and made it his home. He graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce. Many of his friends said he didn't need to go to school to get a "B.S." degree because he had a "BS" degree for a long time before that. Next he enrolled at a night law school, South Western University. Attending three nights a week, he also worked full time for the Municipal Court at Long Beach, Calif., and graduated with a degree in Juris Prudence. After passing the California Bar Examination, Raymond was the City Prosecuting Attorney for two years, and then went into private practice. His present location is 9467 Garden Grove Boulevard, Garden Grove, Calif. He has a week-end home in Palm Springs, at 32890 Whispering Palms Trail, Palm Springs, Calif. and his residence is at Leisure World, Seal Beach, Calif. He is tired, but not retired.

P.S. — Support your local Attorney and send your kids to Medical School.



Kitzrow Family 1931. *Seated:* LaReine, William, Bertha and Elvira. *Standing:* Jerome, Raymond, Hildegarde and Waldemar.

HARRY AND CAROL KJAER FAMILY

We moved to Red Lake Falls from Roseau in July, 1963. Harry was employed by Detroiter Mobile Homes as an electrical maintenance man.

We have three children. Our oldest son, Curtis, lives with his wife, Julane, and daughter, Kristy, in Moorhead. Both Curtis and Julane are employed by Silverline, Inc. Our daughter, Shirley, is married to Vern Bregier, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bregier of rural Plummer. They have one son, Jason, and live on a farm near Plummer. Shirley is employed by Red Lake Electric and Vern by Detroiter Mobile Homes. Our

youngest son, David (our helper), is a Cub Scout and attends Washington Elementary School.

In 1968, we both started working at Arctic Enterprises in Thief River Falls. Harry was electrical maintenance foreman and Carol worked in the tool crib.

We lived in Oaks Mobile Home Court until 1970 when we purchased some lots from Clarence Marcotte in Kretzschmar's Addition and lived in a mobile home there. In 1972 we purchased The Spot on the North Side and moved into the upstairs apartment.

CHARLES KLEVEN FAMILY

In August, 1957, five Norwegians, Charles and Lucille Kleven and sons Courtney, Scott and John arrived in Red Lake Falls to make their home.

Charles had accepted a position as General Manager of Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Lucille is a registered nurse, a graduate of St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

The boys went through the Washington and Lafayette school system, guided all the way by dedicated people in church, school and community, and then on to college. We are all avid sports and music participants and enthusiasts.

Some of the offices held by Mr. Kleven are: President of the Commercial Club, School Board Director for thirteen years, Chairman Bethany Lutheran Church, Red Lake Falls Planning Commission, Scout Cub Master and serves on State Rural Electric Boards.

In the nineteen years we have been in Red Lake Falls, we have seen much growth and progress in the community and the increase of over 1000 member consumers of the co-operative in the four county area which it serves.

Lucille and Charlie make their home at 416 Main Street. Lt. and Mrs. Corky (Kathy Ford) Kleven are in Annapolis, Maryland; Scott, teacher and coach, lives at Crookston; and John, Office Manager at Thiberts, lives in Red Lake Falls.

It's a toss up, which has rubbed off more, the Norwegian on the French, or the French on the Norwegian? Whatever, we count our blessings and Red Lake Falls is the place we love and call home.

TOLLEF G. KLEVEN FAMILY

My grandparents, Tollef and Ingebjorg Kleven were only twenty-five years old and had been married a little over two years when they left the small community of Skafsa in Telemark, Norway and sailed for America looking for a better way of life.

As they embarked at Kristiana, Norway in the fall of 1890, they were expecting their second child in a couple of months, and were leaving behind their friends, relatives, and homeland, never to return.



Oscar, Arthur, Margaret and Selma Kleven, Tollef, Thorval, Olaf and Ingeborg.

My grandfather had a sister living near Glyndon, Minnesota, and they lived there a few years before the lure of free land brought them to Red Lake County about 1898. The farm he settled on and homesteaded was the Southeast of Section 17 in Equality Township, a few miles north of where Oklee is today and about a mile east of Gjermund Heggar's Homestead, who was my grandmother's brother. There were four children in the family at that time and they lived for several years in a very small house until they could build a larger one.

My grandfather had a dream when he came from Norway that someday he would go to Concordia College and study to be an English teacher. This dream was never realized, however, as the raising of eight children and clearing a homestead was a full-time job and so he never had the time or the money to go to school. However, Tollef did teach parochial school for many of the years he lived north of Oklee. He taught religion classes as well as reading and writing for a few weeks each summer in the Norwegian language.

My grandparents were members of Salem Lutheran Church which was only a couple miles from their homestead. Tollef was Precentor at the church for several years during which he led the congregation in singing. He also held the positions of church secretary and Sunday School Superintendent.

The children walked to the Sunny Side School a few miles north and most of the family's early supplies were bought at a store near the Grit Post Office a couple miles to the west. Before Oklee was established some of their supplies had to be purchased in McIntosh.

In the fall of 1920 the farm was sold and my grandparents moved to a farm south of Erskine. My grandparents' farm was later bought by Henry Christianson and it is owned today by Duane Cantwell.

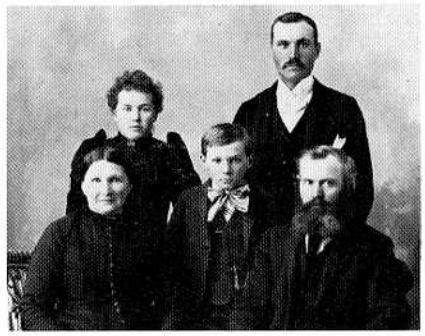
The eight children in the family were Gjermund, Margaret, Arthur, Selma, Oscar, Thorvald, Olaf, and Hannah. Of this family two children are still living. My uncle, Thorval Kleven lives with his wife on a farm south of Erskine and my mother, Hannah, married to Ernest Ostenson, lives on a farm west of McIntosh. My Aunt Margaret married Sig Paulson, had one child, Helen, who is married to Orrin Ness and they are living in Fosston. When Margaret died, Helen lived with her grandparents from age six.

KNAACK FAMILY

We will start our story back in Germany where Ferdinand Knaack married Fredericka Lou. After unknown years, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Knaack moved to America where they settled on a farm in Freeborn, Minnesota, just above the Iowa-Minnesota line.

Alex, Bertha and Albert were children of Ferdinand and Fredericka. There were many more brothers and sisters, but they died when they were young, which wasn't all that unusual since so many children died young in those days.

While living at Freeborn many years, tragedy struck. At the age of only 62 Alex's mother, Fredericka, died of cancer. After her death, Ferdinand decided to move to the northern part of Minnesota. In 1901 Ferdinand and son Alex moved up to this area to Wylie.



Ferdinand Knaacks, Bertha, Albert and Alice.

In 1902 Alex Knaack, now 19 years old married Hulda Schultz, who was 20 years old and they lived on the Stahl farm.

Hulda Schultz was born at Pembroke, Ontario, Canada on September 8, 1882. She has nine brothers and four sisters. These are as follows: Fred, with his family lived in the Wylie community; Leo, married and lived in many places, one of which was at the Irv Beyer farm and later at Mentor. Albert never married and lived in Red Lake Falls till his young death at the age of 28. Herman also lived in Red Lake Falls and died young at the age of 27 from tuberculosis. Henry moved out west and never returned. Edward also went out west, and there was Erdman, who lived on the Arley Schultz farm which was the Herman Schultz place. More brothers and sisters are Ben, who lived in Red Lake Falls and died young at the age of 23 from the flu, Ferdinand who married Alma Wolff and lived where the LaVern Schultz farm is, Irene (Mrs. Charles Ziebell) now living at Bloomer, Wisconsin, Minnie (Mrs. Nick Drees) now living at Hillcrest Nursing Home, Bertha (Mrs. Fred Gosen) who lived at Euclid, and one more sister Hulda who died when she was only 9 months old.

But, back to our story. Alex and Hulda were married at Immanuel Lutheran Church at Wylie by Reverend Val Kern in 1902. They resided at Wylie after their marriage, and three children were born to this union. Lillian (Lilly) Mrs. Albert Busse, now living at Thief River Falls; Vernon, living at Red Lake Falls, and Florens, living at Fairview Manor — (the narrator of this story).

From the Stahl place, the Knaack family moved to a farm at Dorothy in 1914. Mrs. Knaack was quite a gardener. She had a beautiful garden of fruit and vegetables at their Dorothy farm that included currants, gooseberries, cherry trees, crab apple trees, raspberries, and a bed of strawberries — and all this in addition to her flower and vegetable garden.

Hulda was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Ladies Aid ever since it started in Wylie, and also when they moved to Red Lake Falls. Alex was also elder and trustee of Immanuel Lutheran and also when they moved here.

Alex was the Clerk of the Dorothy School District number 22 for probably 24 years. He hired all the teachers and Hulda boarded them for nine years. Some of those teachers were: Mildred Helm (Mrs. Clayte Paul), Beulah St. Louis, Leah Chatel, Hazel Zaiser, Betty Kruse, Alexine Suprenant, and Elsie Miller. Linda Rogge and Leora Krueger also taught at Dorothy, but did not board with the Knaacks.

Alex also ran the Milling Company Elevator at Dorothy for many years.

In 1938 the Knaacks moved to the Max



Alex and Hulda Knaack

Ingber farm now known as the Dean Vathauer place. Here they lived for four years till 1942 when they moved to the George Remick farm, now the Vernon Knaack farm.

In 1952 Mr. and Mrs. Alex Knaack celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. On June 22, 1954, Alex Knaack died at the age of 71 at Bethesda Hospital in Crookston.

In June of 1949 Vernon Knaack met Violet Brumwell of Erskine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milson Brumwell. Violet's father, Milson, taught at the Erskine school for quite a few years till he died in Erskine. Gunhild, Violet's mother is now living at Northwood, North Dakota. Vernon married Violet September 6, 1949 at the old St. John's church on the North Side of Red Lake Falls with Pastor Immanuel Bade officiating. They are now living on the George Remick farm where Alex had lived. Vern and Vi have six children as follows: Lyle married Mary Lou Reis and they have two children Neil and Todd. Sharon married Roger Schatzke and lives in Billings, Montana. Bonita, author, is a senior at Lafayette High School, Verna and Leslie are students at Washington School and Kim still at home.

THE LEO KNOTT FAMILY

Leo Knott was born October 27, 1860 on a farm near St. Joseph, Wisconsin. As a young man, Leo was in the harness making and repair business.

Margaret Garnes was born June 9, 1876 on a farm near Wanda, Minnesota. They were married November 9, 1897 in Lamberton, Minnesota and farmed there until 1904. Four children, John, Gust, Harvey and Dora were born there before Leo came north looking for land and purchased a farm in Red Lake County, moving his family here in the fall of 1904. A one-room dwelling with a small upstairs was their home for a year. He rented the Rose farm, now the Louis Ulrich farm, living there for a few years. Gecella was born there. In 1907 they moved their small house to the farm where Frank now resides. This farm was purchased from Fredrick Emard who homesteaded it. Elizabeth and Gertrude were born there. That spring (1910) they built a six room addition and the rest of the family, Matt, Henry, Frank and Francis were born there.

Mr. Knott and the three oldest sons cleared most of the land for farming. In the fall and winter they cut and sawed wood into cordwood and let it dry a year. The next year they hauled it to town to sell for stove wood.

All the children attended school in District 88 across the river and reached by boat. This was very hazardous at times, especially when the river froze and again in the spring when the ice went out. They missed many weeks of school. Sometimes they crossed the river with a team of horses. When the river was high they had to chain the box to the wagon so it would not float away. The horses had to swim sometimes too.

One year, Mr. Knott had a great misfortune when he lost his herd of cattle with TB. After that, all herds had to be tested to clear up the disease. In 1920, John, Gust and Harvey cut and hauled logs to a sawmill set up by John Schmitz on the riverbank across the river on the Peter Starken farm. This lumber was sawed and hauled home and piled to dry a year. Then in 1922, they built a big, round roofed barn with mostly home sawed lumber. Many dances were held in this barn.

Leo Knott was a member on the town board and also the school board for several years.

The Leo Knotts celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1947. Mrs. Knott died October 12, 1949 at the age of 73 and Mr. Knott died December 24, 1953 at the age of 93.

The Knotts had eleven children. John married Anna Zins in November, 1928. They farmed in Red Lake County until 1939 when they moved to Red Wood County where he bought a farm. John died in 1965. Gust married Agnes Schmitz in September, 1927 and moved to Minneapolis where he was employed as a painter and custodian. In the spring of 1960 they bought a home near Mound. Gust died in 1972. Harvey married Lillian Gale in May, 1924 and they also farmed in Red Lake County, buying the Lawrence Gale farm where they lived until they retired in 1967, when they moved to Red Lake Falls. Harvey died in 1971. Dora married Henry McBroom in October, 1928, making their home in Minneapolis where he was employed as an electrical component wiring engineer for twenty-seven years. Gecella married Valentine Zins June, 1929 and moved to Timmer, North Dakota where they farmed for a few years, later moving to Flasher where they now reside. Elizabeth married Bernard Schmitz September, 1929. They farmed in Red Lake County. Elizabeth died in 1951. Gertrude married Edward Schmitz in September, 1934 and they lived and farmed in Black River Township, later buying the Wm. Constant farm where they lived until their retirement in 1970 when they moved into Red Lake Falls.

Matt Knott farmed in Red Lake County for some years and later moved to Minneapolis where he is employed as a plastic trimmer.

Henry married Pauline Seeger in May, 1941 and moved to Minneapolis where he did painting. He returned to Red Lake County where they were engaged in farming until their retirement in 1975 when they also moved to Red Lake Falls.

Frank married Isabelle Seeger in December, 1941. He served four years in World War II, the last six months in Okinawa as a staff sergeant. In 1950 he bought the home farm where they still reside. Francis married Arthur Schiefert in November, 1940, and farmed his father's farm. Francis has been employed by Detroiter Mobile Homes, since 1967.

The Leo Knotts had sixty-two grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Leo Knott

CHARLES AND GERTRUDE KNOTT

Gertrude Schmitz, ninth child of Joseph and Louise Schmitz, and Charles Knott son of Leo Knott were united in marriage on September 12, 1933 at St. Mary's Church in Red Lake Falls. Gertrude was employed at Gold Bond Stamp Co. for 8 years. She now does day work. Charles was a farmer and did painting in North Minneapolis with his brother-in-law Gustave Knott. He was a construction worker and also worked with the WPA during the depression. They are the parents of five children and have 10 grandchildren.

Dorine married Aldo Valiani and with their two children live in Park Ridge, Ill., where he works for Allstate Insurance. Dorine has done tutoring.

Frederick married Sue Grieser and they have one daughter. Fred worked at the Sheridan Hotel in Minneapolis and also at the Howard Johnston Motel as night auditor. He is now unemployed because of arthritis.

Mary married Lynn Eaton. She worked at a clothing store in Crystal and is now a housewife. Lynn worked at Hohner Waldorf Paper Co. They have three children.

Rosalie married Donald Fournier and they are parents of three children. Don works for Minnesota Technical Co. as a Draftsman. He is also a member of the Volunteer Fire Dept.

Gregory married Dona Leckner. Greg is a mechanic at Kirt Pohlman in Brooklyn Center where they live with their daughter.

GUSTAVE KNOTT AND AGNES SCHMITZ

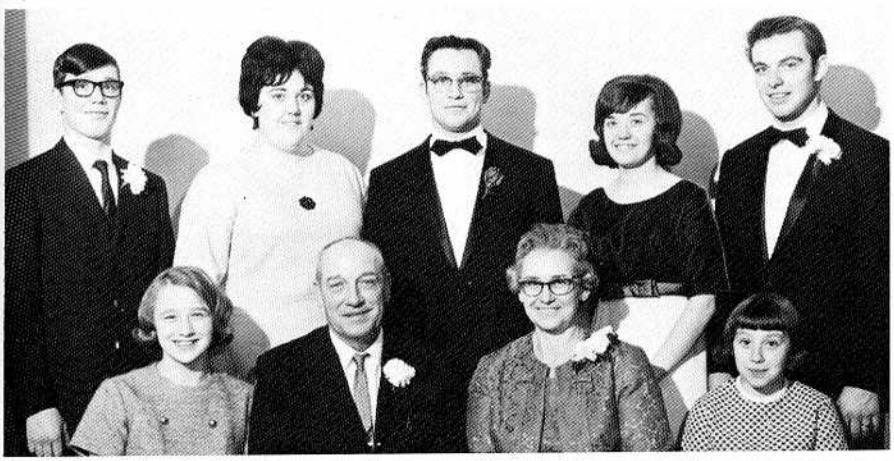
On May 14, 1901 Agnes C. Schmitz was born in Brown's Creek Township, the sixth daughter of Joseph and Louise Schmitz. On September 13, 1927 she was married to Gustave Knott at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. They moved to Minneapolis and lived at 1220 Morgan Ave. N. Gust was caretaker at 1220 Morgan and two other apartment buildings nearby. He also did painting. They had five children and 18 grandchildren.

Evelyn married A. L. McCaul of Excelsior. Their six children are Corrine (Mrs. Bob Abel), Cathy, James, Maria, Gerald and Paula and one died in infancy.

Lester married Delores White. They live in Anoka. Their four children are Denise (Mrs. Ron Heimer), Leslie, Rodney and Beth.

Vivian married Robert Bedard. With their five daughters, Sheri, Sheila, Renee and Michelle, they live in Hampton.

Virgil married Gloria Mercil. They live at



Frank Knotts. *Back:* Richard, Virginia, Frank, Jr., Beverly and Gerald. *Front:* Selma, Frank, Isavelle and Donna.

International Falls with their children Jacqueline and Mary.

Gus married Irene Merrick. They have two children, Julie and Jodi and live at Mound.

Agnes' husband, Gust, passed away January 24, 1972 at the age of 72.

FRANK KNOTT

Frank Knott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Knott, was born in 1916 in Red Lake County and grew up here.

In 1941 he married Isabelle Seeger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Seeger. She was born Oct. 1918, also in Red Lake County.

Frank was inducted in the army in 1942. He completed his basic training at Fort Francis E. Warren in Cheyenne, Wyoming and was transferred to Fort Hood, Texas. He had some interesting experiences there as Fort Hood was just being started and it was his duty to drive an officer around to the farm homes to inform the people they had to move, because their land was going to be used for Fort Hood.

In May 1942 his wife joined him and they lived in Gatesville and Killeen, Texas for about three years. Virginia was born then. When he was sent to Okinawa, his wife returned to Red Lake Falls to live with her father until Frank was discharged in January 1946.

Frank worked for Thibert Chevrolet about one year and Woodrick Construction Company when the highway from Red Lake Falls to St. Hiliare was paved.

He decided to start farming in 1950 and purchased the home place from his father where they still live.

They have seven children: Virginia (Mrs. Joe Martinez) Boulder, Colorado;
Frank Jr., married Karen Dupont;
Gerald, married Roberta Zoren;
Richard, married Bonnie King;
Beverly (Mrs. Vernon Smith);
Selma (Mrs. George Almond); and
Donna is attending vocational school in Moorhead.

They have ten grandchildren.

HENRY P. KNOTT FAMILY

Henry P. Knott was born in 1914 in Gervais Township to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Knott. After his school years he helped his parents farm until twenty-three years of age when he went to the cities to paint.

In 1941 he married Pauline Seeger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Seeger at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. They made their home in Minneapolis for several years. Later they moved to Solon Springs, Wisconsin, where they worked for a dairy farmer for two years until they moved back to Red Lake Falls and rented the farm of Art Schaper, the son of William Schaper (Pauline's Grandfather) who had homesteaded the farm. They later purchased the farm and lived there for thirty-one years. This is where their children grew up. Henry Jr. married Yvonne Ford and have two children. He farms in Lake Pleasant Township.

Paulette married Terry Busch. They have two children and live in Reston, Virginia. She is a homemaker and registered nurse. Gary married Elizabeth Saice. They have two boys and are living in Minneapolis. He works at Knox lumber yard.

Merle married Linda Callier. They have one girl and live in Fargo, North Dakota. He is a construction worker, painter, and teacher.

Duane is a teacher in Thief River Falls and farms in Red Lake County. Bonnie lives at Devils Lake and is manager of a dental office. Sharon married Robert Johnson. They have one son. She is working at Metropolitan Savings and Loan in Fargo, North Dakota.

Marjorie lives in Moorhead and is going to Moorhead University taking a business course. Glen lives at Thief River Falls, working at Falls Concrete.

Nancy and Philip are living at home and attending school.

The Henry Knotts, Sr. sold the farm to their sons, Henry Jr. and Duane, and are now residing in a home they built in 1975 northeast of Red Lake Falls.

HENRY W. AND YVONNE KNOTT, JR.

Henry W. Knott, Jr. and Yvonne Ford were married at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on October 3, 1964. Henry is the son of Henry and Pauline Knott, and Yvonne is the daughter of Leonard and Elma LaCoursiere Ford. They have two children, Keith (b. 1965) and Karla (b. 1970).

Before her marriage, Yvonne was employed at the Red Lake County State Bank and Henry was employed at D.M.H. for ten years. In October 1975 they purchased and moved to the farm owned by his parents.

Henry is a member of the National Farmers Organization and St. Joseph's Men's Club. Yvonne is active in the Catholic Daughters Organization and St. Joseph's Ladies Guild.

LAVERN KNOTT AND LORETTA SCHMITZ KNOTT

LaVern Knott, son of Harvey Knott and Lillian Gale, married Loretta Schmitz, daughter of Crispen Schmitz and Frieda Schindler, on June 14, 1949. They live and farm in Red Lake Falls Township. They have dairy and beef cattle and hogs. LaVern is a member of NFO and Loretta is a member of Catholic Daughters of America, St. Anne's Society and St. Joseph's Ladies Guild. They are the parents of fifteen children: James (b. 1950) is married to Carol Passa. They are living in Fairbanks, Alaska, where Jim is serving in the U.S. Army and is also in the construction business; Lawrence and Lorraine, twins, (b. 1951). Lawrence works for Schmitz Construction and Lorraine is married to Bruce Galland and works at the Red Lake Falls Clinic. They have one son; Jeffrey (b. 1952) is married to Kathy Fandal. They make their home in New Orleans where Jeff is in the construction business; Daniel (b. 1954) is employed by Schmitz Construction Co.; Eugene (b. 1956) works and lives at home; Patricia (b. 1957), Cecelia (b. 1958), and Alice (b. 1959) attends school at Lafayette; Jacqueline (b. 1961), Anthony and Agnes (b. 1962), twins, Paul (b. 1963), Joyce (b. 1964) and Andrew (b.



Henry Knotts 1967. *Back:* Gary, Bonnie, Sharon, Henry, Jr., Merle, Paulette and Duane. *Front:* Marjorie, Philip, Pauline and Henry, Sr. Nancy, Glen.

1966) are all students at St. Joseph's Parochial School, Red Lake Falls.

JOHN AND CLARA BRELAND KNUTSON

Aamund Breland came from Norway in 1888 to Fosston. He worked as a laborer. In 1889 he married Anne Johnson who had come from Aaseral, Norway. They lived on a farm near Fosston. One son was born to them in 1903, but died when he was three and a half years old.

When land opened for homesteading in Equality Township he was one of the first settlers to take a homestead (1905). Aamund bought two quarters of land and paid two dollars an acre for it and then built a house.

There were no roads at the time, and hard work was the way in those days. Soon more settlers came and there were enough people to organize a school. This school was known as District fifty-eight. Mr. Breland served on the school board for twelve years. He raised cattle and sheep and chickens on the farm. Flax was the main crop. Mr. and Mrs. Breland both died in 1928.

Only one daughter of Aamund and Anne, Clara, survives. She is married to John Knutson who was from Fisher and they live on the Breland homestead. John Knutson farmed four hundred sixty acres and rented three quarters of land. He raised Hereford cattle for many years. John and Clara are now retired. They are members of the Ebenezer Lutheran Church.

The five children of the John Knutsons are: Sherman of Oklee; Violet, Mrs. Sandy Joppru of Thief River Falls; Lillie, Mrs. Ardell Thoreson of Embarrass, Minnesota; Carol, Mrs. Arnold Geiger, Cleveland, Tennessee and Delores, Mrs. John Olson. The Olsons live in a home on the Knutson farm.

OLE KOLSTOE

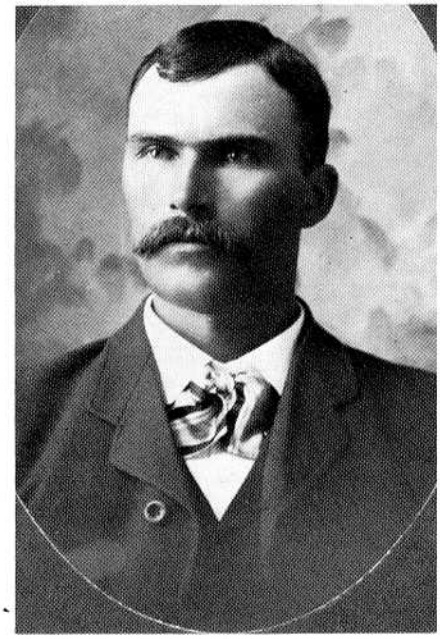
Ole Kolstoe, the son of Martha and Soren Kolstoe, was born on February 14, 1856 on the island of Karmoy, Norway near the city of Haugeson. He grew to manhood there and then went to Storren, (a school) where he was educated to become a teacher. He taught in Norway for 12 years. He was married to Mette Villars who was a young widow with one child, Martin. Ole and Mette had five children of their own; Martha, Ellen, Severine, Olaf all born in Norway and Clara who was born in Iowa.

Around 1890 the Kolstoes immigrated to Clinton County in Iowa near Cedar Rapids. Soon after this Ole Kolstoe attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota while his family remained in Iowa. After ordination he accepted a call to serve in Northern Minnesota in what is now Red Lake County. His family made their home in Garnes township. Rev. Kolstoe organized and served many churches in the Plummer, Oklee and Trail areas.

Other children that they raised were Margaret and Olaf, their grandchildren, and Gulovna, whom they adopted after the death of her mother and Petra Larson whose mother also died.

Rev. Kolstoe returned to Norway for a visit after he retired. He died in April of 1937.

Note: See "A Pioneer Pastor and his horse, Bill" in the Garnes Township history.



John Konickson

KONICKSON FAMILY

Per and Marta were the first Konicksons to settle in Red Lake County. They came from Sweden in the late 1870's with their three young sons and purchased a farm in Wisconsin, coming to Red Lake County in 1890.

John homesteaded in Mayfield Township, August in Gervais, and the elder Konickson and Gust homesteaded adjoining land in River Falls. At that time, Red Lake and Pennington were one county; when they became two counties in 1911, the dividing line cut River Falls township in two. The southern portion, one-third of the area of River Falls, became River Township and the Konickson farm was located here. Before long, John and Gust traded farms and John and his parents lived and farmed together until their deaths, Marta in 1907 and Per in 1914. Gust married and moved to Washington with his family where he lived until his death. August and his wife had ten children, all of whom were born in Gervais Township. They left about 1910, living out west and in Bemidji, before moving to Erskine in the early 1920's. One of their sons still lives on the home farm there.

Ida Westerlund was born in Sweden in 1878 and came to America at the age of twelve with her parents and a brother and sister. They settled in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, and a few years later, moved to the Detroit Lakes area with several other Swedish families. The move was made in covered wagons with the men blazing their own trails through the last few miles of Minnesota forests. As a young woman, Ida worked as a cook in a St. Hilaire hotel until she married John Konickson in 1908. They had four sons, Alvin, Clarence, Henry and Gust, and one daughter, Mable. John Konickson died in 1924. A few years after his death, Ida decided to sell some land she owned near Detroit Lakes, taking an old Model T truck as down payment. As it turned out, the truck was the only payment she received. She continued to farm with her sons after her husband's death.

Alvin married Olga Johnson and had one son; Henry and his wife, the former Alice Arlt, had three sons. Gust and Alice (Wright) Konickson had five sons and one daughter; Mable (Mrs. Walter Bjerk) has a son and daughter.

The rest of this is more familiar to me and a little easier to write. I'm another Alyce, Mrs. Clarence Konickson. My parents were Alfred and Alica Korvela; Mother was a native of Minnesota, and Dad came from Finland at the age of twenty-one. I was born in New York Mills and moved to North Dakota with my family when I was three. Life on those prairies was entirely different than in Red Lake County. We burned coal during the winter months; during the summer, the Indians hauled our firewood from the Turtle Mountains and we used it sparingly, not only to make it last until their next trip, but it had to be paid for. Coal was cheaper to burn, but it was hot and dirty. Most of our summer fuel came from gunnysacks in a shed next to the summer kitchen, sacks which were filled in the cow pasture on sunny days. It didn't take us long to realize that, when the neighborhood women talked of doing their summer cooking and baking with prairie coal, they weren't speaking of North Dakota lignite. From the time I was old enough to drag a gunny-sack behind me, I played my part in bringing in the bacon, or at least furnished my share of the fuel to heat the skillet. It had to be gathered whenever it was dry and stock piled in the shed in case it should rain.

When I was eleven, we moved to a farm near Plummer. My father moved everything he could with a team of horses and a hayrack, making three trips that took him several days each. A neighbor hauled our household goods and Dad and two of my sisters, thirteen and eighteen, chased the cows cross country to their new pasture 211 miles away. That trip took until 9 o'clock A.M. on the tenth day.

Clarence and I were married at St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls in 1938 and spent our first few years with his mother and his brother. Those were the days of the long runs in threshing and silo-filling time, and grandma and I, like a lot of other farm women, would do the evening chores by ourselves when the men worked late in the fields. She was older than I was by over forty years, but she always managed to milk her share of twenty of more cows by hand. But she couldn't teach me to carry water the "easy way" with that awful looking contraption, her yoke. She had no trouble at all toting two five-gallon pails of water with it, but I would manage to slosh out a gallon or more before giving up and carrying it the "modern way." Grandma Konickson died in 1962.

We have six children, ranging in age from seventeen to ?. The oldest is a girl and she might not want her age known. Doris is Mrs. Curtis Skredergard, and lives in Pueblo, Colorado. Vernon and Roger are married to sisters, Carole and Arlys Mossestad; Lyle's wife is the former Charlene Marty. The boys all have farms not too far from home and work together in their farming operation. Carol (Mrs. Roger Neison) lives in Mahnomen and Neil is a senior in Plummer high school. We have four grandsons and seven granddaughters.

THE JOHN KOTSCHEVAR FAMILY

John Kotschevar, an early resident of the city of Red Lake Falls, brought his wife, the former Anna Movern, and three children to Red Lake Falls in 1902.

He was born in Austria in 1862 and came with his parents to the United States when he was seven. The family resided in



John Kotschevars 1930

St. Martin and Millerville, Minnesota. After his marriage in 1887, they resided in Brandon, Minnesota before coming to Red Lake Falls.

John Kotschevar had always taken an active interest in school, township, church, and other civic affairs of his community and was well and favorably known for his progressive activities.

The years he lived in Red Lake Falls, he worked for Joe Helm Implement as a salesman, and delivered and assembled farm machinery to the areas of Red Lake Falls and surrounding communities. They lived on the North Side. The house is now torn down.

The family were members of St. Mary's parish, and remained so after they moved to their homestead south of Marcoux corner in Polk county in 1905.

While in Red Lake Falls only one of the nine children was born. The daughter, Mrs. Adeline Duffy, now resides at Oak Court in Crookston. The other descendants now living in Red Lake county are a granddaughter and her family, Mrs. Delton Sebenaler of Oklee.

John Kotschevar died in 1938, and Anna Kotschevar died in 1955. Both are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Red Lake Falls.

FRIEDRICH KRUEGER FAMILY

In August of 1882 Friedrich Krueger and his wife, Augusta Krause Krueger, with their children, Herman, Clara, Ida, August, William and Albert moved to Red Lake Falls where Carl and Ella were born. Herman lived in Crookston, Minnesota; Clara was the wife of Will Riechel, a Red Lake Falls photographer for many years. Ida became Mrs. Joe Hayton and they settled in New Mexico. August had a harness shop in Antler, N.D. and later a second-hand furniture store in Bagley, Minnesota. William remained in the Red Lake Falls area. Carl spent most of his adult life in Downey, California, where he owned a shoe store, and Ella, who became Mrs. Herbert Hurley, is the sole family survivor and still resides in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

In Red Lake Falls the Kruegers owned and operated Grand View hotel. It was first located on the North Side where the Krueger children played with Chippewa boys and girls from a nearby encampment. Mrs. Krueger told of baby sitting for Chippewa squaws. She said that sometimes a loaf of bread would be pushed through her door — payment in advance. The bread would be followed by a papoose.

Later the hotel was moved to a location near the Northern Pacific Depot, and finally to the corner south of the Red Lake Falls County State Bank. The children of the family contributed to the operation of the hotel. Bill Krueger used to tell how he would wait for Louisa Gerlach, his future wife, to finish her waitress duties so she could go with him to haul barrels of water for hotel use. He also told of driving the horses to meet salesmen on incoming trains. These men displayed their wares in sample rooms where local merchants selected new lines of merchandise.

Friedrich Krueger died in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. William Krueger operated the hotel from 1902. In 1919 with the coming of Prohibition, the hotel and saloon were sold.

Bill Krueger purchased land in Louisville Township and built all the farm buildings on it. Electricity was in the house, and with cattle drinking cups in the barn in those days made it a very modern farm. The farm was sold in 1923.

For a time Mr. Krueger worked for the railroad. After Mrs. Krueger died in 1923, he had in Red Lake Falls a shoe store, a grocery store, and in later years worked for John Savard at the Green Lantern, and finally for the Red Lake Falls Liquor Supply. When he retired, he lived with his daughter and son-in-law, Irene and Robert Hance, on their farm west of Red Lake Falls. He died on November 20, 1950.

William and Louisa Gerlach Krueger had three daughters: Leora — Mrs. Arthur Paquin of East Grand Forks; Irene — Mrs. Robert Hance of Red Lake Falls Township, deceased; and Bette Lou — Mrs. Donald McAnulty of Green Bay, Wisconsin; seven grandchildren. Still in Red Lake County are Mrs. Roger Thibert, nee JoAnn Hance. She and her family live west of Red Lake Falls on a farm appropriately named Grand View. Richard and David Paquin, sons of Art and Leora, own and operate farms in the county near Mentor.

THE CHARLES KRUSE FAMILY

Charles Kruse, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kruse Sr., along with his parents emigrated from Germany in the late 1800's and settled in Red Lake Falls in the early 1900's.

He married Margaret Weiland in 1907 at St. Mary's Church in Red Lake Falls. Margaret Weiland's parents also came from Germany.

Charles and Margaret had five children; Helen (Mrs. William Ranum of Mankato); Betty (Mrs. Archie Johnson), Thief River Falls; Marie (Mrs. Frank Sherack), Thief River Falls; Frank of Red Lake Falls and Charles of Thief River Falls.

Charles passed away in 1939 and Margaret in 1967.

THE FRANK KRUSE FAMILY

Frank Kruse is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kruse (Margaret Weiland), pioneer residents of Red Lake Falls. Frank has worked with the Red Lake Electric Cooperative for the past twenty-nine years and also farmed in Lake Pleasant Township. Rachel is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Pray of Red Lake Falls. She has taught in Red Lake County rural schools, is a graduate of Bemidji State College, and is presently teaching at Lafayette high school.

They have four children: Pauline (Mrs. Lyle Longtin), Steven, Larry and Peggy. The family all graduated from Lafayette high school. They also have two grandchildren, Linnae Joy and Tatum Shay Longtin.

FAMILY HISTORY OF JAROSLAV AND RUTH ANN NELSON KRUTA

Jaroslav and Ruth Ann Nelson Kruta are some of the later residents of Red Lake County, having connection with the County dating back to 1967 when he was appointed City Attorney for the City of Red Lake Falls. In August of 1968, he opened a law practice, his office two rooms in the Healy Building, on the first floor. It very shortly became a full time office when Iva Lamberson and her husband Arnold moved into town, she is the office secretary. Thereafter, they moved the office to the second floor of the Clinic Building.

He was elected County Attorney in 1974 after serving as special counsel to the County Attorney since 1972. He is also City Attorney for Plummer, and also for Middle River and Newfolden.

In 1970 the family moved to Red Lake Falls and have been residents since then. Ruth Ann has been working with the Inter-County Nursing Service, engaged in home nursing. Jaroslav has been in private practice here, together with offices in Marshall County. He has been in the private practice of law since 1959 and started here in 1968. In 1971, he was joined by William D. Mul-



Krueger, Hayton and Riechel Families

doon and the law practice is now a partnership.

Ruth Ann Nelson was born at Forest City, Iowa to Leonard and Anna Nelson and grew up in that area. She attended country school and graduated from Forest City High School. She attended Waldorf College there and graduated from Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota, then attended the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Prior to moving to Red Lake County, she had been associated with the University of Minnesota and the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston and the Warren Public Schools, as school nurse. She also worked with the State Health Department in the area of migrant health. Before going to the Northwest School of Agriculture, she was in nursing of polio patients, working for the Red Cross during epidemics in Texas and Alaska, and later working for the Sister Kenney Institute.

Jaroslav Kruta was born in the Town of Moose River in Marshall County, north of Gatzke, and grew up in that area, going to the Silver Ridge School, a country school approximately four miles away. He attended Northwest School of Agriculture, graduating in 1943, and from the Advanced (4th Year) in 1949. He farmed in the Gatzke area and later went to Moorhead State College where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1954. In 1954, he went to teach at the Northwest School of Agriculture in Science and Biology. He served as dormitory Counselor and wrestling coach during this time. In 1956, he entered the University of North Dakota Law School, commuting from Crookston and continuing as wrestling coach throughout this time.

Upon graduation from the University of North Dakota, he took a job teaching at Mentor and continued coaching at the Northwest School of Agriculture while awaiting the bar results. He was admitted to the Bar on October 27, 1959 and the following June commenced practice with a law firm in Minneapolis. He then moved to the State of Minnesota, with the Departments of Taxation and Highways, until the family moved to Warren and he commenced the practice of law in 1963. A law office was opened in Middle River and Newfolden the following January. He maintained the law practice which was later continued as the firm of KRUTA AND MULDOON.

The Krutas have two children: Clark Jay this year is a student at Lafayette High School. Carrie Jean is a student at Washington Elementary.

JOHN KUIPER

John Kuiper, born in Parkersburg, Iowa in 1907, came to Minnesota as a child and to Red Lake County in 1929. On Feb. 3, 1931 he married Evelyn Duffy in St. Mary's Church in Red Lake Falls. They made their home in Red Lake County where he worked as a farm hand through the depression thirties.

In 1939 he began an employment period with the Smith Paper Company of Red Lake Falls, remaining with the company until 1944. He then leased the Benson Highway Service from Garfield Benson, and operated the business under the name of John's Highway Service, a service station and garage. In 1954 the Kuipers purchased a business and real estate from the late Henry E. Thibert, known as John's Mileage Service located at the south edge of Red Lake Falls on highway #32. In 1972 the Kuipers decided to retire and sold the business to Darrel Swenson.

Mr. Kuiper has also worked with the Red Lake County Sheriff Department for a number of years as a special deputy. He is a charter member of the Red Lake Credit Union, was on the credit committee since its organization, and is head Credit Loan Officer at the present time.

Mrs. Kuiper is an active member of the Volunteer Ambulance Service of Red Lake Falls.

The Kuipers have four children. All received their grade and high school education in the Red Lake Falls school systems. Marion (Mrs. Wm. Doyle) is a graduate of the University of Minn. with a degree in elementary education and is presently with the Lakeville school system. Ted, a Master Sergeant with twenty years in the U.S. Air Force as a Radio Relay Equipment Technician, performed duty in California, Illinois, Germany, Nebraska, Alaska, S. Carolina, Vietnam, Georgia, Italy, New Mexico, and England. He is currently serving in England as a Quality Control Inspector in the Radio Relay Field. He married Rosemarie Griepel in Germany in 1959. She was born in Jaegerndorf, Sudetenland CSR (now in the east German zone). They have three sons. Gary has been with Goddard Flight Space Center of Greenbelt, Maryland since 1961. From 1958 to 1961 he served a tour of duty with the United States Navy. He married Joanne LaHaise in 1959 at Dorothy, and they have three daughters. Tim has been employed by U.S. Postal Service since 1971 and is located at Mankato, Minn. He married Janie Stokke of Red Lake Falls and they have a daughter and a son.

John and Evelyn Kuiper have lived all of their married life in Red Lake County and have resided at 714 Dow St. S.E. since 1940 when they moved into the city.

JOHN KULD

John Kuld Sr. came to Red Lake County in 1912 from Renville County where he had made his home for twenty years. He was born at Chicago on February 5, 1862, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kuld and grew to manhood there. His wife was the former Mary Streustofer. Their family was eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, two of whom are still living. They are Mrs. George Schafer of this city, and Leonard of Red Lake Falls Township who still lives on the home farm. Deceased are Joseph, Anton, Frank, William, Charles, John, Mrs. Henry (Mary) Grenier, Mrs. Frank (Kate) Musil, and Mrs. Rudolph Buehler of Buffalo Lake.

Mrs. Kuld died at an early age and Mr. Kuld passed away on February 23, 1939 at the age of 77 years.

CHARLES L. KUNDERT

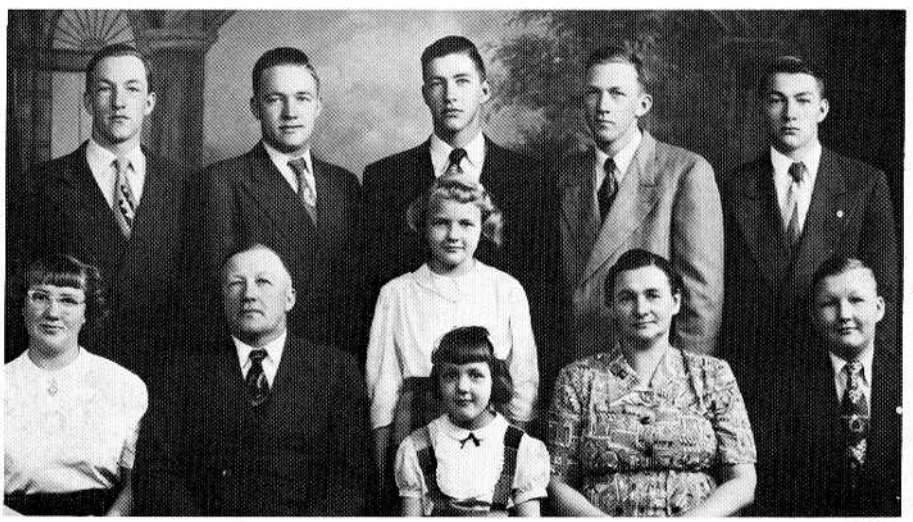
Charles L. Kundert moved to Red Lake Falls in 1921, when he purchased the Red Lake Falls Telephone Co. from E. F. Wheeler and later bought the St. Hilaire Telephone Co.

The family came to this community in 1927 from Harrisburg, South Dakota, where Mr. Kundert had been cashier of the Harrisburg State Bank. He was also owner and manager of the North Lincoln Telephone Co. of Tea, South Dakota.

Mr. Kundert had an early flair for politics and served four terms as deputy county auditor and auditor of Lincoln County, South Dakota, and deputy sheriff of the county. In Minnesota he identified himself with the Farmer Labor Party, was active in the county councils of the party and was frequently chosen as a delegate to district conventions.

He was active in fraternal affairs and served as Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge at Canton, South Dakota and later joined the El Riad Shrine Temple at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was also a member of the Eastern Star Lodge, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Odd Fellows Lodge. He took an active part in civic work and was a member of the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club. He was a valuable, public-spirited citizen who could always be depended on to do his part for community welfare. Charles Kundert was far-sighted in his building of the telephone company, as this company was one of the first small companies in Minnesota to lay underground cable instead of using the conventional poles.

His death, at age 57, from a paralytic stroke on August 26, 1936, was a great shock to his family and the community. He had an unusually large number of friends, and was genial, broad-minded, tolerant, accommodating and ever loyal to his home community. Mrs. Pearl Kundert worked side by side with her husband in the telephone company and was also active in civic, school, fraternal and church affairs. She died on February 23, 1952, at the



Ole Kvasager Family in 1951

home of her daughter, Gwendolyn, in Olivia, after a long illness due to a heart condition. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kundert were members of the First Presbyterian Church.

Gwendolyn, Mrs. V. B. Pushing, of Olivia, Minnesota, and Marjorie, Mrs. V. A. Weed, of Kalispell, Montana, are the surviving members of the family along with ten grandchildren. Marcia, Mrs. Sam E. Hunt Jr., died on January 8, 1968, at her home in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Dwight of Duluth, Minnesota, died on October 19, 1968.

OLE KVASAGER AND KATHRINE MANDT KVASAGER

On October 19, 1929 Ole (Olav) Kvasager, age 28, and Kathrine Kvasager, age 28, left Oslo, Norway on the ship, "The Leviathan," to come to America. Times were hard in Norway and they had heard from their uncle that things were better in America. Traveling with them were two sons, Ole, Jr., born February 18, 1928 and Bjarne, born June 3, 1929.

They arrived in New York on October 28, 1929, with only their possessions of clothing, bedding, and $400. They stayed at Grygla with their uncle, Ole Arneson, for a week. They also spent some time with their uncle, Ole Halum, at Oklee and with Torjus Larson at Goodridge. The winter was spent with their uncle, Mibekel Larson, near Oklee.

Ole worked near Bemidji cutting logs and in 1930 he worked with a threshing crew in Dakota. In March of 1930 they moved to section 15 of Equality township. Then in the fall of 1932 they moved to section 16 of Equality township and a few years later bought their farm. There they raised their family of ten children. They are the following: Ole, Jr., was employed in Montana and died in an auto accident on October 5, 1955.

Bjarne, married Viola Klein and is farming in section 16 of Equality township. Their children are Steven, Julie, and Jeffrey.

Otto, married Donna Langved and lived on a farm in section 23 of Garnes. Their children are Lori and Joel. Otto was employed by Midland in Oklee, and died in a truck accident on Dec. 23, 1971. His wife and children now live in Oklee.

Arne, married to Shirley Van Vickle, lives in Crystal, Minnesota. He is employed by International Harvester in Minneapolis and owns a farm in section 9, formerly owned by Albert Measner.

Goodwin, married Lucille Mahla and lives on a farm in Section 1 of Gervais township. Their children are Mark, Terry, and Janet. He works for the Red Lake County Highway Dept.

Annie, a twin sister of Goodwin, died of scarlet fever at ten months of age.

Anne, married Milton Mantheir and lives in Grand Forks. They have four children, Suzanne, twins, David and Diane, and Todd. She is employed by the Grand Forks Public School System.

Einar, lives with them and farms and also owns a farm in section 13.

Girda, married Arlan Koskela and lives on a farm near Plummer. Their three children are Dean, Debbie, and Dixie.

Helga, married Maurice Nissen and they live on a farm near Hitterdal. They have three boys, Erik, Aron, and Kristoffer. Helga is employed by the Hitterdal School System.

In 1963 they sold their farm to their son, Bjarne, and moved to their present farm in section 18.

THEO. LA BISSONIERE

Theo. LaBissoniere was only twelve years old when he came to Red Lake County with his parents and located here May 11, 1879. His birth place is listed at LaFontaine, Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada.

He was well fitted for his eventual active business career at St. John's University, Stearns County, where he graduated from the commercial course in 1886 with a degree of Master of Arts. Upon his return to Red Lake County the same year, he took a position as clerk in the general store of F. E. Hunt at Terrebonne, and later worked for the same firm in Red Lake Falls. In 1897, Joseph Smith, merchant, engaged his services and he remained in that gentleman's employ continuously until the spring of 1895 when he became proprietor by purchase, and operated the business under the name of "Big Store" for forty-eight years until 1943 when he sold to his long time employee, John Tischart. The building is a part of the Brick Block erected in early years by Leo Steinert and still in use.

Theo. LaBissoniere served the interests of this community well. He was mayor of the city at one time, fourth degree knight of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Order of Foresters and the Holy Name Society.

At the time of this death in May 1958, Theo. was survived by his wife, the former Minnie Martin of Crookston, and daughter, Erin, both of California where he, also, had made his home.

PETER LA CHANCE FAMILY

The lineage of the La Chance family began with Charlemagne's son Pepin "The Lucky." For many generations the La Chances lived in France. In 1659 Antoine and Marie La Chance migrated to Lile D Orleans, Province of Quebec, Canada.

Eventually a descendant, Damas La Chance, moved to the United States and settled in Poplar River Township. He married Elodia Robillard. Their children were: Peter, who married Antoinette Parenteau, Albert, married to Mrs. Sophie Roadfeldt, Philip, married to Elsie Cousin, Medore, who married Marie La Bonte, Celestine (Mrs. Edward Patnode), Roselba (Mrs. Omer Parenteau), and Eva (Mrs. Lawrence Callier). Of the children of Damas, only George and Medore are living at this time.



Mr. and Mrs. Peter LaChance wedding

Peter was the only son of Damas to have children to carry on the La Chance name. He and Antoinette were married at Terrebonne in 1909. They lived in Red Lake County all their lives, first at Huot where Peter owned and operated a creamery and was a butter maker. From 1920 until 1936, he managed the grain elevator at Perreault Station and for twenty years after that until his death in 1956, he managed the Northland Grain Elevator in Red Lake Falls. Antoinette died in 1973.

Peter and Antoinette were the parents of two daughters and six sons: Beatrice (Mrs. Maurice Fortier) who lives at Crookston, Cerisa who became Sister Therese of the Order of St. Joseph, Crookston, Medore, Lester and Armand all living in Minneapolis, Harry at Pocatello, Idaho, Elmer and Emery in Red Lake Falls.

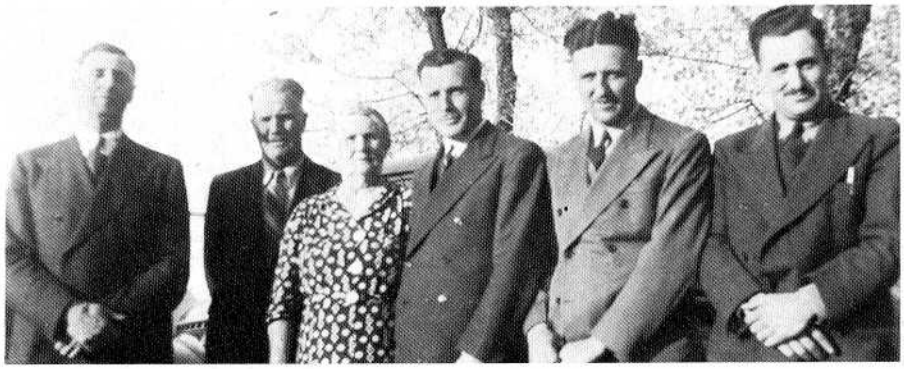
Emery married Maebelle Mercil and they have six children. (Their history is written elsewhere.)

Elmer was married to Helen Stevens in 1935. Their children are four sons; Larry who died in 1944, Earl, Mike, and Dean, and two daughters; Marilyn (Mrs. Jim Morton) and Beatrice (Mrs. Russel Landt). Elmer has been employed by the Red Lake Falls Rendering Company, now known as Central Bi Products, since 1941.

EMERY LaCHANCE

Emery LaChance, the fourth child of Peter LaChance and Antoinette Parenteau, was born on July 14, 1914 at Huot where his dad was a butter maker at that time. He attended classes in the "Little Red Schoolhouse," close to the Henry Huot farm in Louisville Township. His first teacher was Catherine Stoneouse of Oklee and he also remembers Mrs. Art. Roy as one of his teachers.

As a child Emery and his brothers and his sister were forbidden to go to the Henry Huot farm in the evening, but they loved to go see the teachers who boarded there.



Peter, Albert, Phil, Med and George LaChance with mother.

One night their dad decided to put an end to this and covered himself with an old buffalo robe and came out of the brush just as the children were returning home. That was the end of these particular escapades.

When Emery was nine years old the LaChance family moved to Perreault Station where his father managed the Perreault Station Elevator. Emery helped his dad here for about twelve years. On October 7, 1935 Emery married Mae Belle Mercil, daughter of Aime Mercil and Delia Cote of Gentilly. The Reverend Eli Thellion performed the ceremony. They rented various apartments in Red Lake Falls till they purchased the Doe residence where they have made their home ever since.

From 1939 to 1944 Emery was employed by the Smith Paper Co. — better known as the Tow Mill. From 1944 to 1951 he was on the police force in Red Lake Falls, working under Chiefs Frank Richards and Ted Fournier. Later he was appointed Chief of Police with Victor Casavan as a helper.

He resigned the city Police job in 1952 and started a dray line delivering freight to the Red Lake Falls business places including the liquor store. During this period he was also a distributor of propane gas.

This union had six children, four boys and two girls. Ronald married June Sordahl of Oklee and is a deputy sheriff at Roseau. Bernard married Valerie Lizotte of Dorothy and works on the police force with narcotics and juvenile cases at Crookston. Russell is married to Mavis Anderson of Crookston and is a Senior highway maintenance worker at Crookston. Richard is Assistant Vice President of the Toyko Branch, of Wells Fargo Bank of San Francisco. Patricia (Mrs. Chas. J. Wilson) is office manager of Chemical Company, San Jose, California. Donna (Mrs. Leighton "Butch" Lindwick) of Grand Forks is a housewife.

They have eleven grandchildren.

According to records, the LaChance home was built in the late 1870's and first housed John and Mary Bottineau.

EMIL LaCOURSIERE

Emil Francis Xavier LaCoursiere was born December 3, 1872 at Batiscan, Quebec, Canada. He was the son of Edward LaCoursiere and Sophie Burnelle. His father had a large boat and hauled supplies to Quebec on the St. Lawrence River. It was their only means of transportation. In 1879 his father traded his boat for a wagon, two mules, some food and supplies. The family left for the west and Minnesota. They had been told by friends that Minnesota was a very rich place and land was free for the taking.



Emil LaCoursiere

They settled on land in Louisville township, on the hill just west of Huot. They built a three room house on their 160 acres. Emil stayed on the home place and took care of his parents until they passed away. In 1897 Emil married Eleanor Anne Payment. She was born at Pentang, Ontario, Canada, and came to Red Lake County with her parents and family. She passed away in March 1932. In 1925 Emil had built a new home for his family.

His children were: Louis now of San Pedro, California; Jane now Mrs. Adrian Fortier, Crookston, Minnesota; Ida died when young; Dennis now of San Pedro, California; Helen — Mrs. Dan Lizotte, died in 1926; Emery J. of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota; Edward now of Westmorland, California; Rose — Mrs. Ivan Prior, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Clarice — Mrs. Henry Thode of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota.

They have sixteen grandchildren and thirty-six great grandchildren.

Having lived in Red Lake County for 72 years, he was the last of his brothers and sisters to pass away in 1952 at eighty years of age. Emil's brothers were Godias, Octave, Eugene and Arthur. His sisters were Alvina (Mrs. Fred Lizotte), Exzila (Mrs. Philias Roy), Marie (Mrs. Joe Benoit), and Jane (Mrs. Charles LaJuenesse).

Money was not very plentiful, so Emil and Phil Roy would leave in the fall and walk to Brainerd and work in the lumber camps all winter and return in the spring. The only two Frenchmen in camp, they would stop at Indian camps and buy thick cornmeal cakes, baked on a hot rock for 25¢ each. One of these kept them going all day.

Emil was town Constable for many years, and would police dances at the Dorothy Hall and Drees' barn dances. He was also the local vet and made many calls in the neighborhood from Gentilly to Dorothy and Wylie. It kept him busy during calving time, he was gone day and night. Not much pay, but help that was needed and he did not turn anyone down.



Octave LaCoursiere Family. Children, Sophie, Arthur, Paul, Louise, Emma, Elise, Anne, Theodore, Agnes, Lucy, Ernest, Leonard, Clara, Dora, Rose, Leo, Isabelle with parents, Octave and Mary.

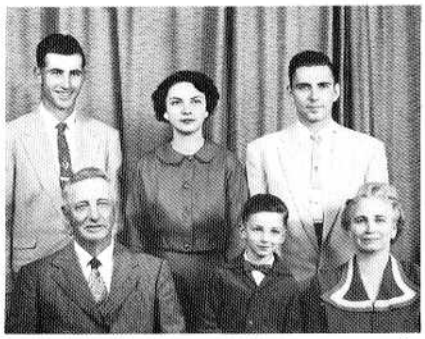
HECTOR LaCOURSIERE

Hector LaCoursiere and Alice Lambert were married in June, 1925, and settled on the NE¼ of Section 35 in Lambert Township. This farm had been in the LaCoursiere family for a long time, and Hector himself lived his entire life there. Later, in the 1940's, the farm was enlarged to 320 acres by the purchase of an adjoining quarter-section. The family was occupied with grain raising, cattle and chickens.

Four children were born to the LaCoursieres: Delia (Mrs. Leo Nistler), Redding, California; Leonard of West Allis, Wisconsin; Merle of Bemidji; and Gary who resides with his mother in Oklee.

Hector LaCoursiere passed away in 1963, and Mrs. LaCoursiere continued to live on the farm until 1967 when she moved into Oklee. The farm was sold in 1971.

Gary LaCoursiere is employed at Detroiter Mobile Homes in Red Lake Falls, and does a great deal of trapping and fishing.



Merle, Delia, Leonard. *Bottom:* Hector, Gary and Alice LaCoursiere.

OCTAVE LaCOURSIERE FAMILY

Octave LaCoursiere was born in 1864 to Edward LaCoursiere and Sophie Brunelle at Batiscan, Province of Ruebec. Edward and his sons worked on ships on the St. Laurence River in the 1870's. When

Octave was old enough he also worked on
he ships until he came to Red Lake Falls.
Octave married Mary Roy in 1888 in Red
ake Falls at St. Joseph's Church by
ather Marcille. Mary was born to Charles
Roy and Susan Cyr in 1871. Mary Roy
aCoursiere's mother spent her last years
ith them on the farm. She was blind, but
ould spin and knit. Mary could also spin
nd she knitted many pairs of socks and
ittens for her children and grandchildren.
The LaCoursiere's had seventeen chil-
ren, eight of them still living: Paul, Emma
Violette), Theodore, Agnes (Violette),
rnest, Clara (Reopelle), Dora (Sr. Baptiste
.S.B.), and Rose (Sr. Gabriel O.S.B.).
Octave and Mary farmed in Louisville
wnship for a few years where five chil-
ren were born. They moved to town and
ctave did some logging during that time.
hey then bought a farm which is now the
rm of Francis Schmitz southwest of Red
ake Falls. Octave and his sons farmed this
ome place until he died in 1928. After his
eath Theodore managed the farm with his
nother. She made many trips to town each
eek with the horse and buggy to sell
ome-made butter and milk.
In the early 1930's, Ted bought what is
ow the Andrew Neilson farm northeast of
wn. His mother and the two youngest
hildren, both now deceased, lived with
im. Later he sold the farm and lived in an
partment in town. His mother moved to St.
incent's Rest Home where she died at the
ge of eighty-four in 1956.

PAUL LaCOURSIERE

Paul LaCoursiere, who was the son of
ctave and Marie Roy LaCoursiere, was
rn in Louisville township, Red Lake
unty in 1891. He attended a rural school
ntil his parents moved into Red Lake
alls, when he went to St. Joseph's Catho-
c School. At the age of fifteen, he and his
der brother, Arthur, left for North Dakota
here they found work on a large farm.
ey returned after two years.
In 1912, Paul was married at Gentilly to
phie Violette, daughter of Frank Sr. and
ize Cyr Violette. Eight children were born
Paul and Sophie: Flavia (Sister Cuthbert
.S.B.), Emery, Viola, who died at the age
eighteen, Lorena (Mrs. Robert Lasha),
lma (Mrs. Leonard Ford), Olive (Sister
oan O.S.B.), Victor, who is a court
porter in Chicago, and Beulah (Mrs.
awrence Marleau).
The Paul LaCoursieres owned and oper-
ed a farm in Brown's Creek township
rth of Red Lake Falls for twenty years. In
949 at a ceremony at Crookston, they
ere awarded the certificate of Merit and
old Medal award for production of quality
airy products and dairy herd manage-
ent.
They retired in 1967 and moved to the
nior Citizen Home in Oklee. Later they
oved to Brooks and finally came to Fair-
ew Manor in Red Lake Falls in 1971. Paul
ffered a broken hip and has been con-
ed to a wheel chair at Hillcrest Nursing
ome for the last three years. Sophie at
ge 82, does all her own cooking and
ousework.
The LaCoursiere family helped Paul and
phie celebrate their sixty-third wedding
nniversary in 1975.

LACROSSE FAMILY

John LaCrosse was born March 22,
857 in Corcoran Township, Hennepin
unty. He came to Red Lake County as a
ung man and was employed in logging



Front: Louis, Alice, Marie, Jenetta, and Joseph. *Back:* Laura, Alida, Francis, Henry, Ann and Mae LaCrosse.

operations along the rivers for many years. While working in the Huot area he met his future wife, Mary Brault. She was born October 1, 1871 in Minneapolis. After the death of her parents, she was raised by the Derouin family who lived in the Huot area. John and Mary LaCrosse were married on January 22, 1889 by Father Eli Theillion of Gentilly and after their marriage they farmed in several locations in Lake Pleasant Township. In 1919 Mary LaCrosse bought the south half of section 5 in Lake Pleasant Township from Clara Braiden. The LaCrosses built their home there incorporating the log cabin into the structure and lived on this farm until John's death on December 17, 1934. John was active in the civic affairs of his township and had served as a member of the school board in District #216 for 10 years. After her husband's death, Mary LaCrosse moved to California to live with her daughter. John and Mary LaCrosse had 14 children, 12 of whom lived to adulthood. Their children were Aleda, Alice, Marie, Henry, Laura, Louis, Joseph, Ann, Jenetta, Maurice, Francis and May. Two boys died in infancy.

Henry LaCrosse, John's oldest son, took over the farm following his father's death in 1934. On November 15, 1935 he married Hazel Zaiser, the daughter of Fred and Tillie Zaiser of Red Lake Falls. Hazel had been a school teacher for 20 years and gave up teaching to become a farmer's wife.

Times were hard for farmers during the 1920's and 30's. The farm had been mortgaged many times and money was scarce. In 1944 the farm was offered at a Sheriff's sale and Henry was able to buy it for $7800. Farm prices were good during the war years, and in 1949 Henry was able to pay off what was owed against the farm. Later he sold all of his cattle and hogs, bought a house in Red Lake Falls on Bottineau Avenue and moved. While living on the farm Henry had added many improvements. A large pig barn was built and a 32-volt light plant was installed to provide electricity. The plant was made up of 16 two-volt glass batteries and charged with a gas powered engine. Henry continued to farm until his retirement in 1961.

Henry and Hazel had only one child, a son John (Jack) LaCrosse. After Henry retired in 1961, his son took over the farm operation and the property when Henry died on November 7, 1967. Hazel passed away June 22, 1973.

Jack LaCrosse married Gladyce Meyer, daughter of Clarence and Bertha Meyer on May 16, 1959. During the first years of their marriage, Jack worked on REA construction in the summer months and at the Red Lake Falls Creamery in the winter. In 1961 Jack and Gladyce rented a farm in Section 16, Terrebonne Township and the LaCrosses were back on the farm.

They purchased this farm in 1974. Gladyce worked at St. John's Hospital as a L.P.N. until 1962, then at Detroiter Mobile Homes as a plant nurse. In 1964 she went to work at the Red Lake Falls Clinic where she is still employed part time. Jack and Gladyce LaCrosse have 4 children, Cynthia, Keith, Mark and Anthony.



John and Mary LaCrosse 1887

ED LA JAMBE AND DORIS RIEL LA JAMBE

Mr. and Mrs. Ed La Jambe, who have lived in Red Lake County nearly all of their lives, are presently living in Oklee.

Ed La Jambe was born to Gaspard and Adeline La Jambe in Lambert Township. Mrs. Ed La Jambe (Doris) was born to Robert and Winnifred Riel in Oklee.

Ed and Doris grew up in Lambert Township about three miles apart. Ed attended the Lambert Country school and Doris attended the Oklee school. They were married in Oklee in 1939.

They had six children born to them. They are the following: Barbara, (Mrs. Terry Knutson) of Bemidji; Betty (Mrs. Joe Piccalo) of Becker; Robert of Fergus Falls; La Vonne (Mrs. Pat Gonsior) of River Falls, Wisconsin; Ardis (Mrs. Rene Hofstad) and Jon of Oklee.

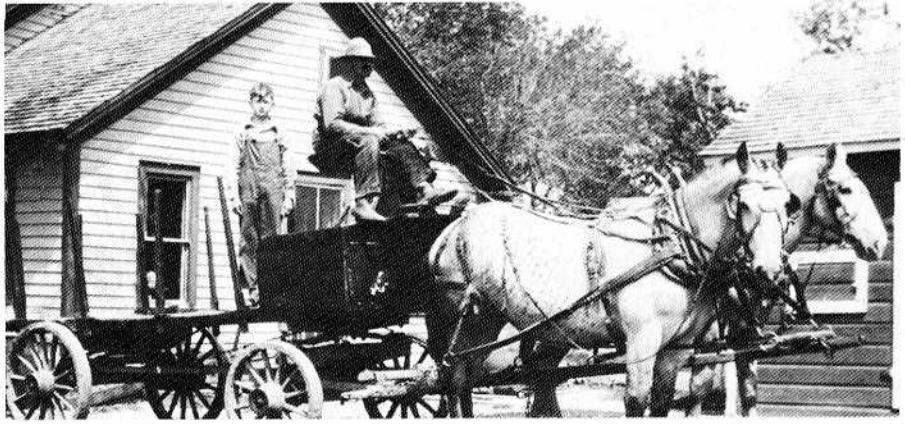
The La Jambes also have seven grandchildren.

Ed La Jambe was employed by Red Lake County Highway Dept. for 23 years, retiring in 1973.

ARNOLD LAMBERSON

The Arnold Lambersons came to Red Lake Falls in 1968 from Warren, Minnesota. Arnold had lived at Warren all his life and was engaged in farming. His wife, Iva, was raised at Oslo and worked at a Warren bank prior to their marriage, and in law offices for several years. They have three sons, David, Arden and Curtis.

Arnold began work at Detroiter Mobile Homes and Iva continued her work at the law office of Jaroslav Kruta. David served two years in the Army and upon his discharge obtained work with International Harvester at Crookston. Arden graduated from Lafayette High School and after two years of college and working in the Twin Cities, returned to Red Lake Falls and is employed by Rafdors. Curtis is a junior at Lafayette High. They are members of Bethany Lutheran Church.



Alphonse Lambert and son, Leo, on dray with team, Maude and Bess.

FRANCOIS LAMBERT AND CAROLINE BELLAND LAMBERT

The following history is taken from a 1902 history book titled, "Compendium of History and Biography — Northern Minnesota."

"Francois Lambert, one of the oldest settlers of the township named in his honor, is one of the intelligent and worthy citizens of Red Lake County, and as such has gained a host of friends. He is proprietor of a fine farm and has devoted his life to agriculture, and is thoroughly versed in his calling.

Mr. Lambert was born in Three Rivers District, Province of Quebec, March 10, 1847, and was the older of two sons born to Francois and Marguerite (Paquin) Lambert.

Our subject was reared to farm work and continued in his native place until 1881. In April of that year he went to Polk County, Minnesota, where a friend had settled. His father visited the country a year previous and made favorable report of the same, and our subject, wishing to secure better opportunities for his children to obtain a good home for themselves, located in Minnesota on section 10 of Lambert township, in Polk county, now Red Lake county. The father took an adjoining claim, and they built a frame house on the line between the two farms, and they each took a tree claim also. Our subject had about $4,000, and he was thus enabled to begin farming on an extensive plan and was one of the most extensive farmers of the locality. However, he met with many discouragements and difficulties, owing to the nearest market being at Crookston, forty miles distant. He has prospered in his vocation and has added to his acreage and is now the fortunate possessor of four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land, upon which he has placed excellent improvements. His home is on section 10 and is in the village of Lambert, and furnishes a comfortable rural home.

Mr. Lambert was married in 1865 to Miss Caroline Belland. Fifteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lambert, they are as follows: Xavier, farmer, living near our subject; Azelie (Mrs. Joseph Cote); Marguerite (Mrs. Joseph Bergeron); Joseph, farming in Lambert township; Alphonse, farming in Lambert township; Virginie (Mrs. Joseph Beaudoin); Marie Louise (Mrs. Joseph Lambert); Oliva (Mrs. G. Fortier); Dennis, deceased; Arthur, deceased; Urgele, Aristide, Celina, Emma and Rose. Mr. Lambert assisted in the organization of the township which bears his name, and he has always been recognized as a citizen of active public spirit. He has done efficient work toward the advancement of education and good roads, and he has served his community as township treasurer for many years. He was one of the leaders in the founding of St. Francis Xavier Catholic church. He is a Republican politically and stands firmly for his convictions."

Raymond Lessard and family are presently owners of the original Lambert homestead.

ARMIDAS LAMBERT AND BLANCHE BERGERON LAMBERT

Armidas Lambert son of Antoin Lambert, was born in Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada. He married Blanche Bergeron (b. 1887), daughter of Urgele Bergeron and Mary Goulet and they homesteaded in Lambert township. The children born to this union: Regina (b. 1905 — d. 1913); Leona (b. 1906) married Harry Tousignant; Walter (b. 1908 — d. 1908); Dorea (b. 1910) married Antonio Laundry; Lester (b. 1915) married Emma Baker; Walter (b. 1913) married Marion Boucher; Lawrence (b. 1917); Leonard (b. 1919) married Mary Schriber; Dewey (b. 1920) married Dorothy Boucher.

Armidas died in August of 1950 and Blanche in December of 1975.

ALPHONSE F. LAMBERT

Both Alfonse F. Lambert and his wife, Cesarie Boucher, were born in Quebec, Canada, he the son of the Francois Lamberts on December 1, 1874 at St. Ursule, and Cesarie, the daughter of the Joseph Bouchers, was born on September 6, 1880 at St. Paulon.

The Francois Lamberts came from Canada to settle in Old Lambert Town near Oklee about 1880, and the Bouchers to Lambert township in 1882. Alfonse and Cesarie were married in Lambert on July 13, 1897 and farmed in the township for twelve years before moving to Red Lake Falls where he established a dray business hauling freight and coal to serve the merchants and residents of this community. The trains did a big business in those early days before trucking and when all merchandise was transported here by rail. A familiar sight at the depots of Red Lake Falls was the fine team of buckskins, Maud and Bess, owned by Mr. Lambert, and many a youngster stood in awe and hoped for a short ride on the dray wagon or the sleigh in winter. Hired hands were most always aboard to help with the heavy loading and dispatching of goods.

Lamberts made their home for those many years on Bottineau Avenue near Riverside Park and raised their thirteen children: Edward, Rose (Mrs. Roy Gauthier), Joe, Alexine (Mrs. Ted LaCoursiere), Dora (Mrs. Harvey Champoux), Thomas, Dennis, Leo, Eunice (Mrs. Ed Haupt), Mae (Mrs. Ray Hesse), Vern, Jane (Mrs. Norvald Narveson), and Agnes (Mrs. David Holder.) Mrs. Lambert died in January 1962 and Alfonse in January 1964.

HALSEY B. LANE

Halsey B. Lane first came to Red Lake Falls in November 1922 when he concluded arrangements for the purchase of the majority stock of the Peoples Drug Company, a corporation organized in 1915 to take over the A. L. Reichert and W. A. Schreiter drug stores.

Born in 1891 at DeSoto, Wisconsin, Hal moved to Hunter, North Dakota, with his parents at age ten. He was an honor graduate of the North Dakota Agricultural College School of Pharmacy. During World War I, he served in the Army Chemical Warfare Division and was discharged in 1919.

Hal Lane married Anne Rutherford at Lisbon, North Dakota in 1922. Anne had spent all her life in North Dakota, the daughter of two homesteaders, her father from Canada, and her mother from Norway. She obtained a teaching certificate from Valley City Normal and was a county superintendent of schools.

H. B. Lane was elected mayor of the city in 1948 and served two terms, and was re-elected to the same office in 1953 and served throughout 1959. He was also Commander of the American Legion Post, an alderman at large, member of the Commercial Club and the Red Lake Falls Lodge No. 308 A.F. and A.M.

Anne Lane was a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary and its first president, and served as Ninth District President. For many years she was a most energetic and effective Red Lake County Red Cross Service Chairman.

The Lanes had two daughters, both graduates of Macalester College in St. Paul. Ellen (Mrs. Richard Wolfe) of Midland, Michigan, has five children. Cheri (Mrs. Donald Davidson) Olympia, Wash-

ington, has three children.

Hal Lane died in 1962. Anne is a resident of Hillcrest Nursing Home, Red Lake Falls.

EVIND LANGERAK AND T. O. LIEN

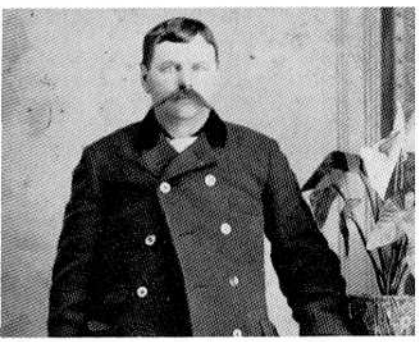
In 1892 Evind O. Langerak together with his sister, Toni, left Bygland, Norway for America. Many young people had left Norway to make their homes in Minnesota. Evind worked on farms near Fisher, and Toni got a job in a laundry in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Evind filed on a homestead in Garnes township and proved his claim in 1904. The post office at this time was Grit at Harrks place where there also was a grocery store.

Evind and Toni found a lot of hardships, like all the other new-comers. Many of the immigrants had come from good homes in Norway only to find life much different here, where there were no roads, only trails, and homestead shanties instead of large houses. However they made the most of the opportunities at hand in order to build new lives and homes in this chosen new country and were happy.

Toni passed away in 1934 and Evind in 1956. He was a very kind and gentle man.

T. O. Lien, a nephew of Evind Langerak, left Bygland, Norway in 1906. He came to McIntosh to visit Talak Aakhus, a relative of his mother. He then left for Canada and a homestead there. Later he came back to Oklee and bought 40 acres of land from Louis Larson in Equality township. He married Norma Moe in 1932. They had two sons Oliver, at home on Langerak's place, and Norman who married Jean Stensrud from Duluth in 1968. They live at Afton, Minnesota, and are both employed by Burlington Northern railway. T. O. Lien passed away in 1968.



Vital LaPlante

VITAL LaPLANTE

Vital LaPlante, born in 1833 at St. Edouard, Canada, was the first of five generations of the family to live in Red Lake County. While he was residing in Michigan, he married Udelle Dubois at Lake Linden in 1866, and twelve years later brought his family to this area making the journey by boat on Lake Superior to Duluth, then by train to Crookston, and finally the last leg by ox team to Badger Creek where Vital homesteaded a 160 acre farm in the year 1878. According to records, he paid $500.00 for property which included a log house, small granary and a barn. Nine children were born to this first family: Agnes (Mrs. Hubert Cardinal), Frank (b. 1870), Alphonsine (Mrs. Godias LaCoursiere, later Mrs. James Hance), Mary (Mrs. Exciel Quellet), Delia (Mrs. Thomas LaBissoniere), Udelia (Mrs. Phillippe Demarais), Emelie (Mrs. Dan Champeau), Arthur and Joseph.

When Vital's oldest son, Frank, married Helen Morinville in 1889, he was given a 160 acre farm in Gervais township from his father and here the couple farmed for thirty years and raised a family of nine children: Joseph, Walter, Fred, Medore, Delia (Mrs. Euclid Reopelle), Willie, Dora (Mrs. George Fournier), Leo, and Agnes (Mrs. Jack Miller.) When Fran retired from the farm in 1921, his two sons, Fred and Medore who were newly married, took over the property and continued the farm operation. Frank died in 1952, his wife in 1956.

Joseph LaPlante was born in 1890, attended business college in Crookston, and married Doria Robillard, daughter of the Ovilla Robillards, in 1911. They had a farm in Lake Pleasant township until 1920 when he decided to go into the meat business and established a fine butcher shop in Red Lake Falls that he operated for the next twenty-five years. Children of Joseph and Doria are Velina, Maurice, Willard, Merle and Raymond. Joseph retired in 1946 when the shop was rented by his son Maurice. Joseph died in 1957. His wife lives in Downey with a son.

Maurice (b. 1912) married Martha Swanson of Karlstad in 1939. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and following his discharge, took over the LaPlante Meat Market as owner. In 1960 he purchased the St. Michel Locker Plant, a business he operated until 1973. Two sons are graduates of the University of Minnesota. Darryle was employed with the Internal Revenue Service for five years until he moved to Torremolinos, Spain, where he owns a laundry. James is employed in an insurance business in Chicago.

Velina, daughter of Joseph and Doria, married Harvey Grandbois of Red Lake Falls in 1932 and they have five children: Joyce (Mrs. Ed Hnilicka), Dale retired from the U.S. Army, Doria Mae, Jerry and Allen.

Willard LaPlante married Norma Bucklin and resides in Downey, California where he is a meat cutter. They have one daughter, Sally (Mrs. George Mellor). Merle, youngest daughter of the Joseph LaPlantes, married William Bergerson in 1940. They have four children and all live in the Minneapolis area. Ray LaPlante married Mary Horgen, and after a number of years in the meat business, moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he is employed by a wholesale food company and owns an ice business. They have one daughter, Stephanie.

ANDREW S. LARSONS OF LOUISVILLE TOWNSHIP

Andrew S. Larson was born in Horby, Sweden in 1871. He emigrated from Sweden in 1892 to Mason City, Iowa where he was a mason by trade and worked in the brick yards.

Sofia Karin Nilsson, born in Simriskamn, Sweden in 1880, immigrated to Mason City, Iowa in 1899. She was the daughter of a school professor. At 19, she followed an aunt to find a new life in the United States, where she met and married A. S. Larson in 1903.

After five years, Andrew's health failed and they traded their new home in Mason City for a quarter section of land in Louisville Township. It is located one mile west



of the Old Crossing Treaty State Park along the Red Lake River. Their son Robert still operates the farm with his two sons, Drew and Lynn.

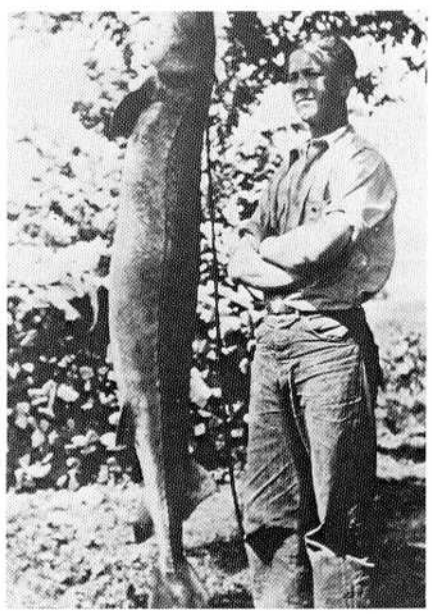
The Larson children, Helen, Carl, Edwin, George, Robert and Oscar attended rural school Dist. 153-1736. Being the only Swedes in a French community, they soon learned enough of the language to understand.

Severe drought was experienced in 1910. Little crop was harvested. It was a struggle to get enough hay for the livestock.

The family attended the Swedish Mission Church in Crookston. A. S. Larson was a Louisville town supervisor and clerk of local schoolboard for several terms. In 1920 they purchased a new Oakland car. The Larson family could always depend on a mess of fish for dinner, and the Red Lake River also provided areas for trapping, skating and swimming as recreation for the growing family. One sturgeon was caught near the Larson farm in 1929 by sons, George, Robert and Oscar with the use of a pitch fork and buck shot that landed a 148 lb. trophy. It was on display in Hunt's showcase.

Robert, born in 1912, has always farmed. After 35 years he's still clerk of the Louisville town board. He was clerk of rural school Dist. 1736 for twenty-six years, and chairman of A.S.C. Committee for eleven years.

In 1942 Robert Larson married Bernice Herold, daughter of Joseph Herald and Olivine Goulet. They have one daughter, Karin and two sons, Lynn and Drew.



CLAYTON LARSON

Clayton was born December, 1921 to Clarence O. and Bertha Larson. He grew up in the Holt community attending school there and at Thief River Falls.

In 1949 he married Beatrice Waldal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Waldal. They lived in Gary, Indiana for nine years where Clayton worked on construction and in the steel mills. Beatrice was employed by the Gary National Bank.

In the fall of 1960 the Larsons moved back to Minnesota where they purchased 160 acres of land in Emardville township from Beatrice's Dad, Alfred Waldal, which was on the west side of the road from the home place. They built a house there, but used the barn on the home place to house their herd of milk cows they soon built up. They started out by buying two registered heifers from George Waldal who lived at Buffalo, Minnesota. The next year they purchased two more heifers and before long they had eight milk cows. In the year of 1974 they purchased the remaining 160 acres of land, which Clayton farms. Beatrice worked for eleven years at the Union State Bank in Thief River Falls, and is presently working in the Red Lake Falls Branch of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Thief River Falls.

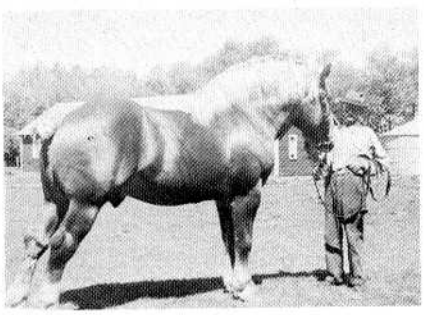
JOHN AND MARY LARSON

John Larson, early pioneer and homesteader, immigrated to America from Skanes, Sweden, some years prior to 1896. He was employed in North Dakota and did some ranching in Montana. Having heard of land to be opened for homesteading, he worked his way eastward to what is now Red Lake County. He filed on the southeast one-fourth of section three, Garnes township in 1896.

Mary Johnson also emigrated from Skanes, Sweden. She first came to Maple Bay where her brother, Charley Johnson, resided. In 1903 she married John Larson. They had a family of four sons; Roswall, George, William and Carl. Roswall passed away in July 1975. George, William and Carl still reside on the homestead.

A yoke of oxen was the Larson's first source of power, later replaced with horses with which John would travel to North Dakota during harvest and earn enough money to buy food and clothing for his family throughout the winter.

John Larson may well be remembered as an admirer of fine horses. In later years, his horses were shown at County and State Fairs. A Belgian three-year old won first place at the Minnesota State Fair in 1941. Descendants of the Belgian horses from purebred stock have been raised by John or the Larson Brothers for the past forty years.



John Larson with Belgian horse.

LaVERN AND IRENE LARSON

LaVern W. and Irene A. Larson came to Red Lake Falls in 1972, when LaVern was appointed Administrator of Hillcrest Nursing Home. They purchased their new home built by the second-year Vocational Carpentry Class of the school. Mr. and Mrs. Larson were married in Red Lake Falls and have three children, Wallace, who is married and has one son; David and Diane, who are in school at Lafayette.

LaVern, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Joseph Larson, was born and raised in Thief River Falls. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served 22 years before retiring from active service. His ancestors came to America from Lillehammer and Eidskog, Norway and fought in the Civil War with the 15th Wisconsin Regiment. The Bald Eagle was their mascot. LaVern's grandmother went to Norway for a visit in 1914, when the first World War broke out. She had a difficult time getting back into the United States. Their 25th wedding anniversary came on the original Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, with the whole world celebrating the end of the war. LaVern's father was in the Army during World War II, was captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge and was held captive for eight months before the Russians came to free the prisoners.

Irene (Wysoski) Larson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Wysoski, was born and raised in northeastern North Dakota. Her ancestors came to America from Pozan, Poland and Prague, Czechoslovakia. They settled in Michigan and Iowa, before a fast-talking salesman sold them some beautiful land and buildings (they thought) in northeastern North Dakota. After a long, hard trip by oxcart, they were greeted only by rock and trees — no buildings. Many years were spent clearing and building their homestead now a beautiful and bountiful land. Her grandfather was known far and wide, and was very much in demand as a hunter's guide in the wilderness. He was labeled "the fox" because of his very keen senses.

LaVern is a member of the Minnesota Hospital Association Conference of Geriatric Care, the American Legion and the 40 et 8. Irene is a member of the St. John's Hospital Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary.

LOUIS E. LARSON

Louis and his father, Peder Larson, moved to their farm in Terrebonne Township, from Garrison, Minnesota where they had the Arrowhead Resort on Mille Lacs Lake. Louis' only brother, George, was drowned in the major storm that hit Mille Lacs Lake in August 1927, and the family wanted to get away from the lake with its sad memories.

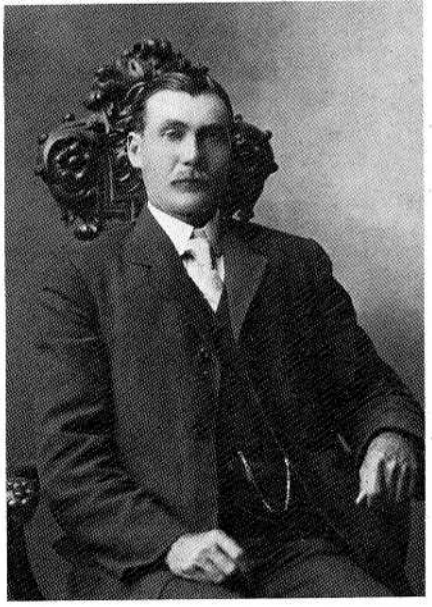
In January of 1935, Mr. Peder Larson passed away and December of the same year, Peder was killed in an accident involving a team of horses.

Louis took over the farm operation, going into the raising of Guernsey cattle, later to beef and Holstein.

Louis and his wife, Edith, have two children, Marilyn, a registered nurse employed by the Stillwater, Minnesota Hospital, and L. Peder who is on the faculty of the Warren, Minnesota schools.

Edith taught in several rural schools, as well as at Mentor, and the last ten years before retiring in the Anoka Hennepin District.

Mr. Larson passed away in 1969.



Mikkel Larson

MIKKEL LARSON FAMILY

Among the first settlers of Red Lake County was Mikkel Larson who came to the United States in 1896. Mikkel was born on January 4, 1872 in Telemarken, Norway. His wife, Gunda Bjornstad Riis, was born on February 4, 1873, also in Telemarken.

Mikkel and Gunda joined the many emigrants who left thier homeland to seek a better opportunity in the new country. They left Norway on April 24, 1893. Their journey took them across England by train, across the Atlantic on the ship, "Montbello", and from New York City to Quebec on the ship, "Sarina." From Quebec they journeyed by train to Winnepeg and on to Edinburg, North Dakota where they arrived on May 24, 1893.

Mikkel and Gunda lived near Union, North Dakota until 1896 when land opened for homesteading in Red Lake County. Mikkel came by train to Erskine, Minnesota and from there he and Olav Sjaaheim and Knut Vettleson (Sjaaheim) walked to what is now Equality Township and filed on a claim in section seventeen on May 18, 1896.

That summer he built a small house and, in November, his family joined him and they began their first year on the homestead. Mikkel went to North Dakota that fall to work in the harvest fields.

A cook stove was used for heating the house. There was a lot of dried wood available because of a fire that had dried a lot of big trees some years before. A new growth of trees had started and the little house could be seen above the tree tops. Gradually they acquired milk cows, a team of horses, a walking plow and a harrow. It was progress, but times were hard! There was a lot of water most of the time and mosquitoes were plentiful.

Black Leg disease was prevalent among cattle one year, and there was a loss of livestock. Prairie fires were also a threat.

Before the Salem Lutheran Church was built, services were held in the homes. When neighbors went to visit each other, they would walk or go by horseback or in a wagon or sleigh.

The nearest neighbors to the Mikkel Larsons were: Knute Vettleson (Sjaaheim) and Olav Sjaaheim, both bachelors; the Knut

and Elizabeth Syversrud family the Knut and Margit Byklum family; the Leif Erickson family; Nup Syversrud; the Ingebret and Marthea Hova family; Oscar O. Vasend (Watson); the Tollef and Ingeborg Kleven family; the Gjermund and Kari Heggar family; the Tarjei and Sigrid Nereson family; and the Thor and Ingeborg Larson family.

The postoffices that were near were Grit, Garnes and Lillo. Mr. Hemly from Plummer was a faithful mail carrier. He brought mail in all kinds of weather. Also faithful in his services was the Reverend Olav Kolstoe who served the Plummber, Valle and Salem Lutheran churches.

In 1904, Mrs. Larson died leaving six children. Two of the children were taken care of by neighbors; Gunda, the youngest, by Mr. and Mrs. Ole O. Lee; and Petra who stayed at the Reverend Kolstoe home for two years. Caroline was the youngest at home and Bertha and Helga were the housekeepers. There was one boy, Lars M. Larson. Synneve Syversrud (Swenson) was a help to the children at this time and the neighbors were good and helpful.

The children had fun on summer evenings with 'their echo' . . . The echo was also heard in the rain barrel where the willow bark flutes were kept so they wouldn't dry out. They also enjoyed the songs of the blackbirds and the frog chorus at night. The wolves would howl and bark at night and once the children saw a bear trotting along a furrow of newly plowed land.

The children attended the Sunnyside School, district ten and the family bought supplies at the store and postoffice (Grit) run by Edward and Inga Havik.

In 1910 there was news of a railroad and a new town. Mikkel said, "The first he saw of Oklee was a grocery box where Melby's Store now stands!" Plummer and McIntosh had been the closest towns before Oklee was built.

In 1916 the old homestead was sold, and Mikkel bought a farm in Garnes Township, section thirteen. He married Guro Skreland in 1918 and later moved to Equality Township, section thirty-two. They had one son, Gunsten, who is now living with his family on this farm.

Mikkel Larson was ninety-eight when he died on June 30, 1970, and was the last of the pioneers of Equality Township.

MILO AND PAT LARSON

Mr. and Mrs. Milo Larson came to Oklee in April, 1951 when Milo started as manager of the Oklee Farmers' Elevator. Pat was from Minneapolis and Milo from Blackduck. They met while Milo was a student at the University of Minnesota and were married July 8, 1950 at St. Lawrence Church in Minneapolis. Prior to coming to Oklee, the couple made their home at Penn, North Dakota, where Milo was employed at the elevator there.

The Larsons recall the welcome they received upon their arrival in Oklee. Not knowing the condition of Oklee's streets in the spring of '51, they pulled over to the side of the street to park only to have their 1938 Plymouth nearly sink out of sight. It took Tom Toulouse and his team of horses to pull them out. A great way to become acquainted in the new town!

Milo and Pat have three sons — Mark, Paul and John. Paul and John had the distinction of being the first babies born in Red Lake County in 1954 and 1959.

Milo held the position of elevator manager until 1967 when he left for other employment. The family continued to make their home in Oklee. Pat was employed by Inter-County Community Council working with the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program.

In 1970 the Larsons, along with Lyle Mandt, purchased Third Base at Brooks with Milo and Pat taking over the management of the establishment on May 1, 1970.

The business was purchased from Edith Toupin who decided to sell following the death of her husband Rolland J. Toupin in December, 1969.

Mr. and Mrs. Toupin built the bar and lounge in 1957 and added the dining area in 1967.

The Larson family moved to Brooks in 1973 where they still reside.

STANLEY LARSON FAMILY

Stanley Larson was born at Karlstad and his wife, the former Sandra Garfne, in Newfolden. Steven, their first son, was born in St. Paul in 1960 and Scott at Karlstad in 1963.

In the spring of 1966, the family moved to Red Lake Falls when Stanley was employed by the DMH company.

For one month the Larsons lived in the trailer court and then moved to the former Schantzen house. A few years later they bought the Virgil Patnode home.

Their most memorable event of Red Lake Falls will always be the day when the Klonkike bridge went down from the weight of the ice.

ELI LASHA FAMILY

Eli Lasha (Leger) was born in Ogdensburg, New York on Feb. 21, 1850. His family moved to St. Paul when Eli was 13. He and his brother Moise lived in Anoka for four years before Eli moved to Red Lake County on July 30, 1876.

The Legers are a French-Canadian family that can trace their ancesters back to Pierre Leger who arrived in Quebec from Paris in 1699. When Eli moved to northern Minnesota, it was thought best to change the name to Lasha, so that it could be spelled like it sounded.

Eli was one of the first to file on a homestead southwest of the city, where he lived until the family moved to Red Lake Falls in 1914. While he was living in St. Paul, he married Anne Beaudro who was from Canada. She died in April 27, 1883 in Red Lake Falls and on Feb. 22, 1884, he married Philomene Noel. There were 12 children born of these unions. The children of Eli and Anne were Caroline, Nettie, Mamie, Stella and Jule. The children of Eli and Philomene were Cora, Annie, Mabel, Edna, Sara, Emery and John. Annie and Edna are living as of this date.

Eli had a farm but was a plasterer by trade. He had jobs in the Crookston area, many times going back and forth from work by foot. He took a prominent part in the pioneer life of the community. For more than 40 years he served as treasurer of the school district in which he lived. He was active in the Odd Fellows for many years, holding various offices in the local order. In November of 1932, Mr. and Mrs. Lasha moved to the Odd Fellows Home in Northfield, Minnesota, where Mr. Lasha died on Feb. 1, 1933. Mrs. Lasha lived at the home until her death in 1935.

JULE LASHA FAMILY

From the family records I have read and family memories that have been told to me, plus some fond memories of my own, I can relate an incomplete history of a family that participated in the growth and heritage of Red Lake County.

My grandfather, Jule Henry Lasha, was born July 4, 1877 to Anne and Eli Lasha. He was the first white boy born in Red Lake County territory. When he was 14, he went to St. John's Catholic School in Collegeville, Minnesota for a year's study. As a young man, he enjoyed the social activities of the community and played the fiddle at the local dances. However, he was the oldest boy and his father depended on his help on the farm.

My grandmother, Florence Marie Wichterman was born in New York state on August 9, 1874, just east of Niagara Falls. She traveled west with her parents and brothers and sisters, which eventually numbered 9. Their covered wagon took them to a farm near Fargo in 1881, but 4 years later they moved to Red Lake County and settled on a farm in Poplar River. Later grandmother's father had a livery stable in Plummer. I can remember hearing the story of the day Florence and her sister Sadie were playing outside on a swing and several Indians came up to the house. Sadie got so frightened that she fell off the swing and it hit her in the head! Grandma said it knocked her out! Florence's mother gave the Indians some bread and they left, but did return several times again for food.

Florence worked for Mr. and Mrs. Garceau in Red Lake Falls. Mamie, one of



Eli Lasha Family. *Front:* Eli, Sara, Mabel, Philemene. *Standing:* Emery, Anna, Edna, Cora and John 1916.



Jewel Lasha and sisters, Caroline, Nettie, Mamie and Stella.

Jule's sisters, also did housework in town. The two girls became friends and it was Mamie who introduced my grandparents to each other.

On May 19, 1898, Jule and Florence were married in Fosston. Six children were born of this marriage, Walter, Roy, Leo, Raymond, Ella and Emma. Only Ella survives as of this date.

Jule always lived in Red Lake County. He farmed until 1908, at which time he moved into Red Lake Falls. On Dec. 1 of that year, he was appointed rural mail carrier on Route #2, through Dorothy and Huot. He retired in 1940. In 1948, he was elected Alderman-at-Large and served in that office until 1952. He belonged to the Odd Fellows Lodge and held several offices. Florence was active in the Royal Neighbors.

In 1955, my grandparents moved to the Oakland Rest Home in Thief River Falls. Grandma died at the age of 82 on August 18, 1956. Grandpa then lived with his son, Uncle Leo, in Florence, Colorado until June 1, 1960. At that time, he moved to the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls until his death on Nov. 3, 1960.

My mother, Ella Lasha, was born July 18, 1904 in Red Lake Falls to Jule and Florence. She was educated in the local schools and on January 27, 1923, married my father, Charles Warner of Thief River Falls. Two children were born of this marriage, my brother Jack and myself (Jewell). Ella and Charles lived in Thief River Falls until 1945 when they moved to Montana. In 1959 they moved to California where they now reside as do their children and three grandchildren.

Leo Lasha, son of Jule and Florence, was born on April 30, 1901. He also attended the local schools and married Godelyn Cadieux in 1923. They had a daughter, Joan. Leo was co-owner of the Home Oil Co. and later had a barber shop in Beach, No. Dak., Red Lake Falls, and in Ada. Godelyn died in 1936 and Joan died in 1973. In 1938, Leo married Martha Vikoren from Fosston. They subsequently settled in Colorado. Three boys, Leon, Larry, and Lonnie were born. Leo died on June 1, 1963 and Martha, the three sons, their wives and 4 grandchildren reside in Colorado at the present time. Joan's son, Randi lives in Minneapolis.

The mail route was an integral part of my visits to Grandpa and Grandma's house. Grandpa would first go to the post office to sort and load the mail. At this time, Grandma would be preparing me and a large snack for our morning's route. Then Grandpa would pick me up and we'd go to work. One of his patrons on the route (how I wish I could recall the name) received a German paper. Grandpa would always hand me the paper and ask me to tell him of the world events. He loved to tease and I learned to go along with the gag. Later, I pulled the same trick on my cousin, Joan, when she went with us. My Uncle Emery lived on that mail route. Only the barn was visible from the road. Once when Uncle Emery was pointing out where he lived, he said "See that barn? That's my house." That became a family joke and each day when Grandpa and I would pass Uncle Emery's place, I would point and mimic him and each day Grandpa would laugh and act as if he had never heard it before! There were always many gentlemen sitting in front of the store at Dorothy. They would grin when we would park and ask Grandpa where he got the girl. Grandpa would seriously tell them she was an Indian he had picked up along the way! How embarrassed I was, but I knew that if I could put up with the laughter and go into the store, I'd get a treat. I would always get my treat!

Grandpa and Grandma had a cow and it was Mother's (Ella) job each day to deliver milk to the neighbors. One of her best customers was Charles Boughton, Sr., who lived next door. The price of milk was 10¢ per quart — Mrs. Boughton made Mother's 8th grade graduation dress. It was white voile with embroidered lapels and sash. — A new bank began operations in Red Lake Falls and Mr. Boughton opened account #1 for Mother and put $1.00 in it. — During the 'flu' epidemic in 1917-18, Mother was in high school and the schools were closed. Godelyn Cadieux and Mother decided to help in the homes of the sick. But when Grandma found out, she quickly put a stop to their good deeds.

May I share other pleasant memories, such as: Grandma's feather bed; Joan and I eating rhubarb in the garden; the black leather chair that reclined; the 6 o'clock siren and the noise it made in the "house under the water tank" when it blew; the teasing; the trips to the dam; the cherry sundaes at Vezinas; Grandma in her Dutch costume for a Royal Neighbor float; Grandpa's ice house; the smell of the musty cellar; July 4 with the fireworks; the watermelon and the new car Grandpa usually bought himself for a birthday present; the kittens; Grandpa playing the jew's harp; the player piano at Perraults; Mass at St. Mary's; the darkness in the barn; Grandma humming; the joy, the love, and the laughter. These memories and many more are in my thoughts tonight as I am writing this. It is all a part of my life — a part of living that we know can never return. I can only hope that when my daughter, Charlotte, has lived as many years, she will recall happy events she had with her grandparents that will bring a lump in her throat, tears in her eyes and love in her heart.

EMERY G. LASHA

Emery G. Lasha was born near Red Lake Falls September 18, 1885, the son of Eli Lasha and Philomene Noel. He attended the local schools and as a young man worked on the Iron Range, and then moved to Argyle where he met and married Josephine Morin. They had four children: Noella, (Mrs. Lawrence Audette); Robert; Clement; and Doris (Mrs. Leonard Goulet).

The family moved to Detroit, Michigan where he worked for the Ford Motor Company at the magnificent wage of $5.00 per day, later transferring to St. Paul and Minneapolis. In 1928 he moved his family back to Red Lake Falls and took over the mail route for his half-brother, Jule, who was on vacation. A fifth child, Phyllis, (Sister Laurian, O.S.B.) was born that winter. In the spring he went farming on what is now the Martin DeHaan farm, and later farmed in Louisville township.

After retiring from farming he sold shares for Farmers Union Exchange. During World War II he worked in the shipyards on the west coast. In 1944 he moved to Thief River Falls where he died November 17, 1951. Mrs. Lasha later married Leon Goulet of Warren, and she died in Thief River Falls April 14, 1971.

FRANCIS (FRANK) LATENDRESSE

Francis (Frank) Latendresse was born in December, 1839 in the Province of Ontario, Canada. As a young man he worked for several years in lumber camps. He married Virginia Bonnain who was also born in the same province. Here nine children were born. Two of these children died in infancy and those surviving were: Joe, Nelse, Dan, Hildage, Majoric, Cizzarine and Alodie.

In 1878 Francis and his family moved to northwestern Minnesota. They took a claim two miles southwest of Red Lake Falls in section twenty-nine. There they built a log house and barn and broke the new sod with a hand plow and a team of oxen. Two more sons were born here, Frank and Aime.

Most of the children attended the little country school, District Forty, which was only about a quarter of a mile west from where they lived. Some years later their house burned and most of their belongings, along with the seed grain that was stored in a shed adjacent to the house.

From this farm they moved to another place northwest of their own claim which was known as the Borden place. Here there was a small log house and barn which they used until they were able to buy another farm. Shortly after, they bought a hundred and sixty acre farm from Mr. J. Lavaque, just south of the Borden place. This piece of land was mostly all woods and had no buildings on it, so Francis and the boys built a house and other buildings and cleared some of the land for farming.

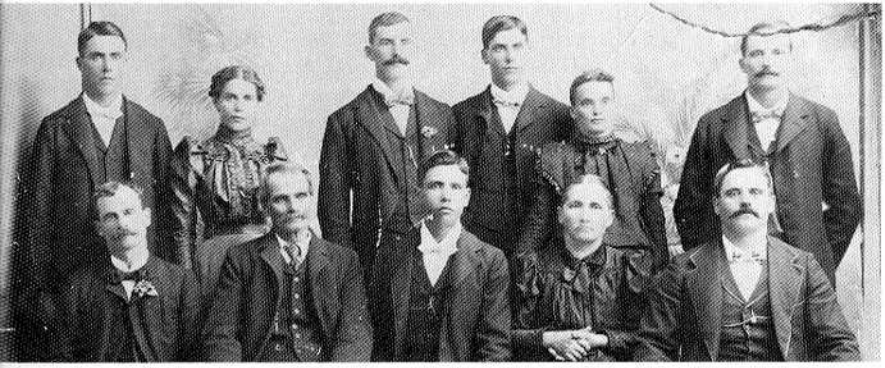
By this time, most of the older children had gone out on their own except Majoric, who stayed on the farm. On February 22, 1906, Majoric married Obeline Grenier, the daughter of Frank and Mary Goulet Grenier, who were also old settlers in these parts.

About the year 1908, Francis bought a house in Red Lake Falls and retired. One son and one daughter, Nelse and Alodie, remained with their parents until they both died; Frank in 1917 at age seventy-eight and Virginia in 1934 at age ninety-four.

Joe, the eldest of the family, had returned to Canada (near Edmonton) to work in lumber camps where some years later he died.

Hildage married Lydia Cyr, Ben Cyr's daughter, who was also an early settler. Hildage and Lydia went to Cass Lake, Minnesota. There they operated a grocery store and did some fur trading with the Indians. They had two boys, but lost both of them, one in infancy and one when he was seven years of age. After some years there, they decided to go to Yakima, Washington to live. There they operated another grocery store until he retired.

Dan married Sophie Cyr, a sister to Hildage's wife, and lived in Red Lake Falls. He and Nelse had a saloon for many years. Several years after his family of two boys and a girl were grown, they also went to Yakima to live. Their daughter, Leah, and



Latendresse Family. *Top:* Majoric, Alodie, Hildage, Frank, Cizzarine and Dan. *Bottom:* Joe, Francis, Aime, Virginia and Nelse.

her husband, Theo Garceau, and their family had been living there for several years.

Cizzarine married Joe Gamache, a carpenter. They had eight children, five boys and three girls. All were born and raised in the house used as the first Oak Knolls Club House near the golf course in Red Lake Falls. There, three of the boys died. In 1919 or 1920, they also left to live in Yakima where Francis, their son, had been working for several years in his uncle Hildage's grocery store.

Aime, the youngest in the family, had gone on to college, after which he worked as County Auditor for Red Lake County, and for some years in Edmonton, Canada. He married Bridgetta Connerty. Her family lived where the Don Amiot's live today. One daughter, Mona, was born here and another daughter, Marian, was born in Yakima where they also went to live.

All of this time, Majoric remained here and operated the farm. He died on December 17, 1956 at the age of eighty. His wife Obeline, died on June 14, 1919 at age 33. They had three children, two boys and a girl. The oldest boy, Leo, died on April 25, 1944. Dave is farming and owns both the old homestead and the home place. Mrs. Bernard Scheuring (Vena) lives in Red Lake Falls.

JOSEPH LAUNDRY

Joseph Laundry was born at Anoka in 1861 and came to Red Lake County as a young man to do farm labor.

In 1882 he married Philomen Collette who had come from Canada with Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Beaudin when she was fifteen years old. The Beaudins had no children and had taken this girl as a traveling companion. She was to make her home with them until she married.

Joseph and Philomen farmed on the west end of Section 12, which is today the Vernon Schindler farm. Nine of their eleven children were born in the same old house.

In 1902 they moved to Poplar River on what was later known as the Mercil farm. The family increased by two while they lived there. After a few more years of farming, they sold the farm because of Mr. Laundry's health and bought a store and hotel combination in Terrebonne in 1906. This building had been built by Dr. Tessier's father many years before. Dr. Tessier resided in Oklee and, besides the Oklee and Lambert communities, he also served the residents of Brooks and Terrebonne.

Mr. and Mrs. Laundry managed the store, post office, and hotel and boarded and roomed the Terrebonne school teachers. Travelers would stop overnight and for meals.

The winters were especially busy because Mrs. Laundry took in quite a few boarders who worked all summer but were unemployed in the winter.

In 1913 Joseph passed away but Mrs. Laundry and her son, Peter, kept the business place for a few more years. They then sold to Joe Parenteau. Mrs. Laundry retired and moved to what is the Louis Laundry home today.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Laundry had eleven children: Albina, Elodia, (Mrs. Albert Perreault), Peter, Joe, Anna (Mrs. Albert Poirier), Arthur, Louis, William, Alma (Mrs. Henry Sauve), Dora (Mrs. Ernest Paradis) and Cecelia (Mrs. Raymond Paradis).

LOUIS LAUNDRY

Louis Laundry, the seventh child of Joseph Laundry and Philomen Collette, was born at Terrebonne in 1893. As a growing boy he helped his father on the farm and attended the Terrebonne school.

At the age of twenty-two, Louis was drafted during the World War I. After training a short time in the United States, he was sent to Europe where, for over a year, he served in France, Great Britain, and also six months on the Rhine in Germany.

When Louis returned from the service, he built a grocery store in Terrebonne and operated that for twenty years. He sold the store to his nephew, Richard Sauve, who also operated it for many years.

After Louis's retirement he did outside painting in the summers. In 1951 he married a widow, Eva Pose Fournier LaPlante, who had four daughters: Cecelia (Mrs. Charles Redpath), Rita (Mrs. Leonard MacDougal), Beulah (Mrs. Vern Heitter) and Henriette (Mrs. Dave Knutson).

PETER LAUNDRY

Peter Laundry was born in Terrebonne Township in 1888, the third child of Joe Laundry and Philomen Collette. He attended Terrebonne school and as a young man, helped his dad on the farm until they sold the property and purchased the hotel and store in Terrebonne.

Peter managed the store with his mother. The post office was part of the grocery store and Peter hauled the mail by horse and buggy from Red Lake Falls to Terrebonne every day. There was no rural delivery then.

The store had an ice cooled storage for fresh meat and Peter and his brothers butchered and prepared the meat for sale. There was no refrigeration then so in the winter the boys cut blocks of ice on the Clearwater River and packed them in sawdust in an ice house for use the next summer.

In 1912 Peter married Eva Sauve Ste. Marie, a widow with two children: Mae (Mrs. Ted Clement) and Leo. Peter, with his new family decided to leave the store business and try a new adventure. His brother-in-law, Art Prenevost, a road contractor, hired him as a cook for his road building crew. Peter did that for many years. He also kept up his cooking career and would go to cook for threshing crews in Minot, North Dakota, in the fall. The winters were long and there were no unemployment payments in those days.

In 1931 Peter moved the family from Terrebonne to Red Lake Falls. He then was selling cars for Joe Helm. After a few years he was appointed County Assessor and assessed property until he was forced to retire because of ill health.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Laundry had six children: Ella (Mrs. Cecil Collins), Luma (Mrs. Harold Fairbanks), Woodrow, Eileen (Mrs. Homer Carlson), Marc, and Bonnie (Mrs. Al Gerster).

JOSEPH LAURENT FAMILY

Joseph Laurent, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Laurent, was born at St. Justin, Quebec, Canada in 1859. Amanda Fournier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Fournier, was born at St. Ursula, Quebec, Canada. They were married at Terrebonne in 1883. Somewhere near 1880, Mr. Laurent came to Red Lake County and homesteaded about seven miles southeast of Red Lake Falls. He started with a log cabin and developed his farm into one of the finest in the Red River Valley. In fact, one of the finest in Northern Minnesota. The farm was, at one time, awarded second prize in the J. J. Hill farm district contest. It was especially noted for its neat and well plan-



Joseph Laurent Family

ned construction and maintenance. The 72' x 72' barn received the most attention and recognition. The Laurents sold their farm to Mr. and Mrs. August Abell in 1910 and lived in Crookston until 1918, when they moved to Yakima, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurent had twelve children. They were Homer, Henry, Horace, Eliza, Regina, Deree, Mathilda, Cecelia, Theodore, Delphise, Madeline and Florence. Three died in infancy. All have since passed away except Cecelia (Mrs. Jay LaFontaine) of Yakima, Washington, and Florence (Mrs. Herbert Hambleton) of Portland, Oregon.

Other owners of the farm were Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kienest from 1913 to 1917; Mr. and Mrs. Mos Remier purchased the farm in 1918 and died that year of influenza. They were buried in the same grave at St. Anthony's cemetery in Terrebonne. They were buried at night with no service at the church as this was the ruling during the severe influenza epidemic.

Other owners of the farm have been Joe J. Helm, Louis Hagl, Joe Loeffleur, Leo Kalinoski and the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Perreault.



George Lees with sons, Mickey, Gary, Mark and David and daughter, Kathryn.

ANTON LEE AND ELMER LEE FAMILIES

Father immigrated to the United States from Oslo, Norway at the age of twelve. Mother came from Vermland, Sweden as a young lady. They met at Park River, North Dakota, and were married on the place where they farmed for three years. Each year the crops froze out, so they moved to Polk County, Wyandotte Township, and homesteaded a quarter section of land three miles north of what is now Plummer.

This land was all woods and brush. In order to prove this land and establish title to it, seven acres had to be cleared and put into field. This was slow work as it had to be done by hand, signed by President William M. McKinley.

It was hard to get started, as they didn't have much to work with and very little money. Father worked out part of the time. He had been a tailor in Norway, but didn't take it up here, as he wanted to farm.

The nearest town was St. Hiliare, which was ten miles away. There were no roads but only trails through the woods. The only transportation was with wagons, horses, or oxen. People did a lot of walking in those days.

I was born in 1897 in a two-room log house built by father with the help of neighbors. Mrs. Hans Holten was the neighbor-midwife. I had three sisters, Elphie, Ruth, and Alice. Ruth died at the age of twenty-one. Elphie and Alice both married and had families and are now deceased.

Wood furnished the fuel for cooking, baking, and the heating of our home. We used kerosene lamps for light. A kerosene lantern provided the light while doing the chores.

The Soo line railroad came through in 1904. There was lots of activity around the area while the road was being built. Dad was hoping the railroad would come close enough so he could see the trains, and tracks were laid just two hundred feet from our house. He never got tired of watching the trains go by.

The town of Plummer was started in 1904, and shortly after the railroad came to the village. Many more places of business were constructed and Plummer became a good shopping and business town. As time went on, more land was opened up and farmers started raising more cattle and grain.

Our first telephone was installed in 1913. Very few homes had telephones, so many neighbors came over to call in an emergency, and we always had messages to deliver to them. We purchased our first car in 1917, Model T Ford, for $370 from Paul Schoenauer. We still have the cancelled check.

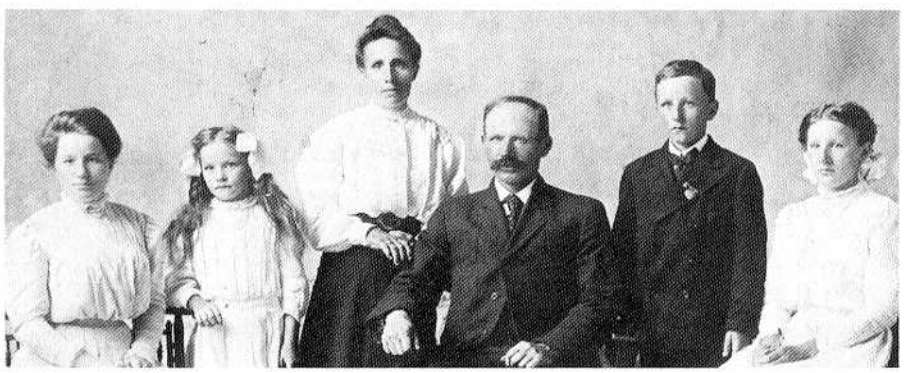
We attended school in District 148 J. We walked a mile part of the way on the railroad track, and the rest of the way on a trail through the woods. There were three months of school in the spring and fall, later a seven month term. Each morning the teacher built the fires, swept, and dusted. The older boys carried in the wood. Some of the girls cleaned the blackboards and erasers. We had fun at school, too. I remember that one of our teachers often let us dance at recess time to the song "Red Wing." This didn't last very long as the school board found out about it. After I finished the eighth grade, I farmed with my dad.

I was married in 1922 to Lillian Johnson of Plummer. We lived with my father until he passed away in 1948, when I took over the farm. We have a daughter, Marian, married to Arnold Wichterman, living in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. They have a daughter, Mary, teaching in schools for the deaf and a son, Scott, attending college in St. Paul. Our son, Marvin, of North St. Paul, has been employed by Minnesota Mining for eighteen years. He is also a Veteran of the Korean War.

Yvonne Tischard, a third member of our family, made her home with us since she was six years old, when mother passed away. Yvonne is our niece. She is married to Don Wahlbeck of Thief River Falls. They have two daughters, Kristi and Kathy.

We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in 1972. We are members of the Plummer Immanuel Lutheran Church.

I have lived in two counties and two townships (in Wyandott Township in Polk County and Emardville Township in Red Lake County) and never moved.



Anton Lees with daughters, Alphie, Ruth and Alice and son, Elmer.

GEORGE AND DOROTHY LEE

George and Dorothy Lee moved to Oklee with their two sons, Mickey and Gary, in April, 1956 when George started employment with the Security State Bank. George was born to Herman and Agnes Hagen Lee in Erskine and Dorothy is the daughter of Carl and Trine Lyngaas, formerly of Erskine.

The three other children born to this family are: Kathryn, Mark and David. Mickey is employed as Graphic Arts Coordinator for Melroe in Gwinner, North Dakota. Gary is married to Sandra Johnson of Oklee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luaine Johnson, and is employed at the McIntosh A.S.C. Office. Kathy is a student at the University of North Dakota and Mark is a student at Bemidji State University. David is an eighth grader at Oklee High School.

OLE O. LEE

Ole O. Lee came to America from Osterdalen, Norway, in 1888 at the age of twenty-three and worked as a farm hand at Wallingford, Iowa. There he married a farmer's daughter, Bertha Larson. In May of 1896 Ole went by wagon to McIntosh, Minnesota and then filed on a homestead in Equality Township. A short time later his wife and little daughter, Jessie, came by train. Ole and Bertha lived the rest of their lives on this farm.

They were active in the affairs of the Salem Lutheran Church and she was an active member of the Salem Ladies Aid. For several years Ole served as Equality Township clerk and also was Treasurer. Ole also was a County Commissioner from his district for twenty-two years.

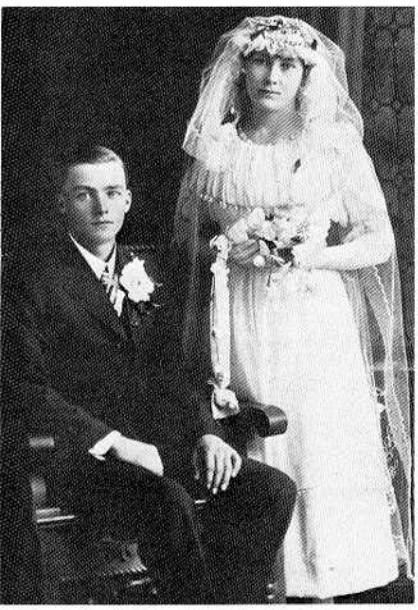
Their only child was Jessie who married Lars M. Larson. They also had a foster daughter, Gunda.

Lars and Jessie Larson have three children, Mildred, Mrs. Clifford Lund of Albert Lea; Burdell, Mrs. Elmer Olson of Forest City, Iowa; and Leonard of Minneapolis. Lars Larson died in the fall of 1969.

Gunda married John Flatgard and they lived in Canada. She died in the fall of 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the Salem Lutheran Church in July of 1944. Mrs. Lee died on January 2, 1946 and Mr. Lee on January 23, 1952.

The present owner of the Ole Lee farm is Gene Hegge.



Mr. and Mrs. Lars M. Larson

LEFAIVRE FAMILY

David Lefaivre, age seventeen, great nephew of Lucy Lefaivre, can trace his ancestry through five generations. His father was Vincent, grandfather George, great-grandfather Octave, great-great-grandfather Pierre, and great-great-great-grandfather Paul.

Paul Lefaivre came with his son Pierre from Montreal, Canada in 1856 and settled at Buffalo, Minnesota in Wright County. Living was difficult and he returned the next year to Canada. Pierre remained there doing carpenter work.

Pierre continued living in Wright County and married Mathilda Berthiaume in 1860. After the birth of his first son, Peter, he left to fight in the Civil War and was away from home for five years. In 1866, he came with his family to the vicinity of Gentily, traveling with oxen and covered wagon. He farmed there on the farm now owned by John Patnode.

Peter and his mother each homesteaded forty acres of land southeast of Terrebonne. Octave, another son of Pierre moved onto this land owned by Peter. Octave married Emma Bison in 1890 in the church which then was built in the block east of the location of the present Catholic church. Octave farmed and did road work and later moved to a dairy farm in Garnes township where he cleared land and raised a herd of thirty-five dairy cows which were milked by hand. Octave was active in church work and was on the township and school boards. With their many holdings, the family at one time owned 840 acres of land.

Octave and Emma had six children, Lena, Georgiana, Louis, George, Paul and Lucy. In 1909, the family moved to a farm five miles east of Red Lake Falls in Gervais township. Octave donated land on which to build the Town Hall and acted as Deputy sheriff for the township to supervise barn dances. He died in 1937 and Paul took over the operation of the farm, living with his mother.

Lucy took nurses' training at St. Vincent's Hospital in Crookston from 1920 to 1923, and then took further training at Eitel Hospital in Minneapolis. She did special nursing around Red Lake Falls, working with Dr. Roy. She also worked at Roseau and Beaudette and had an interesting experience at Center Island in Lake of the Woods. An escaped murderer was apprehended as a stowaway on a boat and was given into Lucy's care until he could be transferred.

Mrs. Octave Lefaivre's health failed and Lucy returned home in 1955. Her mother died in 1957. Lucy and Paul are still living on the home place where Paul is still very active.



Octave and Emma Lefaivre with Lena and Georgianna.

WILLIAM LEHRER FAMILY

William Lehrer was born in Atwater, Minnesota, in 1883, the son of Andrew and Elizabeth Ryl Lehrer. When he was twenty years old, he moved to Red Lake County and settled on a farm in Brown's Creek Township where he resided until his death in 1943.

In 1911 he married Miss Ida Rosina Gerlach at Immanuel Lutheran Chruch of Wylie. She died in 1961.

Mr. Lehrer took a prominent part in township affairs, being township supervisor for fifteen years and township assessor for one year. He was also prominent in the affairs of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wylie. He served as financial secretary for five years and trustee for two years.

There were two sons born to the family. Arnold Lehrer farms in Red Lake Falls Township. He is married to Marie Busse and they have one son, Ronald who married Maureen Fellman. They live in Midland, Michigan, and have three children, Jeanette, Karen, and John. Ron is a chemical engineer for Dow Chemical Company.

Ruben Lehrer is married to Lucille Busse. They reside on the home place in Brown's Creek Township. One son, Michael, was born to them. He resides in St. Hilaire, Minnesota, and teaches music and band in Thief River Falls Public Schools. Mike married Karen Longton. They have two sons, Mark and Brian.



William and Ida Lehrer

ARTHUR LEINING AND CHARLOTTE HANSON LEINING

Arthur G. Leining and Charlotte E. Hanson Leining migrated from Hatton, North Dakota to Red Lake County in 1952 when they purchased the S. J. Kela farm where they still reside.

Art and Charlotte grew up as neighbors near Buxton, North Dakota, and were married there in 1932 at the height of the depression. They, like so many others, knew what it meant to do without, but were happy anyway. Eggs at that time were eight cents a dozen, butterfat was thirteen cents a pound and a cow brought ten dollars on the market. A good horse brought fifteen dollars.

When Francis was born in 1933 at the Mayville Hospital, the bill was $30.00 for ten days, with the finest of food and care. Doctor Bernt Odegard charged $12.

Why move to Plummer from the heart of the Red River Valley? Land prices there were exorbitant, but not so here at that time. After inspecting several farms in northwestern Minnesota, we settled east of Plummer. Since the owner in North Dakota



Arthur Leining silver wedding 1957

did not think it necessary to provide the home with electricity and running water, we were pleased to move into a home which had both.

Coming along with us were our four sons and one daughter. On April first the three younger children Carole, Lyndon, and Arthur Jr. enrolled in the Plummer school. Although they moved rather reluctantly, they soon became adjusted to a new school and community. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Plummer played a very important part in our lives and still does.

The two older sons, Francis and Wayne served in the armed forces shortly after the move to Plummer. As is typical in any family, the children began leaving the nest. Wayne was the first. He and Barbara M. Wright were married in 1958. They and their children, Beth, Scott, and Kelly Jo reside on the home farm. They moved their house out from town following the tragic traffic death in 1967 of Arthur Jr. who was carrying on the farm operations with his parents.

Francis and Bernice J. Berg were married in 1961. Francis is employed by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in Wadena where they and their children Debbie, Lori, and Jeffrey reside.

Lyndon and Mary Livermore were married in 1967 at Austin, where they live with their daughters Melinda and Sara. Lyndon is employed by Hormel.

After several years of teaching, Carole decided it was time for a change. In 1975 she became Mrs. James G. Wright and lives on a farm near home.

Our parents were pioneers in North Dakota and although we cannot claim that distinction in this area, we are proud of those who were and hope that we, like they, have helped to make Red Lake County a better place to live and are always thankful to God for all His Blessings.

DR. ISRAEL LEMIEUX

Dr. Israel Lemieux was born in 1852 in St. Martine Chateauguay County, province of Quebec. He was married in Montreal to Azilda Laforce in 1874. In 1880 they moved to Red Lake Falls where he continued his practice of medicine.

The Lemieuxs had four sons: Wilfred, Joseph, Adelore and Napoleon and three daughters: Rosalba, Albina and Ida.

Dr. Lemieux practiced medicine in Red Lake Falls for many years; his first office was in his home on Third Street in what is now the Dallas Largis home. He built a home on Main Street which was his home and office until his retirement. This is now the home of Violet Fellman.

Dr. Lemieux was very active in civic affairs. He was organist at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, president of the village council, served as mayor for several years, and served as secretary of the school board for twenty five years. His daughter, Mrs. Ida Hall, still has a gold-headed cane which was presented to him by the school board in 1933 in recognition of his services.

Mrs. Lemieux died January 27, 1900. In 1902 Dr. Lemieux married Katherine Stuhr. For many years she was a milliner in Red Lake Falls. Mrs. Lemieux died in 1934. That same year Dr. Lemieux moved to Grand Forks where he lived with his daughter Mrs. Ida Hall and her family.

Dr. Lemieux died at Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1935 and was buried in Red Lake Falls.

THE TED LEMIEUX FAMILY

My grandparents, Henry and Sarah Lemieux, left Montreal, Canada about 1878 to come to Red Lake county where they bought a farm 5 miles east of Plummer. Here they lived until their deaths about 1907.

The Lemieuxs had six sons: Nap, Albert, Ted, Andrew, Keough, and Edward; and two daughters: Alice and Cora. Andrew and Alice are the only survivors. Both live in Virginia, Minnesota.

My father, Ted Lemieux, married Bertha Nordby, of Bergen, Norway. They farmed east of Plummer a few years before moving to Plummer. Here they operated a cafe for many years before adding a bowling alley. Ted also managed the Plummer liquor store.

Mrs. Lemieux died September 12, 1960 at St. John's Hospital, Red Lake Falls. Mr. Lemieux died August 12, 1970 in San Diego, California.

The Ted Lemieuxs had nine children — two sons died at an early age: Jackie of San Diego has four children, Teddy, Jan, Julie and Crissy, and one grandson; Violette, Mrs. Med Benoit, has two children, Audry, Mrs. Duane Hagl, and Ralph (better known as Sonny) and four grandsons: Steve and Mark Hagl, and Larry and Rick Benoit; Alice, Mrs. Reaume Ste. Marie of Seattle, Washington, has four children:



Ted and Bertha Lemieux wedding.

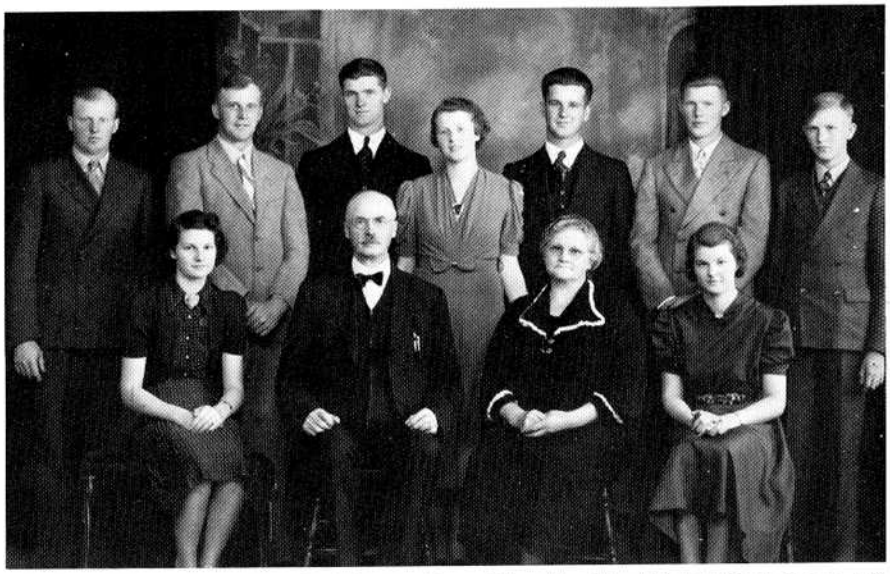
Janyce, Sharon, Terry and Tim and two grandsons, Jason and Jody; Edna, Mrs. Sidney Lieberman of Spring Valley, California has three children, Charlene, Nancy and Mark, and one grandson, Brian; Lorraine, Mrs. Tom Sheldon of San Diego, has two sons, Kenny and Tommy; Bobby Jean, Mrs. Dick Hobbs of Half Moon Bay, California has two children, Rickie and Larri; Marcie, Mrs. Bob Hastetter of La Mesa, California has three children, Tammy, Kelly Jean and Douglas.

Med and Vi Benoit spent 16 years in California. They retired in 1974 and moved back to Red Lake Falls where Med died in 1975. Vi returned to California with her children.

REVEREND AND MRS. J. K. LEROHL

The Lerohl family arrived in Oklee in October, 1920 from Starbuck, Manitoba, Canada. There were nine children: Ruth, Carol, Arthur, Grace, George, Edith, Edgar, Agnes and Harold. Robert was born in 1922 in Oklee.

Reverend Lerohl served as Pastor for five congregations regularly, and for a period of time, six. They were Zion, Salem, Valle, Plummer, Emardville and Ebenezer. For many years his transportation was by horse and buggy in the summer, and horse and cutter in the winter. He bought a Model T Ford in 1925 and in 1928 the congrega-



Rev. Lerohl Family. *Back:* Arthur, Carl, George, Grace, Edgar, Harold and Robert. *Front:* Agnes, J. K. Lerohl, Mrs. Lerohl and Edith.

tions gave him a Model A Ford.

During World War Two, five sons of the Lerohls were in Military service. They all returned home after the war except Robert who was with the occupation forces in Japan. He became ill and died at the Oakland Park Sanatorium in Thief River Falls in 1948. The oldest daughter, Rugt, died in 1933.

In 1947 Pastor Lerohl died at the age of seventy-two. He had served the Oklee parish for twenty-seven years. Mrs. Lerohl moved to Gonvick and lived there until her death in 1962 at the age of eighty.

LESSARD FAMILY

In 1896, Edward Lessard and his wife came by train from Quebec, Canada to settle in Lambert Township. They built a small home and acquired their land through the Homestead Act.

Charles Lessard, son of Edward, was married to Rose Asselin in 1918. They made their home in the house his father had built, enlarging it to accommodate their family of fourteen children.

Raymond Lessard, son of Charles and Rose, was born in 1920. He grew up on the family farm and helped to care for the land and cattle. In 1949, Ray married Maryann Nistler, daughter of Andrew and Marie Nistler, and they made their home in Lambert Township. Ray and Maryann have seven children: John (b. 1950), Gerald (b. 1951), James (b. 1954), Annette (b. 1957), Don (b. 1958), Elaine (b. 1963) and Barbara (b. 1965). Ray is engaged in farming. He also serves as supervisor on the town board and is on the board for senior citizens.



Lessards. *Back:* Harold, Maurice, Marcella, Walt, Delores, George, Theresa, Ray, Marie, Ken and Vern. *Front:* Yvonne, Charles, Terry, Rose and Sharon.

MAGNUS AND INGEBORG LILLO

Magnus and Ingeborg Johnson homesteaded in Equality Township on the northeast quarter of section three in 1896. They later changed their name to Lillo.

They came here from Byron, Minnesota, where they had had about two hundred acres of rich farm land. They came here to start a new life where there were no roads or improvements of any kind. The closest railroad station was McIntosh. To get their groceries and supplies, they either had to walk or drive with oxen or horses, as there were no automobiles in those days. All the land clearing had to be done with the axe and grub axe, and clearing land of brush and trees was a very slow process.

They started what was known as the Lillo Post Office and store which served the people of this area. The mail was hauled by horses, so there were a number of Post Offices set up throughout the county at that time.

There were seven children in the Lillo family: Alfred, Herman, Oscar, August, Mina, Ida and Clara, or Elvira as she was known.

They built one of the first large square frame houses in this area. As time passed, roads were built and a school was started which later became known as Shadow Lawn, District eight. The Lillo family, together with other pioneers of the area, started what is today the Clearwater Lutheran Church, which still serves as a place of worship for the people in this area.

CHRISTIAN O. LINDBERG FAMILY

Christian O. Lindberg was born on the Lindberg Estate (Gaard) Hedemarken, Norway, on July 12, 1861, the youngest child of Astrid Boreson Lindgerg, who became a widow when her husband was killed in a logging accident on their farm. A few months later Astrid and her five children sailed for America on a sailing ship, arriving in Wisconsin a month later. They lived with a near relative for awhile until she took a homestead in Steele County, a few miles southeast of the city of Owatonna, where Christian O. Lindberg lived until he attended St. Olaf College in Northfield and graduated in 1884.

Caroline Sophis Halvorson was born in 1864 on the Ole Halvorson farm located four miles northeast from Richland, Minnesota. While a young girl she stayed at home helping with the house work, family care and livestock chores, as she was the oldest daughter in the family. Later she had a position as housemaid for Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, the Register of Deeds in Steele County at Owatonna. On January 9, 1885, she was married to Christian O. Lindgerg by the Reverend O. A. Melby of the LeSeur River Church.



Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Lindberg 1944, Ages 90 and 92.

Christian taught school for a few years, but the salary was so low he could not supply his family with the food and clothing they needed. He decided to take a homestead to improve their living standards, and in 1903 he filed claim to a homestead on the Red Lake Indian Reservation on the north bank of the Clearwater River in what is now Deer Park Township.

On November 4, 1904, Christian and his sons, William and Carl, left New Richland in a railroad immigrant car, loaded with household goods, machinery, boxes of clothing, a large Newfoundland Mastiff dog and three horses. They arrived in St. Hilaire on November 8th where they unloaded the railroad car of its contents and stored the furniture and other contents in a warehouse. Two of the horses were stabled in a livery barn, the third horse was hitched to a single buggy and driven to Uncle Bert Lindberg's farm near Beltrami where they stayed until mother and the rest of the family arrived by train from New Richland and were met at the Beltrami depot.

The entire family stayed at Uncle Bert's for a few days before they drove to their new home. It took two days to arrive at Ralph Green's home about sundown on December 3, 1904, a thrill and joy long remembered by the family.

There were no graded roads, bridges, schools or churches in the area at that time. Church services were held at some of the larger homes of families who lived in the neighborhood. The nearest railroad towns were St. Hilaire, McIntosh and Red Lake Falls. There was no Oklee at that time and Garnes was the nearest postoffice.

Christian helped to organize Deer Park Township in 1904 and was a township supervisor for many years. He was also our school teacher for awhile, and classes were held in a neighbor's small home using homemade benches and desks until the school was built north of the homestead in 1908. Christian also helped to organize the Clearwater Cooperative Creamery that was a boon to the settlers and dairymen in the area, and was secretary of this creamery for many years.

To the union of Christian and Caroline Lindberg were born the following children in New Richland: Alma (1886), Oscar (1887), Sarah (1889), William (1891), Carl (1893), Hannah (1895), Marie (1897), Esther (1899), Veleda (1901) and Edgar (1904). Rev. O. A. Melby, pastor of the LeSeur River Church, who had confirmed and married the parents, also baptized all of the Lindberg children and confirmed the eldest girls. Brother Oscar died on April 2, 1894 and is buried in the LeSeur cemetery.

Christian and Caroline Lindberg operated their farm for forty years retiring to a small place near Erskine in 1944. He died in December, 1955 and she in January of 1962. Both are buried in the Salem Cemetery in Garnes Township.

ALVIN LINDER

Alvin Linder was born on the 30th of December, 1899, near Beltrami, to Gust and Bertine Anderson Linder. At the age of three in the year 1903, the family moved to Garnes Township. He attended school and grew up in the area. Later, he and his brothers Frank and Helmer, farmed on the home farm and purchased additional land.

In the fall of 1942 Alvin entered the U.S. Army serving in the motor pool and attaining the rank of Sergeant in less than one year. He was discharged in the spring of 1943 and returned to the farm.

In November, 1945, Alvin married Hilda Larson, who was born in September, 1912, daughter of Thor and Ingeborg Nereson Larson. She grew to womanhood working at home and also was employed one time in a bakery.

In 1947 Alvin and Hilda purchased the farm where they now live from Mrs. Hilda Hoole. They had two children, Elaine and Dennis. Elaine is married to Dennis McGeary and they farm north of Oklee. Elaine is also a teacher in the Thief River Falls school system. Dennis and Elaine have two children, Paul and Dana Michelle.

Dennis is married to the former Zeann Morinville of Gonvick. Dennis is now farming in partnership with his father.

FRANK LINDER AND MARGARET TORKELSON LINDER

Frank Linder was born on the 15th of March, 1894, near Beltrami to Gust and Bertine Anderson Linder. In the year 1903, when he was eight years old, the family moved to Garnes township where they bought a farm. As he grew to manhood he helped on his father's farm and also worked for neighbors. After working for John Sorenson doing threshing and other fall work, Frank, then nineteen years old, bought something he had always wanted; a complete set of the best blacksmith and shop tools that Sears-Roebuck sold.

At the age of twenty-four in August of 1918, he entered the U.S. Army and served a tour of duty in Europe. In August of 1919, he was honorably discharged and returned home to resume farming.

On the first of July, 1944, Frank and Margaret Torkelson were married in Oklee by Rev. J. K. Lerohl. Margaret was born to Ole and Margit Torkelson of Equality township on the 17th of April, 1920. She grew up in the area and worked before her marriage. Of this union were born four sons, Ronald, Galen, James and Steven.

Over the years Frank held a number of community service jobs. These included being on the creamery board for six years, a member of the School District # 11 board, and a director of the People's Oil Co. until it was dissolved. He was also on the Garnes township board for 28 years, first as supervisor and later as the chairman. He was also quite progressive, owning one of the first cars and tractors in the community and he owned a threshing machine and did custom work for approximately 30 years.

Frank has been retired from farming for several years, but is still very interested in the day-to-day work on the farm which is now being operated by his oldest and youngest sons, Ronald and Steven.

GUST LINDER AND BERTINE ANDERSON LINDER

Gust Linder was born on April 20, 1859, in Dahlsland, Sweden, to Lars and Martha Erickson. After being confirmed there he served two months of compulsory service in the Swedish military. It was here that he got the Linder name.

He then went to Tunsberg, Norway, a seaport, and worked in a brickyard. The next seven years he spent as a seaman on sailing ships and, upon landing in New York, went to work on the farms in the surrounding countryside because he was tired of the sea. He next worked on railroad construction in Wisconsin and later, when working as a farm laborer in Evansville, Minnesota, he visited a friend in Beltrami and remained there working at various jobs.

Bertine Anderson Linder was born in Bell Creek Township, Goodhue County to Göro and Ole Anderson who had emigrated from Norway. Göro had come on a "fast ship" which took seventeen weeks and Ole came by "slow" ship which took twenty-one weeks. At the age of five Bertine moved with her family to a farm near Beltrami, and it was here she grew to womanhood and worked for farmers and in a hotel.

Gust and Bertine were married on December 26, 1890 in Crookston and rented a farm there for seven years. Gust, being tired of renting, purchased one-half section of land two miles west of Beltrami where they operated a diversified farm, raising cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens and grain. Five children were born to the Linders when they lived here: Louis, Frank, Anna, Alvin and Mabel. The family lived on this farm for seven years until doctors advised Gust to rent or sell his farm and take complete rest for one year, due to nerve problems.

After this year of rest, Gust traveled around looking for a quarter of land. In 1903, they purchased the NE quarter of section three in Garnes township from Arthur Athier for $2,100. The farm buildings consisted of a log grain-shed, an old barn and a small house.

Gust built a new house for the family and the nails used in this house were purchased from Carlson's in Plummer for 3¢ a pound. The Linder's first two cows were purchased from Athier and what milk was not used by the family was made into butter and sold at Garnes. Most of the shopping was done at the two stores in Garnes, where items such as overalls, shoes, hardware and groceries could be purchased. The mail also came there, and the children attended school for five months a year at the Garnes school.

Three more children, Oscar, Helmer and Helen, were born to the Linders when they lived in Garnes Township.

The taxes on the farm for the first year were seventeen dollars. There was not one rod of graded road in the township when the family arrived, and the farming operation here, too, was diversified with various forms of livestock and grain, including White Russian Side Oats.

Gust Linder served on the Garnes town board for twenty-seven years and on the school board of District eleven for several. The family were members of the Salem Lutheran Church.

Gust Linder died on April 22, 1939 and Bertine continued to live on the homeplace until 1952 when she moved to a rest home in McIntosh where she died on April 16, 1954. The farm is still in the Linder family, now owned by Frank Linder and operated by his sons.

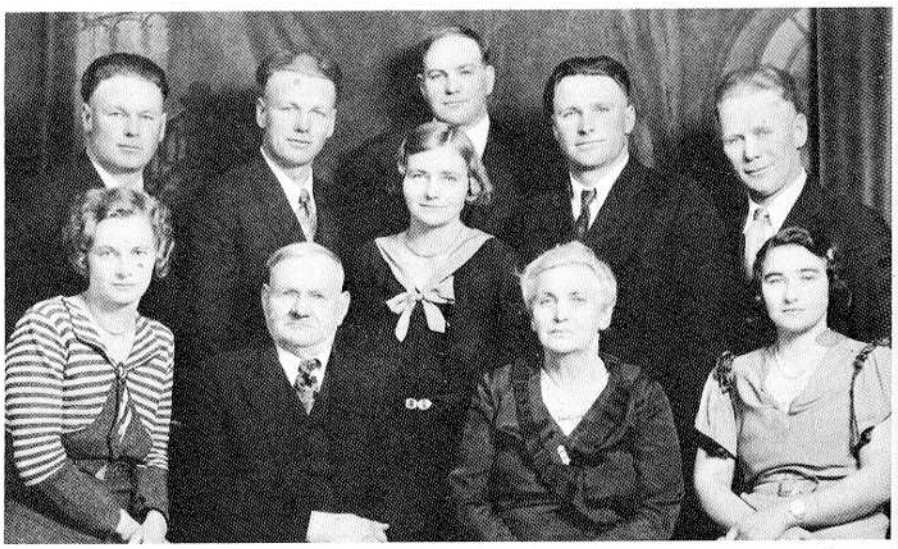
ORRIN LINDER

Orrin Linder, County commissioner of the third district, was elected to the Red Lake County board and took office in January of 1975.

He was born and raised in Garnes township, the son of Oscar and Inga Johnson Linder. His father was a Garnes township farmer until he retired in 1971 and died in 1973.

Orrin attended the Plummer School, graduated from Bemidji State College and taught school for six years in Little Fork-Big Falls High School.

He married Phyllis Drotts of Thief River Falls in 1965 and farms the family farm in section four, Garnes township, near Plummer. The Linders have four children: Theodore, Marcia, Jennifer and Ann Marie. He is a member of the Minnesota Farmers



Gust Linder Family. *Front:* Mabel, Mr. Linder, Anna and Mrs. Linder, Helen. *Back:* Oscar, Helmer, Louis, Alvin and Frank.

Union and the family attends Salem Lutheran Church where Orrin is a sexton.

OSCAR LINDER AND INGA JOHNSON LINDER

Oscar Theodore Linder was born in Garnes Township in March of 1905, the son of Gust and Bertine Linder. He grew to adulthood here, attended the Garnes school and worked as a farm laborer for Oscar Lovaas until he married.

Oscar and Inga Adina Johnson were married in 1939 at Oklee. She is the daughter of the Charly Johnsons and had grown to womanhood in Garnes and attended a rural school. Inga graduated from Oklee High School in 1933 and attended Bemidji State College graduating from there in 1935 with a two-year degree. She taught school for four years prior to their marriage.

The Linders first lived on the Olaf Tande farm where they rented the land for three years. In 1942 they moved to the old John Sorenson farm where they lived until their retirement.

Their son, Orrin, born in 1943 lives with his family on the home place and daughter, Jane, born in 1949 is married to John Kolstoe.

Inga resumed teaching at the Plummer School in 1960 where she teaches first grade. She returned to college in the summers, finishing her four year degree in 1966.

Oscar and Inga were very active in the Farmers Union for many years. In 1970 they were given the Red River Valley Farmer and Homemaker Award and Inga was named Red Lake County Teacher of the Year in 1972.

Oscar retired from farming in 1971 due to ill health and they moved to Plummer.



Oscar Linders with John Kolstoes and Orrin Linders.

THE AUGUST NILS LINDQUIST FAMILY

August Nils Lindquist was born in Ystad, Sweden, on March 7, 1866. After graduation from Latin School (high school), he immigrated to America at the age of fifteen. August could speak only Swedish on his arrival. He attended school for six months to learn English, and also filled many copy books translating Swedish words into English words. Since he first lived in Minneapolis at the home of people who could not understand Swedish, he soon became fluent in the English language. In June of 1902 he married Gunhild Engen of Grant County, Minnesota. In the summer of 1915 he moved with his family to Oklee.

Mr. Lindquist was first manager of the Northland Elevator and then became manager in 1916 of the Oklee Farmer's Co-operative Elevator Company. Some years later he purchased the Northland Elevator.



Mr. and Mrs. August Nels Lindquist

Mr. Lindquist was an active community and church worker. He served as mayor on the village council and was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church Council. Mrs. Lindquist was a charter member of the Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid and received a Life Membership pin in appreciation of her many years of service. She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Five members of the Lindquist family were in the armed forces during World War II. Mauritz was in the Coast Artillery, Vernon and Harold were in the Air Force, Willard was in the Navy, and Alice was in the Women's Army Corps. Raymond was a builder at the Naval Ship yards in California during the war.

August Lindquist died July 5, 1939, and his wife, Gunhild, died May 31, 1963.

The present Lindquist home in Oklee was built in 1917. Mauritz, Raymond, Alice, and Adella Lindquist still reside there. Mauritz is a retired carpenter. Raymond is a carpenter who has built or remodeled many homes, commercial buildings, churches, and schools in Oklee and the surrounding area. Alice is a retired teacher and secretary. Adella is an English instructor and librarian in the Oklee Public School. Dr. Harold Lindquist is the dentist in Oklee. He and his family live adjacent to the Oklee Clinic. Mrs. Ruth Lindquist, widow of Vernon Lindquist, (deceased March 16, 1959) is a mathematics instructor in the Oklee Public School. Willard Lindquist is a high school science teacher in Moorhead. Mrs. Marvel Lindquist Sheets lives in Laporte, Minnesota, and Mrs. Norma Lindquist Sweet is a resident of Minneapolis.

JOHN LINNERTZ

John Linnertz was born in Oudler, Prussia, Germany in 1864. When he was thirteen years of age he moved with his parents to Belgium. He enlisted in the German army and served for three years. In 1891 he married Mary Majeres in Belgium and in 1896 they came to America and resided in Spring Valley, Illinois for one year before moving to Red Lake Falls in 1897.



Dr. and Mrs. H. T. Lindquist and family of Oklee.

Mr. Linnertz served as treasurer of Red Lake Falls township for more than twenty-one years. He was a member of the township school board for over fifteen years, and was also the president of the Gentilly Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

At the time of his death in 1927 at the age of sixty-three, John Linnertz was survived by his wife Mary and five sons: Peter, Hubert, George, Jacob, and John, and two daughters, Josephine and Annie, all of Red Lake Falls.

Mary Linnertz was born in Luxemburg in 1872, and died in 1955 at the age of eighty-three.

DANIEL LINNIHAN

The Linnihan family emigrated from Ireland in the 1850's just as so many others did due to the economic conditions of the times. They settled in Wisconsin first, then in southern Minnesota around Waseca.

Most of the family remains there to this day, but Daniel had the wanderlust. He joined the railroad and arrived in the Crookston area as a young man of twenty odd years. Here he met and married (June 1, 1885) Mathilda Olson, a Swedish immigrant, who was working for the Leidal family in Crookston. Mr. Leidal was the railroad foreman for whom Daniel worked. Mathilda and Daniel had five children: Mayme, Ina, William, Daniel and Bernice.

After several years with the raiload, Daniel held a variety of jobs. In 1907 he was a ditch contractor and spent most of the next five years traveling throughout the northern counties supervising his projects. Dan and his son, Ray, formed a partnership in 1918 in the cattle, wood, and coal business in which he was active until his death in November, 1935. During these years he found the time to be sheriff of Red Lake County between 1903 and 1907, besides serving a term as city alderman and taking a prominent part in the Democratic Party acting as county committeeman and chairman. The family maintained their home in Red Lake Falls for over fifty years.

Their oldest daughter, Mayme attended Red Lake Falls schools and Moorhead Teachers College. After teaching a few



Mathilda Linnihan



Dan Linnihan

years at Eveleth and Hibbing, she married William Tellefsen, a mining engineer. They lived in Hibbing and Marble where Mayme maintained her home until her death in December, 1975. Her husband preceded her in death in 1962.

Ina also attended the Moorhead College and the University of Minnesota and was a teacher. She taught in schools in Minnesota, Washington and Oregon. She died in 1963 in Massachusetts where she had been living with her sister, Bernice.

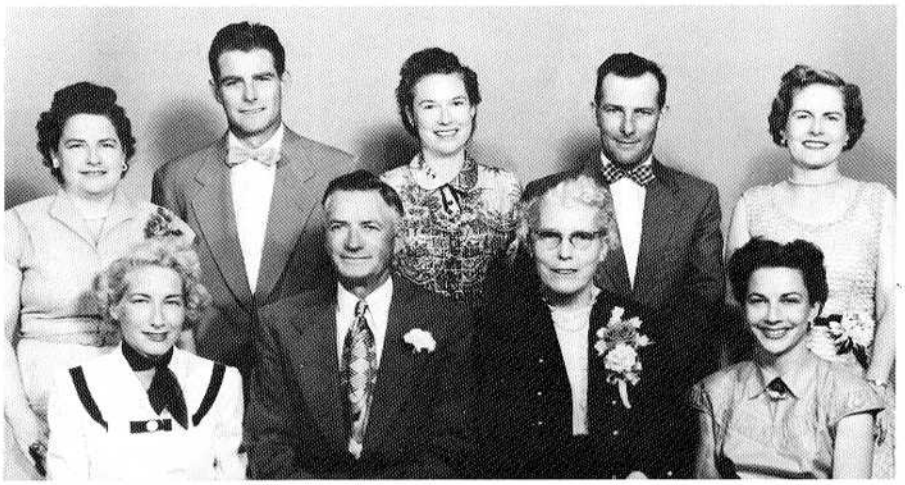
Next in the family came William Linnihan who was born in Crookston in 1889, grew up in Red Lake Falls, and spent most of his life here. He attended parochial school and two years of high school. Then his father sent him out with a road crew as the timekeeper. One job led to another so, except for a brief business course he took in Crookston, that was the extent of his formal schooling. He married (June, 1914) Josephine Keifenheim, the daughter of John P. and Gertrude Lotzer Keifenheim. (More about the William Linihans follows later in this history.)

The fourth child was Raymond, who was associated with his father in farming, buying and selling livestock, before becoming Postmaster of Red Lake Falls in 1934, where he served until his death (June, 1950). He was married (June, 1925) to Demerese Patnode, daughter of Marcel and Josephine LaCrosse Patnode, pioneers from Canada. Two daughters, Patricia and Joyce, and a son, Terrance, were born to them. Demerese makes her home with her daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Lyle Bourdon, in Duluth. She is very active and keeps in close contact with all her relatives and friends in Red Lake Falls and area.

Bernice, who is the youngest of the Dan Linnihan family, attended Bemidji State College and taught in Plummer before marrying Leo Marchildon in 1929. They had two sons, Jay who passed away in 1947, and Lee who is living with his wife in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Bernice, known as "Tot" to the family, maintains a home at So. Yarmouth, Massachusetts, since the death of her husband in September, 1959, but frequently visits in Red Lake Falls.

Now to return to the Bill Linnihan family. The couple's first residence was a farm near Wylie dubbed "Sunnybrook" farm. Here Bill farmed in partnership with his father and brother, Ray. In 1915, twins were born to them, Glenn and Gladys. This was considered quite a novelty in those days. Since they were the first grandchildren of Dan Linnihan, he ordered a special twin carriage for them and the Red Lake Falls Gazette ran a picture on the front page. In 1917 the family moved to the mining town of Manganese near Ironton where they ran a little store and lived in the back of the store. Bill worked as a bookkeeper for the mine and during the war also worked a shift in the mine due to the shortage of men. While living there, Ruth was born and later, Dan and Erma. The town was short-lived because the mine wore out and all the people moved. Today this little village is not even noted on the map. Bill and Josie came back to Red Lake Falls to live, first on the old LaCoursiere farm, then on the Lasha farm about three miles west of town. This place had been a showplace in its day with carbide lights and its own water system, but by this time had definitely passed its prime. The original log house was still the main part of the house. While they lived there, Mae and Marie, another set of twins, were born. The children attended country schools and have some good memories of Christmas programs and picnics. Some of their teachers were Alice LaCoursiere St. Michel, Ida Longtin Kees, Thelma Rustad Daily, Helen Rosch, Mildred Sortedahl Daily, Cornelia Sortedahl Delorme, and Hazel Zaiser LaCrosse. The community was close knit; they enjoyed sleigh rides, house parties, skating on the river behind M. J. Latendresse's and sliding on Seeger's hill. When the children finished grade school, Josie was determined that they should go to high school. There were no school busses in those days so they drove to town school in their Model-A Ford. When winter came, Josie and the children moved into a few rooms in town, and Bill would batch on the farm till spring. Then they would drive back and forth again.

These were depression years, and very hard ones for everyone. Erma remembers "dusting for grasshoppers" early in the morning with handkerchiefs over our noses, the droughts, the rust on the grain, the despair on my parents' faces when the whole crate of eggs didn't bring enough to buy sugar, vanilla and other staples. What else do I remember of these years? It's a diorama of many things — sitting around the Christmas tree with the candles lit, mama playing the piano while we sang "Keep the Home Fires Burning," house parties where the beds upstairs were full of coats and a baby asleep right in the midst of them, Mrs. Platt playing the piano with her fingers all taped, Eldon Klipping on the fiddle turning out a good old hoedown with papa, and Mrs. Kirschman doing the "Rag." This era had its place in history. The games we played reflected the times. Prohibition brought the days of the bootleggers and many farmers had stills. We played a game called "Moonshine" in the sandpile. One kid would be the "Feds" and we'd choose some piece of stone or colored glass for the "Moon," hide it on our farm in the sand, then the "Feds" would come, ransack the farm and if they found the "Moon" we'd be carted off to jail in the outside toilet. On the partyline telephone we'd hear all about the latest farms raided. Sometimes it would shock us as it would be some very upright person. People joked that getting raided was very good for business. Before, people just suspected that you had a still; after a raid, everyone knew



Front: Marie, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Linnihan and Mae. *Back:* Erma, Dan, Ruth, Glenn and Gladys.

ou did.

Among Gladys' memories are these: 'Every Christmas Grandpa Dan Linnihan r Uncle Ray would dress up like Santa Claus and come out to the farm to deliver our gifts. They were such good actors that we weren't aware of the fact for a long ime. Grandpa loved to play his Irish ecords and dance and sing for us, and we were an entranced audience. There were many happy times spent gathered around he piano singing while our mother played. The grown-ups had their house parties, sleigh rides, and barn dances, all requiring ittle financially."

About 1935, Bill and Josie Linnihan moved to Red Lake Falls to reside on Third Street near the former Tow Mill until their deaths. He died in April, 1956, and Josie passed away in May, 1971.

The seven children finished their education in the local schools and settled in other cities. Glenn married Inez LaCoursiere, daughter of Nap LaCoursiere, and moved to Everett, Washington, where he has been a building contractor for over thirty years. Gladys taught in the rural schools of Red Lake County before marrying Bernard A. Larson who is now Asst. Supt. of Schools in Bloomington. They have two daughters. Ruth taught school near Terreboone, and married Leo T. Gagner, son of Eda Perrault and Zephyr Gagner, a pioneer family. Leo is a salesman for Investors Diversified Syndicate in Crookston. Two daughters and a son were born to them. Erma entered nurses training after completing the teacher training course in Red Lake Falls, and has been active for many years in both professions. She married Mayron Ritchey of Fergus Falls, who was associated with the Department of Agriculture until his retirement in 1974. They have three sons and a daughter who is a nun. Danny spent six years in the U.S. Navy and married Laura Robillard from Canada. He owns his truck-tractor and has been engaged in cross-country trucking for many years with headquarters in Los Angeles, California.

Mae and Marie accompanied their parents to California in 1941, where they worked until they married. Bill worked there in the shipyards until 1945 when he and Josie returned to Red Lake Falls. While in California, Mae married Everett H. Bach who was in the navy and from Lismore, Minnesota. After the war, they lived in Chicago and then moved to Port Charlotte, Florida. Mae is teaching mathematics in Jr. High School, and her husband works for Sears Roebuck & Company. They have two daughters. Marie also married a navy man, Phillip Horton, from Cape Cod, Massachusetts. He is a contractor-builder at Port Charlotte, Florida, and they are the parents of a son and a daughter.

This is our story. Our memories are inexorably entwined with all of you readers, as our lives always will be. Red Lake Falls is "home" no matter where we go.

RAY LINNIHAN FAMILY

Raymond Arthur Linnihan, son of Daniel and Matilda Linnihan, was born August 4, 1891 in Crookston. His parents were living at Tilden Junction where his father worked for the railroad. His father was a native American, but his mother Matilda Olson came from Sweden at an early age. He had an older brother, Bill and two older sisters, Mayme and Ina, and a younger sister Bernice (Tottie).

The family moved to Red Lake Falls in 1893 where his father continued with the



Ray Linnihan

railroad. When Ray was in his teens, he worked with his father in the summer months.

Ray graduated from Lafayette school in 1910 where he was one of the smaller members of the football team at a slight 98 pounds. When he finished high school he joined his father in the livestock business.

On June 23, 1925 he married Demerise Patnode, daughter of Marcel and Josephine Patnode. They had three children, Patricia, Joyce and Terry.

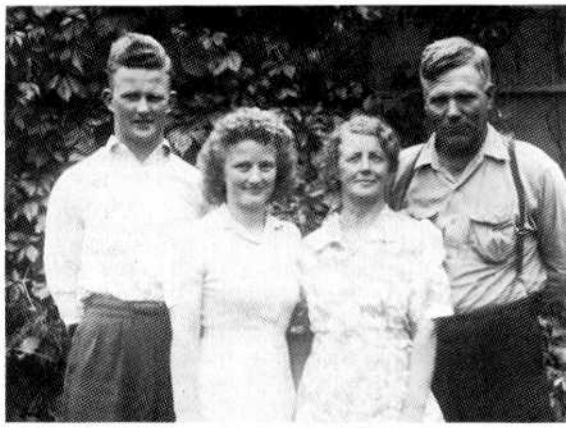
In 1934 Ray left the livestock business to become Postmaster, succeeding the late M. O. Sortedahl. He held the post for over sixteen years. An active member of the community, he belonged to the commercial club, St. Mary's Church, Catholic Order of Foresters, serving as Chief Ranger, and had a keen interest in the Democratic party.

At the age of 58, after a long illness, Ray Linnihan died June 5, 1950 in the Crookston hospital as he was to undergo surgery. His wife, Demerise, now resides in Duluth with her daughter Patricia and family. Patricia married a local boy, Lyle Bourdon; Joyce married Jim Dowswell of Kerkhoven and now resides in Lake Zurich, Illinois; Terry married Beverly Flanders of Minto, North Dakota and they reside in Merrimac, Wisconsin.

LINTVET FAMILY

The Ole T. Lintvet family immigrated to America from Norway in 1882 settling near Fisher and McIntosh before coming to Equality Township. Their son, Knute, homesteaded the northeast quarter of land in section two in October of 1901. The parents lived there several years before moving to Deer Park Township in Pennington County. Their other son, Amund, purchased the northwest quarter of land in section two from Amund G. Lundel (Amund Ludan) in March of 1916. This quarter was homesteaded by Torger Gunderson (Torjei Smejan) in 1901. This was the section of land where one acre of each quarter was deeded to the School District number eight known as the Shadow Lawn School.

Amund Lintvet farmed with his brother, Knute, and two other brothers, Tallak and Gunder, who had settled in the Deer Park



Amund Lintvets, Orlo and Mabel

Township. Andrew Fore and Amund also owned a threshing rig and traveled around the countryside threshing grain for farmers.

Amund Lintvet and Gunhild Gunderson (eldest daughter of Sam and Mary Gunderson) were married at the Clearwater Lutheran Church on June 17, 1922. Their first child was a son, Orlo, and following the birth of their second child, a daughter, Mabel, Mrs. Lintvet became seriously ill with infantile paralysis. With the help of relatives, Amund and Gunhild were able to keep the family together. A few months later in the middle of the night, their home was destroyed by fire. The mother and children stayed in the barn while Amund tried to save a few of the household items. They built another house in 1925 and continued to farm.

Orlo graduated from the Agriculture College in Crookston in 1942 and continued to farm with his dad. Mabel graduated from St. Olaf College and was teaching at the Plummer High School when she met Roy Jacobson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Jacobson of Plummer. They were married on October 11, 1947 and lived in California and Plummer until 1952 when they moved to Silver Bay, where they own and operate a hardware store. Their three children are Lynell (Mrs. Thomas G. Carlson), LeeRoy and Julie, Silver Bay.

It was in 1947 that Amund Lintvet suffered his first heart attack and was in poor health until his death on June 12, 1956. Mrs. Lintvet remained on the farm with Orlo until she became a resident of Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls. She died on February 2, 1972.

Orlo is presently operating the Lintvet farm and is clerk of Equality Township and a member of the Agriculture Stabilization Committee and the Soil Conservation Service boards of Red Lake County.

LEONARD LIZOTTE

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lizotte (nee Mildred Weiss) are life long residents of Red Lake County. Leonard was born in Red Lake Falls and Mildred was born in Browns Creek Township. Both attended local schools. Leonard is a barber and has owned a shop in Red Lake Falls since 1936. He served nine months in the U.S. Navy during World War Two.

Leonard and Mildred have one son, Douglas, who is married to Mary Abeld. They have two daughters, Melissa and Andrea.

PAUL LIZOTTE

Paul Lizotte was born July 19, 1885, in Louisville Township, the son of Vital and Mathilda Chase Lizotte. His parents came to the United States from Canada. In 1913 he married Emma LaCoursiere and they lived in Red Lake Falls. For a time after they were married, Paul worked in the logging camps and then did farm work for farmers. In the early twenties he replaced John Drier as Street Commissioner of Red Lake Falls and continued in that position until his retirement in 1952. During his early days as street commissioner all of the work was done with horses and the gravel for the streets was shoveled by hand.

Paul and Emma had two sons and one daughter. They are Leonard, Rene who died in 1974 and Verna Mae who died at the age of three months. There are six grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Paul died in 1968 and Emma resides in Red Lake Falls.



Paul Lizotte on street watering wagon.

JEROME LONGTIN

Jerome Longtin, an early Red Lake county pioneer, was born at Beaucharnois, Quebec, Canada, on August 10, 1847. He worked on the boats on the St. Lawrence River as a young man. When his wife died leaving him with two small daughters, Martha and Florida, he left for Duluth to join his brothers.

In 1881 Jerome came to Red Lake County where he homesteaded in Gervais Township. In 1883 he married Addis Allard, daughter of the Mose Allards. Addis was born in Fall River, Mass. on December 17, 1861 and came to Red Lake county as a young girl.

In 1886 they returned to Duluth where Mr. Longtin was in partnership with his brother in a bakery. In 1890 a fire destroyed their home in which they lost a 3 year old daughter and at that time they returned to their homestead in Gervais Township. Jerome was one of the first supervisors of the township.

Mr. and Mrs. Longtin had 12 children of which 9 grew to adulthood. Amelia Dawson, Lorraine Pearson, Viola (Mrs. Ernest) Patnode, Clifford, Eloise (Mrs. Ed Rolle), Ida (Mrs. John Kees), Leo, Essie (Mrs. Arnold Wagner) and Harry.

Mr. Longtin died in 1931 and Mrs. Longtin in 1938.

LEO LONGTIN

Leo Longtin was born February 25, 1897 in Gervais Township the son of Jerome and Addis Allard Longtin. Leo farmed in Gervais Township on the same land his father homesteaded, from 1918 to 1922 when he moved into Red Lake Falls and worked for the Peoples Auto for three years. He moved back to the farm until 1941 at which time he was employed as janitor at St. Joseph's Church and School in Red Lake Falls. He worked for the church and school for 21 years until his retirement in 1962. At the present time Leo is a resident at St. Francis Residence in Crookston.

In 1918 he married Clarice Carriere. She died in 1921 leaving two small sons: Leo Jr. who is presently living in Red Lake Falls and Jerome living in California.

In 1923 Leo married Rosina Dessellier the daughter of Gideon and Malvina Asselin Dessellier at Brooks. Rosina was born May 21, 1901 in Brooks and died in 1961. She was a charter member of the Red Lake Falls VFW Auxiliary.

Rosina and Leo had eight children: Ludger in Crookston; Louis, St. Hilaire; George, Oklee; Eraine (Mrs. Clarence Derosier), So. Milwaukee; Leone (Mrs. Leo Brule), Gentilly; Clarence, West Fork, Arkansas; Doris (Mrs. Orlando Uggerud), Buhl and Donald, Plummer.

LOUIS LONGTIN

Louis Longtin was born in Red Lake Falls, the son of Leo and Rosina Dessellier Longtin. He graduated from Lafayette High School in 1944 and enlisted in the Navy, serving in the Pacific for 27 months. After returning from the Navy he worked for three years under the GI on-the-job training program in Minneapolis, receiving training in carpentry.

On September 23, 1946 he married Alice Columbus, daughter of Walter and Mae Adler Columbus. She was born in Red Lake Falls in 1926, graduated from Lafayette High School in 1944 and the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis. Alice has been employed at the Red Lake County ASCS Office for the past 21 years.

The family returned to Red Lake Falls in 1954. In 1962 Louis started the Longtin Construction Co. From 1968 to 1973 he was employed as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds for the Thief River Falls School District. In 1974 he went back into the construction business and also owns and manages the Northside Mobile Park in St. Hilaire.

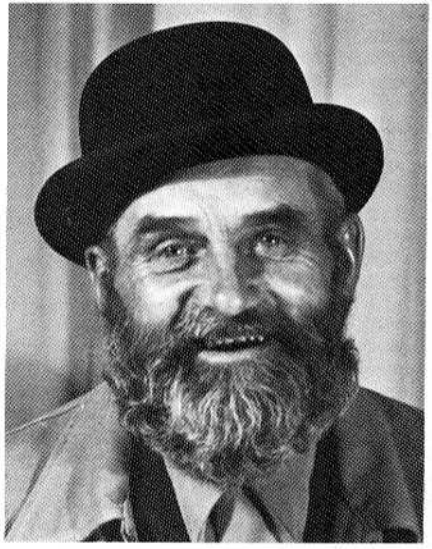
Louis and Alice had four children: Mark (Butch) who died in the Viet Nam conflict in 1968; Karen, Mrs. Andrew Michael Lehrer of St. Hilaire; Lyle of Red Lake Falls and Dale of Brooklyn Park, Minn.

OSCAR LOVAAS

Oscar Lovaas who was born on August 27, 1892, at Fosston, came to Garnes Township with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lovaas, in 1906. He had four sisters, Minda, Selma, Cora and Olga.

Oscar married Dora Magnell on August 10, 1927 at Bemidji, and they had one son, Samuel.

Mr. Lovaas was an outstanding farmer and community leader and served on a number of county and township boards. Someone once said, "He served on all the boards in Red Lake County except the ironing board!" He also served as a chairman for Oklee's Golden Jubilee celebration in 1960. Oscar was an active member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church until his death on January 29, 1970.



Oscar Lovaas

CYRILLE LUSSIER FAMILY

Cyrille Lussier was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1851 and came to Minnesota in 1878 to homestead on Section 15 in Poplar River township. He married Marceline Guerard in 1879 and farmed small grains and raised stock and dairy cattle. He owned and operated a steam threshing machine for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrille Lussier raised fifteen children to adult age: Mary, Delina, Joseph who died in World War I, Rose, Laura, Arthur, Paul, Edward, Albert (Bro. Maurant S.V.D.), Amie, Leah, Leo, Delima, Walter and Armond. The five children still living from the above named are Amie, Leah, Delima, Walter and Albert.

Cyrille led a very busy life. In addition to farming and raising a large family, he was postmaster of Brooks for twenty years or more, as the second postmaster of the village.

He served as Poplar River township treasurer from the time it was first organized until the time of his death in 1935. He was a school board member for quite a few years where he had five of his own children in the little red school house. He was a trustee of the Catholic church in Brooks from the time it was built in 1916 until he died.

While his family was growing up, he used to go "to the woods" as they used to say, in the eastern part of Minnesota and worked three or four months in the winter in lumber camps. He earned a little money which he called "spending money," but more than likely it was money to pay his taxes. He built his own home and his own barn. He would make skis and sleds for his own family. He would haul his grain to Blackduck with horse and wagon. On the way back, he would haul the lumber and supplies to build the home. Some trips because of weather and impassable roads would take a week or so.

FAMILY HISTORY OF GEORGE LUXENBURG

George Luxenburg, one of the oldest settlers of Lake Pleasant Township, was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1848. He came to the United States in 1872 and after spending a short time in New York, moved to southern Minnesota and settled on a

arm near Faribault where he lived for six ears.

In 1875 he married Johanna Demann who grew up in that area.

They decided to move north in 1878, nd loaded all their belongings in a wagon rawn by two horses to start out on their ourney. It proved to be a long trip and they ncountered many hardships: They had to ord the Mississippi River somewhere near t. Cloud and almost lost all of their pos-essions.

After many long days they arrived at a lace they liked in what is now Lake Pleas-nt Township. At that time it was in Polk County and Crookston was the county eat, some twenty miles away. All business nd shopping had to be done in Crook-ton. Red Lake Falls was almost non-exis-ent.

They went to Crookston to file a claim on homestead, then built a one-room log ouse and a small barn. Later they built nore and better buildings. The George uxenburgs spent their entire lives on this arm.

They reared a family of eleven children. wo of them, George Jr. and Emma, died early childhood in a diphtheria epidemic. thers deceased are Annie, Sophie, John, nd William. Five daughters are living, Mrs. lary Hagen at East Grand Forks, Lillie Sor-edahl at Duluth, Nellie Bache at Fairview lanor, Red Lake Falls, and Jennie Nor-an and Ida Ducharme both of Fertile. eorge Luxenburg died in August 1920 nd his wife, Joanna, died in August 1923.

The following story is taken from "The History f Northern Minn." which was published in 902.

SAMUEL LUXENBURG FAMILY

To pay a visit to one of the thriving agri-ultural districts of the Red River Valley nd view the fine farms there is a pleasure, nd but little is realized regarding the hard-hips and privations endured by the early ettlers of that region.

Mr. Samuel Luxenburg occupies a easant and well-improved estate in Lake easant township and is accounted to be ne of the successful and substantial farm-s of Red Lake County. But to secure this aluable estate he endured more than any would have thought possible, and to view his life causes him to draw the con-usion that he would rather never gain ven such an estate than to labor as ncessingly and to endure the hardships gain which fell to his lot as a pioneer of orthern Minn.

Mr. Luxenburg was born in Bavaria, Ger-any in 1857. His parents were Michael nd Mary (Schoenauer) Luxenburg, both whom died in their native land.

Sam's early life was spent on a farm in avaria. In 1873, he came to America and ned his brother George in Rice County, nn. There the two brothers rented a rm, but their labors did not meet with od results from the start. They deter-ned to change, so in 1878, with all of eir worldly possessions, they started erland for Polk County, arriving with a am and wagon, plow and one hundred llars. That same year they filed claim to e land which they now occupy.

He built a log stable on the farm, but ed most of those early years with his other who was married. The brothers ltivated their farms in partnership until 83, when each began operating his own land. Crops were not bountiful for the first few years, and it was not until the alkali was worked out of the soil that earnest efforts brought their just rewards. Conditions steadily improved, however, and in 1897 Sam purchased an adjoining quarter-section of land, and later added a forty-acre wood lot to his possession, and is now the owner of one of the excellent farms of Red Lake county."

Mr. Luxenburg was married in 1882 to Miss Caroline Demann who died in 1912, leaving the oldest daughter, Edith, to care for the nine remaining children. Edith passed away in 1954.

The other members of the family were: Jesse, who was married to Miss Anna Purath, and farmed next to the home place for several years. He died in 1920, and is survived by one daughter, Dorothy, Mrs. Ernest Pederson of Plummer.

Margaret married Joseph Cyr, who died in 1918. She worked as a nurse for many years and lives now in Minneapolis. She has one son, Allen, of Los Angeles.

Rose was married to Clifford McGrand, lived near Rochester until her death in 1932, and is survived by one son, Luvern of Mound.

Elsie married Herman Boxsted and lived in Minneapolis for many years. They are both deceased, but are survived by three children and several grandchildren.

Alex earned the Purple Heart for his service in World War I. He lived in Oregon most of his life and died in 1968.

Art was the owner of a liquor store in LaCrosse, Wisc. but has retired now, and he and his wife Mildred still live there.

Robert was in the Merchant Marines from 1940 until his death in 1967.

Ralph continued farming on the home place until his death in 1965. He was married to Hazel Peterson, and they were the parents of five children. Robert and Dean, who live in St. Paul are the only boys to carry on the family name. They, together with their Mother, Mrs. George Ollie, and their sisters, Sharon Iverson of St. Hilaire, and Diane Doherty of Seattle, still own the family farm.

JOHN LYNCH FAMILY

John and Mary Ann Lynch, whose parents immigrated to the United States from Ireland, came to Equality Township from Hammond, Wisconsin in the 1890's. They homesteaded a farm seven and one half miles north of Oklee which Frank later operated. They came with horses and a wagon across country, many times traveling through places where the water went over the floor boards of the wagon. The one-room house on this homestead became the living room of the permanent home which was demolished about four years ago.

John and Mary had eight children: Johnie, Dave, Kattie, William, Dan, Frank, May and Clarence. Johnie, Kattie and May died at an early age. Johnie died of a ruptured appendix which at that time was thought to be consumption. Kattie was in a cast on the upper half of her body for six months for what we know now as polio.

Dave farmed north of Oklee and later, for seven years, helped care for his invalid mother on the farm then operated by Frank. He never married until he was eighty-seven years old. He and his wife, Edna Windus met at Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls.

William married Nena Johnson. They operated a cafe in Oklee and had four children: Ethel, Bernadine, Malcom and Leonal (deceased).

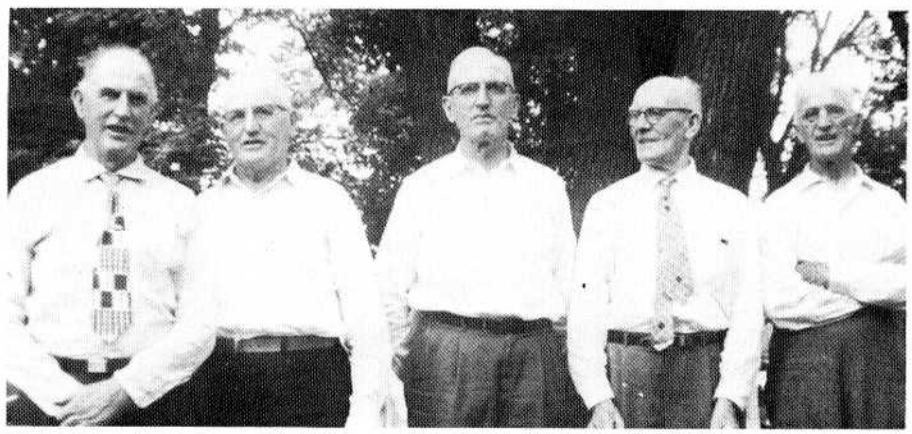
Dan married Cel Hince. He was a heavy equipment operator. They had two children, Wayne and LeRoy.

Frank married Louisna Paquin. He farmed the homestead place. They had seven children: Ray, Irene, Leslie (deceased), Wallace, Vivian, Curtis and one child who died at birth. Frank was a member of the District Ten school board and the Oklee Farmer's Elevator Board. After Louisna's death, Frank married Dorothy O'Brien. They had one child, Dorothy Mae.

Clarence married Agnes Paquin, a sister of Frank's wife. He was a mail carrier at Oklee. They had four children: Marcella, Marie, Genevieve and Kenneth (deceased).

Dave died at the age of eighty-eight in 1964, Dan died at the age of eighty-four in 1968, William died at the age of eighty-one in 1962, Frank died at the age of seventy-seven in 1964 and Clarence died at the age of seventy-one in 1965.





Lynch brothers 1957, Frank, Dan, Clarence, Dave and Will.

SEVERT MAAREN FAMILY

My grandfather, Severt Maaren, was born in Sogne, Norway. He married Barbara Bolstad of the Sognefjord area and when their first child was two weeks old (about 1890) they sailed to America. The trip was rough and everyone was seasick. At that time, all the men were confined to one deck and not allowed on the deck where the women and children were. The mothers had no one to assist with the children, so the trip was quite a hardship.

They settled in Hatton, North Dakota and lived there a few years, and that's where my mother, Mina Maaren was born in 1894. In about 1898, they left North Dakota in a covered wagon with four children, all their worldly goods (including their cattle) and moved to Minnesota. My mother remembered this trip vividly, especially fording the Red River with their cattle. They settled in Equality Township in Red Lake County, then later moved to Garnes Township. They lived near a river, and my mother remembered seeing Indians going down the river in canoes. The children had heard numerous Indian stories so watched from a distance in fascination.

My grandfather was county assessor for a number of years and he too, was very active in church, school and civic affairs.

Grandpa Maaren sold subscriptions to the St. Paul Pioneer Press Newspaper and won a 1917 automobile which was a novelty for the family and neighbors.

As was the fashion in those days, my grandfather sported a full beard, but one day he decided to surprise his family by shaving it off. On the way home, he met his daughter, Selma and asked her where the Maarens lived. She thought he was a stranger and gave him directions, but never recognized him.

The Maarens had 13 children, Hans, Lewis, Mina (my mother), Benny, Inga, Selma, George, Ida, Otto, Olaf, William, Jenny, and Muriel.

On June 26, 1912 John Medchill was united in marriage to Mina Maaren at a pretty outdoor wedding with many friends, neighbors and relatives attending.

In 1919 the Maaren family moved to Alberta, Canada, where they farmed.

My grandfather was always homesick for Norway and his family he had left behind, but was never able to go back. He passed away about 1931. Most of the family moved to British Columbia, and that's where my grandmother spent the remainder of her life. She passed away in November, 1946.

My parents lived on their farm between Oklee and Plummer. They raised dairy cattle, sheep, turkeys, hay and grain.

My dad was an avid sportsman and every fall he would bag his deer, so we always enjoyed venison and other wild game.

One of my early recollections of my parents' kindness was when they would go up town before Christmas and buy groceries, candy and Christmas trees for many of our neighbors who weren't quite as fortunate as we were. We didn't have too many material possessions, but we had a cozy home with an abundance of love, laughter, fun and company.

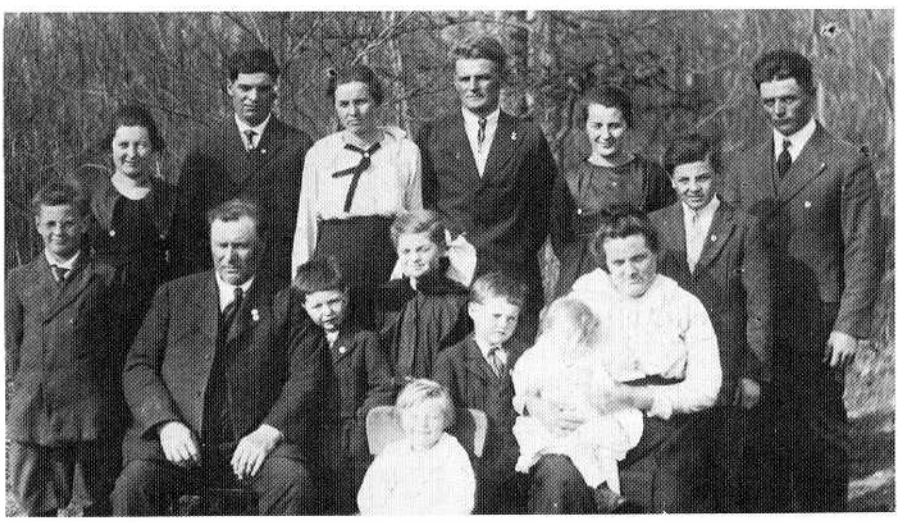
We had one of the first radios (a Kismet) in the whole community. My dad won it by selling subscriptions to the Minneapolis Star. My mother was a regular "radio nut." When everyone was in bed, she would put the earphones on and stay up till dawn listening to see how many stations and countries she could hear. She even heard a station in Australia, much to her delight.

Every Saturday night all the neighbors for miles around would gather at our house to listen to WLS Barn Dance with Lulabelle and Scotty.

My dad was the Garnes township assessor for 25 or 30 years and was also on the township and school boards.

In 1941 Reinhart Seeger of Red Lake Falls married Lois Medchill, the Medchill's only child. It was fashionable at that time for boys from Red Lake Falls to go to neighboring towns to find their girl friends. They thought the grass was greener and flowers fairer outside their own backyards. We moved to Red Lake Falls to a farm and lived there until the fall of 1942 when we moved to Van Nuys, California.

In 1943 my parents had a sale and moved to California, too. They lived in California in the winter and went back to Minnesota every spring until my dad was unable to travel. He passed away in November 1969. My mother lives with her daughter, Lois and son-in-law Reiny Seeger in Van Nuys, California.



Severt Maaren Family 1918. *Back:* Inga, Hans, Mina, Bennie, Selma, George and Lewis. *Front:* Otto, Severt, Maaren, Willie, Ida, Olaf, and Barbara holding Geneva.

FRANK MACK

The Frank J. Mack family moved to Plummer, Minnesota in June 1927 from Federal Dam, Minnesota on Leech Lake. My father traded his interest in a small restaurant and theatre in Federal Dam for an 80-acre undeveloped farm on the north edge of Plummer.

There were five children in the family when we came to Plummer — Eleanor, Joseph, Julia, James and Thomas. Our youngest sister Theresa was born in 1928 in the Thief River Falls Hospital.

I have a vivid recollection of a small tornado that cut through a corner of our farm in 1930. We watched huge oak trees being uprooted, as our younger brother Tom and two-year old Theresa sat in the car rolling backwards across the yard. They thought the whole episode was a huge joke and were laughing uproariously, while the rest of us stood in the house wringing our hands. An attempt to open the door and go after the two little ones caused the whole house to shudder.

Our father was postmaster and our mother was assistant from 1934 until 1949 when they moved to Elk River, Minnesota.

Dad was a building contractor also, and taught Joe, Jim and Tom the building skills. He built the municipal auditorium in 1935 and many of the reconstruction farm buildings during the 1930's. He built a new post office and theatre in 1939. These buildings were both destroyed by fire in March, 1941. Plummer had a nice new fire engine in a new fire hall, but cord wood had been stacked in front of the fire house door and mice had made a nest in the carburator of the fire engine. Consequently, fire equipment from Red Lake Falls and Thief River Falls was on the scene before the Plummer engine was out of the fire hall. Dad was burned on the face and hands and was unconscious from smoke inhalation. Mother and two other ladies were salvaging U.S. mail as it floated down the street. They asked some man to help, but he said, "I can't, I might get my feet wet!"

Before the streets were surfaced, they were a sea of mud after the spring thaw. A pickup truck sank out of sight in a huge mud hole in front of Schoenauer's Garage. The high school band tried to become a marching band when Theresa was in school, but that project went awry when the clarinetists were practically having do-it-yourself tonsillectomies as they stumbled through the ruts. One time, shortly after Theresa learned to drive, Mother sent her to the grocery store, but she got in the wrong set of ruts and ended up at the creamery, in the opposite direction.

During World War II, Joe and Jim served in the Air Force, Joe in the Weather Service and Jim as a tail gunner in a B-17. Jim was on the first daylight raid over Berlin. Tom served in the Merchant Marine. Eleanor worked in the office of a defense plant in Chicago and I worked for the Treasury Department in the Merchandise Mart in Chicago.

All of us graduated from Pershing High School and pursued various careers after leaving Plummer. Eleanor and I (Julia) became teachers, Joe worked for the U.S. Weather Bureau until his retirement in 1975. Jim is a building contractor in Glendora, California. Tom is a block and brick layer in Kennewick, Washington and Theresa is a registered nurse. Eleanor lives in San Bernardino, California and teaches in Fontana. Three of us live in southeastern Washington within a few miles of each other — Theresa in Pasco and Tom and I in Kennewick.

CARL MAGNELL AND BETSY THOMPSON MAGNELL

Carl Magnell was born in Grasmarken, Sweden, in 1873. He came to America in 1892 and lived in Erskine and Plummer for a number of years. Carl married Betsy Thompson in December, 1897 and in 1904 they moved to Garnes Township. Mr. Magnell, one of the early settlers in Garnes Township, became one of the substantial farmers in the area. He died on March 16, 1932.

Betsy Thompson was born in Telemarken, Norway, on May 2, 1880 and came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Aslak Thompson, to America in 1882. Betsy died on April 13, 1965.

The children born to Carl and Betsy Magnell were Amanda (Mrs. Gunder Hegtvedt); Dora (Mrs. Oscar Lovaas); Beatrice (Mrs. Clarence Strom); Leah (Mrs. Clarence Johnson); Otto; Joseph and Clarence.

Charles Magnell, grandson of Carl and son of Otto Magnell, owns and operates the Carl Magnell farm at the present time. Charles married Corlan Sorenson of Plummer and they have five children; Randy, Annette, Wesley, Dennis and Jason.

MEMORIES

On the farm in Garnes Township, the children of the Carl Magnell family played and enjoyed their childhood days, the golden days of youth, carefree and happy. We were seven children, four girls and three boys. Our circle was broken by the sudden death of our brother, Clarence in the winter of the severe flu epidemic (1923).

Mother and Dad provided us with the best of everything that a home could give; food, clothing, kindness, understanding and Christian values. Our home was open to relatives, neighbors, friends and the pastors who came to spread the gospel. We all appreciated a lot of activity; the more the merrier!

Grandpa Thompson was one of the Sunday School teachers. Sunday School was held during the summer in the country schoolhouse. Grandma helped us to get our lesson ready and memorized for Sunday morning.

Aunty, Emma Thompson, would come to stay for several weeks in the summer. Mother and Aunty would sew dresses for us girls and suits for the boys. Our uncles, Tommy Thompson and Werner and Ole Magnell would come during the winter months and help with various chores around the farm. In the winter months Dad was busy hauling hay and wood. They would go as far as twelve miles with horses and sled. Sometimes their loads would tip crossing ditches and rough ground. After the wood hauling was finished, a sawing bee was held with several neighbors working together. When that process was done, the wood splitting was next.

The little country schoolhouse was the center of all the activities in the community, from basket socials to board meetings. The Christmas program was one of the most fascinating events for us school children and included rehearsing recitations and dialogues, practicing Christmas carols, setting up the Christmas scene and decorating the tree. The expressions of enthusiasm, laughter and glee revealed the spirit of Christmas. The programs, parties, dinners and the Christmas services were the main events during the holidays. Neighbors would gather and show their love and affection for one another.

When fall came it was hazel nut season. Queen, our old pet horse, was hitched to the buggy that took us to the hazel nut grove. On one particular outing, we had our lunch along and camped out for the afternoon. On our way home that evening, a "tin lizzy" came up behind us at quite a speed. Queen jumped to the side of the high grade and we almost landed in the deep ditch. Neither men nor horses were accustomed to cars roaring past. My youngest brother stood crying and said, "I am going to smash all the cars in the whole country to pieces." (When he grew up, he became a car salesman!) We all were upset by this incident, but managed to get back on the road with the help of our neighbor. Children and old people walking along the road would run for the ditch, or crawl under wire fences to get away from the speedy vehicles.

As we got older, it was more work than play. Threshing time was a busy season. We girls would help in the kitchen and the boys hauled grain bundles. The threshing started early in the morning and continued till late at night. Yet, these were the days on the farm that hold many fond memories that we cherish. Whenever we have the opportunity to be together, we reminisce with joy about the yesterdays.

DR. GREGORY MAGNUSON

In 1976, the Magnuson family consists of four people, the father, Gregory L. Magnuson; the mother, Mary Jean Kostboth Magnuson; and two sons, Marc Alan and Jon David Magnuson. They moved to Red Lake Falls in June 1974 and have lived at 1136 River Drive since that time.

Mary Jean Kostboth was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on March 11, 1947. Her parents are A. E. and Beryl Kostboth. She grew up in Canistota, South Dakota, and graduated from Sioux Valley Hospital School of Nursing in 1971. Mary is working with the Candystriper program of St. John's Hospital and is active in the hospital auxiliary.

Gregory Lynn Magnuson was born in Kennewick, Washington, on March 2, 1947, the son of Morris and Edith Magnuson, and spent most of his growing years in Brandon, South Dakota. He graduated from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1969 and went to Medical School at the University of South Dakota and the University of Nebraska where he graduated in 1973. Internship was at Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls. He is presently associated with the Red Lake Falls Clinic.

Greg and Mary were married at Canistota, South Dakota on May 11, 1968. Shortly after this they met David and Pat Mersy who eventually persuaded them to come to Red Lake Falls. Marc was born at Sioux Valley Hospital on November 10, 1968, and Jon at the same hospital on November 19, 1973.

JOHN MAHLA FAMILY

John Mahla was born John Johnson in Stordalin, Norway in 1842. He arrived with his family in the United States at the age of twenty. The trip on the sail boat took seven weeks due to stormy weather. He settled in Lansing, Michigan and, being a shoe maker by trade, worked for the North Star Shoe Company.

Records show he received a deed for some land in Norman County in 1882. Because of the many Johnson families living in the same area there was much confusion in the mail delivery, so he changed his name to John J. Mahla. At that time he received his citizenship papers.

John was married to Gjertrude Borstad in 1889. She was born in Stordalin, Norway, in 1852. John and Gjertrude had two sons, both born in Norman County, Helmer in 1892 and Bennie in 1895. In 1897 they moved to Gervais Township with horses and wagon, herding their cattle all the way. This trip took three days.

John Mahla farmed the same land until his death in 1925 at the age of eighty-two. Gjertrude Mahla continued to live on that farm with her son, Bennie, until she died in 1945 at the age of ninety-three.

The sons grew to manhood on the Mahla farm. Helmer married Florence Howard in 1921. They have two children, Gertrude and Arnold. The Helmer Mahlas have twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1971. Bennie Mahla married Olga Kyllo in 1922. They had four daughters, Judith, Bernice, Gladys and Lucille. Lucille and her family live on the Mahla farm at the present time. Bennie died in 1969. He had eight grandchildren.

The original house on that farm in Gervais Township was of frame construction. The floors were of rough boards with large cracks between each board. To keep the draft out and to make it safe for her small sons, Mrs. Mahla kept the floors covered with blankets. There was no barn or well on this farm when the family arrived.



Carl Magnell Family 1920. *Back:* Otto, Manda, Clarence, Beatrice and Dora. *Front:* Mr. and Mrs. Magnell, Leah and Joseph.

The first taxes were paid to Polk County at Crookston. Red Lake Falls was the nearest trade center and it was there that John Mahla walked to get supplies and the mail.

Gjertrude churned butter and made it into one-pound molds. Eggs and butter could be traded at the store for groceries, but flour had to be paid for in cash. To earn that cash, farmers sometimes hauled a wagon load of rocks to Red Lake Falls for one dollar per load.

The road by the Kapler farm was a bottomless swamp and many farmers had trouble getting across, so the farmers helped each other. It was a far cry from the fine tarred roads that we have now. In those days roads were made by the farmers working out what was called their poll tax. As soon as a male reached the age of twenty-one, he had to work one day a year for his poll tax, building roads.

Church was held in the homes. Pastor Kolstoe lived east of Plummer and he walked to the homes where the services were held. School terms were for only five months; two months in the spring and three in the fall. Farming was a busy time for the older farm boys, so they received very little schooling.

Before Plummer was started in 1904, all the lumber for the buildings came from the sawmill at St. Hilaire through the Mahla yard. Plummer, before that time, was just a store on the west bank of the Clearwater River. The Postoffice was in this store. There were no bridges across the Clearwater River, so at first it was necessary to ford the river until the time a dam was built which made crossing easier.

John Mahla recalls his first trip to Plummer. "My first trip to Plummer was mainly to see the building of the railroad. After we crossed the river we followed a trail across the Ervin Scheldrup farm to where the school now stands. We got as far as the first store where the bank is now. They were building two saloons at that time. The first depot was called Scotland. The post office on the river was called Plummer. It was easier to change the name of the railroad depot instead of the postoffice. As young people, if we wanted to go any place, we walked. A group of young people would get together and walk to parties and young people's societies. There were times that we walked as many as ten miles a night, after working in the fields all day. We weren't allowed to use the horses after they had worked in the fields all day. I can also remember the walking dredge (built by George St. Louis' father) across from the Plummer depot. Everyone said it would never work, but it did, and Mr. St. Louis took off across the country to the low land east of Plummer."

MICHAEL AND CECELIA MAJERES

Cecelia Schmitz, the 11th child of Joseph and Louise Schmitz, married Michael "Mike" Majeres on April 10, 1934 at St. Mary's Church in Red Lake Falls. They lived and farmed in Brown's Creek Township until 1962. "Sis" and Mike were the parents of nine children, three deceased, and 17 grandchildren.

Donovan married Mary Jean Amiot, July 15, 1961. They purchased his father's farm in Brown's Creek Township, which had also been his grandfather Ted's farm. They have three children.

Michael married Marlene Wald, August 5, 1961. He works at Detroiter Mobile Homes as a Project Engineer and they have six children.



Theodore Majeres, with Mike, Margaret and Pete.

Barbara married Richard Dufault June 30, 1962. Richard works as a consumer sales representative for Land O'Lakes in Minneapolis. They have five children.

Yvonne married John Garman who works as a mechanic. They have one child and live in Hayward, Calif.

Ted married Joan Feyereisen and lives at Hopkins, where he works at Hums Liquor Store. They have two children.

Jerry works at the Bureau of Engraving in Minneapolis.

"Sis" worked at the Community Co-op Store for nine years and for the past 12 years has been employed at Eckstein's Dept. Store. Michael passed away March 14, 1970.

THE MALWITZ FAMILY

Charles Malwitz was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Malwitz on June 30, 1870 in Germany. At the age of twelve he came with his parents to America and settled in Miner County, South Dakota. Bertha Petsch Malwitz was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Petsch and was born on October 18th, 1876 in Perry County, Missouri. The Petsch family had emigrated from Germany with the original group of Lutherans who helped establish the first Evangelical Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. After several years in Missouri, the Petsch family resettled in Lake County, South Dakota. It was there that Charles and Bertha were married on December 3, 1894.

Charles and Bertha began farming, but in those years it was only a way to exist. With no future in sight they decided to move to Minnesota, the land of "Milk and Honey." In the spring of 1899 they took their three children; Huldah (b. 1895), Emil (b. 1897) and Willie (myself, b. 1899), and loaded their few belongings on a hayrack wagon pulled by a team of horses and headed for Hancock, Pipestone County, Minnesota.

After only a day's journey, one of the horses became sick and our family was delayed until we could obtain another horse.

Two years in Pipestone County didn't improve our lot and my folks decided once again to move. While our family lived in Pipestone County another son was born, but died in infancy. Our next home was to be near Randall, in Morrison County. There we settled on a 120-acre farm and living was somewhat better. Two of my sisters were born while we lived here; Alma in 1904 and Erna in 1910. In early 1911 my folks sold the farm but had to take a 160-acre farm in Red Lake County as part of the deal. The farm was located four and a half miles south of Red Lake Falls and is presently owned by Maurice Derosier.

The family disposed of most of our personal property at an auction sale on April 13th in 1911 and a railroad car was loaded with the possessions to be shipped north. The "freight" in the railroad car included; four head of horses (one stallion), two colts, one cow, one pig, some chickens, a wagon and two stowaway sons (me and Emil)! In those days only the owner could ride in an immigrant car so we boys had to hide in a box in the back end of the car and could only come out when the train was traveling between stops!

The first day's journey took us to Lake Park where we were held overnight and the next day our train was transferred to the Northern Pacific track headed for Red Lake Falls. We arrived in the afternoon of the following day and were sidetracked to be unloaded at Perrault Station, five miles south of town.

Our family was welcomed at the station by Mr. and Mrs. George Pray and sons, Frank and Harley. The Pray family had also moved up north from Green Prairie. The livestock and stowaway boys were unloaded and the family spent the first night at the Pray home.

The next day we finished unloading and moved into our "new" home. Our home in Randall had been a large house with a full basement, and the sight of the one-story log shack which we were to call home was very discouraging.

I remember the first purchase Dad made in Red Lake Falls. It was a new walking plow that he bought from Findeisen Implement Co. Herb Findeisen was a very young man then. Dad also bought a new two-seated express buggy from Helm's Implement Co.

Dad had rented out the farm for the first season and he and we boys worked for the neighbors during harvest season. I recall getting fifty cents a day and Dad got a dollar and a half for himself and the use of his



"One Bull Shay" . . . Malwitz Family

team of horses. That fall of 1911, we got six inches of snow in August and again in early October. Our neighbors, the Columbus Brothers, had a lot of flax to thresh and because it was tied and shocked and covered with snow, it was a difficult job. Louis LaCrosse and I were hired to go ahead of the haulers to cut the twine around the bundles.

A near tragedy occurred that summer! My youngest sister, Erna, aged two years, toddled up behind old Betsy who had a colt and was grazing near the house. Old Betsy kicked her in the chest and knocked her cold as a dead chicken! We quickly harnessed the driving team and Dad drove the horses at a dead gallop all the way to the Doctor's office in town. Erna was revived and she and Mother stayed at the Doctor's home overnight.

That winter Old Betsy and the stallion died and Dad had their hides tanned and made into robes. Those robes kept us warm many winters. Because the farm had too many stones on it to please him, Dad decided to sell it. After looking over several farms, he bought a place north of the river at Terrebonne from Jim Enevolson. This farm had no stones, but it also had no water! Several attempts at drilling failed to find water. We had to haul water from the river for several years for our livestock and for washing. In 1915 Mr. Carriere from Brooks was successful at drilling a well on the east side of the farm by the road. That resulted in moving the buildings to the well and nearer the road, but proved a good deal in the long run.

When Dad bought the farm at Terrebonne, there was only a poor trail road to Plummer. Our farm was mostly all heavy woods so we had to cut wood and brush all year round. We sold some wood to farmers for fuel at one dollar per load. We also traded cord wood to the Flour Mill at Terrebonne for flour.

On the first night at the new farm home in November of 1914, my mother gave birth to a daughter, Lorraine. Another son, Karl, was born on March 12, 1916.

Emil and I weren't able to attend school very much. The first year we lived here we attended the Old Scharper School for a couple of months. Emma Waldal of Plummer was our teacher. After our move to Terrebonne, it was necessary to cut wood and haul hay and water for the livestock which left no time for schooling. In the winter of 1916 I attended the Wildwood School in Gervais Township. The teacher was Sigrud Anderson Tillman.

I believe it was in December of 1915 that our neighbor's ten year old daughter died from diphtheria. Our family also caught the disease and were quarantined from December until the following April. During that time the Township Chairman or some neighbor would get our groceries and supplies and leave them at the road. We weren't allowed to leave our premises during that time. Our doctor, J. C. Wilkinson, would come out to the farm to check on us and then we would have to take care of ourselves.

The doctor would get a team of horses and a sled from one of the livery stables in town and drive out to our farm day or night. There were two livery stables in Red Lake Falls at that time. One was owned by Jake Sieff and the Guerin Brothers, George and Dan, had the other.

During World War One we had to abide by food rationing. My Dad turned in one year's supply of wheat flour which he always had on hand and we tried to live on barley flour bread. As the flu epidemic ended and the war came to an end, we were a grateful family to have survived both without a loss of life.

The family grew up and went their separate ways. Hulda (now deceased) worked on the Iron Range, married and had two daughters. Alma (now deceased) worked for many years as a telephone operator, and was married. Erna taught rural school and elementary school. She married Irvin Fuller and they had two daughters and two sons. They live in Mankato. Lorraine taught school and married Arthur Bergeron. They had one son and raised four foster children. They live in Rochester. Karl married Irma Oldendorf and they had one son and one daughter. They are now retired and live in Hackensack, Minnesota. Emil married Myrtle Greenwald in January of 1919. They had three sons and three daughters. They now reside in Plummer.

I, William (Bill) married Dolly Walker of Oklee on November 2, 1929 and we had three sons and three daughters. We are now retired and live in Red Lake Falls and are spry and happy and proud to have had a part in making Red Lake County the best place on earth to live.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Malwitz sold their farm in 1938 to Joseph Ste. Marie of Terrebonne and retired to live in Red Lake Falls. Later they moved to Mankato where they now rest in peace in Memorial Cemetery.

EMIL MALWITZ AND MYRTLE GREENWALD MALWITZ

Emil was born August 9, 1897 in Wentworth, South Dakota, son of Charles Malwitz and Bertha Petsch. During his childhood and younger years he lived with his parents in Randall, Minnesota, Polk County and Red Lake Falls. Emil remembers one time when they were moving, he and brother Bill had to ride as stowaways in the cattle car on a train in order to save fare.

On January 3, 1921, Emil married Myrtle Greenwald, daughter of John Greenwald and Anne Christianson. They were married at St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls and their attendants were William Malwitz and Hanna Behn. Myrtle's mother, Anne, came from Denmark with her parents when she was around six years old. Myrtle's father, John, came from the Jordan, Minnesota, area and settled in Red Lake County around 1900 where they homesteaded a farm. Myrtle was born in Gervais Township, September 23, 1902.

Myrtle and Emil had six children. Willard was killed in 1944 over Dwinglo, Holland, while serving as a turret gunner on a bomber plane in World War II. Kenneth married Doris Hesse and lives in Plummer where he farms and has taken over the cattle trucking operation. They have six children. Crystal married Francis Martell and they reside in Gervais Township and both are employed at Arctic Enterprises. They have fourteen children. Fern married Floyd Hesse. They reside in Gervais Township where they farm and Floyd also has a cattle trucking operation. They have four daughters and one son, Scott who was killed in a shooting accident in November of 1966. Lila married LeRoy Brekke and they reside in South Milwaukee. Lila is employed at Bucyrus Erie and LeRoy at American Motors. John married Colleen Audette. They and their three children reside in Gervais Township and are



Emil and Myrtle Malwitz wedding 1921. Attendants William Malwitz and Hanna Behn.

engaged in dairy farming.

Emil worked for a time in the shipyards in San Francisco during the war, and since 1943 the family lived in Plummer. He farmed and started his cattle trucking operation which he continued for thirty-two years, but gave up his cattle trucking operation the day he had a stroke in December 1974, at the age of seventy-seven.

Emil was very active in Plummer politics over the years, serving as the local law officer for many years, Mayor for two terms and on the City Council for sixteen years. Emil was also responsible for organizing the Horse Shows for the Fourth of July celebrations in Plummer for four years. These shows drew large crowds and were enjoyed by all horse lovers. In his earlier years he was on the Gervais Township softball team. He also had his own bowling team, sponsored by Malwitz Trucking, and has shelves of trophies to prove his skill at the game. His stories about his hunting days delight the grandchildren, and he has photos to prove his kills. Although he is unable to "wet his line" he delights in seeing the fish that the more fortunate ones pull in, and also hearing about the "one that got away." Friends can find Emil and Myrtle at the Senior Citizens homes in Plummer, where they moved after selling the home farm on the outskirts of Plummer. To prove the sharpness of Emil's mind, you will often find him watching a ballgame on TV and listening to another on the radio. In order to keep her mind off this din, Myrtle will be sitting crocheting, as she turns out some beautiful doilies. Stop in some Sunday afternoon when Emil and Myrtle return from church, Redeemer Lutheran; they will be glad to have company and if you ask, I'm sure Myrtle can be persuaded to take out her photo albums and scrapbooks and many other keepsakes.

JOHN W. MALWITZ AND COLLEEN (AUDETTE) MALWITZ

We have lived in Red Lake County all of our lives and our parents lived in this County most of their adult lives, also.

John was born in Gervais Township on the former Louis Twete farm in 1941, and I was born in Polk County in 1942 and came with my parents, Norman and Nora Audette, to Gervais township in 1943. They settled on the Charlie Patnode farm. Later my father bought the Patnode farm and also the adjoining Louis Twete farm.

John and his parents, Emil and Myrtle Malwitz, moved several times during his early childhood, always within Red Lake County, and came to settle in Plummer in 1944, where they have made their home ever since.

John and I were married in 1961 and lived in a mobile home on his parents' farm where we started farming with 6 cows, which we milked by hand. In 1962 we started our family, Warren, Meloni and Willard, and we managed to squeeze them into our 28X8 mobile home (with no plumbing) and still lead a fairly enjoyable normal life. In 1965 we moved to my father's farm, which my brother Gerald Audette had been farming, and we have resided there until the present time. John is only ¼ mile from the spot where he was born and I am also back home. We have not strayed far from the home fires in our lifetime.

I remember the first year we moved here. John's brother, Kenny, had a threshing machine and we had quite a few horses, so we threshed the horses a huge straw pile which they lived in all winter. The horses were not just for looks, as we used an "old gray" to clean the barn all that first winter. Now those things, straw piles and work horses, are things of the past as combines and barn cleaners have taken over. Milking cows has also been mechanized and is no longer done by hand, but with machines.

We are a young family history-wise, but looking back over the years we have been on the farm, it just doesn't seem possible that things can move so quickly. Our whole life style has changed in 10 years, and it keeps changing more every year.

MARCHILDON FAMILY

In 1878, Grandpa George Marchildon came to Red Lake county from Penetang, Quebec, Canada. He began farming south of Red Lake Falls, acreage now owned by Jack LaCrosse, near the John Schindler farm. He married Jessie Gervais, of Minneapolis and nine children were born to them: Bella, Stella, Gilbert, Louis, Sidney, Nora, Frieda, George and Leo.

In 1895, the Marchildon family moved to a farm along the Clearwater river, east of their first farm and which is now the Jorgen Knutson farm. Grandma Jessie was very much opposed to moving into the woods where the new farmstead would be located, and at first refused to go. According to his grandson, Don, Grandpa Marchildon had one of the finest farms in the area. He was very conservative and tightfisted. Everyone had to work very hard. He finally gave in to acquiring a wind-mill on the farm.

Gilbert Marchildon was born February 1, 1891. He left the farm at the age of seventeen to work in the logging camps and then on the railroad. On May 8, 1916, he married Mary Baril, daughter of Ildage and Odile Dufault Baril, who farmed south of Red Lake Falls, along the Great Northern tracks, which was later to be the Arthur Baril farm. Ten children were born to Gilbert and Mary: Donavon, Bemidji; Eleanore, (Mrs. Glen Fellman) Red Lake Falls; Valerian, Mt. Iron; Genevieve (Mrs. W. B. Dyer), Concord, California; Duane, Great Falls, Montana; Marian (Mrs. Dean Riche), Boise, Idaho; Ralph, Missoula, Montana; Loretta (Mrs. Wayne Schwegman), Willmar; Robert, Brainerd; and Lorraine, who died April 1, 1945.

The Gilbert Marchildon family resided in Red Lake Falls on Third Street, in the house now occupied by the Earl Rose family. Gilbert operated the Ford garage. He was twice elected mayor of Red Lake Falls, serving from 1922 to 1926.

In 1927 they moved to Erskine where they managed the Erskine Hotel. In 1938 they bought the Win-E-Mac Club, at the intersection of highways 2 and 32, which is now the Pioneer Nursing Home. They resided there until 1948 when they moved to Missoula, Montana and bought the Club Chateau, which is presently owned and operated by Ralph Marchildon.

On June 28, 1952, Gilbert Marchildon died of a heart attack. After his death, Mary Marchildon returned to Minnesota and lived with her son Valerian at Mt. Iron, Minnesota, until his marriage in 1960, when she returned to her native Red Lake Falls.

Mary was 82 years old on October 14, and continues to enjoy her leisure years, living at the Manor, playing bridge and visiting with her relatives and friends. She has thirty-three grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

JOSEPH MARCHILDON AND HENRIETTA PAYMENT

Joseph Marchildon married Henrietta Payment in Canada. He operated a store and post office in Penetanguishene, Canada, on Georgian Bay. In 1881, he moved to this area and homesteaded a farm five miles south east of Red Lake Falls. His brother, George, took a homestead nearby. Joseph died in 1889 of pneumonia and because the children were too young to help farm, Mrs. Marchildon leased the land and moved to Red Lake Falls. Joseph and Henrietta had five children: Lenore, Mrs. Joseph Benoit, lived in St. Boniface, Canada. The four children of Lenore and Joseph Benoit are Mary, Mrs. Ray Westerland, of Brainerd whose two children are Mrs. James Jordan and Dale; Mayme, Mrs. Carl Funk, of Brainerd who has a daughter and a son; Felix who died in 1927 and never married and Anne, Mrs. J. Moran, who had no children and is now deceased; Odilia Marchildon never married; Lea married Zepherin Bregier (see history); Euseb married and had three sons. When he was widowed his son Joe was adopted by Mrs. J. Benoit and the other two sons were adopted by relatives; Mary Marchildon is married to Charles Johnson of Kelly Lake. Their children are: Clarence, Gordon and Mayme, Mrs. Thomas Himes.

CLARENCE MARCOTTE

Clarence Marcotte was born in 1917 to the late Archie Marcotte and Sophie Benoit on a farm in the Dorothy, Minnesota, area. He had seven brothers and three sisters. He moved with his family to Red Lake Falls in 1928 on the farm presently owned by Herb Johanneck. Clarence attended St. Joseph's School and the Crookston Agricultural College.



Gilbert and Mary Marchildon with children, Donavon, Genevieve, Eleanore, Valerian, Marion, Duane, Loretta, Ralph, Lorraine and Bob.

On September 14, 1938 Clarence married Frances Johanneck in St. Mary's Catholic Church. She is the daughter of the late John Johanneck and Elizabeth Zins. Frances attended the Busy Bee School in Red Lake Falls Township and graduated from elementary school in Barron County, Wisconsin, where her parents and the family lived for a few years before returning to Red Lake County.

Clarence and Frances have three sons and one daughter: Willard (b. 1940) married Marilyn Perreault and their three children are James, Nancy and Andrew. The family lives at Bemidji where Willard is employed at Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. Willard was with the U.S. Navy for four years; Duane (b. 1941) married Phyllis Peters in 1965. They make their home in Red Lake Falls where Duane is employed as a Red Lake County Deputy Sheriff. Duane served nine years in the U.S. Navy; LeRoy (b. 1943) married Carol Gervais in 1968 and they have three children, Cynthia and twin boys, Glen and Joseph. LeRoy is employed at Red Lake Electric and had served three years in the U.S. Army; June (b. 1947) is married to Edward Montplaisir of Horace, North Dakota. Their three children are Patrick, Steven and Kelli Joann. June was the 1967 Sno Fest Queen of Red Lake Falls.

In April of 1944 Clarence entered the U.S. Army and served in the South Pacific during World War Two, returning in 1946. In 1947 Clarence began employment with the Red Lake Falls Street Department, a position he has held for the past twenty-eight years. Frances has been employed at Hillcrest Nursing Home since 1963.

GEORGE MARCOTTE FAMILY

George Marcotte, a pioneer in the Louisville area was born in Otter Tail County in June of 1884. At an early age he came to Red Lake County and made his home here until his death in January, 1952. He married Miss Clarintha Berry on November 2, 1909 at Louisville. Their family consisted of four children, one of whom survives, Mrs. Theodore (Elizabeth) Delorme of Terrebonne Township. Two children died in infancy and a son Raymond passed away in December, 1944 at the age of 27.

Theodore and Elizabeth Delorme have a son Raymond and a daughter Mrs. Roger (Sally) Cardinal, both of this city. There are six grandchildren, Michael, Patty, Kathy, and Thomas Delorme and Tracy and Wade Cardinal.



George Marcotte wedding 1909.

In March of 1919 the George Marcotte family moved to a farm east of Red Lake Falls. They shared their home with a brother, Willie Marcotte, for many years. Besides farming, the Marcotte Brothers operated a saw mill on the farm and also did commercial grain threshing. Mrs. George Marcotte makes her home in Red Lake Falls.

ARTHUR MARLEAU

Arthur Marleau, the son of William Marleau and Mary Richard, was born in 1891 and lived all of his lifetime in Red Lake County. As a young man, he married Mary Cardinal in 1916. They had one child, but both mother and baby passed away with the flu.

In October of 1920, Arthur married Eva Huot born 1890, the daughter of Leon and Olympe Quilliere. St. Joseph's Catholic Church was being rebuilt at the time and the ceremony was performed in the temporary sanctuary set up in the church basement.

The Marleaus farmed in Browns Creek Township all their lives and raised three children: Lawrence of Worthington, Lucille (Mrs. Adelore Cota), Red Lake Falls, and Kenneth, deceased in 1975.

The Marleaus moved from the farm in 1969 to live with their daughter. Arthur Marleau passed away in September 1969, and Mrs. Marleau resided at Hillcrest Nursing Home until her death in 1973.



Arthur Marleaus with children, Lawrence, Kenneth and Lucille.

WILLIAM MARLEAU SR.

William Marleau was born in east Canada in 1862 and came to Bay City, Michigan when he was two years old. At the age of twenty he came to Red Lake County where he stayed the rest of his years. He was a farmer until his retirement.

He married Mary Richard, who was born in 1871 at Osseo and came to Red Lake County in the spring of 1877. Her parents, Teddy Richard and Emily Derouin, homesteaded on what is known as the Kirshman farm and later moved on the Richard farm, now the William Hallamack farm in Browns Creek.

William Marleau and Mary Richard were married in June 1890 at St. Joseph's Church in Red Lake Falls. They moved near her parents in Browns Creek, where they farmed for a number of years. In 1907 they moved south of town to Lake Pleasant Township, where they farmed until 1923 when they moved to Red Lake Falls and retired.

They had eleven children: William Jr., Arthur, Theodore, Alice (Mrs. Arthur Cardinal), Albert, Delia (Mrs. George Prenevost), Elmer, Louis, Eugene, Leo, and Catherine.

William died in 1934 and Mary in 1943.

Mrs. Alice Cardinal is living at Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls.

Louis at Detroit, Michigan, Leo at Brown City, Michigan, and Catherine at St. Vincent Rest Home at Crookston.

Theodore and Albert were World War I United States Army veterans.

The boys, Theodore, Albert, Leo, Louis and Elmer left Red Lake Falls to go to Detroit, Michigan in 1925 to make their home and were employed by General Motors. Leo was a barber for many years. Catherine was employed by Northern States Power Company in Red Lake Falls for twenty-six and a half years from 1923 to 1960 in the general office on Main Street. She was cashier in the office, south of the gazette office where all city residents paid their bills for electricity.

Older members of the Marleau family attended the Constant School in Browns Creek, younger members in the Lake Pleasant School District 32 where Mrs. Walter Columbus was the teacher.

Delia and Albert graduated from Lafayette High School.



Mr. and Mrs. William Marleau.

PAUL MATHEWS FAMILY

The Paul Mathews family was one of those that arrived in the Red Lake Falls area by ox team. They came from Cochran, a suburb of Minneapolis, with a group of families that lived in that French section and settled in Red Lake County in 1883.

They came to the area located between Crookston and Red Lake Falls and homesteaded on land there. Farms that were developed became very successful as the nation spread westward following the Civil War.

The journey was slow; the men drove oxen-powered wagons loaded with household goods, while the women and children traveled by train to Crookston.

Paul Mathews had emigrated from Wales to Canada. He married Cecelia Pouliot in Quebec. Later they and their sons, Filbert (J.F.), Eugene, and Napoleon moved to Cochran.

Friends of the Mathews in the nearby town of Hamel, were Louis Huot and his wife Eurephese, and their children Mary,



Mathews Family. *Back:* Cora, Mae, Bess, Odelon and William. *Middle:* Clifford, Walter and Roses. *Front:* Fred, Mr. and Mrs. Mathews and Obeline.

Louise, DeLima, and a son Zepherin Edward, all of whom were born in Hamel. This family was in the group with the Mathews family who moved to Red Lake county.

Filbert Mathews and Mary Huot were married at Huot Junction, Minnesota in 1888 when he was twenty-one and she sixteen years old. All of their ten children were born in Red Lake county. They became active in business, the professions, and in church and community affairs in northern Minnesota. The two youngest children, and only survivors of the family, are still living in Bemidji (1975). They both are retired. Mayme (Mae) was a grade school teacher and principal and Elizabeth (Bess) a registered nurse and hospital operating-room supervisor. Both were officers, and committee members in local, state and national affairs of their professions. The other children were Alfred, Obeline, William, Odelon, Cora, Walter, Clifford, and Roses.

When Filbert and Mary were first married they operated a farm and expanded their interests to a country store at Dorothy. Filbert also became a member of the school board, postmaster, operator of the grain elevator and manager of a nearby gravel pit owned by the Northern Pacific Railroad near the place where the N.P. train stopped on its trips between Red Lake Falls and Crookston. The gravel was shipped by rail to various destinations along the railroad line. The train also "took on" water there, and loaded grain to be delivered to the Crookston Milling Company.

The young people in the Mathews family recall playing alongside the old Pembina trail. Years before this, the oxen-drawn Red River carts had made lasting impressions in the sod on their way to St. Paul and Fort Snelling with their loads of furs. Our father told us that the loud creaking of the axles of the huge wooden wheels could be heard for days before the carts appeared.

Many evenings during the winter, neighbors would gather at the Mathews' home and there would be square dancing until the "wee hours," with Fred calling the squares, O.B. playing the organ and dad fiddling. Sometimes neighbors would bring accordians and mouth organs to add to the music. Among the neighbors were the Landa, Boutain, Patnode, Cassavant, Doyea, Marcotte, and Mirreault families.

When the tiny settlement was incorporated into a village, dad suggested the name "Dorothy."

Filbert and his family moved to Wylie when railroad operations were changed in that section. It was at Wylie that O.B. met Theophile (Ted) Fournier, a young prize-winning cheese maker and married him at Red Lake Falls in 1910. They had six children: three boys, Vern, Lawrence, Lester and three girls, Clarice, Andrea and Ruby. Some of their descendants still live in Red Lake County.

Filbert was a rural mail carrier between Red Lake Falls and Wylie for twenty-four years. When he was busy with farm chores, occasionally Mother would drive and deliver the mail to the farm patrons. Our brother Walter sometimes substituted. The summer Mae was sixteen years old, she "drove" the route. "Pete" or "George" were the reliable old horses. They would stop at each box unerringly without any direction from the driver.

In 1910 the family moved to a farm just outside Red Lake Falls. The children walked the two miles to the old Washington school on the north side. Later they attended St. Joseph's parochial school — the older children sometimes pulling the younger ones on sleds during the winter. Roses and Mae both graduated from Lafayette with the class of 1922. They took part in Glee Club, plays, operettas, and were among the "reporters" for "Lafayette Life" — a weekly school section of the Gazette. Roses went on to become a registered nurse, graduating from the Kahler School of Nursing at Rochester in 1926. She spent six months of additional training in obstetrics at the Cook County Lying-In hospital in Chicago. After moving to Washington D.C. she was, for a time, a nurse in the Department of the Interior. She was married and the mother of three daughters Sally, Nancy and Judith.

Four of the five sons served in World War I. It was a trying time for the family. With no television or radio and few telephones, communications were very slow. There were many months when the family received no news of any of the boys, three of whom were in Europe — but they all returned safely.

Although there were ten children in Filbert and Mary's family there were only fourteen grandchildren — eight girls and six boys. Of these only one grandson bears the name Mathews — Clifford James, Jr. He is married and has one daughter, Sharon Mathews Fox.

JOHN MATHSON AND GERTIE LANGIE MATHSON

The farm in Equality Township on which the John Mathsons now live was first owned by Albert Pufohl, who settled here in 1904. Martin and Kari Gunderson Mathson, John's parents, purchased it from Pufohl in 1906.

Martin Mathson was born in Norway on March 11, 1872. Kari Gunderson Mathson was born in Norway on June 1, 1871. They were married in Seneca, Iowa, on September 13, 1900.

Martin and Kari and their three children, Melvin, Inga and Louis, moved here from Iowa in 1909. John and Clarence were born after the family came to the Oklee area.

Kari died in 1932 and Martin in 1934. Two of their children are also deceased; Inga Mathson Andreason died in 1934 and Clarence Mathson died in 1958.

John purchased the farm from his parents in 1931. He also farms one hundred and sixty acres in Garnes Township which he bought from an uncle, Lars Gunderson, who is now deceased.

John married Gertie Langie, a daughter of Tarjie Langie and Bergit O. Hegland Langie, on March 6, 1937. They have two sons, Luverne and Darryl.

Luverne graduated from the Oklee High School in 1955 and served two years in the U.S. Army. While he was stationed with the army at Newbrucke, Germany, he visited relatives in Satersdalen, Norway. Luverne married Gloria Anderson of Trail on May 2, 1959. They now live in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and have four children; Anita, LuWayne, LuAnn and Lorie.

Darryl graduated from Oklee High School in 1957. He married Arlene Vad of Highlanding on September 28, 1958, and they now live in Forrest Lake, Minnesota, where they own and operate a summer resort. Their two children are Cindy Lou and Guy Matthew.

The Mathsons are members of the Salem Lutheran church and are active in its work.

MARTIN OLAI MATHSON

In 1894 Martin Mathson came to Armstrong, Iowa from Tysnes Bergen, Norway. In 1900 Kari Hegland Gunderson also came to Armstrong, Iowa from Tysnes Bergen. They were united in marriage the same year.

Martin came to Equality township in 1908 and bought a farm from Albert Piefahl. Martin's son, John Mathson, and his wife, Gertie Langie now live there. Martin's farm consisted of dairy and grain. His family followed in 1909. They had five children, Melvin, Inga, Louis, John and Clarence.

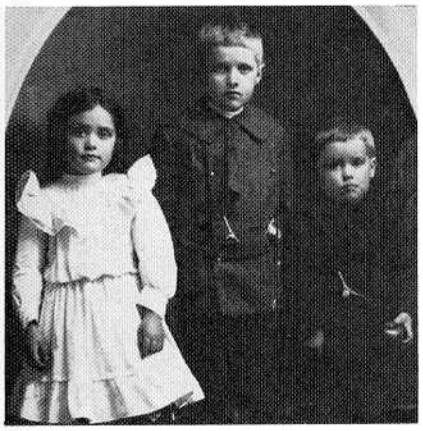
Mrs. Martin Mathson died February 2, 1932 and Martin died July 7, 1934 of burns suffered when he made a fire in his cook stove with kerosene. His daughter, Inga Andreason, died July 9, 1934 and they were laid to rest the same day in Salem Cemetery.

Inga left three small children, Donald, Verne and Patricia. Donald and his wife, Terry, have two sons and live in California. Patricia came to live with Louis and his wife, Oline Langie, and is now Mrs. Walter Lindberg of Fertile, Minn. She has two daughters and one son.

Melvin and his wife, Irene Singelseter, live in Trail, Minn. They have one son, Ronald, who is married to Lillian Johnson, and has two sons. They also have two daugh-



Mr. and Mrs. Martin Mathson



Inga, Melvin and Louis Mathson.

ters, Sharon of Minneapolis, who is married to Julian Jensen and has two boys and two girls, and Linda of Fargo, who is married to Don Burckhard and has two girls.

Louis and Oline have two sons. Loren married Elaine Flatgard and has two sons. They live in Fariview, Montana. Richard married Karen Chervestad and they live near Oklee. They have one son.

John and Gertie have two sons. Luverne is married to Gloria Anderson and lives in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and has one boy and three girls. Darryl is married to Arlen Vad and lives in Forest Lake, Minnesota. They have one son and a daughter.

Clarence was killed in a car accident in 1958 in San Francisco. He was married but had no children. Clarence's wife died in February, 1975.

THOMAS AND MARIE MAYERNIK

Thomas and Marie Breen Mayernik moved to Oklee from Goodridge in 1955 when they purchased the International Harvester Dealership. They now operate an auto supply parts store and repair shop. The Mayerniks have two sons, Michael born on August 23, 1956 and Patrick born on February 25, 1958.

HENRY AND CLARA McANULTY FAMILY

James McAnulty, born in Donnegal County, Ireland, and his wife, Mary, also born in Ireland, were married in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1850. They later settled near Faribault, Minnesota. It was there that Henry T. was born.

In the late 1800's the family, including Mary, Jim, Charlie, Will, Kate and Henry came overland with horses to make and prove land claims near Dugdale in Polk County. In later years Mary married Jim Carroll; Jim and his family settled in Portland, Oregon; Charlie remained at home; Will did some carpenter work; Kate taught in many Minnesota schools. Henry attended Valparaiso University. He taught in rural schools in what is now Red Lake County. Three times he was County Superintendent of Schools. He served as an elected official from 1905 through 1908, filled in a term for resigning Albany DeForge and served a third time in the 1940's. He later worked for many years selling school equipment and supplies for Waterman-Waterbury Company, a Minneapolis firm, and for St. Paul Book and Stationery, to many rural schools throughout Minnesota until the closing of the rural schools.

In 1919 he was married to Clara Berg, a teacher in Red Lake County's rural schools, including Wildwood in Gervais, Poplar River near Terrebonne, in other districts and in Crookston. Clara was the daughter of Ole A. Berg, Trondheim, Norway, and Johanna Hendrickson, Roeros, Norway. Mr. Berg managed a Red Lake Falls brickyard in the early 1900's. In his later years he made his home with the McAnultys.

When Clara first arrived in Red Lake Falls, she traveled on the Great Northern Railroad from Moorhead. The route was through Crookston and Wylie. It was said that the train was so slow traveling across the prairie in that area that passengers could hop off to pick strawberries and still catch the train again. At that time the tracks were laid only as far as Thief River Falls. She rode as far as St. Hilaire, got off the train to visit her sister and friends while the train went to Thief River Falls and back, reboarded the train and rode on to Red Lake Falls. Here the train turned around, returned to St. Hilaire to get back on the main line.

Henry and Clara McAnulty had two sons, Donald and Robert, both engineers. Bob died in 1959; Henry died in 1963. Donald still owns land in Terrebonne Township and is a frequent visitor to Red Lake Falls with his family . . . his wife, nee Bette Lou Krueger of Red Lake Falls, and their sons, James and Thomas.



Thomas Mayernik Family

CARSTEN (SPIKE) MEAD

Carston (Spike) Mead, born Christmas Day, 1892, was a lifelong resident of Red Lake Falls. He was a builder and a believer in his hometown. He served in practically every capacity from Mayor to Santa Claus. No task was too large nor too small for him to tackle when it came to the welfare of his city or Red Lake County.

The son of Charles and Mary Stuhr Mead, he was born in the same building in which he died, October 29, 1970. This building, that at one time housed his mother's millinery shop, still stands adjacent to the Mead garage building which was constructed on the site of his birthplace on Main Street.



Spike Mead leading the parade.



Carsten and Frances' 40th anniversary.

After his graduation from Lafayette High School with the class of 1913, he was appointed chief of police in 1915 and again when he returned from serving with the army in World War I.

On May 14, 1921 he married Frances Keifenheim at Red Lake Falls. She was also the daughter of pioneer Red Lake Falls residents, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Keifenheim, Sr., who had come to Red Lake Falls in 1899 from Wahpeton, North Dakota where they had managed a bonanza farm. Mr. Keifenheim was the first rural mail carrier out of the Red Lake Falls post office and served as carrier on Route 1 when it was established in 1907. The Keifenheims operated the Grandview Hotel and then he was employed at the Steinert Mill for

several years. Frances Keifenheim Mead graduated from Lafayette High School in 1914. She taught in rural Red Lake County schools and was assistant to Postmaster A. L. Reichert in the Red Lake Falls post office before her marriage.

The Meads were the parents of two children, Carsten John, born 1925, and Marilyn, born 1931.

Carsten Mead was associated with the Standard Oil Company for many years and the People's Auto Company, before he helped organize the Red Lake Falls Oil Company and served as president for around forty years.

"Spike" was an ardent horseman who often travelled the Minnesota Harness Racing Circuit as a young man, many times racing Louis Sieff's fast pacing horse, Signal Hal. He served as marshall in every parade held in Red Lake Falls from 1918, and always on horseback, until 1967 when a broken ankle forced him to use an automobile.

A lifelong Republican, he was Red Lake County chairman through the 40's and 50's. He served as mayor of the city from 1952-1954, and as president of the Commercial Club. He was chief of the local volunteer firemen more than thirty years, president of the Northern Minnesota Firemen's Regional Association in 1938, and held a life membership in the Minnesota Fire Chief's Association.

Mr. Mead was Red Lake County commissioner from the fourth district, Red Lake County Fair Board director, government appeal agent for the Red Lake County Selective Service Board, director of the Red River Valley Winter Shows at Crookston, and past president of the Sunny Rest Tubercular Sanatorium Commission.

"Spike" was honored in 1965 and named Red Lake County's first "Outstanding Senior Citizen."

He was one of the oldest members of the first Presbyterian Church at Red Lake Falls.

Mr. Mead was worshipful master and treasurer of the Red Lake Falls Masonic Lodge. He was a fifty-year member of Gunder Austad Post of the American Legion, Mrs. Mead, a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

He was a past District Deputy Grand Master of the IOOF, a member of the Crookston Elks Lodge for forty-one years, Modern Woodmen of America, and a director of the Northwest Shrine Club of Thief River Falls. He also held membership in Kem Temple of the Shrine at Grand Forks.

Carsten Mead had been especially interested in flood control projects during the years. In 1940, he was named to the Red Lake River Flood Control Association and was appointed to serve as one of the four Minnesota members of-the Tri-State Water Commission in 1943, and elected vice-president in 1954 of the Red River Valley Flood and Conservation Association. In 1962 he was appointed to serve as a member of the joint two-state Red River Basin Planning Committee.

JOHN AND MAXINE MEAD

John Mead was born in Polk County Carsten and Frances Mead on July 2, 1925. He graduated from Lafayette High School, Red Lake Falls, with the class of 1943.

John joined the Naval Aviation Program in October, 1943 and received his "wings and commission" as a Naval Aviator in July of 1945. He was discharged in November of 1945 and the following year joined the Naval Reserve, remaining active as Squadron Commanding Officer of Helicopter Squadron HS811 until his retirement as full commander with thirty years of service.

On March 7, 1947 John Mead married Maxine Nohre of Thief River Falls, the daughter of Melvin and Inga Nohre. Maxine graduated from Lincoln High School, Thief River Falls in 1944 and attended Northland College. At present she is employed by Record Printing Company.

John attended the University of Minnesota and received his degree in 1948. That year they moved to Red Lake Falls when he became associated with his father in the oil and auto business, the Red Lake Falls Oil Company. He remained in that business until 1971 when he became Red Lake County Deputy Assessor and a Certified Assessor in 1973. He also serves as City and County Civil Defense Director since 1958.

John is the Fire Chief of the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department and has served in that capacity the past eight years. He joined the department in 1950. He is also the president of the Northern Regional Fire Association.

He has been a member of the American Legion Post for thirty-one years, the Elks, and Past Master of the Masons.

The John Meads have two children. Brent Jay was born in 1948 and Chad Carsten in 1953. They are both married and live in the Twin Cities.

The youngest Meads are two granddaughters, Tania Beth born in 1974 and Megan Margaret in 1976.

PEDER MEDCHILL AND MARIT

Peder Sivert Medchill was born December 12, 1859 at Trondheim, Norway. He immigrated to the United States when he was about twenty years old and settled in Goodhue Co. near Zumbrota, Minnesota. He married Marit Kirkeby who was born in Meraker, Norway, February 17, 1860. Later, with their two children, Martin and Clara they moved to Fertile, Minnesota where his brother Ole and his family lived. Three sons, John, Paul Melvin, and Victor, and a daughter, Amanda were born there. About 1895, they moved to Plummer and homesteaded on land 1½ miles southeast of town. Here, the youngest daughter, Bertha, was born.

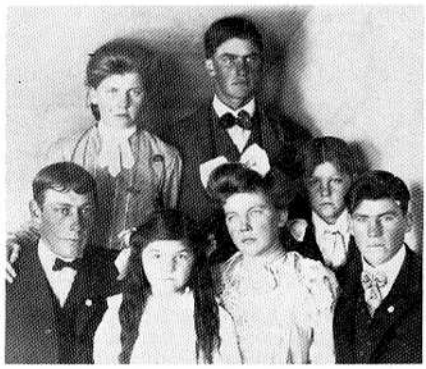
Mr. Medchill was active in the community in church, school, telephone, creamery and cattle shipping affairs. His wife died at Plummer on March 23, 1923. Mr. Medchill resided on the farm with his son Victor until the time of his death, July 21, 1935 at the age of 75.

Martin Medchill married Gudrun Dahl. They had two daughters, Margaret and Gertrude. He was employed by the railroad and died when he was about 26 as a result of a train accident near New Uln, Minnesota. Margaret married Bud Dunn and lived in Alemeda, California where she died in 1935. Gertrude and Harry Smith reside in Portland, Oregon.

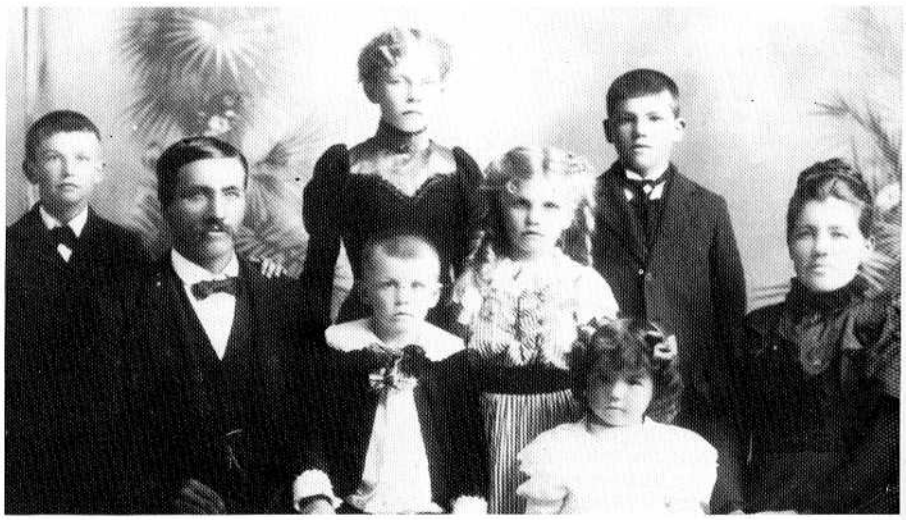
Clara Medchill worked for a time at the Farmers Store in Plummer. She married N. C. Lindberg and lived in Thief River Falls with their daughter and three sons, Kenneth, Merle, Adeline, and Marvin. Kenneth married Violet Rhodegard and worked at the Northern State Bank in Thief River Falls until the time of his death in 1955. Merle married Agnes Haug and is employed by the Falls Clinic in Thief River Falls. Adeline and Don Miller live in Boulder and Marvin and his wife Margie live in Pullman, Washington.

John Medchill married Mina Maaren and lived on their farm between Plummer and Oklee until they moved to Van Nuys, California to reside with their daughter and son-in-law, Lois and Reiny Seeger.

Melvin Medchill and his wife, Bergetta lived in Havre, Montana where he was employed by the railroad for 47 years. Their family consisted of a son and three



Medchills 1906. Martin, Bertha, Clara and John. *Back:* Amanda, Melvin and Victor.



Peder Medchills 1900.

daughters. Merle retired from the army and is now a postal employee in Buzzards Bay, Mass. Spokane, Washington is the home of Luverne and David Franklin and Doris and Gerald Lyman and their families. The youngest daughter, Alice married Kent Hudson and lives with their six children in Edgemont, South Dakota.

Amanda Medchill worked for a time in the telephone office in Plummer. She and her husband Charles Collins moved to Spokane.

Victor Medchill married Clara Froiland of Plummer on September 1, 1923 and lived on the home farm. They have two daughters. Clarice lives in St. Louis Park. Idella married Charles Samuelson and lives in Thief River Falls with their three children, David, Sarah, and Matthew. Victor passed away February 27, 1948. Clara moved to Thief River Falls and later married Severt Benson.

Bertha Medchill worked at the telephone office in Plummer and later moved to Spokane where she married Leo Buckley. They had four children, Rose Mary, Leo, Alice, and John.

After Victor's death in 1948, the farm was rented for a few years and was sold in 1964.

JOHN O. MELBY FAMILY

John O. Melby was born near Trondheim, Norway, where he was educated in a military academy. He was married to Annie Espen in his homeland and a son, Ingebrat, and a daughter, Aase Margie were born there.

In 1900 they immigrated to America and settled in Lake Mills, Iowa where he worked as a tailor. Their son Arthur was born at Lake Mills. Later the family moved to Wilton, Minnesota where Norah and Alma were born.

In the spring of 1915 J. O. Melby and family moved to Oklee, where they purchased a meat market from Gunder Stromme and Dan Reirson. He and his son operated the meat market and grocery store for many years.

J. O. Melby had always-been interested in government, so when he ran for state representative and won, he kept that legislative office from 1926 to 1944. He was up again for re-election in 1944 but he died in October of that year. His wife Annie had died several years before.

Their son Ingebret married Clara Sletvedt at Oklee and they operated a store in Wabasha, Minnesota for many years. He died in 1970 but his widow and two daughters still live in the Wabasha area.

Aase Margie Johnson moved to Long Beach, California where her son Jerome and daughter Maurine lived. She died in 1963 and her son Jerome Johnson died in the summer of 1975. Maurine, Mrs. Smuland still lives in Long Beach.

Norah La Fleur, after being employed in Minneapolis also moved to Long Beach where she was employed by Sears Auditing Office. Her husband, Joe La Fleur, died a few years ago but she continues to live in Long Beach, where she is now retired.

Alma, the youngest daughter, was a graduate nurse from the University of Minnesota. She lived at Kennewick, Washington, where she passed away in 1960.

Arthur continued in the meat market business but later owned and operated the Oklee Locker Plant. He sold his Locker Plant to Louis Violette and he is now retired and makes his home in Oklee.

OLE MELBY AND GERTRUDE (NESSLAND) MELBY

The Melby family of Oklee originated with three brothers; John, Tom, and Ole. This article deals with Ole, the surviving brother who is still living in Oklee.

Ole left Norway in the year 1907 at the age of nineteen, having learned the tailoring trade from his father. After several years in the logging business around Bemidji, he and his brother, Tom, came to Oklee. They built a store in October 1910 on the present location of Melby's Store on lots seven and eight, which had been bought at public auction that summer. The material for their store was sent on the first cars of freight to reach Oklee. This was the first store in Oklee and is the only store still operated by one of the original owners. Ole's brother, Tom Melby, died in 1913, but his widow, Inga Melby, was a partner for many years.

Ole married Gertrude Nessland of Oklee and they had the following children: Orlo, Thomas, Gladys, Alice, Katherine, Harold, Verna, and Jeanette. Of these three children, Orlo, Thomas, and Verna have lived in Oklee all their lives.

Orlo Melby joined his father in business in 1936. He married Mildred Shetterly and they had two daughters, Sue and Wanda Mae. Wanda presently lives in Portland, Oregon. She is married to Dr. Jess Dishman.

In addition to the retail business of the store, Ole and Orlo have been wholesale produce dealers (poultry, eggs, and wool) for the past fifty years.

Thomas (Tom) Melby, second son of Ole, was first employed at the Oklee creamery. After serving three years in the Navy during World War II, he and his wife, Bernetta Seeger of Oklee, purchased the Oklee lumber yard from the Dan Rolland estate. They are also owners of the Plummer Lumber Yard. They had two sons, Tommy Jay, who died in 1967 and Clifton, who is in business with his parents. Cliff married Barbara Bronken of Oklee and they have two sons, Isaac and Jacob.

Gladys married Dr. James Weir Ewing of Glenwood. They have three children, Carole, James, and Ronald. Alice married Mr. Milton C. Boyd of Newburyport, Massachusetts. They have two children, Marcia and Milton Jr. Katherine married Dr. Hymie Gull of Ershine, Minnesota and they had two sons, Peter and James. Harold married Estelle Joki of Minneapolis. Their five children are, Karen, Stuart, Mary, Mark, and Brian.

Verna Melby has been employed at the Melby store for a number of years and has enjoyed several generations of her friends' children. Jeanette Melby married Mr. Eddie Anderson of Minneapolis and they had one daughter, Jodi Lynn.

Ole, Orlo and Tom have all been active members of the Oklee Commercial Club. In 1960 Tom was chairman of the Golden Jubilee of the Village of Oklee. Both Ole and Orlo have served on the Watershed Board. Ole served as president of the board for twenty-seven years. Orlo is currently on this board having been appointed in 1970.

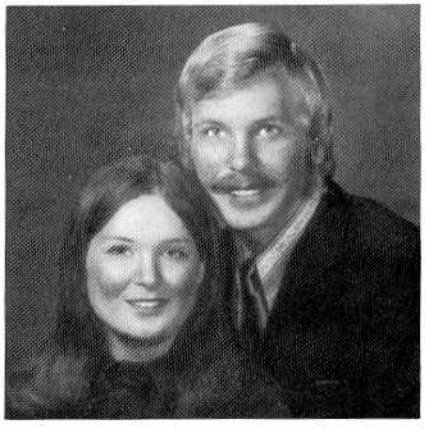
Ole served on the village council and on the Oklee school board for twenty-seven years. He was also on the Oakland Park Sanatorium Board for five years. Orlo served on the village council for twenty-nine years. The three families; Ole, Gertrude, and Verna, Orlo and Mildred, and Tom and Betty have all been active members of the Zion Lutheran Church having served in various capacities of church work for many years.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Melby



Tom Melbys



Clifton Melbys

TOM O. MELBY FAMILY

Tom O. Melby came to this country from Norway in the late 1880's. In Strum, Wisconsin, where he lived with an uncle, he attended school to learn to speak, read, and write the language of his newly adopted country.

His first employment, which was clerking in a store, was good training which led to a life of merchandising in Felton and Wilton, Minnesota, before moving to Oklee. It was in Strum where he met and married Inga Dahl.

In 1910 Tom was looking for a good location to establish a new business. He sold his store and half interest in a sawmill in Wilton and explored the town sights along the newly opened Soo Line Railroad between Bemidji and Thief River Falls. Trail had a certain appeal to him because of the lovely rolling hills which reminded him of Wisconsin. Wanting to make sure that this was the right spot he walked west until he reached the hill tops overlooking the wide open spaces where one could see as far as the horizons. Sensing the potential of this beautiful, fertile farm land, he decided to buy lots and settle in Oklee.

In the fall of 1910 Tom and his younger brother Ole and cousin Richard Sletvold built a building which was to become Melby Brothers' Store. Tom and Ole were partners in this venture. The building became not only a store, but a barber shop, a pool hall, a post office, a place to sleep, and a club room. Many plans for the young village were discussed late at night around the pot bellied stove.

The town site of Oklee must have been plotted during a dry season. Little was suspected of the quagmire which became bottomless streets in the spring of 1911 when Tom moved his family from Wilton, Minnesota. The mud was so deep that the children had to be carried from the railroad station to the hotel which was just across the street.

There were many hardships including our flooded temporary home; having to wear high rubber boots during the spring thaw and after rain showers; carrying water for household use from the Vigen Hardware corner, now the Cyr Hardware; swatting swarms of mosquitoes; and walking a mile and a half to school.

However; these pioneers had a vision and nothing stopped them from building homes, churches, and schools. They always found a way. Tom sold his ponies to buy oak for the woodwork and doors for his new home which was built in 1911.

In 1913 Tom contacted typhoid fever from contaminated drinking water and passed away in September, leaving his wife Inga and four children, Andor and Orrin, now deceased, Olga of Oklee, and Wilton of Van Nuys, California.

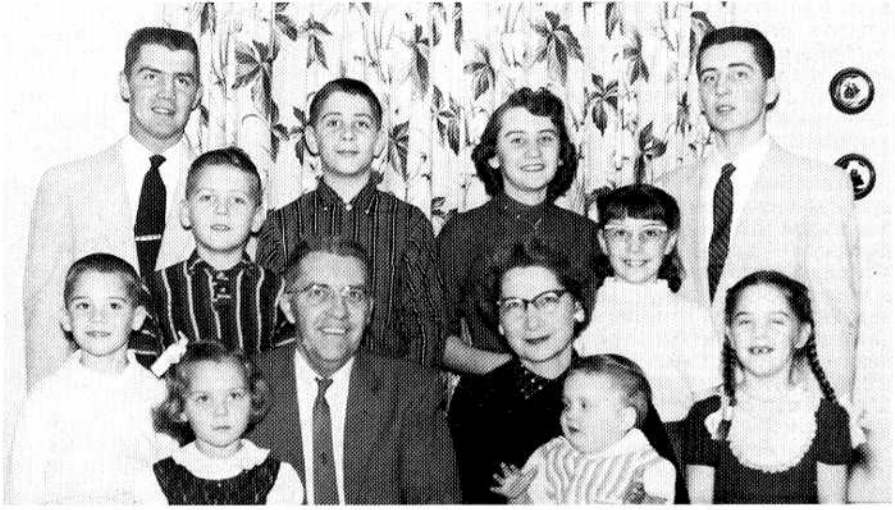
The Tom Melbys were charter members of Zion Lutheran Church, the membership consisting of seven families. After Tom's death Inga remained a very faithful and active member of the church, teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir and holding various offices in the Ladies Aid until her death in 1967.

Inga retained her partnership in Melby's Store until 1952 when she sold her interest to Orlo Melby and Andor Melby. To this day the store operates on the same location with Ole and Orlo still supplying the needs of the community.

ORRIN AND VIOLA BERRY MELBY FAMILY

Orrin Melby, son of Thomas Melby and Inga (Dahl) Melby, married Viola Berry, daughter of Louis Berry and Georgiana (LaCoursiere) Berry on July 26, 1938. They purchased a house in Oklee from the Francois LaCoursiere estate. Orrin started working at the Security State Bank in Oklee in 1930 and retired in 1958 because of poor health. He passed away on November 26, 1960, at the age of 53. Viola has been employed by Harold Lindquist, D.D.S. of Oklee since 1961.

Orrin and Viola had ten children: *Allan,* (b. 1939) is married to Ardyth Bergstrom of Pillager. They have three children and live in Anoka where Allan works as a lab technician for General Mills. *David,* (b. 1940) married Gloria Ellickson of Oklee. They are the parents of a boy and a girl and live in St. Cloud where they are both teaching school. *Susan,* (b. 1943) married Calvin Harmoning. They have three children and live on a farm northwest of Red Lake Falls. *Richard,* (b. 1944) is on the police force in Thief River Falls. He and his wife, the former Judy Spray Olson, are the parents of three children. *Michael,* (b. 1946) married Susan Rost of McIntosh. They own a farm site in Terrebonne township. Michael is employed at Detroiter Mobile Home Corp. and his wife at Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls. *Mary,* (b. 1949) married Don Rindahl of Oklee. They are both teachers in the Grygla school system. They have two children. *Robert and Rebecca* were born December 24, 1950. Robert married Phyllis Morinville of Brooks. He is employed at Arctic Enterprises in Thief River Falls and she at the Office of Economic Opportunity at Oklee. They have two sons. Rebecca married Dale Svaren. They are both teachers in Oklee and have one daughter. *Carolyn,* (b. 1954) is married to Roy Rystad of Oklee. She is a barber in Thief River Falls and he is employed as a carpenter. They live in Oklee. *John,* (b. 1956) is employed at Arctic Enterprises of Thief River Falls.



Orrin Melby Family. *Back:* Allen, Michael, Richard, Susan, Mary and David. *Front:* Robert, Carolyn, Orrin and Viola, John and Rebecca.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Melby

JOSEPH MERCIL FAMILY HISTORY

Joseph (Joe) Mercil was born in 1869 the son of Caroline Clarmont and Medard Mercil Sr. at Joliette, Quebec, Canada. He came to this country at the age of eight with his parents, four brothers — Oliver, Medard Jr., Eli, and Louis; also with four sisters — Philanese (Mrs. Ephrame Audette), Elizabeth (Mrs. Exzeua Audette), Caroline (Mrs. Oliver St. Martin), and Mary Louise (Mrs. Peter Dufault). They settled on a farm in Gentilly, Minnesota, where their family grew up.

Another family by the name of Peter Lefaivre came from Buffalo, Minnesota and also settled in the Gentilly area. With them was a daughter named Addie whom Joseph married in 1895.

They then took a homestead in Garnes township where they managed to make a living until the fall of 1906. They finally were able to buy a farm three miles west of Brooks, Minnesota, where they moved and raised their family of nine children. They include the following; a daughter born in 1896 who passed away at two months, then came Leon, Medor, Louis, Leah (Mrs. Leah Daoust Jewett), Rose Anna (Mrs. Robert Gagner), Mary Louise (Mrs. Wallace Fournier), Wiffred, and Ralph.

During those years they bought more land to a total of 640 acres. The cattle log sheds were replaced by a large barn with a hay loft built in 1909. The log house was also replaced by a large three story house in 1913. Joseph farmed small grain of different varieties, and potatoes, which at that time had to be picked and graded by hand, one by one, so forty to fifty acres was a big field at this rate. Joseph Mercil was also great at raising horses and cattle, especially milk cows which had to be milked by hand. Sheep, hogs, chickens, geese, ducks, and rabbits were around the place, but it was not so pleasant when the men came to water the horses and the geese and ducks were having a swim in the water tank. Those feathered friends, however, provided the feather beds while the oats straw was used for the mattresses for the family's comfort and contentment.

The winters were spent chopping wood for future use in heating and cooking. This period of the year also meant work clearing the land for cultivation. In the spring it was sheep shearing time, that also was done by hand. They never owned a tractor or had electricity on the farm. Transportation was by horses only. But it was not all work and no play. Years ago, St. John the Baptist Day, June the 24th meant a big celebration. On the Mercil farm it meant picnics with all the trimmings during the day, and



The Joe Mercil Family 1918



Med Mercils 1941. *Top:* Virgil, Med and Mrs. Mercil. *Bottom:* Wendy, Yvonne, Gerald and Mildred.

in the evening, the granary, with removable partitions, served as the dance hall. A blind fiddler, a piano player named Remial Perras, and D. E. Fournier, who was one of the best fiddlers and square dance callers that could be found, played for everyone. So it was that the granary hall was used in the summers before it was filled again with grain in the fall.

By 1938 Mr. and Mrs. Mercil had well earned their retirement. The youngest son, Ralph, took over the farm and they moved to a home in Brooks across the street from the Farmers Union Co-op Oil Station. In 1942 Ralph moved to a smaller neighboring farm to live and the oldest son, Leon, took over the home place until 1970. He then sold it to Francis and Ellen Gall and moved to Red Lake Falls. That farm was owned by the Mercil family for sixty-four years. Believe it or not, the farm still is known as the Mercil farm.

Addie Mercil passed away at home in Brooks in May 1952 and Joseph in June 1953 at the Pioneer Memorial Home in Erskine. The eight children are all still living, the youngest being sixty-four years old.

MED MERCIL FAMILY

Med Mercil was born in 1898 to Joseph Mercil and Addie La Fave. He had four brothers and three sisters, Leon, Louis, Wilfred, and Ralph; Leah, Rose, and Mary Louise. Med lived on a farm with his family three miles west of Brooks until his marriage to Elizabeth Champagne in September, 1918. To them were born five children: Mildred Ost of Detroit Lakes, Virgil of Newfolden, Yvonne (Mrs. Lawrence Morinville) of Brooks, Wendy of Thief River Falls, and Gerald of Minneapolis.

Med started his barbering career in Red Lake Falls in 1917, learning under Joe Miller, began his own business in Brooks on July 3, 1919. He ran a pool hall and lunch counter in conjunction with his barber shop in the building that is now the Cozy Bar in Brooks. He sold this place to Horace Doaust in 1937 and built a barber shop just north of the tavern.

Many senior citizens will remember the shop being open until midnight or so on Saturday nights.

For a time business was slow in Brooks so Med traveled to Mentor two days a week before he decided to move to Thief River Falls in 1944. Here he developed a good barber business.

In May of 1975 Mrs. Mercil passed away and in October of 1975 Med retired from the barber business after barbering for fifty-eight years.

It would be interesting to know how many heads of hair he cut during that time!

LOUIS MERCIL FAMILY

Louis Mercil was born in 1900 to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mercil and lived on a farm three miles west of Brooks with his three sisters and four brothers: Leah, Rose, Mary Louise, Leon, Medore, Wilfred and Ralph.

He married Louise Champagne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Champagne on November 24, 1921. They moved to a farm near Brooks where they raised six children: Donald, of Drayton, North Dakota; Everell, of Duluth; Lloyd, rural mail carrier of Brooks; Donna Mae, Mrs. Willard Bergeron, of Oklee; Dellas, Mrs. Ronald Paradis of Brooks; Madeline, Mrs. Parnell Thibert, of California.

Louis and Louise lived on the farm two and one-fourth miles southwest of Brooks until 1957, when they sold their farm and built a house in Brooks near St. Joseph's Church. Since then they sold the house in May 1968 and moved to the Senior Citizen Home in Brooks where they are still living. They celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in 1971.

HARVEY MERCIL FAMILY

Harvey Mercil, the son of Aime and Delia Mercil, was born July 31, 1914, in Gentilly. At the age of sixteen, Harvey became a helper at the Gentilly Cheese Factory where he learned the trade. In 1934 he continued his training at the Terrebonne cheese factory.

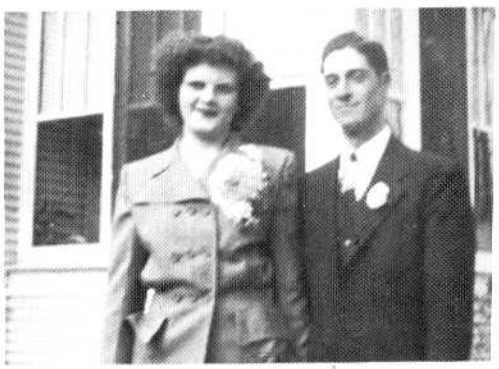
In 1936, he began working at the Sanitary Service as a cheese maker. The same year he married Mabel Cota on October 21 (see Cota Family) and they resided in Crookston.

As a cheese maker, Harvey won two contests. He was hired by the Bridgeman Creamery, Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1942, where he stayed for five years.

After the Mercil family returned to Red Lake Falls, Harvey worked at the creamery and for Wilcox Service, until he took over management of the Phillips 66 Station in 1958. Twelve years later he purchased the



Louis Mercil family fiftieth anniversary 1971



Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Mercil

Mobil Station which he owned and operated for three years.

Mabel worked at St. Vincent's Hospital in Crookston from 1931 to 1936. In 1957 she began working at St. John's Hospital, Red Lake Falls, where she still is employed as a nurse's aide. Mabel was honored by her fellow employees, by receiving the second "Employee of the month" award given at St. John's Hospital.

The Mercils have three children; Dianne (Mrs. Louie Seidl); Darrell, who married Susan Lindquist of St. Hilaire; and Wayne.

DR. DAVID J. MERSY AND PATRICIA GILMOUR MERSY

Dr. and Mrs. David John Mersy moved to Red Lake Falls from Warren in January, 1970. Dr. Mersy had practiced medicine with the Warren Clinic from July, 1970 (when he finished his internship) until moving to Red Lake Falls. There had been no physician in Red Lake Falls since the summer of 1969 and the Red Lake Falls Clinic had closed. It was reopened by Dr. Mersy in February of 1970.

David was born in 1942 at Fosston to Herbert and Grace Lerohl Mersy. Bert had been the Soo Line Railroad station agent at Gonvick since 1917, moving there from western Minnesota under the influence of his brother, John Mersy, who made his home at Oklee for many years and was the Soo Line Railroad station agent there. Bert and John were the only two of seven brothers (a sister had died in infancy) to settle in the area. Their parents had emigrated from the Alsace-Lorraine area of France in the late 1800's. Bert's mother spent her last years at Gonvick with him and is buried next to him in the cemetery of St. Charles Catholic Mission near Trail. Bert married the former Grace Lerohl, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. K. Lerohl of Oklee in 1940. They met while she was doing private duty nursing with his terminally ill mother. Her parents had both emigrated from Norway and her father had served several Lutheran Churches in Canada and neighboring states before settling in Oklee in the 1920's. Bert and Grace had two other children, Ruth (Mrs. Merle Ratteseth) who taught for a number of years at LaFayette High School in Red Lake Falls and now resides with her family in Crookston. Michael resides in St. Paul with his wife Velora and is studying to be a minister of the Lutheran Church in America.

Patricia Gilmour Mersy was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota in December of 1944 to William and Aileen Freer Gilmour. William's father was for years a conductor on the Great Northern Railroad and had migrated to the Grand Forks area from Canada. Aileen was born at St. Paul but her mother was Genevieve Lynch who was born and raised in Grand Forks. Pat's father is now Grand Forks Postmaster and director of the regional sectional center of the U.S. Postal Service. Pat has one brother, Tom, a student at the University of North Dakota. Pat attended parochial schools in Grand Forks, graduating with honors from St. James High School in 1962.

The David Mersys met while both were students at the University of North Dakota. Pat was secretary to Father Robert Branconnier of the Newman Center, at the same time that Dave was Newman Club president. They were married in August, 1964 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grand Forks and that fall resumed their studies at UND. They have three children, Barbara (b. 1965), Bill (b. 1968) and Scott (b. 1970).

Dave was elected to the Phi Eta Sigma, freshman scholastic honorary, and to Phi Beta Kappa for outstanding scholarship. He received a B.A. degree, Magna Cum Laude in 1964 with a major in Chemistry and minors in German and Mathematics. He entered the UND school of medicine and received a B.S. degree in medicine in 1966. He transferred to the University of Minnesota medical school and received the degree Doctor of Medicine in June, 1968 and completed a one year rotating internship at Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Medical Association and has been a delegate on the state level to both of these groups. Dr. Mersy is certified by the American Board of Family Practice as a specialist.

He has served as a preceptor under the Rural Physicians Associate Program of the University of Minnesota Medical School and is a clinical instructor in the department of family practice and community medicine at that institution. He also holds faculty appointment as a clinical associate at the University of North Dakota school of medicine and has served as a preceptor for UND medical students under the MECO program.

Pat received her Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in 1966 with a major in history and with honors in political science and education. She was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa and the fact that both Pat and Dave received Phi Beta Kappa keys was deemed unusual enough to warrant a feature article in the Grand Forks Herald. Beginning in 1973 she began postgraduate work at the Alfred Adler Institute of Minnesota in Minneapolis in psychology and received her certificate in the fall of 1975. She is presently doing counseling and psychotherapy at the Red Lake Falls Clinic. Pat served on the Parish Council of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and has been a member of the Board of Education of the Red Lake Falls public schools since 1974. She has been active in local and regional politics and has held several offices in the DFL Party.

CLARENCE MEYER

Clarence Meyer was born in Flandreau, South Dakota, on February 11, 1904 to John Meyer and Josephine Latham Meyer. His father passed away in January, 1911. In the fall of 1911 the family bought a farm in Louisville Township and later Mrs. Meyer and four children, Clarence, Luella, Anna, and John, accompanied by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbuer Latham, and a brother, Vernon, came to this vicinity to make their home and to find cheaper land.

Clarence attended the Vance school and after graduating went out to earn money to be able to go to the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. He graduated in 1924 and went on to take a job working for the Dairy Herd Improvement Ass'n in Jackson County.

On April 4, 1925 Clarence married Bertha Wiese at Jackson. They moved to South Bend, Indiana where he was head herdsman on a large dairy farm for one year. In 1926 they bought a piece of land in Louisville Township. There were no buildings on the land so he bought a house in Red Lake Falls and moved it to the farm with two and four-horse teams. They lived on the farm for ten years. During the depression of 1929 and 1930 they tried raising turkeys, the only farm commodity bringing a good price. Oats sold for nine cents a bushel and eggs about five cents a dozen. They tried hatching turkey eggs in an incubator and raising them in brooder houses heated with wood or coal stores. No electricity at that time. They were successful, and the turkeys that were dressed and sold to Land O'Lakes in Thief River Falls helped them through the hard times.

In 1935 Clarence started driving a gas truck for Farmers Union Oil Company while farming at the same time. In 1936 the family moved to Thief River Falls where he set up the Farmers Union Oil Company that he managed for two years and then moved to Red Lake Falls where they have lived since. Clarence and Bertha took over the Cities Service Station in 1942 and in 1948 built an addition to the gas station and opened Meyers Cafe, operating this business until 1961 when they sold out to Armond Theroux. Clarence is still serving as substitute mail carrier for Route 3. He has been a substitute carrier since 1940.

Five children were born in the Meyers family: John of Sunnyvale, California; Harold of Brainers; Kenneth of Des Moines, Iowa; Dorothy (Mrs. Harold Ford); and Gladyce (Mrs. Jack LaCrosse) of Red Lake Falls.

An interesting thing about the house they moved from Red Lake Falls to the farm is that it was moved back to town years later and is the home of Mrs. Fred Landman.

MICKELSON (HARBALEN) — QUICK

Sjur Harbalen was born near Bergen, Norway in 1860 and came to America in the ship "Iceland" in 1887. He spent a short time in Madison, Wisconsin and the next year moved to Fertile, Minnesota, where he married Ingeborg Johannes, who was a neighbor in Norway and had come to Minnesota in 1889. The wedding took place in the Little Norway Church. Their son Michael was born in 1890.

Sjur and Ingeborg homesteaded a 160 acre farm located ten miles east of Red Lake Falls in Gervais Township. Later they purchased 80 acres joining the homestead. The deed was signed by President McKinley and C. H. Brush, Recorder of the General Land Office in 1898.

Eight children were born in Red Lake County. Johannes, Martha (Mrs. G. Emil Quick), Johanna, Nels, Anton, Carrie (Mrs. Gust Christopherson), Plummer, Sivert (married Clara Craft, rural Red Lake Falls), and Agnes (Mrs. Charles Christianson) of Deerwood. Later on a suggestion was made to change the family name to Sjur's father's name, Mickel, and the name became Mickelson, or Mickel's son.

Uncle Sivert tells of questioning his parents as to why they chose to locate where they did. Looking at the map of openings for homesteading, Grandfather was impressed by the word "Lake" on Section 13 in Gervais. The lake was never found, only slough grass and cattails in the middle of the section.

Grandpa Harbalen brought one cow with him from Fertile. Later a calf and another cow were added. These were trained to bear a yoke and be driven. When anyone was going to town, oxen furnished the means of transportation, and neighbors often sent their wares to be exchanged for groceries. Red Lake Falls was the usual destination, except when they craved lutefisk and went to St. Hilaire. Only later did the French people cater to these Norwegians and provided lutefisk in exchange for homemade butter.

Times were hard in those early days. A box that the cream separator came in, covered with a little straw, doubled for a bed at night and served as a bench to sit on during the day. Grain was stored in one room in the house. The winter meat was mostly rabbit, hunted, cleaned and frozen or packed in salt brine.

The creamery that Sivert Mickelson helped organize near the James Gilbertson farm was organized in 1900 and moved to Plummer in 1904. The present Plummer



G. Emil Quick and Martha Mickelson wedding 1914.

Creamery was built in 1918. There was no church so Pastor Kolstoe, who lived a short distance away, went to the homes and held services, sometimes on skiis.

My mother sheared the sheep and washed the wool and carded and spun it and then knitted stockings and mittens for the whole family. The oldest girl helped and everyone got something knitted for Christmas.

QUICK

On our way to Red Lake Falls we glance to the south as we pass the place west of Robert Miller's (section 27, Gervais). "See that high narrow house beyond the present house? Russell's father built that in his bachelor days."

Then he came wooing and winning Martha Mickelson and G. Emil Quick and Martha were married November 18, 1914 by Reverend Albin Olson of St. Hilaire. They lived on a farm in section 35 of Gervais township. Five of their twelve children were born there, Harold, Earl, Vernie, deceased, Lester, and Hazel. Russell, along with two sisters and another brother joined the family ranks during their jaunt to Wisconsin. Later the Quicks moved to Borup, Minnesota and resided there.

Russell purchased the farm after the Uncles' deaths and moved here in April, 1969. We have two children, Nona and Roy. Roy was born on July 10, 1970, and was the first baby in the "new house" which was built in 1927.

Several little treasures we found were a lunch box Uncle Anton used, and the blueprints and invoices for the barn, 34 x 80 — made of western fir lumber, cement and windows included — all for $1340, built in 1922.

We are proud to play a wee part in the history of Red Lake County. Not many children can say, "I live on the place my Great Grandfather homesteaded. This is my Heritage."

Oneita, Mrs. Quick, is the daughter of Albin Olson of Menhaga, Minnesota. She is a great gradndaughter of Kristi (Slabaaken) Olson who immigrated to America from Norway along with 7 sons in 1850. Grandfather Andres Olson was stabbed by Indians and left as dead when he was thirteen years old.

Thanks to a notebook kept by Aunt Carrie plus memories recalled by both Carrie and Sivert.

ARNOLD MILLER — ALICE ROY FAMILY

Arnold Miller, son of Ernest and Minnie Miller, married Alice Roy, daughter of Joseph Roy, Sr. and Rosanna Lizotte, on November 22, 1927 at St. Joseph's Catholic church in Red Lake Falls, Minn. They resided on a farm one mile south and two miles west of Red Lake Falls, for two years, where their first child, Helen, was born. They then moved east of Red Lake Falls to a farm near the Clearwater river about three miles from town. They farmed there for about three and one-half years, and while living there two more of their children, Ray and Leona, were born. In 1931 they moved to the Eli Emard farm, one mile south of their last home, now owned by Jorgen Knutson. They lived there for eight years, and two sons, Bernard and Vernon, were born there. When Arnold's mother died in 1939, Arnold was left the farm she had lived on and on which he had lived his entire life before he was married. This farm is two miles west and one-half mile south of Red Lake Falls, and is now owned by Theo. Schindler. The family built a house and moved to this farm in the fall of 1939. Their last child, Shirley, was born in 1941. They remained and worked this farm until they sold it in 1956 and moved into Red Lake Falls. Arnold bought the Steinert mill at the north end of Main Street and operated it for four and one-half years. He then sold it and bought a wholesale feed business in St. Hilaire and operated this for about four more years, until he retired in 1967. Mr. Miller died in July of 1975, and his wife, Alice, lives in her house on third street here in Red Lake Falls.

Helen Miller was married to Vincent Schmitz, son of John Schmitz and Anne Pahlen, in April, 1948. (See Vincent Schmitz family.)

Ray Miller married Elaine Audette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Audette of Gentilly, in August of 1950. They have ten children: Barbara (Mrs. Roger Crawford), Alameda, California; Gordon, married and living in Fridley, Minnesota; Tom, Pam, Bob, Greg, Lori, Gerry, Mary, and Joe, living at home. Ray's family now lives in Anoka, Minnesota, where he is self-employed.

Leona Miller was married to Dalton Hofius, son of Howard Hofius and Amanda Whiteley, in June, 1950. They have lived in Red Lake Falls all their married lives and have been associated with Standard Oil, first operating the service station on third and main street, for fifteen years. Since then he has been the Standard Oil Co. bulk agent here. They have six children: Linda (Mrs. Tom Cassatt), Fargo, North Dakota; Jim, now employed at Hibbing, Minnesota; Ron, attending Moorhead State College; Dave, Chuck, and Patti Joe at home.

Bernard Miller married Iris Brussard from Biloxi, Mississippi, whom he met while stationed there with the U.S. Air Force, in 1954. They now reside in Garland, Texas, where he is associated with the Varo Corporation. He and his wife have six children: Bruce, who is in the U.S. Navy; Terry (Mrs. Larry May), Nacogdoches, Texas; and Lisa, Scott, Jeff, and Ricky, at home.

Vernon Miller married Carol Seilbeck, whose home was in southern Illinois. They live in Worth, Illinois, where he works for Carborundum and also has his own business. Vernon and his wife have two girls, Natalie and Jennifer, who live at home with them.

Shirley Miller married Ray Andrews, whose home was in Mason City, Iowa. They live in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, where Ray is an accountant. They have four children: Monte, Kris, Sherri, and Kathy, all at home.

DORRIS E. MILLER FAMILY

Dorris E. Miller and Georgia N. (Farmer) Miller came to Red Lake Falls in 1960 from Detroit, Michigan, to take over the Ford Agency in this city. Previously they had both been residents of the state of Kentucky. At the time they had one son, Steven Earl, a year old. Their daughter Linda Lee was born in Crookston in December 1960.

The Millers have enlarged the garage operation and built a fine new home in 1965 on the north side of the city. Dorris is a member of the Commercial Club and the American Legion. Georgia has worked for the local Girl Scout program and is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and St. John's Hospital Auxiliary. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church.



Dorris Miller Family



Arnold Miller Family, children and spouses.

THE LEVI MILLER FAMILY

The Levi Miller family migrated to Red Lake County from Fall River, Massachusetts, before the turn of the century and homesteaded about two miles east of Red Lake Falls.

Levi Miller, whose last name originally was Millea De Legacy, changed it to Miller upon his arrival in Red Lake County.

There were several families from the east that came here about the same time; the Allards, Porters, Emards and Patnodes.

Levi had four sons and one daughter; Sam, Joseph, Napoleon, Peter and Martha.

Joseph Miller was born in 1871 in Plattsville, New York. He and his brother Napoleon both became barbers. Joe opened his first shop in Red Lake Falls on the site now occupied by Mr. Josef's Beauty Salon. In 1915 he moved his shop into the basement of the First State Bank, now the Red Lake County State Bank, and remained there until his death in 1936.

Joseph married Agnes Verbonceor in 1901. She was born in Terrebonne in 1883, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mose Verbonceor. Her parents had come from Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada. Agnes died in 1954. She had five sisters and one brother.

Joe and Agnes had six children, all born in Red Lake Falls:

Beulah was born in 1902 and attended St. Joseph's grade school. As a young girl she worked at Wieberg's bakery. In 1926 she married Homer Danduran and they made their home on the Iron Range before moving to Grand Forks in 1940. They have four children: Homer Jr. of Huntington Beach, California; Mona, Mrs. Pius Fiest of East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Larry of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Cheryl of East Grand Forks. Homer, Sr. died in 1972 and Beulah lives in Grand Forks. She has fourteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Elsie was born in 1903. She attended St. Joseph's grade school and graduated from LaFayette High School and the Teacher Training Department, then taught school for several years in the rural schools of Red Lake County. In 1903 she married Peter Drees. They moved to Vista, Minnesota, where Pete operated a pool hall and liquor store. In 1939 they moved to Grand Forks where they had a neighborhood grocery store for several years. They have four children: Jack of Lompoc, California; Mrs. Bruce Benkusky (Yvonne) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; twins, Michael of St. Paul and Mary, Mrs. Jim Kalal of Crystal, Minnesota. Elsie and Pete have thirteen grandchildren.

Percy was born in 1905. He learned barbering at an early age and worked in Two Harbors, Deer River and Duluth. He had five children: Jerry and Dennis of California, Russell of Minneapolis, and Mitzi and Karen of Duluth. Percy died in 1974 at Duluth.

Wallace (Pete) was born in 1907 in the former Gilfillan house on fourth street. He graduated from LaFayette High School and learned the barber trade from his father at an early age. In 1932 he married Florence Bendel. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War Two. Pete retired in 1969 after barbering for forty-six years. Wallace and Florence have two children, Marilyn of St. Paul and James of Red Lake Falls.

Yvonne was born in 1910. She attended St. Joseph's grade school and graduated from LaFayette High School and the Teacher Training Department. She taught in rural Red Lake County for several years. In 1937 she married Fernando Freund and they moved to Grand Forks where they still reside. Yvonne has been active in the Catholic Daughters and is presently employed as head cook in the St. Mary's School hot lunch program. Yvonne and Fritz have two daughters, Susan, Mrs. Steve Currie of Nekoma Air Base and Fayette, Mrs. David Doran, of New Britain, Connecticut. The Freunds have four grandchildren.

Ralph was born in 1916 and attended the local schools. Following graduation from LaFayette he entered barber school in Minneapolis. He worked with his brother, Wallace, until he entered the U.S. Army in 1941. In 1945 he married Rosalie Drees and following his discharge from the Army he moved to Grand Forks where he barbered for several years. He then moved to Shakopee, Minnesota and has operated shops in Bloomington, Minnesota, where he still works. Ralph and Rosalie (Patchy) had five children: Pam, Mrs. Adam Kolkauski, of Santa Barbara, California; Nan, Christopher and Jackie at home. John died in 1957 at age five. They have one grandchild.



Miller brothers, Pete, Joe and Nap 1901.

NAPOLEON L. MILLER AND ROSE HINCE MILLER

Napoleon L. Miller was born September 6, 1891, to Sam and Amelia Allard Miller on a farm three miles east of Red Lake Falls. He was the second oldest of five boys and six girls. Nap did his share of farm work for his father and later hired out in North Dakota, also doing farming. He was offered a chance to learn the barber trade from his Uncle Nap at St. Hilaire. Two years later he moved to Cohasett, Minnesota, where he earned his license. He heard about the new community of Oklee and decided a new town deserved a new barber. The year was 1911.

He set up his shop for business and although he changed locations a few times, he barbered in Oklee for forty-seven years. His first customer was Ole Melby and in 1958, when he retired, his last customer was again Ole Melby.

On October 15, 1912, Nap married Rose Hince, the daughter of Peter Hince and Rosilda Asselin. Eight children were born to them of which five are surviving: Louella, Mrs. Arthur Larson; Hazel, Mrs. Edward Hart; Ambrose; Maurice and Kenneth.

Nap was a prominent figure in Oklee and did his part by serving in many ways. He was on the school board and the village council; he was mayor, president of C and C, treasurer of Woodmen of the World, and even manager of the baseball team. He enjoyed many activities for relaxation such as playing snare drums in a small band and of course, a lot of hunting and fishing.

In 1959, a year after retiring, he suffered a heart attack, but fighter that he was, pulled through. In 1962, Nap and Rose celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Three years later on October 16, 1965, Rose died. Nap died on July 22, 1970 of a heart attack at St. John's Hospital in Red Lake Falls.

Our family is happy knowing that he, as a pioneer of Oklee, enjoyed the many things he had a part in to build a cozy and friendly little town.

MINNIE HUNDREDMARK MILLER

Minnie Hundredmark moved to the United States from Germany with her family in 1875 when she was eighteen years of age. They settled in Nebraska, where she met and married Ernest Miller. To them were born six children: Bill, Harry, Ed, Fred, Lillian and Arnold. In 1904 she took her children and came to live with her brother, Carl Hundredmark, who had homesteaded on a farm two miles west and one half mile south of Red Lake Falls. She raised her family on this farm, spending the rest of her life there. She might be remembered by some of the old-timers here as delivering butter, eggs and cream up and down main street with her horse and buggy. She died in 1939 at the age of eighty-two. Carl Hundredmark never married. He lived on his farm with Minnie and her children until his death in May of 1930, when he was gored to death by a bull.

ROBERT MILLER FAMILY

Bob and Lorraine Miller began their married life by building a house out of a fourteen by twenty foot government granary on a farm near Grafton, North Dakota.

Bob farmed with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray S. Miller, at Grafton for several years and also raised potatoes, rented land. He cleared $4,000.00 on forty acres which was enough to make a down payment on a three hundred twenty acre farm six and a half miles east of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. The farm was owned by Joseph and Delima Hance.

The Millers and their two daughters, Debbie and Bobbie, moved to this farm in April 1952 and continued with the potato operation and also started a Black Angus beef herd with five cows. Their herd has

increased to over one-hundred cows as well as calves, heifers, steers and bulls.

They were in the business of raising potatoes for twelve years and then Bob decided there was more profit in raising livestock, so they increased their ranch acreage to over nine-hundred acres raising some grains, corn, and sunflowers.

To provide a regular income for family expenses, they maintained a small dairy operation throughout the years.

The Millers agree that one thing that has made their farm life happy is having everyone work together and be able to "fill in" wherever he or she is needed.

During the years they lived on this farm, Bob and Lorraine cleared land and used soil conservation practices winning the Red Lake County Soil Conservation award in 1956. Improvements have been made on the farm buildings. The house has been remodeled, three silos built and an automatic feeding system installed for the beef herd as well as other farm buildings erected.

Bob was chosen to represent Red Lake County as a candidate for King Agassiz, Red River Valley Winter Shows in 1963. He is a member of the Farmers Union, NFO, National Sunflowers Association, Northwestern Stockmen's Association, and treasurer of the Crop Improvement Association for ten years. Mr. Miller served as director of the board of education of Independent School District No. 630 for twelve years and was elected chairman of the board for three more years. Bob served two separate terms as president of Bethany Lutheran Church. He was president of the church board in 1967 when the new Bethany Church was built and was a director on the school board when the new Washington Elementary School in Red Lake Falls was constructed.

The Miller family has been active in 4 H work winning honors at the fair. In 1969 Scott took a beef steer to the Junior Livestock Show in St. Paul and has won the county champion beef award.

Both Patti and Becky, daughters of the Millers, won the titles of runners up in the Sno Fest Contests. Patti in 1972 and Becky in 1974.

Mrs. Miller, the former Lorraine Lykken from Grafton, is active in church work, the Friendly Circle Homemakers Club and the Cowbelles. In 1968-1971, she was a secretary to the special education regional consultant and bookkeeper for Educational Research and Development Council. Her main role is wife, mother and homemaker.

Bob and Lorraine are parents of six children and four grandchildren. Debbie, a graduate of Concordia College, is married to E. Dale Birkeland, former superintendent of schools in the Red Lake Falls Public School System — 1963-1969. They have two children Erik and Sarah and live in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Bobbie was employed in 1969-1970 as a secretary to Blake Peterson, County Extension Agent for Red Lake Falls. She married Michael Tydlacka of Red Lake Falls and they live in Hutchinson, Minnesota and are the parents of Timmy and Tony. Patti is a junior at Southwest State University, Marshall, Minnesota. Becky attended St. Cloud State University and is now employed in Denver, Colorado. Scott, a senior in the Lafayette High School, is a basketball star. David is a sixth grade student at Washington Elementary.

The Millers left the Red River Valley, Grafton area because the large farmers were buying up the land and they felt squeezed out. It was their dream to have a small farm and make a happy living, however, with farm prices and the demands of the family, they were forced to enlarge their operation.

Red Lake Falls is a fine community and they are proud to be a part of it.

JOHN L. MILLIGAN

In the spring of 1920, John L. Milligan, his wife, Edna Kelly, and their family came to Red Lake County and settled in section fifteen of Garnes Township. With them were their children, Lillie, Blanche, Elinor, Ellsworth and Eva. A daughter, Charlotte, was born on the farm in Garnes.

Blanche married Thomas Sagen (now deceased) and lives at Edmore, North Dakota. The Sagens have a son and a daughter. Lillie married Edward Halvorson (d. 1936). They had one son. Lillie makes her home in Plummer. Elinor married Edward Leiske (deceased) and eight children were born to them. Elinor lives in Crookston with her youngest child. Ellsworth married Ethel Pugh. They live on a farm in section fifteen of Emardsville Township. They have two daughters. Eva married Richard Farrington. They lived on several farms in the area until they moved to Montana where they now live. They have one daughter.

Mrs. Milligan and her daughter, Charlotte, moved to Minneapolis in 1934 and Charlotte died there in April of 1937 from peritonitis. Mrs. Milligan lived there until 1971 when she became a resident of the Valley Home in Thief River Falls. She died on December 23, 1973.

J. L. Milligan died in 1936 at Fisher, Minnesota.

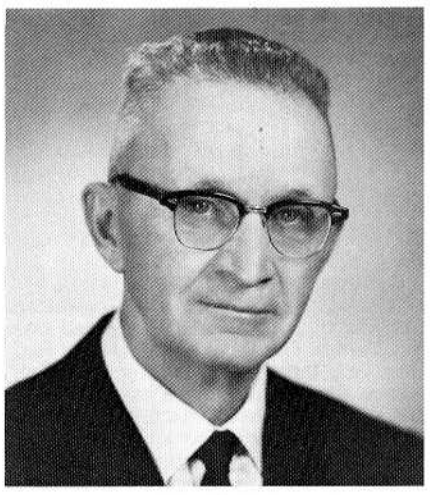
EDWARD MORAN FAMILY

The Edward Morans Sr. were both born in County Clare Ireland. They immigrated to the United States by way of Canada and settled in Ohio temporarily. There, Edward Moran, Jr. was born in 1853. The other children born to them were: John, Joseph, Julia and Mary. The family came to Minnesota on a Mississippi steamboat and settled on a farm at Belle Plaine and later at Park Rapids.

Edward Moran, Jr. (b. 1853 — d. 1943) moved to Red Lake Falls where he managed a grain elevator. He married Mary Brady (b. 1871 — d. 1938), the daughter of James Brady and Margaret Haggerty, in 1892. Seven children were born to this union: Lloyd, Raymond, Grace, Alvin J. (Kelly), Leland, Llewellyn (Doc) and Arthur. The family lived in Milner, North Dakota and Thief River Falls where Edward managed an elevator in each place. When they returned to Red Lake Falls, Edward became a cattle buyer and in later years engaged in farming around Dugdale.

Edward Moran, Jr. died in Crookston in 1943 at the age of eighty-nine years. Mary Brady died in Minneapolis on July 16, 1938 at age sixty-seven.

Lloyd Moran was a veteran of World War One. He married Josie Miller and they had four children: Kenneth, Ray (Tuffy), Ruth and Mary Jo. The Morans owned and operated Moran's Steak House and Motel at Erskine for many years; Raymond Moran was a veteran of World War One. He married Goldie Camp and they had four children: Dale and Gary who are both married and live in Mentor, Marion, Mrs. Francis Beauchene, of Fargo and Donna, Mrs. Erwin Sauve, of Minneapolis; Grace taught school in this area and in Montana. She



Alvin J. Moran

married a rancher, Michael Manning, who died after only ten years of marriage. She returned to teaching in St. Paul for many years. In 1968 she married Leo Bradle; Alvin J. (Kelly) Moran (see history); Leland worked as a legal secretary and bookkeeper in Chisholm, Minnesota. He never married. Leland died in 1974. He was a World War Two veteran; Llewellyn (Doc) worked for the Great Northern Railroad until he became chief dispatcher at Minot, North Dakota. He was married and had five sons; Arthur was married and had two sons and a step-daughter. He managed oil stations in Minneapolis and is now retired.

ALVIN J. (KELLY) MORAN

Alvin J. (Kelly) Moran, son of Edward Moran, Jr. and Mary Brady, was born in 1899. He worked on his father's farm and received part-time education through the fourth grade. In later years he was on the Dugdale School Board and drove a horse drawn school bus to Dugdale.

In 1922 he was married to Mollie Ricke (b. 1906) and they had a grain and dairy farm near Marcoux Corner. In the winter he had balers baling hay and straw from stacks which he shipped by railroad to South St. Paul and the Iron Range and later trucked to Iowa and Missouri. He worked for the Peppard Seed Co. buying June grass and helping to run seed yards here. He also had trucks hauling the seed and he baled flax straw and had trucks hauling it to the local Tow Mill.

Mollie Ricke Moran died in 1944 when she was thirty-eight years old. Kelly and Mollie had five children: Clayton A. Moran is a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War Two. He is married to Lorraine Goulet and they have four children: Michael, Nancy, Joyce and Joane. Clayton farmed near Brooks and Huot and in 1957 became a foreman for the A. J. Moran Sodding and Seeding Company. He now works for the Steiger Co. in Thief River Falls; Joseph is a U.S. Marine veteran. He married Viann Lizotte and they have a grain and cattle farm near Huot. Joe and Viann have eight children: Edward, Francis, Mary Jo, Brian, Pamela, Roger, Perry and Andy. Joe has Multiple Sclerosis and has been a patient at the Veterans Hospital in Fargo and is now at the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls; Marjorie is married to William Persson and they are living in Grafton, North Dakota where William works for the Occidental Seed and Fertilizer Co. Marjorie and Bill have six children: Preston, William, Jr., Timothy, Tommy and Tammy (twins) and

Jerry.

Alvin D. Jr., operates a seven hundred acre grain and cattle farm near Huot and is the ranger at the Huot Park. He had worked as a foreman for his father's sodding and seeding company and as a custodian at the Washington School; Dorothy is married to Vernon Page and they have a grain and cattle farm west of Red Lake Falls. Vernon is a mail carrier in Grand Forks. Their four children are: Danny, Elaine and Eileen (twins) and Mary.

Kelly Moran married Cecilia Bregier (b. 1906), daughter of Zepherin Bregier and Lea Marchildon, in 1946. They had one son, James. Cecilia was educated in Red Lake Falls through the third year of high school. She worked for LaBissonier's Big Store for seventeen years and for Hunt's Hardware for eight years.

Shortly after their marriage, Kelly began sodding and roadside seeding. With hard work and much sacrifice, the Moran's established credit add acquired more equipment and expanded their business to handle bigger and bigger jobs. They had a faithful crew of men from the area and continued to employ more men to handle the increase in work. The work of seeding, sodding, mulching and watering extended over much of Minnesota and North Dakota. Sometimes there were as many as five crews working at various locations as far as a hundred miles apart. Some of the sodding jobs required as many as eighty men. Kelly clocked many thousands of miles overseeing jobs, looking for sod and straw, and checking on water supplies. Much work went into figuring bids for the projects. The work continued from the spring thaw until the winter freeze. The Moran's attneded bid-lettings for jobs throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and even into Nebraska.

In 1959 a corporation was formed known as the A. J. Moran and Sons, Inc. Kelly was president, Clayton, vice-president, Cecilia, secretary-treasurer, and Joseph and Alvin, Jr. were directors. Cecilia was very busy as bookkeeper and paid all of the bills and did the payroll and reports. She also kept a log of the company progress. The largest projects were the Grand Forks Air Base, ninety per cent of Federal Highway number ninety-four in North Dakota, and the Garrison Dam, their most difficult job. The company worked on housing projects, levies, small dams, airports, football fields, country clubs, churches, hospitals and private homes.

Kelly Moran was a personable man and a good father. He was an agressive business man and a good "watch dog" of the company treasury.

In 1965 the Kelly Morans sold their share of the business to Clayton A. Moran. They also sold their new home on Champagne Ave. They retired and lived part time at their cottage at Maple Lake and in 1967 moved back to Red Lake Falls. Kelly died in 1970 of a massive coronary attack and Cecilia now lives in her home on third street. She has always enjoyed working and just recently retired after seven years of employment at Hillcrest Nursing Home.

James, Kelly and Cecilia's son, worked for his parents' company from the time he was thirteen years old. He graduated from LaFayette High School, Moorhead State College and the Control Data School in Boston. He has been employed in Boston and California and is now employed in Minneapolis where he makes his home.



Louis Morinvilles

MORINVILLE HISTORY

These tales were told to me by my uncle, Telesphore Morinville, a man dear to me who played the part of my father. His wife, also dear to me, was Florence Columbus, the oldest of fourteen children of the Edward A. Columbus family whose homestead was at the corner of highways 32 and 92.

One mile south of that junction, on highway 32, there stands an old house that was the homestead of my grandfather, Louis Morinville, and his wife, Eurchariste Turcotte. They migrated down near Montreal in 1879 and had five children, Jane, George, Telesphore, Joe (or Pete, as he was called), and Josephine, who died at an early age.

At that time, Crookston had the nearest railroad, and oxen or one's own feet were the main sources of travel.

Times were hard; barns were made of sod, many farmers had only one or two oxen, and precious little straw for their winter's feed. Winter staples for people consisted mainly of flour and salt pork.

With four children and a wife to feed, Louis went to Grand Forks, 50 miles away, to chop cordwood for fifty cents a cord, so that he could buy flour for his family's winter food supply. Bearing the 100 pound sack of flour on his back, he walked home through the snow.

In later years, they farmed almost every farm around, at one time or another, using oxen, then horses. My father and his two brothers were mechanically inclined men. They had their own threshing machine, and threshed as far east as Lambert, three miles west of Oklee. Farmers in that area had to haul their grain to Crookston in the winter, with oxen or horses. It was a four day trip. Many of them would stop at my grandfather's farm and stay overnight.

At that time, on highway 32 on the ridge, seven miles south of Red Lake Falls, there was a church and a store with rooms for rent for overnight travelers. On this ridge, on the right side of highway 32, was a cemetery. This is now pasture land. Across the road, west of the old homestead, stood a school which is now Lake Pleasant town hall. This early school was called the Perreault Station school. All of Louis Morinville's children went to school there. I (Walter) attended through the eighth grade and three of our daughters attended until busing to Red Lake Falls schools began.

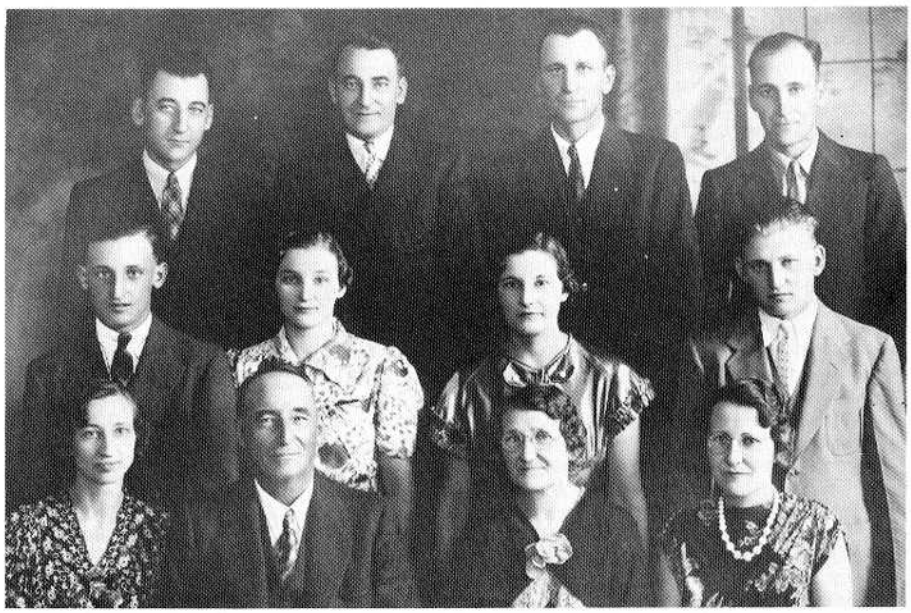
Uncle Phore (as we called him) knew Pierre Bottineau, who not only settled Red Lake Falls, but downtown St. Paul, too, then sold it for more money than he knew what to do with. This was evident from his practice of lighting his pipe with a $10 bill, paying a $10 fine for galloping his horse across the bridge to the north side of Red Lake Falls.

He must have been a very hard and rugged man, for one of Uncle Phore's stories concerns the time that Pierre and his partner were riding back from St. Paul. When Indians shot his horse from under him, Bottineau grabbed the tail of his partner's horse and ran for miles, until they were able to elude pursuit.

To bring this Morinville history up to date: Uncle Phore and Aunt Forence lived in Red Lake Falls until their deaths. I married Laura Marie Dufault in 1931. Our children are Pat, Jerry and Jean of Minneapolis, Margaret (Peg) of Elk River, and Mike of California.

JOE (PETE) MORINVILLE FAMILY HISTORY

Joe (Pete) Morinville was born October 21, 1872 at Pentangueshene, Ontario, Canada, the son of Louis Morinville and Eucharistе Turcotte, who moved to Red Lake County in 1879 from Canada. His



Joe (Pete) Morinville Family. *Back:* Thomas, Leo, Bill, and Walter. *Middle:* Vern, Gladys, Florence and Vaughn. *Bottom:* Grace, Mr. and Mrs. Morinville and Mae.



Wm. Morinvilles, children, Verla, William Jr., Lawrence, Emmitt, Arabelle, Donna, and Rita.

boyhood was spent in the area of the old house located five miles south of Red Lake Falls on highway 32 across from the District 32 schoolhouse. His brothers and sisters were Jane, George, Telesphore and Josephine who died at an early age.

On November 22, 1894 Joe and Rosalie Gibeau were married at St. Joseph's Church in Red Lake Falls by Father Fayolle. Rosalie was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, April 10, 1876, the daughter of Israel Gibeau and Elmire LaPlante who migrated here from Canada in 1879. She had two brothers, Sam and Philip Gibeau and a twin sister, Elmire. When Joe and Rosalie were first married they lived and farmed with his father's family on the homestead place, one mile south of highway 92 on highway 32 and along with his brothers, did custom thrashing for many years.

Somewhat later Joe moved to Red Lake Falls and was in the saloon business. This was a logging town at the time with a sawmill located here. There were eleven saloons operating . . . a Las Vegas of the north.

About 1910, Joe took his family and moved to a farm just south of Terrebonne on the Mentor road. Here they lived for most of their married life and raised eleven children. Thomas, deceased March 9, 1942; William, deceased December 7, 1965; Mae Morinville Perusse, Leo Morinville, deceased October 20, 1972; Grace Morinville, Walter Morinville, Leonard Morinville, deceased December 2, 1926; Gladys Morinville Mercil; Florence Morinville Parenteau; Vaughn and Vern Morinville.

In 1941 the Joe Morinvilles retired from the farm and moved to Terrebonne where they lived for many years. Mr. Morinville died January 25, 1958 and Rosalie on August 9, 1969.

WILLIAM J. MORINVILLE

William Joseph, the second son of Joseph "Pete" Morinville and Rosalie Gibeau, was born in 1897 in Red Lake County where the family always lived. As a young man Bill worked at a cheese factory three miles south of Oklee.

In 1920 Bill was united in marriage to Eva L. Miller, daughter of Sam and Amelia Allard. Their home was three miles east of Red Lake Falls. Eva taught school in the Oklee and Terrebonne areas both before and after her marriage.

There were seven children of this union: Verla (Mrs. Stephen Asselin) currently lives in the family home at Brooks. The Asselins have two daughters Mary (Mrs. LeRoy Mercil) and Monica at home; Arabelle (Mrs. J. R. Sullentrop of St. Louis, Missouri). They have 9 children: Carol, Connie, Joseph (deceased), Laurie, William (deceased), Patricia, Terri, John and Mary.

Emmitt, the first son made his home in the Brooks area, married Theresa Desautel and they have 11 children: Gary, Sharon, Wanda, Alden, Phyllis, Colleen, Sylvia, Stephen, Gail, Scott and Keith.

Rita (Mrs. J. R. McDonald) is residing in California.

Lawrence the fifth child, purchased the family farm in 1955 and has made his home there with his wife Yvonne Mercil. They have 6 children: Linda Wyckoff, Barbara Rodahl, Sharleen, Valerie, Rod and Perry.

Donna (Mrs. T. A. Walker) has three children, Mari, Dianna and Thomas. William (W. J. Jr.) lives in southern Minnesota with his wife Shiela O'Brien and their six children Dorinda, Paul, Genine, Joseph, Megan and Shana.

Bill and Eva lived south of Terrebonne where Bill joined forces with his father in farming and in managing a threshing rig. A few might recall those harvest days with mixed emotions, possibly almost feel the backaches that came from pitching grain bundles into a noisy machine from dawn to dusk, or recall the bed of hay in the loft because it was too far to go home with the horses and be back before dawn.

Imagine getting up to prepare a big breakfast of ham and eggs for 8 or 10 men before daylight. Then there were all the other necessary duties and a substantial lunch at 9:30 for the men and the big noon meal that always included homemade pies. Afternoon lunches for harvesters were especially substantial, and then after dark the evening meal.

In 1929 Bill moved southwest of Brooks and farmed there until he purchased the Premo farm ¼ miles north of Brooks in 1941. He farmed there until his retirement in 1955. He died in 1965. He had lived in California since his retirement. Eva returned to the family home in 1971 to live with her daughter, Verla, until her death in 1973.

LAWRENCE MORINVILLE

Lawrence, second son of William J. Morinville, was born on February 10, 1927 in a home four miles southwest of Brooks and lived there until 1942 when his parents bought the Premo farm one fourth mile north of the Brooks Cheese Factory.

He enlisted in the navy at the age of seventeen while he was a junior in high school. After completing two years in the navy he came back to finish high school.

In 1947 Lawrence married Yvonne Mercil of Thief River Falls formerly of Brooks. They had six children: Linda Wyckoff of Hillsboro, North Dakota; Barbara Rodahl of rural Thief River Falls; Sharleen living at home, engaged in farming with her father; Valerie, living in Cupertino, California; Rod, presently working for Le Roy Mercil; and Perry, a junior in the Oklee High School.

Lawrence was employed at the Brooks Cheese Factory for some 17-18 years until he went into full time farming. Lawrence and Sharleen also raise a large head of Hereford cattle.

ISAAC MORRISSETTE

My great-grandfather and great-grandmother were born in Canada where they spent their entire lives. It was on a small farm near Montreal where my grandfather, Isaac Morrissette and his four brothers, Octave, George, Xavier and John were



Lawrence Morinville family.

born.

In 1862 my grandfather married Marie Patnode, his first wife. Their children were Napoleon, Peter, Philip, Tennis and Mandy. Ten years later, Marie died and my grandfather then moved to Fall River, Massachusetts and worked in a linen factory. There he met his second wife, Mary Craite, my grandmother, who also worked in the factory. After their marriage they worked for six years there.

The oldest son of Isaac and Mary, my uncle Joseph, was born in Fall River in 1874. When he was five years old the family moved to Plummer and took a homestead there in 1879. At that time their nearest town was Red Lake Falls. On this farm my father, Wilfred, his brothers, Peter, Alcid, Lamie and one sister, Mary, were born. Mary died when she was ten months old. Grandfather Isaac died in 1899 when my father was fifteen years old and Grandmother Mary died in 1929 at the age of eighty-two.

The first school house was built near their home in 1880. The family attended church in Red Lake Falls and also received their mail from there. My uncle Joseph died in 1928 at the age of fifty-four and my uncle Peter died of cancer in October of 1944. Uncle Lamie was postmaster in Plummer for seven years. Later he became section foreman for the Soo Line and worked in Cass Lake, Moose Lake, Boy River, Swatara and Greenwald. He is now retired at Pine Villa in Melrose, Minnesota. Uncle Alcid owned and operated a general merchandise store in Thief River Falls and in Plummer for several years. He is now retired and lives in Hill City, Minnesota.

My father, Wilfred Morisette, was engaged as section foreman in Havre, Montana, during the year of 1908. In 1910 when the railroad was built through Plummer, he became section foreman there. He worked there for nineteen years and in 1929 moved to Oklee where he spent fifteen years as foreman. He worked a few months in Hazel before returning to Plummer as foreman for the last five or six years before his retirement.

My mother, Katie Brooks, and father were married on May 3, 1915, in Plummer. It was there that my sisters, Dorothy, Beulah, Isabelle and Louella and brothers, Edward, Eugene and myself, Doris, were born. A brother, Maurice, was born in Oklee and died one week later. My youngest sister, Marie, was born in Oklee in 1939.

My parents and Marie moved to Bemidji in 1950. My father died in 1958 and mother lives in an apartment at Pine Tree Estate in Bemidji. Marie and Edward are living in Bemidji. Dorothy lives in International Falls. Isabelle is in Southgate, Michigan. Louella, Beulah and Eugene make their homes in California. I, Doris, am the only one of the family still living in Red Lake County.

On June 12, 1939, I married Joseph Asselin in Oklee. We built our home on his father's farm. Joseph spent his entire life farming with his father and brothers.

We have four sons: James (b. 1940) lives in California; Kenneth (b. 1942) lives in Gilbert, Minnesota; Robert (b. 1944) is in St. Cloud and Donald (b. 1946) lives in Foley. James, Kenneth, and Robert attended Bemidji State College and have been teaching for several years. Donald spent four years in the U.S. Navy. All are married and we now have nine grandchildren.

FREDERICK MOSER

Fred and Kathy Hanson were wed February 15, 1969. Frederick Thomas Moser was born in 1940 the son of Frederick W. Moser and Iva C. Royer at Minneapolis in Hennepin County. Kathy Jeanne Hanson was born in 1950 to Edward H. Hanson and Marie R. Peppin at Crookston in Polk County.

Fred is the oldest of four children with one brother, Eugene, and two sisters Roseanne and Marilyn. Fred moved with his family to Emardville Township in Red Lake County in 1955 and finished high school at Plummer public school.

Kathy lived in Red Lake County until the fall of 1959 when her family moved to Polk County. After going through three years at St. Joseph's School in Red Lake Falls Kathy attended the Erskine public school to graduation. She is the third oldest of eight children.

Following their marriage, Fred and Kathy resided in Red Lake Falls until October 1969 when they moved to Emardville Township and purchased seven acres from Fred W. and Iva C. Moser. They make their home in a mobile home on the same building site as Fred W. and Iva Moser.

Fred T. and Kathy J. have four children — two girls Barbara Jean and Nancy Marie, and two boys Terry Edward and Daniel Thomas.

WILLIAM MOSER

Wm. Moser moved to Brooks in the spring of 1952 with his parents Henry and Lillian Moser and his brother James. They had previously been living in Roseau.

The family lived in Brooks for two years and then moved to Fosston for a short time before moving to a farm south of Brooks just across the county line in Polk County. His parents still live on this farm.

William was married to Jean Cariveau, May 30, 1958 at Sacred Heart Church in East Grand Forks.

They moved to Brooks in the spring of 1961 with their two daughters, Susan and Kimberly.

William was employed at the Brooks Cheese Factory for almost two years before starting with Wilcox's in 1963. While living in Brooks their third daughter, Karen, and their son Wm. J. were born.

They moved into Red Lake Falls in the fall of 1964. Since moving to Red Lake Falls they have become involved in many community activities.

Wm. has been an alderman on the city council, he is Cubmaster for the Boy Scouts, is a Jaycee member, and a member of the Commercial Club. He is also on the parish council of St. Joseph Church.

Jean has been active in politics in the Democratic party, on the local, county, district and state levels. She has also been active in the Girl Scouts and the Homemakers groups.

DR. ERIC MUKAND FAMILY

Originally the Mukands came from the Northern State of India known as Uttar Pradesh. We are a Christian family and we were married in January 21, 1957, and have three children.

Ivy was born on November 9, 1933 in Lucknow, the state capital. After graduating from high school, she earned her B.A. degree in four years from Isabella Thoburn College — an exclusive college for girls that was established by an American woman, Isabella Thoburn. For her postgraduate teacher's training degree B.Ed., Ivy attended the Christian Training College — another institution established and run by the American Methodists. After her training she taught for one and one-half years at the Loreto Convent High School, 1956 to 1957. In 1967 she won a merit scholarship for teaching and visited the United States under the auspices of Experiment in International Living.

Eric was born in Agra, the City of Taj Mahal, in 1931. He completed his high school graduation and for two years attended St. Andrews College Gorakhpur for pre-medical classes. For the next five years he studied medicine at King George's Medical College, Lucknow University. He graduated in medicine in 1950 and worked for 15 years as a Class I government officer in the P.M.S.I. (Provencial Medical Service). For two years he worked as a private practitioner, because only as a private doctor could he leave the country. I would like to mention here that India was ruled by the British from 1857 to 1947, though the British had started the East India Company for trade much earlier. Hence the system of Education in India was primarily based on the British system of education and the impact was strongly found in the political, social and cultural fields as well.

Our eldest child is Sushma Esther Mukand. She was eighteen on October 31, 1975. In India she studied at the Loreto Convent High School. She graduated from Lafayette High School in 1975 and presently is attending Mankato State University where she hopes to major in Dietetics.

John Arun Mukand was seventeen years old on February 20, 1976, and will be graduated from Lafayette High School in 1976. He is looking forward to going to Morris State University for four years of pre-med and intends to follow in his father's footsteps to become a doctor.

Our youngest is Tim D. Mukand a sophomore at Lafayette High School.

For one year we lived in St. Paul while Eric did his Internship at St. Luke's Hospital and since October 1973 we have been living in Red Lake Falls and feel very happy and honored to call it our second home.

Our friends often ask us why we came to the United States and settled down in Red Lake Falls. We strongly feel that the United States is a country of opportunity, hope, and what is more important — freedom. Much has been conquered, yet it remains to be a land of new challenges. One should not only be grateful to God to be here, but also feel proud and happy — so are we!

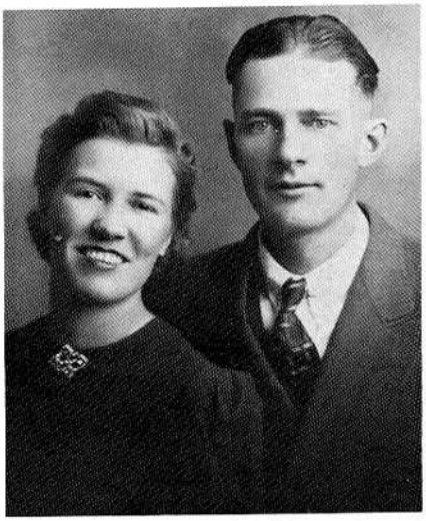
WILLIAM AND JANET MULDOON

William D. Muldoon came to Red Lake Falls in July 1971 to become a partner in the law firm of Kruta and Muldoon. He was born 1943 in Niagara Falls, N.Y. and did his undergraduate studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He received his law degree from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

William Muldoon and Janet Y. Goodman were married December 30, 1971 at Grand Forks. They make their home in Red Lake Falls and have one son, Colin Daniel born December 23, 1972.

Janet is a registered nurse and graduate of the Sisters of St. Joseph School of Nursing in Grand Forks. She was employed by St. John's Hospital, Red Lake Falls and currently is the Public School nurse and instructor of the Health Occupations Vocational Classes.

William (Bill) was treasurer of the 14th District Bar Association, President of the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club, and Treasurer of the Bethany Lutheran Church.



Mr. and Mrs. Dan Naas

DANIEL NAAS

Daniel H. Naas was born October 23, 1908, in Kossuth county, Whittemore, Iowa, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Naas who immigrated to the United States in June 1906.

At the age of 13, he entered a Farm Bureau sponsored barn rat riddance contest, lasting six weeks. He received the Kossuth county and Iowa championship, winning twenty-five dollars and fair tickets. At the age of fourteen, he was awarded a certificate for receiving the highest percentage on a written test in grade eight. He went to high school for four days, then stayed home to plow — he is still plowing.

Dan moved with his parents to Estherville in Emmett county. He was a rural youth delegate to Washington, D.C. from Emmett county along with sixty-eight others from Iowa, touring on two buses.

Dan and his brother, Sam, were the Emmett county hand corn picking champions for four years. In contests held near Ringsted, Iowa, Dan won the state championship in 1935 and was congratulated by Henery Wallace, then U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Daniel Naas and Adelaide Clementson, his wife, from Rye township, Grand Forks, came to Red Lake County and in January of 1940, inspected a 160-acre farm in Terrebonne township that was owned by Vern Healy and advertised for sale. Due to the depression and hordes of grasshoppers at that time, about 90% of the farms were for sale. He bought the farm and it became the family's home. The first years were rough

and they were ready to leave, but could not get enough cash from prospective buyers who were interested in the land. (Now after thirty-six years, there are many buyers for the 400-acre farm, but the family likes the summers and the people here, and have decided to stay).

Their six children are: Corrine, Gwen, Ruth, Shurleen, Dana and Dale. Mrs. Corrine Rock and son live in Grand Forks. Mrs. Roger (Gwen) Johnson and four children live in Crookston where she manages the Broadway Beauty Shop. Ruth is an army nurse at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Mrs. Rick (Shurleen) Adams lives in Thief River Falls and is a bookkeeper at First Federal. Dana, a senior and student at Moorhead State University, interned at the Red Lake Falls Gazette in 1975. Dale is in the U.S. Navy and is stationed at San Diego, California.

Adelaide won many awards and prizes on her baking and other entries at the County Fair and developed a pastry enterprise. The Dan Naas family have been members of St. John's Lutheran Church at Red Lake Falls for thirty-six years or more. The children were all confirmed in this church.

Members of this family have been excellent neighborhood and community leaders, especially in Happy Hustlers 4-H club. In 1975, Dale won a much coveted National 4-H awarded trip to Washington, D.C.

TORGER NERESON FAMILY

Torger Nereson and Sigrid Langerak were married in Setesdal, Norway in 1890. Their son, Nere, was born in 1891 and in 1892 they emigrated to the United States in search of a new home where they were sure economic conditions would be better. They settled in the Fisher-Bygland area where Mr. Nereson found employment. While they lived there, three daughters were born, Margit (Mrs. Edward Erickson), Emma (Mrs. Gunder Gunstenson) and Anna.

In 1897 the Nereson family moved to Equality township in Red Lake county where they settled on a small homestead. Their youngest daughter, Caroline was born in 1901. She died at the age of 14 in 1915.

The Nereson family moved from their original homestead and rented the former Kleven farm sometime in the 1920s. Later their son Nere bought the Fuller farm. Torger Nereson died in 1933 and Mrs. Nereson and Nere both died in 1947.

Anna was employed in Oklee for many years, and also worked one year in Seattle. She now is retired and lives in her spacious house on Main Street. Here, friends drop in every day and she enjoys retirement in the friendly village of Oklee.



Mrs. Torger Nereson and daughter Anna

RONALD AND JANET NIELAND

Ronald Lee Nieland was born August 17, 1953, at Alexandria, the sixth of eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Nieland. He spent his first 18 years on the family farm in rural Kensington. After graduating from Hoffman High School in the spring of 1971, he worked for Cass-Clay Creamery in Fergus Falls and then attended Alexandria Area Technical Vocational School in the fall to study fluid power.

Ron met Janet Marie Olien while attending technical school. Jan was studying to be a legal secretary at Alexandria. Jan was born March 5, 1953, at Montevideo, the younger of two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Olien. She graduated from Montevideo Senior High School in the spring of 1971.

After finishing technical school, Ron and Jan both worked for about 18 months — Ron as a mechanic in Alexandria and Jan as a legal secretary in Fergus Falls. On October 20, 1973, they were married at Trinity Lutheran Church in Montevideo. They lived in rural Alexandria for the first part of their married life, where Ron continued as a mechanic for Standard Oil and Jan was a legal secretary for Swenson, Grover & Lervick, Ltd.

On July 28, 1975, Jan and Ron began a new chapter in their life when they moved to Red Lake Falls to manage the Standard Service Station. They rent their home from the Al Amundsons and belong to Bethany Lutheran Church.

WILLIAM NIELAND

William Nieland was born at Arlington, Minnesota, December 13, 1886, the son of Frederick and Clara Kurtzweg Nieland. At the age of 11 he moved with his mother and step-father Mr. and Mrs. Albert Zimpel, to Red Lake Falls. Bill served with the Army in WW I and was a charter member of Gunder Austad Post 22 of the American Legion in Red Lake Falls. He was employed by the First State Bank of Red Lake Falls from 1919 to 1926. He served as City Treasurer from 1933 to 1938 and was City Clerk from 1938 to 1960 when he retired.

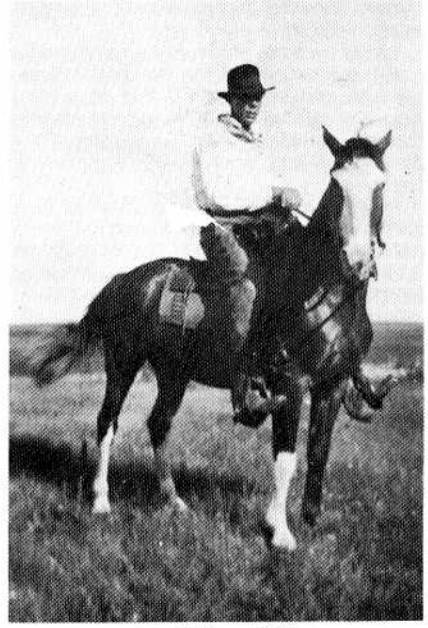
On September 9, 1924 William married Anita Adler of Red Lake Falls, the daughter of Edward and Margaret Walters Adler. She was born April 1, 1895. Prior to her marriage Neta taught in several county schools including a school north of Oklee, Beau Gerlot, Gale and Red School at Wylie. For four years she worked at the Matt Skala store.

Mr. and Mrs. Nieland had two sons Robert of Arlington Heights, Illinois and Vernon of Charles City, Iowa.

Mr. Nieland passed away on August 25, 1975. Anita is still living in their home on the North Side of Red Lake Falls, the same house owned by her parents.

PETE NIELSEN FAMILY

James "Pete" Nielsen and wife, Inez, came to Red Lake County in June, 1912. He purchased land in Poplar River Township through V. M. Higinbotham Realty, settled and built his farmstead where six children were born. In 1934, he purchased the neighboring farm where he resided until his death in 1960. His youngest son, Lee and family, is now living on this farm. Pete and his first wife, Inez Foss, came by train to Crookston from Clark County, South Dakota, where he had homesteaded. He traveled by horseback to Red



Pete Nielson 1912

Lake Falls where he met with the realtor from whom he bought his land. He related that after settling his land deal and returning to Crookston, he was falsely accused and arrested. Fortunately, he could prove that he was with the realtor at the time the crime was supposed to have been committed. The only clue they had was that Pete was a tall stranger. He was released with a generous apology, but considered it a harrowing experience.

Soon after he came to this area, many other friends and relatives followed. Among these were his parents and sister, Hazel, who later married Elmer McFarland and resided here for many years. A sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Cordis Tipton and family, another sister, Mrs. Millie Morkham and children, and a brother, John, his wife and family, all followed Pete. Mrs. Millard and son, Dyce, migrated here at the same time and ran a boarding house for a while in Red Lake Falls. Pete's wife, Inez, died in 1923. Later he married Bessie Crosby of Iowa who died in the early 1950's.

The Nielsen family attended the Congregational Church at Mentor and in the late 1920's started attending the Brooks Presbyterian Church. The children attended school in Poplar River Township, Erskine High School, and the AC at Crookston.

When Pete first came to Poplar River Township, he had to travel several miles to Terrebonne and Clearwater River for his firewood, as there were no trees on his prairie. Wilbur, his oldest son, remembers hearing coyotes howling at night.

Pete and his neighbors helped each other during the 1918 flu epidemic, doing chores and caring for each other with very little rest for many weeks.

The Nielsen family was very active in the Happy Hustler 4-H Club and other farm organizations and activities. On March 15, 1942, they were attending a neighborhood birthday party of fifty people at the Alfred Foldoe home when a sudden blizzard struck, and several families were snowbound there for several days. The next day, while waiting for the storm to subside, the men wrapped sacks around their feet and legs for protection so they could walk home to feed their stock and bring their families back home. That morning, while waiting, Pete led the people in songs and

hymns, showing appreciation of all weathering the storm.

Wilbur Nielsen, rural mail carrier, his wife and three daughters live in Erskine. Lee, his wife and five children live on a farm near Erskine. Nellie Field and family live in Corona, California, and Bess (Mrs. Gordon) Olson and family live in Paramount, California.

Pete Nielsen was an extremely tall man and to the scores who knew him, knew him not only as tall in stature but in kindness and deeds as well. This, along with other attributes and his genuine religious faith, carried him through many adversities, depression and grief.

Mr. Nielsen held many public offices such as church, school and township boards, and was a member of the Triple A (ASC) board for many years.

J. NICHOLAS NIMESGERN FAMILY

Nimesgern Grocery and Confections, and fruits, stationery, fancy furniture, undertaking and undertaking supplies and possession of a first class funeral car, located on the north side of Red Lake Falls, served the populace here for forty years from 1883.

J. Nicholas Nimesgern was one of the first pioneer merchants of this community. He was born at Port Washington, Wisconsin, attended St. John's College at Collegeville and came to Red Lake Falls in 1882, going into business the following year. For three years 1884 to 1887, his brother, P. J. Nimesgern was in business with him, and later his nephew, William Nimesgern. In the early 1900's, Nimesgerns had the largest stock of furniture in the northwest. Nimesgerns also made a specialty of shipping in fruit in the fall and bought and shipped potatoes.

Proprietor J. Nicholas (Nick) died in 1923.



Mr. and Mrs. Andy Nistler with Paul, Leo, Joe, Agnes, Cecilia and Maryann.

ANDREW NISTLER FAMILY

The Nistler family came to Oklee in 1944 when Andrew became section foreman on the Soo Line Railroad, a position he held until his retirement in 1963. Andy was born in St. Joseph in 1898 and moved with his family to Eden Valley when he was seven years old. Federal Dam became his home in 1921 and it was here that he and his wife, Marie Neurerer whom he married in 1922, made their home until they moved to Oklee. Andy worked for the railroad here and also farmed.

The six children of Andy and Marie Nistler are: Leo (b. 1923), Joseph (1926), Paul (1928), Mary Ann (1930), Cecelia (1934), and Agnes (1937).

Andy was active in community service in Oklee. He helped organize the senior citizens community homes and served as president of that group; served as village assessor, officer of the Community Club, board member of Inter-County Community Council and directed Operation Medicare Alert.

Andy died in January of 1968 and Marie resides in their home in Oklee.

FATHER G. L. NOESEN

Father Gerald Noesen came to Red Lake Falls in June of 1957 from Blackduck, where he spent his first two years of priesthood.

A native of Crookston, he was the youngest of eight children in the family of Louis and Theresa Noesen. His sister, Adelaide, preceded him to Red Lake Falls. She and her husband, John, owned and operated the LaBonte Grocery from 1938 to 1958.

Father Noesen assisted Father William Keefe, pastor, with parish work at St. Joseph's Church from 1957 to 1968. Other assignments included teaching in St. Joseph's school and coaching the football team, directing the Catholic Youth Organization, and serving the pastoral needs of the guests at Hillcrest nursing home.

During summer week days, Father Jerry worked for 17 years as counsellor and assistant camp director at Laketrails Base Camp on Lake of the woods, a wilderness camp for teenagers which he founded, together with Father William Mehrkens in 1952. Quite a number of Red Lake Falls boys and girls have camped in that program in its 23 years of operation.

During the winter of 1959, along with a group of interested citizens, he organized the present park board hockey program. He directed and coached in the program until 1967.

In September, 1968 he was transferred to Park Rapids, and then to Badger where he also serviced Benwood and Leo missions. Then in June of 1971, Bishop Kenneth Povish returned him to St. Joseph's Church in Red Lake Falls as pastor. He is presently in his 16th year in this community.

During his years in Red Lake Falls, Father Noesen has been involved in the founding committee of the annual Snofest, the site location of Timberland Ski Area, the Youth Council, the Arena Project, the Depot Project, the Boy Scouts, Medical Services Committee, Health Planning Council, Volunteer Ambulance Service and Lions Club.

Canoeing the local rivers, skating and skiing have been some of his favorite sports in his spare time. These have been giving way, however, to snowmobiling and motorcycling. To date, he has covered all 48 adjoining states and six Canadian provinces on motorcycle camping trips. It took him seven machines, nine years, and some 76,000 miles of driving to do it. He would still like to conquer the rest of the Southern Canadian provinces, as well as the Swiss Alps, Bavaria and Austria on two wheels.

In addition to his parish assignment, his diocesan responsibilities include Directing the Diocesan Office of Communications, producing the weekly Diocesan radio program, "Loaves and Fishes" and he is currently a Senator-at-large and President of the Priests' Council of the Crookston Diocese.



Father Jerry Noesen in his sound studio.

RUSSELL A. NORBERG AND MARIE SOLHEIM NORBERG

Like so many of our forefathers who learned of much better opportunities in the United States, John Norberg departed from the home of his birth, Skoning, Sweden, and came here at the age of seventeen. He first came to Atwater, Minnesota, and worked as a laborer for a few years. It was here he met and married Anna Uphever who was born at Atwater. In 1917 they moved to Johnson Township, section sixteen, Polk County.

There were seven children born to them: Russell A. of Trail; Idella, Mrs. Simon Bergerson of Gonvick; Leslie of Oklee; Milton of Anoka; Sylvia, Mrs. Harold Maier and Adeline, Mrs. Neil Forsberg, both of Atwater; and Ted Norberg of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mrs. John Norberg was a midwife who delivered a number of babies in Johnson Township. As there were no undertakers nearby, she also prepared some of the bodies of people for burial.

After eighteen years in this area, John and Anna Norberg moved back to Atwater. Three of their children remained here; Russel A., Leslie and Idella.

John Norberg died in May of 1958 and Mrs. Anna Norberg died on November 23, 1975 at the age of eighty-six years.

Another pioneer, Nels Solheim, left his native land of Nordfjord, near Bergen, Norway and came to the United States in 1892 at the age of twenty-one. First he came to Ishpeming, Michigan, where he worked in the iron mines for a year. Next he lived at Swift Falls, Minnesota, for a short time where he received enough education so he could read and write a little of the English language; later learning more from experience. He then went to North Dakota to work as a farm laborer for a few years.

In 1896 Nels Solheim homesteaded in Johnson Township, section nineteen, Polk County, clearing most of the land by hand. There was no equipment to clear land at that time. McIntosh was the nearest town about twenty-six miles away so he would walk there and back, carrying his supplies on his back and at times wading through a lot of water. This was quite a difference from the present day when it is so convenient to get to town.

Nels Solheim married Thea Bergh who came to the United States from Valdres, Norway, when she was sixteen years old. First she came to Iowa, then to Milan, Min-



Russell A. Norbergs 1956

nesota. Later she and her family moved to Johnson Township where she met Nels Solheim and they were married in 1902. To them four children were born: Marie, Mrs. Russell A. Norberg of Trail; Mrs. Lena Bratvold of Gonvick; and Palmer and Nordal Solheim of Trail.

Mrs. Nels Solheim died in June of 1931 and Nels Solheim died in February of 1958.

Russell A. Norberg and Marie Solheim were married in 1932 and at first they rented land north of Gully. In 1934 they bought what was known as the Ole Sorenson farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Equality Township, section thirty-six, Red Lake County. A few years later they bought one hundred and sixty acres in Johnson Township, Polk County, enlarging their farm to four hundred and eighty acres.

Russell was a thresher for nineteen years before beginning the use of a combine. Mrs. Norberg taught in rural schools before her marriage.

Russell and Marie have three children, Russell M., Judith and David. Russell M. is a professional artist and Art Instructor at Staples. He married Gwen Rockvam of Staples and they have two children, Jon and Carol. Judith Norberg is an artist and Art Instructor at the suburb of Fridley near Minneapolis. She is also an Interior Designer. David Norberg is a design engineer at 3M Co. and also an illustrator for a book firm. His wife is Arlene Marohn of Litchfield. Their children are Daniel and Nancee.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell A. Norberg still reside on their farm east of Oklee where Russell is still active in farming. They have made their home on this farm for forty-one years.

EUSEBE NORMANDEAU FAMILY

Eusebe Normandeau was born August 3, 1879, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and came to Red Lake Falls at the age of ten years with his father, Eusebe H. Normandeau, a pioneer blacksmith. Young Eusebe was to follow in his father's profession his entire lifetime.

In 1906, Eusebe was united in marriage to Grace Green, who was born December 19, 1886, in Berlin, Wisconsin, and who had come to Equality township, rural Oklee, at the age of ten years with her parents. This couple raised six daughters, Dorine (Mrs. George LaChance), Una (Mrs. Joe Knaus), Carroll (Mrs. George Murray), Theola (Mrs. Dallas Filipi), Verla (Mrs. Eugene McLaughlin), and Janyce (Mrs. Duane Tischart) now deceased. Another daughter, Florence, died in infancy.

Eusebe Normandeau was an active member of the Red Lake Falls Fire Department for many years, and served as County Commissioner from the Fourth District from 1937 until his death. He was also a member of the North Star Court No. 588 of the Catholic Order of Foresters and St. Joseph's Church. Mr. Normandeau died in his sleep of an apparent heart attack on Wednesday, September 5, 1945 at the age of 66 years.

Mrs. Normandeau was a charter member of the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters in Red Lake Falls, and St. Anne's Society. She also worked as a telephone operator in the city and was housekeeper for Father Paul Cardin at Dorothy, and later at Oklee at the time of her death. Mrs. Normandeau died in Fargo, North Dakota November 8, 1955 at the age of 69 years.

WALTER J. NOVAK AND MARIE VANYO NOVAK

Walter J. Novak, Red Lake County farmer, was born August 7, 1911 to Mary and Frank Novak in Tabor, Northland township of Polk County. They were of Czech origin.

He attended grade school through the eighth grade in a country school which was 2½ miles from his home. In those days, they walked to school. In the winter time not too many days were spent in class if weather was cold or stormy. After Walter completed grade school, he worked as a farm laborer for many years.

On October 27, 1937 Walter was united in marriage to Monica Vanyo, daughter of Andrew and Anna Vanyo. They were of Slovak origin. They were married in the Holy Trinity Catholic Church at Tabor.

Walter and Monica lived and farmed in Sandsville Township for 19 years, after which they purchased a farm in Poplar River Township, Red Lake County. The farm, which had been known as the Art Fournier farm years ago, was purchased from Joe and Pearl Petterson.

On October 4, 1956 the Novak's and their six children moved to their present farm located 3½ miles west of Brooks in Popular River Township. Two more children were born to them to complete their family of eight children. Their children are Jerome of Bemidji, Leonard and Gerard of Warren, Mrs. Ray Walter (Reinette) of Plummer, Walter D., Raymond, Anita, and Donna at home.

Walter Novak worked for 22 years with several construction companies from Grand Forks, North Dakota. He worked building bridges for many years including bridges in Fertile and Gentilly. He also did curb and gutter work in many North Dakota towns. His work sometimes required him to be as far away as South Dakota. The boys with their mother managed the farm work.

Walter built a new barn on the farm in 1972 and is presently milking 22 cows with the help of the family. He also raises feeder cattle.

Walter D. and Raymond work at Arctic Enterprises, Inc. in Thief River Falls and also help with the farming. Anita is attending North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota, and Donna is a sophomore at Plummer High School.



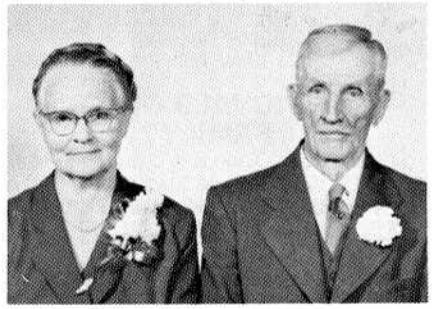
Walter Novak, Sr. and Mrs. Novak

JOHN NOYES FAMILY

John Noyes, a pioneer in the Brooks area was born in Merrimac, Wisconsin, November 6, 1882 to Fred Noyes and Francis Barrow Noyes. He grew to manhood in the Merrimac-Baraboo area where he worked as a brakeman for a railroad company. In 1910 he moved to northern Minnesota with his parents and two brothers, Curtis and James. An older brother, Guy, remained in Baraboo. Curtis, aged 91, lives in Erskine.

John Noyes married Laura Lussier, daughter of Cyril Lussier and Marcelline Guerard. They farmed for many years and retired to the village of Brooks in 1944. John passed away in April, 1966 and Laura in November, 1968.

They raised seven children: Harold, Rialto, California; Hazel, (Mrs. Ray Perras), Red Lake Falls; Eunice (Mrs. Armond Champagne) and Guy of South Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Russell, Brooks; Lorraine (Mrs. H. L. Barber), Reseda, California; and Vernon, San Diego, California.



Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ollie

JACOB OLLIE FAMILY

Jacob Ollie and Hilda Sievalaa emigrated from Finland to the United States in the year of 1902 and settled in Ironwood, Michigan, where they were married in 1908. He worked in the mines there for a few years and on the West Coast for Several years. In 1911 they moved to the Plummer area and bought a farm east of there in Emardville Twp. which is still operated by the son, George. They were one of the first Finnish pioneers to settle in the Plummer area. In addition to farming, Mr. Ollie operated a saw mill in the northwest part of town. In the first years that they lived here, there were no drainage ditches, there were Indians around in the summer time digging snake roots, and there were gypsies to do some trading.

They raised seven children, six daughters, Elma, Ann, Mae, Irene, Wynne and Helen, and one son George. Helen Bruggeman and Elma live in Thief River Falls, the other four girls live in the Los Angeles area, and George married Hazel Luxenburg in 1969 and they live on the home

farm.

In 1958, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They both passed away in 1962.

FRITZ OLSON FAMILY

The Fritz Olson family purchased land three miles SE of Red Lake Falls, known as the Akenson farm, and moved here from Kittson County, Minnesota in the spring of 1951.

Fritz was born in Grafton, North Dakota in 1907. His wife, Jane Kadlec, was born in Pisek, North Dakota in 1913. They were married in Pisek in 1937. A son, Stephen John, was born in Grafton in 1941, and James Andrew in Drayton in 1945. Both are married. Stephen is currently on the faculty at the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley, and James is on the faculty at Annandale High School, Annandale, Minnesota.

Jane and Fritz are both members of the Red Lake County Historical Society. Jane was employed in the office of the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service for many years, and is now retired.

GEORGE A. OLSON

George Olson worked all of his life as a laborer. He cut cordwood, split stovewood, grubbed stumps and worked for farmers in their fields to provide for his family. He died from intestinal cancer on October 17, 1923.

Mrs. Olson passed away on July 13, 1945 and the eldest son, Peder, died on July 5, 1947. The other six children are still living.

Ingvald cared for his mother until her death. She was an invalid for many years. Ingvald and his wife and their youngest daughter still live on the home place in Equality township.

THE INGVALD OLSON FAMILY

Ingvald John Olson was born September 13, 1900 in Emardville township and is a life long resident of Red Lake County. He has lived on the present home in Equality township since October 1920.

As a young man he was interested in trucks, and especially livestock trucking. In 1931 he bought his first truck — a model T Ford, in which he installed a transmission to give extra power. This was the beginning of a long career as a livestock trucker. From 1947 until 1964, he was trucker-manager of the Oklee Co-op Livestock Shipping Association.

He retired in 1964, because of poor health, and sold his equipment and business to his oldest son, George Olson.

Ingvald Olson was married on June 9, 1936 to Ruth Mildred Kingsland of Erskine. They are the parents of ten children. Hansine is married to Gerald Greek and lives in Camarillo, California; George and Norman live near Oklee; Alfred makes his home at Cohasset; Erling lives near McIntosh; Marlan is at Gonvick and Clifford is a staff sergeant in the Marine Corps, stationed at Twenty-nine Palms, California. Ivy is married to George Hahn and they live at Finland, Minnesota; Amy is now Mrs. Richard Rygg of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Sylvia, the youngest is the only unmarried child in the family. She lives at home and attends high school in Oklee. They also have 29 grandchildren.

Four sons served in the Marine Corps: Alfred, Marlan, Clifford and Norman. Marlan, Clifford and Norman all served a tour of duty in South Vietnam, during that conflict.

GEORGE A. OLSON

George A. Olson and his wife, Isabel Sophia, came to Red Lake County from Olmsted County in the fall of 1896 with their four children, Peder, Clara, Nels and Eddie. They settled near Plummer in Emardville Township.

Their first home had a sod roof and a dirt floor. In this house their next two sons, Alfred and Ingvald, were born. Later they moved to another home, this time a frame house, also in Emardville Township. Five more children, Emma, Rudolph, Olaf, Henry, and Ella, were born.

The eldest daughter, Clara, was married to Alfred Waldal in 1910. The youngest child, Ella, passed away in March of 1913 at the age of nineteen months.

In May of 1914, the family moved to a farm in Garnes Township, about three miles from Oklee. Here their youngest child, a daughter also named Ella, was born.

During World War One, two sons were called to military service. Peder, served in France, where he was wounded in action. Eddie died in an Army camp in Fort Lewis, Washington, on September 26, 1918.

Death was a frequent caller at the Olson home in those years. A month after Eddie's death, another son, Alfred, died from the flu on October 25, 1918. The eldest daughter, Clara Olson Waldal, passed away in April of 1919, and the youngest son, Henry, died in April of 1920 at the age of ten following surgery for a ruptured appendix.

In October of 1920, Mr. Olson bought an eighty acre farm in the southwest corner of Equality Township and moved the family there.

OLGER OLSON FAMILY

Olger Olson served as superintendent of the Red Lake Falls Public Schools from 1960 to 1964, and in 1965-66 was Elementary Principal. He taught special education from 1966-1972.

Under his administration a new addition to the school was built, including a home economics department, an art room, and a special education room. Most of the rural school districts were annexed at this time. The old Lafayette school building was renovated and new equipment purchased.

Olger Olson and his wife, Anne were married in Mott, North Dakota in 1935. Mr. Olson graduated from Walhalla High School and received his bachelor's degree from Concordia and his Master's from the University of North Dakota. Further work was done at North Dakota State University in Fargo, Moorhead State and St. Cloud State, resulting in a degree in counseling and guidance. The Olsons came to Red Lake Falls in 1960 from Fairmont, North Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson have three children: Marvin, graduated from Lafayette High School and is now representative consultant for the Simmons Co. in Minneapolis; Sharyl is a registered surgical nurse at Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis; and Sonja (Mrs. Don Miller) lives in Bismarck and has two sons, Stephen and Christopher Jon.

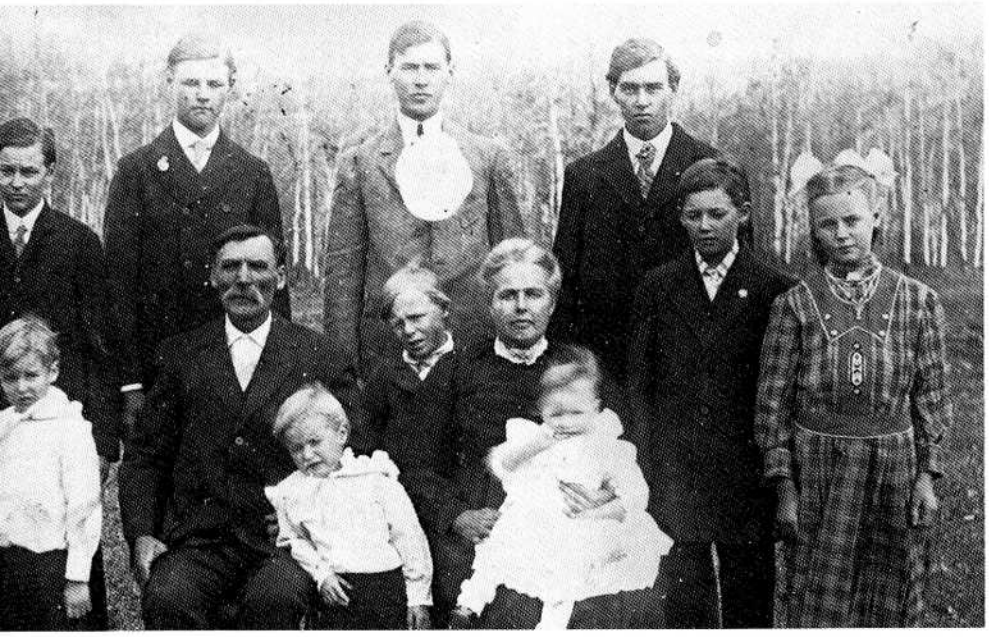
Mr. Olson retired in 1973 and they continue to make their home in Red Lake Falls.

LOUIS OMANN AND MARTHA SCHMITZ OMANN

Martha Schmitz, Joseph and Louise Schmitz's youngest daughter, through a combination of choice and circumstances, dedicated a good portion of her life to the care of her parents and her deceased sister's two daughters, Judy Hahner Clement and Beverly Hahner Varrie. This continued for ten more years after her marriage to Louis Omann in 1950.

Martha and Louis farmed the Schmitz homestead until February 13, 1970 when Louis was unfortunately killed in a car accident. During this time she had also worked fourteen years at Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Martha continued to live on the Schmitz homestead and in November, 1975 sold the farm to a nephew, Sylvester Schmitz. In January, 1976 she moved into her new home on Hamilton Ave. N.E. built by nephews, the Schmitz Construction Co.



George A. Olson Family in 1912

GEORGE G. ORR

Love of adventure and the close friendhip of the Ed. L. Healy family brought George G. Orr to the Red Lake Falls area in 902. He was a native of the state of Maine nd had homesteaded on a tree claim in yon County Southwest of Marshall, Minesota. He, his wife and four daughters, ved on this claim for several years. Folowing the death of his wife, George maried Miss Maren Christenson who had ome to the United States from Denmark.

On October 2, 1902 the Orr family came o Red Lake Falls and settled on a wooded arm, three and a half miles east of town ordering the Red Lake River on the south. The river was a source of enjoyment, espeially when the Log Drives came down rom the north each spring. The Wannigan, r cook shack, was set up on this land and here would be weeks of excitement as the vorkers guided the logs around the bends nd on their way to the sawmills. The last ig drive in this location was the spring of 911.

There were no buildings on the farm that he Orrs purchased but a good set of log uildings had been vacated on a neighborng farm and the family moved there until uch time as buildings could be erected.

Mr. Orr was active in the Community, olding office on the Second Board and reasurer of Gervais Township from 1903 ntil his death in April 1917. Mrs. Orr assed away in August 1933.

There were six children in this family, hree of whom are deceased. George H. Orr passed away in October 1956, Edmund in January 1953, and Bernice in February, 1970. Three members of the amily remaining are Mrs. Margaret Kirkeby f Elgin, Oregon, Clarence W. Orr of Enterprise, Oregon, and Mrs. Clifford (Elida) Christenson of Red Lake Falls.

DR. OSTENDORF

We were residents of Red Lake Falls rom June, 1914 until June 1931 when we moved to South St. Paul, where Dr. Ostendorf had taken a position with the U.S. Government as an inspector in the various meat packing plants there. He had been eterinarian in Red Lake Falls for seveneen years.

During our stay in Red Lake Falls we were active in the Presbyterian Church where my son and daughter sang in the choir under the direction of Mrs. Hughes, wife of the former high school superintendent. I also was a member of Rebecca Lodge and Dr. Ostendorf a member of the Odd Fellows and Masonic Lodge. Margaret, our daughter, and Vern, our son, were members of the Red Lake Falls city band.

I had the privilege of providing living accommodations for a number of teachers and students of the Lafayette high school, Mrs. Martin (Alice) Mosbeck, Mrs. Florence Green Shuttle, formerly of Oklee, Mrs. Ella Cornell Belden, formerly of Red Lake Falls, Allen Cyr, son of Margaret Cyr, just to name a few.

"Doc" purchased his first car from Herb Findeisen. Changes from the modes to the present have been many, but Red Lake Falls was and always will be dear to my heart for the many dear friends we met and have continued to retain over the sixty or so years.

We lived half a block west of the high school and "Doc" had offices in the Gazette building to start with and his last office was behind the post office.

JACOB PAHLEN

Jacob Pahlen was born at Espeler, Germany on August 11, 1858 where he grew to manhood. He married Anna Majeres on November 2, 1883 and, with their children Mary, John and Nick, they came to the United States via boat from Quebec, arriving in Duluth June 3, 1892. They came immediately to Red Lake County and acquired their citizenship in 1897.

Aside from living seven years on a farm in Browns Creek township, the Pahlen family resided most of their married life on the North Side in Red Lake Falls. Mrs. Pahlen passed away in 1908. Twelve children were born to them: John W. Pahlen (Jack), Nick, Mary (Mrs. Martin Ford), Etta (Mrs. James Ford), and Anna (Mrs. John Schmitz). Five children died in infancy, daughter Margaret in 1918 and a son Theodore in 1932. There are hundreds of descendants of this family living in and around Red Lake County.

JOHN W. PAHLEN

John W. Pahlen, well-known Red Lake County pioneer, was born in Serrang, Belgium, on January 17, 1884, and came to the United States with his parents in 1892 when he was eight years old. He obtained his citizenship in 1897. John grew to manhood in Red Lake Falls attending school there and later graduating from St. John's University at Collegeville in the class of 1904. He moved to Plummer in 1905 and was associated with Julius Pleth of the Pleth Land Office. Being an energetic and civic-minded young man, he had a great deal to do with the development of the village of Plummer. He was active in the real estate and insurance business and maintained an office in the village for many years. He married Alyce Wichterman in 1911 and one son, Edward, was born to them in 1913. Mrs. Pahlen died on October 29, 1913 and baby Edward died October 13, 1914.

John was united in marriage to Dagny Halseth of Thief River Falls on May 15, 1917. Dagny had graduated with the class of 1912 and had taught school for two years at "Germantown" and one year at Isaac Wilson School in Pennington County before coming to Plummer to work as a clerk in the Alcid Morrissette store. Following the death of his brother, Theo., John took over the road construction business, and he and his son, Russell, operated the business known as Pahlen and Co. John (Jack) served on the Plummer School Board for many years and was Democratic Chairman of Red Lake County for sixteen years. Jack loved to hunt and fish and was never without a dog at his side. Dagny loved to work crossword puzzles and enter contests. She won many prizes, the largest being a new Ford Tudor Sedan in 1930. She had to go to Fargo to pick up the car and she drove it in the parade given by Moorhead citizens in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of their city.

John and Dagny had three children: Joyce married Milt Torgerson and they reside in Seattle, Washington; Russell is married to Donna Hofius and they reside in the family home in Plummer where Russell is a rural mail carrier; Jeanne married James Scherf and they make their home in Bismarck, North Dakota.

John Pahlen died in 1949 and Dagny in 1958.



Jack and Dagny Pahlen 1930

RUSSELL PAHLEN

Russell Pahlen, rural mail carrier of Plummer, was born June 10, 1921, in the house in which he now resides. His parents were John and Dagny Halseth Pahlen. Russell attended schools in Plummer, graduating in the class of 1938. He has lived all his life in Red Lake County, with the exception of three years in the Air Force. He was stationed in England, flying combat missions as bombardier with the 379th Bomb Group in the Eighth Air Force. He was a partner with his father in the construction business known as Pahlen and Company, and later worked for several construction contractors.

In 1952 he married Donna Hofius, daughter of Gordon Hofius and Hettie Jones Hofius. They have five children: Michael is a swimming coach at Superior, Wisconsin; Penny is a junior at the University of North Dakota; Scott attends the Area Vocation Technical School in Thief River Falls and Craig and Kathy are at home.

In 1961 he became a rural mail carrier and in 1973, he had the distinction of receiving the Outstanding Carrier of the Year award for the State of Minnesota. Russell is an avid hunter and fisherman and has been firearms training instructor at Plummer for the past nineteen years. The Pahlens are members of the Brooks-Plummer Presbyterian Church.





Abraham Paquin's home near Oklee



ABRAHAM PAQUIN

My father, Abraham Paquin, and my mother, Marie Beaudoin, originally came from the Province of Quebec. They married in 1892 and settled on a farm 3½ miles south of Oklee.

In the early days Dad delivered the mail on horseback to the Red Lake Reservation. In the winter he went with a team of horses and a sleigh. The Indians had heard that the white men were going to come and drive them away, so they were unfriendly. They started chasing Dad with sticks and axes, so Dad had to make his horses trot across the ice on Red Lake to get away.

He raised herds of cattle and in the fall they would do the butchering and haul the beef to the reservation to be sold at a cent and a half a pound. One time he was followed by a pack of wolves. He threw them a quarter of beef now and then. Father had many friends on the reservation, and could speak some of the Indian language.

My father owned and operated a creamery and cheese factory on his farm. He had some cream hauled from north of Oklee by Sam Gunstenson who later became the buttermaker. The butter was taken to McIntosh and shipped to New York for the top price of 31¢.

Dad also had a lumber camp and meat market at Blackduck and cattle were shipped there from the farm by way of McIntosh.

In 1909 when the Soo Line surveyed the course in preparation to locating Oklee Dad tried to get Oklee as near to our farm as possible. He put in 12 miles of poles for the telephone at his own expense. He also made the first bridge across Lost River north of Oklee, and worked to improve the road south of Oklee.

Many people came walking by our farm during the early days. Some would stop and ask for food and lodging. One time a large group came by and needed food, so Dad killed a steer and they cooked the meat in a copper wash boiler.

There were always many hired men working, and many meals to be served. During the busy time, there were as many as twelve seated at the large dining table. We had a very large garden so the vegetable supply was ample.

Mother educated herself to take care of the books, and to learn the spelling of words, she referred to the Sears Roebuck catalogue.

All of the children had good educations. Marian was the bookkeeper and secretary. Rose, Clara, and Elmina had business educations. Zelia and Aldia were on the teaching staff of the Oklee Public School at some time. Abraham, Jr. married Florence Seeger of Oklee. He became a master electrician, an electrical inspector, and operated an electrical wiring business in Oklee. Elmina married Dennis Bachand of Oklee. Both Rose and Elmina are deceased.

My father never learned to read or write, with the exception that he learned to sign his name for the pay checks. He could figure board feet for lumber and estimate the weight of cattle on the hoof — most of this without pencil or paper.

At one time Dad was given the job of driving the horses on a horse power for a threshing crew. As he was good at keeping the horses at a constant and steady pace, the crew said that they had a good governor, and the name "Governor" stuck. He was a leader in the community, so the name was appropriate.

We rented rooms at $1.00 per night to sales people that came during the summer. Some of them were steady customers. How they used to enjoy reminiscing with my father.

My father erected many buildings in Oklee, and built a fine residential home for his family. We moved in about Christmas 1914. This was made possible because he sold 400 acres of his 800-acre farm. His farm was one of the show places of Red Lake County.

My father died in 1945 at the age of 81, and my mother died at the age of 77 in 1952.

Submitted by Zelia Paquin

ALPHONSE PAQUIN FAMILY

Alphonse and Edwardina Paquin lived in Lambert after their marriage in 1893. Later, they moved to Oklee where they operated a confectionery and tobacco store and then a cafe.

The Paquins had ten children; Louisna, Lydia, Agnes, Joseph, Leah and Aristide (twins), Edmond, Cezerine, Jean and Henry (who died at age one).

In 1910, many of their neighbors became ill, and Mrs. Paquin and Louisna went to their homes to care for them. It was not known that the illness was diphtheria. They did not contract the disease, but Aristide and Lydia did. Aristide, aged nine, died on August 6, 1910; and Lydia, aged fourteen, died on August 10, 1910.

Louisna married Frank Lynch. They had seven children: Ray, Irene, Leslie (now deceased), Wallace, Vivian, Curtis, and one child that died at birth.

Agnes married Clarence Lynch. They had four children: Marcella, Marie, Genevieve and Kenneth (now deceased).

Joe married Jean Morin. They had three children: Marjorie Jean, Jacqueline and George.

Leah married Alfred Anda. They had four children: Leonard, Stanley, Morland and Lorraine.

Ed married Doris O'Clair.

Cezerine married Arthur Lund. They had two children: Ronald and Daryl (deceased).

Jean married L. E. Stocke. They had one child, Shirley. In later years, she married Gene Travis and they had one child, Janice.

Joe lives in Clouquet, Minnesota, Agnes in California, Cezerine in Thief River Falls and Jean in Colorado. The other members of the Alphonse Paquin family are deceased.

ADELORE PAQUIN AND BETTY PARADIS PAQUIN

Adelore Paquin, son of Edward and Anna Dery Paquin, was born in Lambert township in 1913. In 1946 he married Betty Paradis, daughter of Dora Laundry and Ernest Paradis and they presently make their home on the farm homesteaded by his grandfather, Pierre Paquin.

Adelore and Betty have thirteen children: Kate (b. 1946); Garry (b. 1947); Theresa (b. 1948); Michael (b. 1950); Steve (b. 1951); Ronald (b. 1952); Mary (b. 1955); Jerry (1957); Alan (b. 1959); Tim (b. 1960); Pat (b. 1962); Wayne (b. 1963) and Lisa (b. 1967).

EDWARD PAQUIN AND ANNA DERY PAQUIN

Edward Paquin, son of Pierre Paquin, was born in Canada in 1874 and came to this area in 1881 with his parents, four sisters and three brothers.

Edward married Anna Dery and they made their home in Lambert township. They had a family of fifteen children (three of whom died in infancy): Arthur; Alice (Mrs. Gabe Landerville); Emma (Mrs. Leo Archambault); Adelore; Rebecca (Mrs. Leonard Gagner); Wallace; Stella (Mrs. Richard Davis); Alfred (Pete); Bernadette (Mrs. Elmer Gagner); Vern; Ernest and Aristide (Peto).

Edward and Anna moved to Oklee in



Edward Paquin's Family

1948, and his son Adelore took over the farm.

REV. ERNEST PAQUIN

Father Ernest Paquin was one of the numerous priests who came from Canada to serve the needs of the Church in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Born on October 15, 1894, he completed his college and theological studies at Joliette and Montreal in the province of Quebec.

After his ordination to the priesthood in 1920, he was admitted to the Diocese of Crookston. Father Paquin exercised most of his priestly activities in the parishes of Oklee and Terrebonne.

His cheerful disposition and friendly demeanor won the affection of the people.

At the end of a wedding rehearsal he was arranging some furniture in the church when he died of a heart attack on June 3, 1955.

HENRY PAQUIN FAMILY

Louis Paquin, orphaned at age two, spent his early years in Canada and came to northwestern Minnesota where he found work at a cheese factory in the Terrebonne area.

He married Azilda Fournier and they settled on a farm near Terrebonne. They had five children: Rosealba, Isadore, Henry, Joseph and Evarose.

Farming was difficult and not too profitable. Milk was hauled to the cheese factory by oxen and sold for forty cents per one hundred pounds; eggs sold for seven cents a dozen. After struggling for about eighteen years, they quit farming and moved to Red Lake Falls where he became janitor at Washington School. Those were the days of wood burning stoves; and sawing wood for those hungry stoves was part of the janitor's duties.

Mr. Paquin's wife died in 1908. A son, Isadore, died in World War I and is buried in France. In 1921 Louis Paquin married Mrs. Marie Boucher of Oklee. Louis Paquin died in 1927, followed in death by Rosealba (Mrs. Nels Benoit), Evarose, and Joseph in 1968.

Henry, the only remaining member of this family, was born in 1888 and was about fifteen years old when they moved to Red Lake Falls. One winter he worked in logging camps around Blackduck. Loggers developed terrific appetites. Henry tells of his weight gain from 116 to 142 pounds, the most his light frame ever attained. Later he worked for the Soo Railroad near Minot laying tracks for the railroad. (Minot was then a town of 1500).

In 1906 he began working for Peter Harren. There he was taught the cobbler trade. For twelve years he worked for the Harrens.

In 1918 Henry married Emma Hance, daughter of James Hance of Dorothy. Emma had done dressmaking for families in the area and, before her marriage, had worked at LaBissionere's Store. During the silent movie days, she often played background music at the Lotus Theater. She was organist for St. Joseph's Church for twenty years. Choir practice was held every Friday night in the Paquin parlor. When the Paquin children were older (and well behaved) they could stay up to listen.

Henry opened a shoe repair shop of his own in 1918, taking Louis Cyr as a partner shortly after. Louis decided this was not his line and sold his interest to Joseph Paquin. The Paquin Brothers "Shoe Hospital" sign went up on Main Street for a business that lasted nearly fifty years. The depression and a fire in their shop were only a few of the happenings that were part of those years.

Through the years many services were added to the shop. Harnesses and binder canvasses were made and repaired, making the harvest season a hectic time. Shoes for the family were added to the shop. This assured the Paquin Brothers busy days, six days a week, never closing until after 10:00 p.m. on Saturday.



Joseph retired in 1960. Henry kept on repairing shoes for two more years, having gradually ended harness and other farm repairs. He retired in 1962 and now devotes his time to his hobby of gardening.

The Paquin family consists of five: Sylvia Steinert, Red Lake Falls; James, an electrical engineer with Aerospace, lives in Arcadia, California; Cecilia (Mrs. Richard Dubuque), Fountain Valley, California; Marie (Mrs. Paul Nelson), Minneapolis; and Monica (Mrs. Robert Morrison), Minneapolis. There are twenty-one grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

The following is contributed by daughter Monica of "things remembered."

"Sliding down Dr. Harris's hill with our toboggan, over the road and on to the frozen river, then home for hot cocoa.

Putting our cold feet on the warm open oven door of the wood burning range. Cooking raw sliced potatoes on top of that stove — minus frying pan, of course!

Swimming in the mill race of Steinert's mill. Playing "Statue" and going to the twelve cent movie with a friend. Roller skating at Maple Lake and dancing there, too. Hearing conversations about Dad when he was young and had a motorcycle — with a side-car yet! The kids cleaning off a patch of ice on the river for skating and finding that the ice-man with his sled had taken chunks of ice from the cleaned spot.

Chores of filling the wood-box, helping to make ice cream and licking the dasher when testing the finished product!

Happy memories of a happy home!"



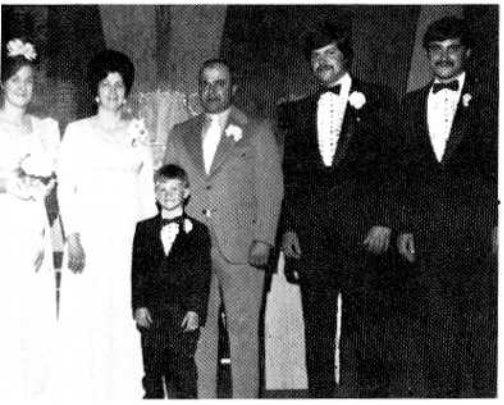
Henry and Emma Paquin 1968

PARADIS FAMILY

Ernest Paradis and Dora Laundry were married on February 25, 1925, and farmed near Terrebonne where they raised eleven children: Betty (Mrs. Adelore Paquin) of Oklee; Ronald, of Brooks; Henriette (Mrs. Onezime Champagne) of South Milwaukee; Robert, Little Rock, Arkansas; Ruth (Mrs. Fred Carriere) of South Milwaukee; Mark of Terrebonne; Don of South Milwaukee; Irene (Mrs. Richard Mussati), South Milwaukee; Grace (Mrs. Duane Stucy), South Milwaukee; and Patricia (Mrs. Glen Brower), Las Vegas, Nevada. Another son, Tom, died November, 1968.

Mark married Donna Baatz of Mentor and they have five children: Bernadette, Freddie, Louis, Thomas, and Kenny.

Ron Paradis, born May 1, 1927, entered armed services in 1945 and spent two



Ronald Paradis Family 1973

years in Japan. In 1947, Sergeant Paradis was discharged and began farming operations with his father. In November, 1949 he married Dellas Mercil of Brooks, and purchased a grocery store in Brooks in 1950. At this time he also did construction work and owned and operated the Brooks school buses. In 1951 Ron was again called into active duty in the Korean Conflict and served as a Master Sergeant and Platoon Sergeant for three years, receiving three battle stars and a Purple Heart.

After his return home in 1954, he worked on construction and in 1957, was employed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base for two years. Later he began contracting mail service routes with the government and at present has six trucks on the road, covering 1200 miles per day. In 1967, he was appointed to the Labor Relations Board for Anti-Ballistic Missiles and served on this board for four years. Ron serves as Mayor of the Village of Brooks.

For the past decade or more, Ron and Dellas have been dealing in antiques, which has become a successful business that started about thirteen years ago when Ron was given a special Jim Beam liquor bottle from the North Dakota Centennial. He continued the collection until he now possesses almost a full series. They have expanded their collections to include cars, tractors, farm machinery, buggies, furniture and hundreds of miscellaneous items until they now have one of the largest antique collections in the Northwest. Their possessions have been displayed in numerous area shows, winning many prizes. Della is a collector of Avon bottles that boasts a complete set of designs.

The Paradis' have five children: Brian, lives in Brooks and owns the Paradis Store. In May, 1973, he married Eldora Erickson of Erskine and they have one daughter, Sara. Roger, born in February, 1952, lives in Brooks and married Mary Jane Kaushagen in 1972. They have one daughter, Heather. Carol, lives in Brooks and is employed at Third Base. Arnold and Lonnie are students.

EVAN PARADIS

Evan J. Paradis was the eldest son of the late Oliver and Melina Cota Paradis who moved from Canada in the late 1800's to settle in Terrebonne Township. He had six brothers: Raymond, Joe, Ernest, Bill, Hector and Homer. One sister, Sister Marie Emily of the Order of St. Joseph, presently resides at the Provincial House at Crookston, Minnesota.

Evan married Rose Gagney in 1922 and to this union eleven children were born: Florence (White) who moved to Camas, Washington, in 1948, and has three children and five grandchildren; Eraine (Beconovich) who moved to Chisholm in 1944, and has five children and two grandchildren; Theodore (Ted) who died in 1966; Agnes (Hemly Pope) who moved to Vancouver, Washington in 1973 from Plummer and has six children; Oliver who lives in Naples, Florida, has six children and three grandchildren; Bernard who lives in Camas, Washington has five children; Roman who lives in Vancouver, Washington, has three children; Lumina (Spedding) lives in Fulton, New York, has five children; Adelyne (Terry) lives in Plano, Texas, and has three children; Rene, who died in 1961; and Laurette (Quinlan) who lives in Jackson, Mississippi and has two children.

Evan died in 1942 at the age of fifty-one years. In 1959, Rose Paradis married Eli Payment.

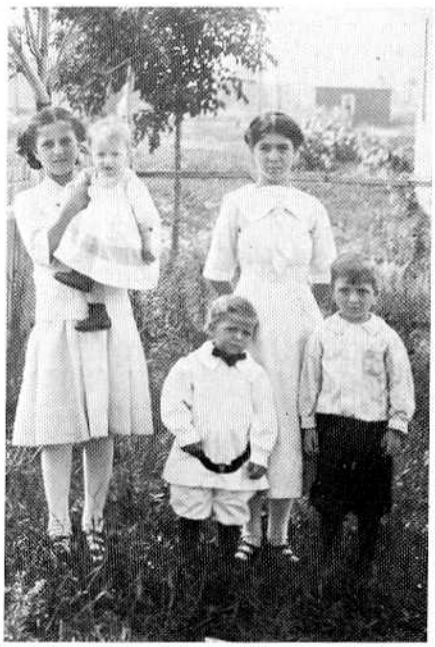
Rose was born in Terrebonne, the daughter of Archille and Delina Genereax Gagney. The family lived in Terrebonne until she was three, moved to Crookston for eleven years and then moved back to Terrebonne where Rose married and raised her family until 1943 when they moved to Red Lake Falls. Rose lived in Red Lake County for sixty-eight years. In 1974, she became a resident of the Highland Terrace nursing home in Camas, Washington.



Evan J. Paradis

AURELIUS PARENTEAU AND DELLA PERUSSE PARENTEAU

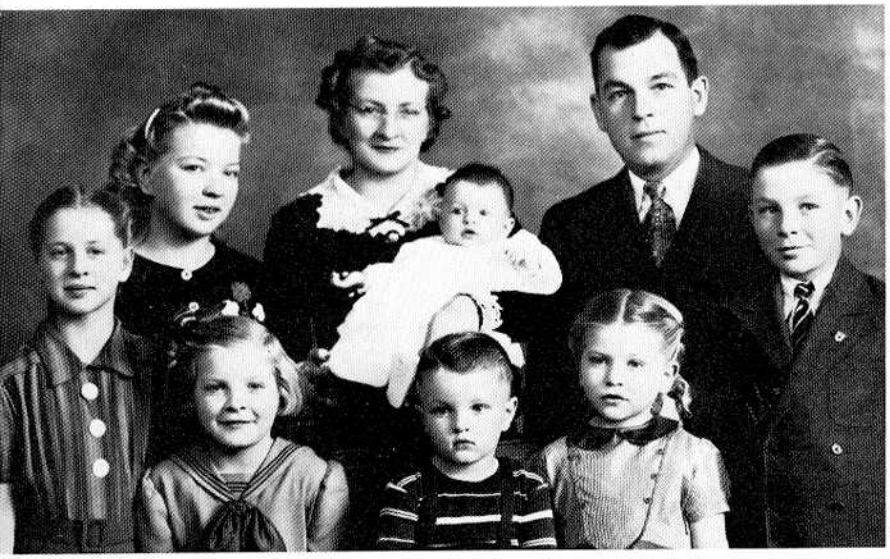
Aurelius Joseph John the Baptist Parenteau was born at Drummondville, Quebec,



Children of Archille and Delina Gagney.



Ernest Paradis Family 1975 on 50th anniversary



urelius J. Parenteau Family 1940. Ione, Jeanne, Mrs. Parenteau holding Nancy, A. J. and Aurel. *eated:* Betty, Marc and Mary Lou.

n October 19, 1902, the son of Harmidas arenteau and Delvina Letendre.

The Parenteau family had been cheese-nakers for over a hundred years and oung Aurelius at age eighteen rented a heese factory at Drummondville and perated it on his own for three years. He ame to this area to visit relatives and, in he fall of 1923, bought a cheese factory ear Terrebonne and decided to make his ome here.

Aurelius married Della Perusse, born on ecember 1, 1899 the daughter of Alcide erusse and Elizabeth Quesnel, in Terre-onne on February 15, 1926. It was about his same time that they purchased an old reamery at Brooks and moved their heese making operation there. This busi-ess grew and prospered and their prod-ct became well-known.

Aurelius and Della had a family of seven hildren: Jeanne (b. 1926) is married to arl Gramer of Crookston and their seven hildren are Daniel, Robert, William, Rich-rd, Theresa, Ronald and Geraldine; Aurel b. 1928) (see family history); Ione (b. 929 is married to Jack Brooks and they eside in Fort Collins, Colorado. Their chil-lren are Jeffrey, Suzanne, James and Robert; Betty (b. 1931) married Dr. Patrick Howe and they make their home in Denver, Colorado. Their family includes Timothy, Nancy, Joseph and Michael; Mary Lou (b. 934) married Lamont Deaver and they eside in Charlotte, North Carolina with heir children, Andrea, Mark, Julie and Jay; Marc (b. 1936) (see family history); Nancy b. 1940) is married to Chuck Striddle and hey reside in Kokomo, Indiana. Their chil-lren are David, Cathy and Marc.

A. J. Parenteau was a member of the Crookston Elks Club, Catholic Order of oresters and Knights of Columbus. He vas the first mayor of Brooks following the ncorporation of the village in the 1950s.

Aurelius died in May of 1961 and Della in uly of 1964. The following is an excerpt rom an editorial following A. J. Parenteau's death. "A. J., as he was known wherever he went, was life itself, his smile and ready wit, his honesty and ear-nestness, his sincerity and his friendliness were all well-known traits."

AUREL PARENTEAU AND GLORIA HANSON PARENTEAU

Aurel Joseph Parenteau was born July 3, 1928 in Brooks, in the family apartment in the cheese factory. He is the second child and first son born of Aurelius and Della Perusse Parenteau.

He has always resided in the village of Brooks except for two years of high school at St. John's Prep School and two years of college at St. John's College in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Aurel started working at the Brooks Cheese Factory part-time for his father at age fifteen and in 1948, became a full time employee.

Aurel married Gloria Hanson of St. Cloud, daughter of Earl Hanson and Dora Keeville Hanson, on September 24, 1948. They have always made their home in Brooks. Their five children are: Michael (b. 1949) who is married to Donna Demarais, daughter of Leonard and Dora Demarais of Red Lake Falls; Patricia (b. 1952); Thomas (b. 1953); Steven (b. 1955); and Joseph (b. 1960).

Aurel's father died in May of 1961 and his mother in July of 1964; he then became president of Brooks Cheese Factory. His only brother, Marc, joined him in the business in 1961. His four sons all worked part time in the factory during their high school years.

Aurel was active in politics on the local, county and district level during the 1950s and 1960s. He was elected an alternate delegate to the 1960 National Republican Convention held in Chicago. Aurel was mayor of Brooks from 1957 until 1961, succeeding his father who was Brooks' first mayor. He is a member of the Crookston Elks Club, Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters.

MARC PARENTEAU AND CONSTANCE KIEWEL PARENTEAU

On August 23, 1958, Marc Duane Parenteau of Brooks, married Constance Lynn Kiewel of Crookston, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Crookston. The Reverend Monsignor John McAleer officiated at the ceremony.

Following a honeymoon trip to the Black Hills and Yellowstone National Park, the newly-weds journeyed to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where they made their home for the next two and a half years. This friendly city was not a new home for Marc, as he had been a college student at Marquette University for the previous four years, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in June, 1958.

Connie went a bit farther south to Columbia, Missouri for her schooling. She graduated from Stephens Junior College with an Associate of Arts degree in June, 1958.

While in Milwaukee, Marc began work as a life insurance agent for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., and a year and a half later joined AC Spark Plug, Electronic Division of General Motors. Connie became a stenographer at AC until the birth of their first baby.

Marc Edward came into the world on August 22, 1959, and one and a half years later was joined by a baby brother, Gregory Joseph, January 15, 1961.

The terminal illness of Marc's father, A. J., brought the little family back to Minnesota the spring of 1961. Marc joined his brother, Aurel, in the family business, The Brooks Cheese Factory.

As there was no immediate housing available in Brooks, the family of four lived in Marc's parents' cottage at Maple Lake from March until October the following year. There was a definite feeling of pioneering, as there were many cold nights of feeding a new baby cuddled up next to the fire in the fireplace. Marc commuted every day throughout the summer, and finally moved his family to Brooks where they settled in the Ronald Paradis old home.

The next seven years the family increased to five children. Jill Marie was born on March 12, 1962, followed by Pamela Lynn on October 25, 1963. To make it a "full house," the third son, Gary, joined the family on June 20, 1966.

Realizing that they had outgrown their home, a new house was constructed along the Hill River and the big move was made in January, 1968.

After fifteen years in the cheese factory, Marc left the business in December, 1975, to become a full-time agent for Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co.

The past seventeen years have been rich with important events. The loss of both Marc's parents to cancer made the remaining grandmother, Mrs. Edward B. Kiewel of Crookston, very precious to the Parenteau children. They also have the unique distinction of having a great grandfather, Mr. Benjamin J. Kiewel of Thief River Falls, still hale and hearty at 92 years of age.



Marc Parenteau Family

PATNODE — EMARD

The Emard and Patnode families were among the earliest settlers to be added among the strongholds to the history and development of Red Lake County, and were among the first who wagon-trained from Canada to homestead and open the farm lands east of Red Lake Falls. This area, oftentimes referred to as the "between the rivers" area — a radius of approximately six to eight miles — later became Emardville and Gervais Townships.

Pierre Emard raised ten children: Ovid, Philomine (Porter), Dina (Mayhew), Pierre II, Natalie (Majeres), Ely, Mose, Rose (Lemieux), Sylvanie (Patnode), and Ellen (Patnode).

Joseph Patnode had ten children: Joe, Adolphus, Harmidas, Alex, Cordelia (Lafontaine), Grmaline (Cyr), Charles, and Melvince (Normandeau).

Pierre and Marie (Gervais) Emard pioneered to Red Lake Falls from Saint Urban, Canada, Province of Quebec, a farming district below Montreal, 65 miles from the city. They left Canada in 1879, when Sylvanie (Minnie) was only nine months old.

Pierre homesteaded east of Red Lake Falls (aforementioned) and established farmlands for each of his sons — they could be found bordering each side of the road. The present Catholic Cemetery, one mile from Red Lake Falls, is part of the Emard original property. The Emards brought much of their French culture with them. Familiar was the roadside shrine on Pierre's farm where many travellers and neighbors stopped to pray. One Emard landmark which can still be found in the cemetery, is the white man-sized statue of Our Lord, His arms outstretched over the Emard departed ones.

Next to homestead in the "between the rivers" area (Gervais Township) were Joseph and Marguerite Patnode, who wagon-trained from Montreal, Canada, in 1857.

The forefathers of this Patnode family came from France's royal family, "La Maison de Pater Noster" (Family of Our Father), some of whom came to the "New Americas" and its challenges. Surveyors by avocation, they homesteaded to what is now Montreal. With the Aeolian influence over the French, the "Pater Noster" became "Patenaude" and later to "Patnode." Joseph was known as "Big Joe" because of his robust strength. Following his forebearers interest in land, and hearing of the rich soils in Minnesota, he sold his land in Montreal and with his growing family began a wagon trek to the midwest. Adversities and money needs prevented fast progress. Their first stop in the United States was in Cherubusco, New York, where one of their younger sons, Charles, was born. Next stop was Fall River, Massachusetts, where Joseph and his family worked in the woolen mills to earn money to develop the wagon-train for the trek west. It took time and determination — little Charles was already nine years old when the wagons finally reached St. Paul, then called St. Anthony Falls, a fur-trading post. Arriving in Red Lake County, the Patnodes homesteaded "down the road" from the Emards, which section became Gervais Township. Joseph homesteaded and established farm lands for each of his sons.

The continuum of these two families was prolific, with many children and grandchildren to foster the family traditions, faith in God and in the land.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Patnode

Like all the pioneers of that rugged age, these two families cleared the forest to build their log cabins and to establish their future fertile farm lands. With little of the modern day equipment, they used their brawn and courage, blessed with undying faith in God and in the land — neither failed them. Surely they faced adversities, but their philosophy can be best described by that of Sir Francis Bacon so often quoted, "The good things belong to be wished, but the good things that belong to adversity are to be admired." And they were admired. It was not always smooth sailing. Charles Patnote told how, as a teenager, he and his teenaged brothers, with no easy roads or transportation, used to walk the twenty-five miles to Crookston to buy sacks of flour for the family table.

Most of Joseph's and Pierre's sons remained with the soil, with the exception of Joseph Patnode Jr. who went West; Ovid Emard was Red Lake County Treasurer for some twenty years.

Living closely, there were some intermarriages among the two families. Alphosine (Emard) married Harmidas Patnode; Sylvanie "Minnie" Emard married Charles Patnode; Mose Emard married Lydia Patnode (Alex's daughter); Ellen (Emard) married William Patnode (Adolphus' son).

There were many "get-togethers," socially and in the fields. Old fashioned "bees" were common.

Pierre Emard, who died at age 97, lived his last years with his daughter, Alphosine (Mrs. Harmidas Patnode). Each New Year's Day, Alphosine sponsored a "family dinner" for Pierre's family and grandchildren and "jie de vive" was the theme. Prominent on the "banquet" table was "tourtiere," Canadian Pork Pie, a typical French dish. Some say that true Canadians prefer "tourtierre" to a fine steak. True or not, this holiday dinner would not have been complete without this traditional pork pie. Mose (Emard), with his great tenor voice, led all in French folk songs. Minnie was often his partner in the round-de-lays. Alphosine was always busy with the numerous "little ones." She unfailingly called each one, "mon ange" (my angel).

It was fortunate that Pierre Emard I, whose heritage boasted a Catholic Archbishop in Canada, lived long enough to learn that his grandson, Keough Patnode, son of Minnie and Charles Patnode was studying for the priesthood. Keough was ordained June 1, 1930. Father Patnode, now in his seventies and pastor of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church of Oklee, is one of the last of the two families living near his old home. Father Patnode is well-known and cherished for his successful pastorates in Thief River Falls and Oklee, and for his undying devotion to the elderly, the ill and the dying in his parishes, and in his old hometown, Red Lake Falls. In June, 1972, Fr. Keough's nephew, Michael Patnode, son of Paul and Eleanore (Bergeron) Patnode, and grandson of Minnie and Charles Patnode, was ordained to the priesthood. He is presently Assistant Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, East Grand Forks, giving added pride to his heritage.

The Patnode name and its heritage lives on outside this area. A former Mayor of Montreal was a Patnode, and later became the Lt. Governor of the Province of Quebec, in the 1940's. A Patnode from Fall River, Massachusetts, was a Deputy Chief of Police in Washington, D.C. in the late 40's; another (also from Fall River) was an administrative aide to President Truman.

Typical of our times, many in the third and fourth generations of these two families moved to other parts and other fields, away from the home base of their forefathers, entering into business, mining, railroading, barbering, teaching, mechanics, pharmacy, government, etc.

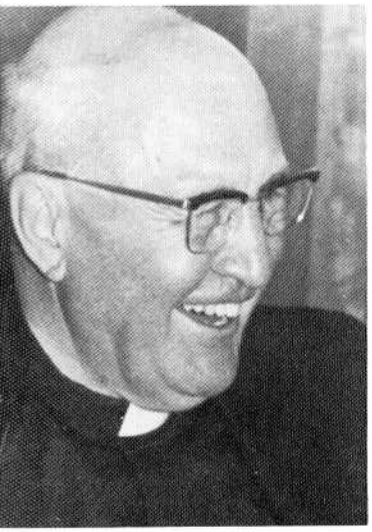
Charles Patnode, deceased in 1954 at the age of eighty-nine years, was the last of the Patnode clan. His wife, Sylvanie "Minnie" Patnode, deceased in March, 1972, at ninety-three years of age, was the last of the Emard clan. Minnie was cherished and known to many of the Red Lake Falls residents, as "mere mere" (grandma). Jokingly, she often said "Maybe they like me for my doughnuts and home-baked breads" — she excelled at both.

Lydia Emard (Mose) is presently living in Minneapolis.

Virgil Patnode, son of Eddie Patnodé, and grandson of Alphosine and Harmidas Patnode, lives and works in Red Lake Falls. Odena (LaCoursiere) Patnode, Edmund Patnode's wife is retired in Red Lake Falls. Ursula Patnode Jolly also lives in Red Lake Falls.

Not to be overlooked were the women of these rugged homesteaders, the Emards and Patnodes. These women struggled along side their husbands. There was no talk of "women liberation." They were *equal partners* and they *knew* and *understood* their place and that their contributions were worthy and needful to their families, to the land, to the community and, ultimately, to the county, often referred to as "the garden spot of the world," because of its rich soils and bumper crops.

These "first" citizens of Red Lake County, full of country wisdom, left their legacy here. The land will long remember what they did here. They were of strong stock — stalwart citizens of their community and ardent members of their parish, St. Joseph's Church in Red Lake Falls. Throughout the hot days of summer cultivation, the back-breaking work of the harvest, and into the bleak isolation of blizzard filled winters, they created a world of fulfillment and measured prosperity. They plunged through the oxen age, the horse age, and finally the tractor age — they belonged to the era of the *small farmer* — the mainstay of the nation's food and financial stability. In this age of inflation, it is often heard questioned, "Did the small farmer fade way too soon."



REV. KEOUGH PATNODE

Keough Patnode, the son of Charles and nie Patnode of Gervais Township, was n May 6, 1901 and attended the coun- school District 112 (Patnode School). Keough's high school years were spent St. Lawrence College, Mount Calvary, sconsin, and then to St. Boniface Col- e in Winnipeg, Manitoba for philosophy dies. Following four years at St. John's minary, Collegeville, he was ordained ne 1, 1930 and said his first Mass in St. eph's Catholic Church, Red Lake Falls. Bishop Timothy Corbett assigned Father tnode as the assistant to St. Phillip's urch in Bemidji and he began his duties y 4, 1930. He was transferred to St. ncis Xavier Church in Oklee on May 13, 32 and remained there for twenty years. moved to St. Bernard's Church in Thief er Falls in June 1952 and remained until otember 1971.

Father Patnode is back in Oklee admin- ring to his flock of the St. Francis Xavier urch, and grateful to his parents for their rifices as they fostered his education, to her Eugene Lemire who fostered his cation, and to his sisters, Alice and ecca who supported him.

Members of his family are Alice (Mrs. chael Bambenek), Rebecca (Mrs. eph Malerich), Paul, Marie (Mrs. John rman) and Marguerite (Mrs. James ster).

CLAYTE M. PAUL FAMILY

Clayte M. Paul (b. 1899) at Red Lake lls, the son of Dan and Agnes Paul, ent his youth in Idaho returning to Red ke Falls in 1912 and graduated from ayette High school in 1917.

After serving in the U.S. Army for several nths during World War II, he returned to d Lake Falls and worked at Several jobs he area until 1924 when he accepted a sition at Hunt Bros. Hardware where he rked for twenty-seven years. In 1954 he chased the Wilcox Hardware which he erated until his death in 1963.

Clayte was very active in civic affairs, mber of American Legion Post #22 so served as Commander), Commercial b, Sportsman Club, Toastmasters, Park ard, Fair Board, Golf Club (serving as an cer in each). He also was one of the adcasters on the KROX Red Lake unty news for several years.

Clayte married Mildred Helm, daughter Nick Helm, in August of 1922. They have three daughters: Mavis (Mrs. William Veano) of Newport Beach, California; Lorna (Mrs. Robert Quiggle) of Bakersfield, California; Veo (Mrs. Leo Musil) of Red Lake Falls. There are six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Mrs. Paul (Mil), continues to make her home in Red Lake Falls.

SIMON PAUL AND VIRGINIA GREENWOOD PAUL

Simon and Virginia Paul were among the first pioneer settlers who came to Red Lake county about ninety-seven years ago in the year 1879.

Simon was born in Berthier, Quebec, Canada on July 2, 1844. He moved with his parents to St. Paul, Minnesota when he was two years old and grew up there. At age eighteen (January 22, 1862) he enlisted for duty in the Union Army during the Civil War and served for three years in Company F, 5th Minnesota Regiment. At the time of his death in 1933, he was Red Lake County's last surviving Civil War Veteran.

Virginia Greenwood Paul was born in St. Paul on November 1, 1850. The couple married there on February 11, 1866. Simon had taught school before they migrated here in 1878. He was an avid reader and had read the Bible three times (without the aid of glasses). They lived here for some fifty years and operated a hotel at Champagne avenue and Third street for much of that time. They also had a rooming house next door and lived there after retiring from the hotel business.

For many years Simon also was employed by Findeisen Implement Co. which stood where the new Fire Hall now stands. Upon retirement he was often seen with a bamboo fishing pole over his shoulder heading for the river to indulge in his favorite pastime. Simon was a congenial, easy-going person, always ready to give out with a smile. At age eighty he purchased a second-hand Chevrolet and learned to drive, so he and Virginia often made trips to St. Paul and North Dakota to visit. She had always been a hard worker and was of a more serious nature. She had never learned to read or write, but could decipher what road signs there were in those days and wasn't slow in instructing Simon on what roads to take.

The couple observed their sixty-sixth wedding anniversary in February of 1933. There were twelve children born to this union, including Dan Paul of this city, none of whom survive. There were seventeen grandchildren.

Simon and Virginia are buried in St. Joseph's cemetery east of Red Lake Falls; so ended an era of two colorful pioneers of Red Lake County.



Clayte and Mildred Paul



Dan and Agnes Paul, Clayte, Gloy and Fount.

DAN AND AGNES PAUL

Daniel and Agnes Allard Paul were among the people who came to Red Lake Falls some 95 years ago with their parents.

Dan was born in Anoka in 1872. He was one of twelve children, the son of Simon Paul, and was eight years of age when the family moved here from St. Paul. He grew to manhood here and in December, 1898, married Agnes Allard, daughter of Mose and Modeste Allard, who had come here from New York state. There were four children: Clayte, born in Red Lake Falls; Gloy, born in Cass Lake; Fount, born in East Grand Forks; and Lloyd, born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. From East Grand Forks the family moved west where Dan was employed in saw mills, and for some years felled trees and hewed them into railroad ties in the mountains of northern Idaho.

Dan and Agnes returned to Red Lake Falls in 1912, and spent the remainder of their lives here. He was employed at LaBissioniere's Big Store for several years, and Agnes, an excellent seamstress, sewed for many people. Later, the Pauls operated a home laundry for a number of years until retirement. They were civic-minded citizens and boosted improvements to the community. Agnes was a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary, a 54-year member of the Royal Neighbors, and a long time member of St. Anne's Society. She was a hard worker in organizations all her life. Agnes and Dan celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1948. Dan passed away in 1951, and Agnes was alert and active until her death in March, 1968.

After graduating from Lafayette High School, all the children left Red Lake Falls with the exception of Clayte. He was employed at the Merchants State Bank and Hunt's Hardware, and later operated Paul's Hardware until his death in 1963. Lloyd passed away in 1968, and Fount is retired and lives in Hollywood, California. Gloy Paul Hallsten and her husband have lived here since 1960, coming here from North Dakota.

KEITH PEARSON AND HARRIET HJELDNESS PEARSON

Although our family is not really a pioneer family as far as early settlement is concerned, we are county pioneers in the field of law enforcement. I was the first State Highway Patrol officer to reside in Red Lake County. I was assigned to the city of Red Lake Falls and we arrived here in January of 1958. This was also a historical year, as it was the Centennial year of Minnesota's Statehood.

In 1958 the Sheriff of the county was Carl Kankel and the only full time member of this department. The Chief of Police was Henry Thode, Jr., also a one-man department and the judges of the court system (then justices of the peace) were V. M. Healy and Glen Fellman. Fellman was also Judge of County Probate Court. The county attorney was Charles Boughton, Jr.

In 1958 there was no radio system in the county for the sheriff or city police, but this system was installed later in the year.

There were four members in the Pearson family, myself, my wife, Harriet Hjeldness, one son, Randall, who was two years and nine months old and our daughter, Gwen, then nine months old. Our first place of residence was in the southwest corner of town where Crispen Schmitz now resides. About a year later we moved to the old Kelly Moran house where Alton Guzek now lives and in October of 1959, we started construction of a new home at the west end of Seventh Street Northeast. We lived in the house while we were in the process of finishing it and still live in the house at the present time. In May of 1961 a second son, Todd, was born.

Keith is still with the State Patrol and works part time for Reck construction. Harriet is a homemaker and is a part time office worker for the Red Lake County Social Service. Randall is a student at the University of Minnesota, Morris, Minnesota, studying medicine. Gwen is enrolled at North Dakota State University and Todd is a freshman at LaFayette.

The Pearson family had resided in Kittson County on a farm east of Hallock, Minnesota, before moving to Red Lake Falls.

REV. HENRY PELGER

The Rev. Henry Pelger came to Red Lake Falls in February 1922 and served as pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church for almost thirty years until his resignation in October 1951. He was born March 31, 1877 in Rotterdam, Holland, and after graduating from the College of Philosophy at Rossedaal in 1897, he attended Mill Hill Theological Seminary at London, England and was ordained November 17, 1901.

Immediately after, Father Pelger left for the Uganda Protectorate in British East Africa where he spent thirteen years as a missionary. While he was there the terrible pestilence, sleeping sickness, carried off over 100,000 natives of the province and he often told his parishioners interesting experiences of life on the equator. When the World War broke out, Father Pelger served for a time with the British forces in East Africa, but his health failed and he was sent back to Holland to recover. Old World customs and conventions proved too restrictive to him and, upon regaining his health, he came over to America rather than remain in Europe or return to Africa.

When he arrived in the Crookston diocese, Father Pelger was appointed assistant at the Cathedral and attended missions at Hallock, Red River and Bagley before he was appointed pastor at Ada where he remained for nearly five years also serving the church at Felton and Mary. He was largely instrumental in securing funds to build the large St. Joseph's Catholic church in Ada.



Father Pelger and dog Jack.

In February 1922, Father Pelger was transferred to the pastorate of St. Mary's at Red Lake Falls succeeding Rev. Thos. G. Merrill and stayed for twenty-nine years. He was ever mindful of the needs of his parish and served it well. Father Pelger and the pioneer doctor Neill M. Watson became very close and loyal friends. Failing health forced Father Pelger to retire in 1951 and he moved to St. Vincent's Rest Home in Crookston where he died April 1, 1958 at the age of 81.



PERRAS FAMILY

About 1880 Vital Perras made a trip for a special purpose from St. Remi, Canada to that part of America now known as Red Lake County. He was so enchanted with what he saw that he returned to St. Remi for his wife, seven sons and six daughters — and all their worldly goods.

Vital booked passage on a steamship across Lake Michigan to Chicago and continued on through St. Paul to Crookston by railroad. At this prairie town, he was met by friends who took them by ox cart to a homestead — a tract of land three and one half miles from what is now Brooks. This homestead was then in Polk County.

His purpose, his dream, was to establish his seven sons (Arthur, Romuald, Vital, Wilfred, Maximillien, Joseph and Prudent) as homesteaders and citizens of the United States of America. Arthur filed on 160 acres near what is now Brooks. Romuald, who was blind but a talented violinist and organist, took out a claim on 80 acres just south and adjacent to his father's 160-acre homestead.

Every building for man or animal was made of logs. The homesteads were self-contained. They were food factories, clothing factories, harness shops, blacksmith shops, entertainment centers (the Perras brothers formed a stringed orchestra) and church missions — itinerant mission priests said mass in their homes.

When Maximillien, who was born in 1870, was old enough to work away from home, he went to work near Red Lake Falls for 50¢ a week. From there he migrated to the harvest fields or wheat fields of North Dakota, as they were known, then to the gold mines of Montana from where he continued westward to the timber camps of Washington.

Max (as he was called), upon returning from Washington, met and married Nellie Toulouse. She was born near Austin, Minnesota in 1875. When she was a young lady, her family moved to Lambert, Minnesota, where they settled on a farm.

This, too, was a rugged pioneer family of twelve members. Nellie's brother, John, thought nothing of taking a weekly exercise consisting of a 38-mile jaunt to Crookston. One of her sisters staked a claim for herself. Another of her sisters taught school and one of the sisters was a nurse and governess.

Their family once gave shelter to a missionary priest, Father Champagne, who might have perished in a good old Minne-



Perras Family 1895. *Back:* Antoinette, Max, Nellie, Joe, Wilfred, Roseanna. *Front:* Arthur with Harvey, Vital with Eva, Marguerite, Rose Alma.



Max and Nellie Perras 50th anniversary. *Back:* Max II, Evelyn, Rose, Alma, Ray. *Front:* Florence, Mr. and Mrs. Perras and Nellie.

sota blizzard had it not been for their cheery light shining to greet him.

In Max and Nellie's log cabin were born seven of their eight children. Max farmed in the summer time and traded with the Red Lake Indians in the winter. He took a load of beef and pork and, in exchange, he took home a load of poles for the telephone company and fence posts which he sold to the farmers. During these years on the farm, he served as Clerk of Lambert Township and also Clerk of the Lambert School.

As times changed, he made the move to Brooks where he bought the Brooks Hardware Store which he operated for 36 years, and his interest in civic affairs continued to expand. He became Clerk of Poplar River Township, and was on the School Board and was also instrumental in the building of the first St. Joseph Catholic Church in Brooks in 1916.

The children of this Red Lake County Pioneer family are Nellie and Max II, who live in St. Paul; Esther (who died at the age of five); Rose, who is a resident of Seattle, Washington; Alma, who lives in Kelliher; Evelyn, who died in 1971 in Red Lake Falls; Florence, who resides in Minneapolis and Ray, who was born in Brooks and now lives in Red Lake Falls.

This is the Centennial year of this pioneer family whose progeny now number 19 grandchildren, 61 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

Although they live in different parts of U.S.A., Red Lake County will always be their home.

RAY AND HAZEL PERRAS

Ray Perras, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Perras of Brooks, was born February 26, 1912, and lived there until he left for Techny, Illinois, where he attended St. Mary's Catholic high school for boys. Following his graduation, he worked with his father in the hardware store in Brooks. Baseball was an important part of his life for many years, and he is best remembered for his prowess at first base.

He began working at the Red Lake County State Bank in 1934, at the princely salary of ten dollars a week. His duties first included many of a janitorial nature, and one that Ray particularly abhorred was that of cleaning and polishing the cuspidors that graced the marble floors.

In June, 1935, he married Hazel Noyes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Noyes, also of Brooks. They lived in the Ray Linnihan apartment until Ray entered the navy in 1942. Hazel moved to the east coast where Ray was stationed in 1943.

Upon his discharge from the service in 1945, they returned to Red Lake Falls, where Ray resumed his duties at the bank. He now serves in the capacity of Cashier and Vice President.

The Perras' have both been active in church and civic organizations. Hazel worked for a number of years at various places: Robertson Style Shop, Red Lake Falls Gazette, Red Lake Falls Clinic, and as bookkeeper and then Administrator of Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Ray and Hazel reside at 311 — 4th St. in the house which was built by Dr. Ostendorf about 1920.

CHARLE PERRAULT FAMILY

Charle Wilfride Perrault, his wife Philomene Boyer Perrault, and their children came from Penetanguishene, Ontario, and settled on their homestead in Lake Pleasant Township in 1878.

Charle, his brother Zephirin, George Brunelle, and George Marchand had chosen the land and lived on it for six months in 1877 to "prove" their claim under the Homestead Act of 1820. During this period they had erected two small log cabins to temporarily house the families when they could be moved to Minnesota. They chose this land because they learned that a railroad was to be built there. The land was to cost them $1.25 per acre to be paid in five years.

Charle Perrault became interested in this move when he had gone to Montreal to purchase equipment and to hire a millwright to operate a sawmill on an island he had purchased off the eastern shore of Lake Huron, near the Perrault home. While in the city, Charle met and listened to a land agent who was offering a "good deal," with glowing descriptions of rich American soil, abundant crops, the ease of shipping to Minneapolis by railroad, and the hungry eastern markets eager to entice settlers into Minnesota's fertile prairie lands. Plans for the sawmill were abandoned, and Charle hurried home to plan this new venture and induce other relatives and friends to move with him.

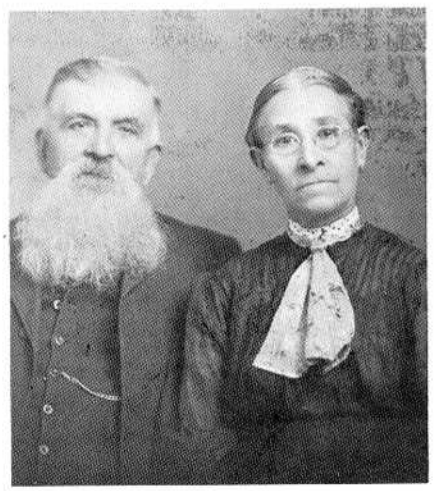
He soon had three partners, his brother and two friends, who set out with him in 1877 to investigate and make their land choices in Red Lake County. After the required six-month stay here, they all returned to Penetanguishene to dispose of their homes and some of their belongings to get ready to immigrate to a new land. They came by lake-boat to Duluth harbor, then by train to Crookston, or Fisher's Landing, as it was then known, then by ox cart to their cabins in Lake Pleasant Township.

The first winter was spent in the two log cabins, two families to each cabin. The following summer better log cabins were built, some of the land plowed and seeded, and a few head of cattle acquired to start a herd. Chickens, geese, sheep and hogs were added, and the original log cabin became a barn.

A short time later, the railroad bed was built and trains began to come through to accommodate the area. A small railroad station was built and was known as the Perrault Station. A cheese factory was constructed and operated by Theo. Fournier as cheese maker. A school also was built to be known as the Perrault Station school and classes began. Charle's family consisted of two boys, Jean Baptiste (Johnny) and Joseph Pierre, and six girls, Henriette, Rose, Mary, Eugenie, Josephine and Marguerite (Mrs. Michel Pinsonneault), mother of the Pinsonneault family that has since resided in Red Lake Falls. Charle didn't have the help of his boys very long. Son Johnny was already married and the father of one child when he came here and he wanted a place of his own. Joseph went to work in Crookston for Polk County in the office of the Clerk of Court. Later, when Red Lake County was carved out of Polk County, he became Judge of Probate Court for the new county and moved to Red Lake Falls.

Of the group that came with Charle Perrault, only two families remained here, Charle's and the Brunelles. Zephirin Perrault moved his family to the Yakima Valley where they became hop farmers. The Marchand family also went to look for a different kind of life.

Charle and Philomene lived out their active years on the Perrault Station farm, using hired help until they were quite old;



Charles and Philomene Perrault

then they moved to Red Lake Falls in 1906 or 1907 to live on Third street until they bought the Leasie house on Main street where they ended their days. Grandfather Charle died in 1916 and grandmother on Armistice Day in 1918.

The Perrault farm is now owned and operated by Eugene Schindler. The present house was built by Charle. I understand that the old log house is the core of the present, the logs still intact within its walls.

Submitted by granddaughter, Mrs. Walter (Lucille Pinsonneault) Johnson who has many happy memories of the Perrault farm and household, the glorious summers spent there, picking wild strawberries by the pailful in the meadows, and choke cherries, pincherries and wild grapes in the woods.

LOUIS PERREAULT FAMILY FOUR GENERATIONS

Louis Perreault was born September 29, 1853 in the Canadian Providence of Quebec at Denic. When he was twenty-one, (1874) he came to the United States of America to work in a cotton factory in Massachusetts, and in 1877 he married Mary Beauregard.

Louis and Mary Perreault came to Minnesota in 1879 and took claim in Polk County in Gervais Township on Northeast one-fourth section 32-43-150. They built their home of native timber from Louis' own steam powered saw mill. Here they raised their twelve children: Louis, Jr., Georgeanna, J. Albert, Alfred, Vetalin, Joseph, Ildage, Marie, Napoleon, Dora, Edward, and Clara. Louis farmed the land until 1905, when J. Albert Perreault bought the farm from his father.

In that same year of 1905, J. Albert Perreault (born 1881), married Elodia Laundry and the couple started farming with just one pig and one calf which were given to them as wedding presents. Little by little they cleared more and more land for crops. Albert, being brought up with the saw mill and steam engines, became engineer of the threshing crews in the area. In his earlier years he was also a lumberjack and fired the steam engines.

Albert and Elodia had twelve children in their forty-one years of good living on that same farm. They were George, Stella, Roselba, Mae, Doris, Omer, Sylvia (Sister), Wallace, Celcila, Robert Noel, Mona, and Florence.

In 1946, Albert sold the farm to his son, George, and moved with his wife to Red Lake Falls where he continued to sell Gentilly Insurance, and did some lawn mower sharpening on the side. They celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary in 1970. Elodia died February 4, 1973 and J. Albert died August 16, 1973.

In the same year, 1946, George Perreault (born 1906) brought his wife, Nettie (Remick) Perreault and their first two children to the Perreault Farm. For over twenty years since then they were in the dairy business and raised large numbers of laying hens. They harvested small grain crops of corn, flax, oats, barley, wheat, alfalfa, sweet clover, and sunflowers. They had five children: Clariet (Sister), Francis, Stephen, Micheal, and Ralph.

In 1974, George sold the farm to his son Ralph and he and Nettie moved to Brooks. They will soon be celebrating fifty years of married life.

At present, Ralph and Debbie Columbus Perreault and their son Billy are farming the land as the fourth generation.

EDWARD AND ROSE PERREAULT

Our father, Edward Perreault (b. March 1895) was one of twelve children born to Louis and Marie Bourgard Perreault. Brothers and sisters were Louis, Jr., Albert, Napoleon, Alfred who died as a young man, Eldage, Joseph, Georganna, Mary, Vitaline, Dora and Clara. Edward lived with his parents on a farm in Terrebonne township, two and a half miles west of the village. He was educated at the Beau Gerlot school located about a mile from the Perreault farm. Many of the school teachers boarded with the family. The school was constructed of bricks and since replaced.

In the spring of 1916, Edward married Edna Rock who was also from the Terrebonne community. They had three daughters, Madeline (Mrs. Ralph Dupont), Eva (Mrs. Felix Raymond), and Helen (Mrs. Carl Arvesen). Edward farmed the home farm. In 1922 his father, Louis Perreault passed away, and only two short years later on June 2, 1924, Edward's wife Edna died. He was left alone to care for three small girls, ages seven, five and two, and also care for the farm. On July 19, 1926, Edward married Rose Charest who was born and raised in the Oklee community. Three children were born to this union, Gerald, Doreen (Mrs. Frank Weblishauser) and Marie (Mrs. Tony Jochim).

Rose always did a great deal of sewing. They planted large gardens and canned most of the vegetables to be used by the family, with some left over for relatives and friends. Rose also does a great deal of baking, especially appreciated by her children and grandchildren.

Edward and Rose remained on the farm and raised their six children who attended the same Beau Gerlot school as their father before them. In 1960 Edward retired from farming and rented out his land. They attend St. Anthony's church at Terrebonne and continue living on the farm.

ILDAGE AND DORIA LaFRAMBOISE PERREAULT

Growing up in Red Lake Falls was a happy time for me and my four sisters when we lived in the first house south of the Court House on Main Street. Roller skating down to the mills, swimming behind "Grandpa" Healy's home and sliding down the Lincoln Hotel hill — these are pleasant memories.

My father, Ildage Perreault, was born in Terrebonne in 1888, the seventh child of Louis and Mary Beauregaard Perreault. They had come to Minnesota from Connecticut and their parents had come from Canada.



Ed and Rose Perreault

Doria LaFramboise, my mother, was born in Crookston in 1893, the oldest daughter of Roman and Florestine St. Yves LaFramboise. After the death of Roman, Florestine with her three little daughters moved to Terrebonne to live with her parents, Louis and Arize St. Yves. Two years later, Florestine married Cleophas Cadieux and they moved to a farm in Terrebonne on the Clearwater river.

My mother, then eight years old, remembers the excitement of the log drives, the arrival of the "Wannigans," the 1901 house boats of the logging crews. Their cooks baked saucer-sized cookies which they gave to the children when the men came to the Cadieux home for milk, cream and butter.

The death of one sister had now left the Cadieux family consisting of two LaFramboise girls and five Cadieux daughters to grow and be happy together until the death of Cleophas in 1913. Mrs. Cadieux then moved with her family to Red Lake Falls where she died in 1915.

Doria and Ildage were married in 1913 and lived in Red Lake Falls, where Ildage was associated with the Peoples Auto Company for several years. Later he served as county treasurer. In 1944 he left for Fairbanks, Alaska, where he spent a year working as a carpenter at Ladd Air Force Base.

Ildage and Doria celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with a flight to Concord, California to spend it there with their daughters. A year and a half later, in 1964,



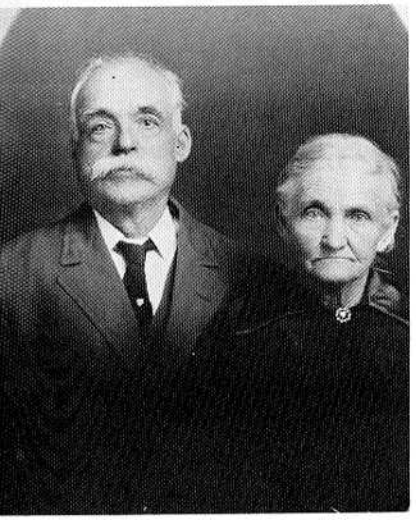
Ildage and Doria Perreault 50th Anniversary. Loretta, Lucile, Ildage, Doria, Audrey, Agnes and Florence.

Ildage died suddenly in Red Lake Falls.

Doria has been a member of the Royal Neighbors organization for forty-eight years and still takes part in all activities.

Five daughters and a deceased baby son are the family of Ildage and Doria Perreault. All five of us daughters attended St. Joseph's Catholic school and Lafayette High school. Eventually we went on to become two teachers, a secretary, a beautician and a registered nurse. Agnes, Lucille, Audrey and Loretta are all married and living in California and Washington. After twenty-two years in Anchorage, Alaska, I returned, widowed, in 1974 to make my home in Red Lake Falls again.

Contributed by Florence Baldwin



Mr. and Mrs. Eli Perreault

THE ELI PERREAULT FAMILY

Eli Perreault was born in 1848 in Canada and came to Terrebonne Township in 1889 with his wife, Zoe LaDeaux. They brought with them their two-year old son, Joseph, who was to remain in the Brooks area during his entire lifetime.

Joseph married the former Pearl Champagne and they had thirteen children. A daughter of Eli and Zoe was born on July 4, 1889 in Terrebonne. She married Zephyr Gagner on June 26, 1908 in St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Terrebonne. She had a very short life, dying at the age of 29 on Thanksgiving day in her home from complications of the flu. She left two children, Leo, age 9 and Clara, age 3. Clara was raised by Zephy's cousin, Louise Fontaine Gervais and Edgar Gervais, who had no children. Zephyr farmed and his son, Leo, lived with him until his death in 1921.

PERSON FAMILY

Olaf Person and SoAanend (A. O.) came to Minnesota from Norway in 1893. They lived near Fisher, Minnesota until 1897 when they homesteaded four miles east of Oklee.

In 1912 A. O. Person and Anne Omlid were united in marriage in Grand Forks, North Dakota. About the same time, they purchased in Equality Township the home farm, which is still in the family. A. O. and Anne Person had five children, Bergit, Gladis, Elmer, Arnold and Ralph.

Arnold and his family live on the home farm in Equality Township.



THOMAS PERUSSE AND DELIMA BOIVERT PERUSSE

Thomas Perusse (b. 1834-d. 1901) and his wife, Delima Boivert Perusse (b. 1836-d. 1920) came to Minnesota with their family in 1879 from Lobiniere, Quebec, Canada. They lived in Anoka before they moved to the Terrebonne area where they staked two claims of one hundred and sixty acres each in sections three and ten in Terrebonne Township. Here they built their log home, farmed the land and raised their children who were all born in Quebec. They lost several children in a diphtheria epidemic; those surviving were Adenore (married Delia Crompe), Alcide (married Elizabeth Quesnel), Alpherie (married Marie Plante), Evelyn (married Xavier Sauve), Belzamere (married Adelore Laurent), Eloudia (married Mose Bray), Angeline (married Narcisse Parenteau), Josephine (married Arvilla Rock), and Alma who became Sister Christopher of the San Franciscan Order.

ALCIDE PERUSSE AND ELIZABETH QUESNEL PERUSSE

Alcide Perusse, son of Thomas and Delima Boivert Perusse, was born on November 13, 1862 in Lobiniere, Quebec, Canada and moved with his parents to Minnesota in 1879.

Alcide married Elizabeth Quesnel on November 7, 1892. She was also born in Quebec on May the twentieth, 1872. They built a home in section three, Terrebonne Township on one of the homesteads claimed by his father. They cleared the land and farmed it. Alcide and Elizabeth had eight children, all born and raised on this farm: Ida (Mrs. Roy Fitzgerald), Joe (married to Marie Smith), Ulric (married to Mae Morinville), Della (married to A. J. Parenteau), Odina (married to Leo Robillard), Rose (married to Leo Bombardier), Grace (married to Robert Thibert), Noella (married to Roman Clement).



Olaf Person with Ingeborg and son, A. O. Person.



Alcide and Elizabeth Perusse

On November 7, 1942, Alcide and Elizabeth celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with all of their children present except Ida Fitzgerald who died in July of 1937.

Alcide died on February 17, 1952 and Elizabeth on October 9, 1952.



Mr. and Mrs. Alferie Perusse.

ALFERIE PERUSSE

Alferie Perusse, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Perusse, married Marie Plante in Red Lake Falls in 1887. They lived in Terrebonne and in the Red Lake Falls community. Alferie homesteaded near Terrebonne and later worked on irrigation and ditching projects in the county. One project he contracted was the preparation of the ground for laying tracks for the Soo Line Railroad which runs through Oklee.

In 1912 the Perusse family moved to Farrington, Canada where Mr. Perusse filed a timber claim and later moved to Fort Francis, Ontario, Canada. They bought land near Rainy River and lived there for a couple of years before moving back to Fort Francis.

They had nine children: Laura, (Mrs. Henry Falardeau of Oklee); Rosealma, (Mrs. Elziore Sauve of Canada); Zelia, (Mrs. John Keifenheim of Red Lake Falls); Amelia, (Mrs. Pat Campbell of Rainy River, Ontario); Rebecca, (Mrs. Emil Hamm of Duluth); twins, Emma, (Mrs. Ed Turgeon of Toronto, Ontario); and Alice, (Mrs. Peter Lavigne of Fort Francis); Walter Perusse, Fort Francis, and Wallace who died in infancy.

ULRIC PERUSSE AND MAE MORINVILLE PERUSSE

Ulric Perusse, son of Alcide and Delima Boivert Perusse, was born on a farm near Terrebonne, Minnesota on November 11, 1896. Ulric married Mae Morinville on April 2, 1929 in St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Terrebonne with Father Bouchard officiating. Mae is the daughter of Joseph (Pete) Morinville, and was born on November 29

in 1899.

Ulric and Mae lived on the Iron Range in Minnesota a short time before he went into the business of the Country Bus Lines with his brother, Joe, in Cheyenne and Casper, Wyoming. In October of 1936, they sold the bus line and returned to Minnesota. A while later they went to Illinois and to Jefferson City, Missouri, where they went into the City Bus Lines business with Robert Thibert.

In 1944, Ulric sold his interest in the City Bus Lines and they returned to the farm in section three, Terrebonne Township, that he had purchased from his father. Ulric retired from farming in 1965 because of ill health. He died on January 20, 1970.

Mae and Ulric had one son, Dale, who was born in Casper, Wyoming on January 27, 1933. Dale married Rita LaCoursiere, daughter of E. J. and Rose Chatel LaCourisere of Red Lake Falls. Dale and Rita have five children: Rick, Shelly, Kim, Greg and Barbara. They live in Trumbull, Connecticut and he works for Pfizer, Inc. in New York City.

BLAKE AND JANICE PETERSON

Blake Peterson, Red Lake County Extension agent, and wife Janice came to Red Lake Falls in 1967 when he was appointed to his position by the County Board.

Blake was born in 1936 and Janice in 1937 both in Clearbrook where they attended schools. The Petersons were married in 1956. Following his graduation from high school he served with the United States Navy until 1959 and entered North Dakota State University and graduated in 1963 with a degree in agriculture. They spent four years in Gilby, North Dakota, until 1967, where Blake was employed as an agriculture teacher in the Midway public school. There are four children: Debra, Jeffrey, Natalee, and Suzanne. Mrs. Peterson is employed as bookkeeper in the Red Lake Falls Clinic.

Blake Peterson is ranked as an Assistant Professor of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota. He is superintendent of Dairy Shows of the Red River Valley Winter Shows, and has memberships in the Red Lake County Agricultural Society, the Northwest Stockmen's Association, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and the Red Lake County Crop Improvement Association. He is also present State Director of Minnesota Association of Extension Agents.

GUST C. PETERSON AND MARIA HEIDEN PETERSON

The Gust C. Peterson family lived in Lake Pleasant Township on the old Majeres farm from 1940 until 1947.

Gust Peterson was born in Smaaland, Sweden in 1902. He lived in Moline, Illinois, for awhile, then in Minneapolis, and then homesteaded and lived in North Dakota until 1938 when the family moved to Minnesota.

Gust married Maria Heiden from Johnson Creek, Wisconsin, in 1915. They were the parents of ten children: Melvin of Bemidji; Fritz, Kenneth, and Allen of Seattle; Floyd of Appleton, Wisconsin; Lester of San Jose, California; Hazel, Mrs. George Ollie of Plummer; Rose, Mrs. Robert Peterson of Mentor; Marion, Mrs. Jearld Kaltenberg of Crookston; and Alice, Mrs. Larry Wentz of Longview, Washington.

Five of the children attended school in Red Lake Falls. Floyd, Allen, Alice, Marion and Lester.



Gust Peterson 50th Anniversary

Five of the Peterson boys were members of the Armed Forces from Red Lake County: Fritz served as a Tech. Sgt. in the India, China, and Burma area; Kenneth was with the Field Artillery and went to France in June of 1945; Floyd was a Lieutenant and pilot in the Air Force; Allen was in the Signal Corps and served in Korea and Japan; and Les was a co-pilot on an aircraft carrier and served in Okinawa and Japan. After their military service, four of the boys graduated from college with the aid of the G. I. Bill.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson and Lester moved to Seattle in 1949. Mr. Peterson died there in 1974 at the age of ninety and Mrs. Peterson died in 1975 at age eighty-four. They are survived by thirty-seven grandchildren and twenty-nine great-grandchildren.

Two members of the family still live in Red Lake County: Hazel who was married to Ralph Lexenburg and later to George Ollie and Rose, Mrs. Robert Peterson of Mentor.

Mr. and Mrs. Gust Peterson were members of St. Johns Lutheran Church of Red Lake Falls.

LEONARD PETERSON

Leonard Peterson was born and raised in the Viking area, and in 1939 moved to International Falls seeking employment. In January, 1941, he married Mildred Johnson of International Falls. In March, 1942 their first child was born and named Lorna. In January 1944, Janet was born. Allan was born in December, 1949 and Milton in June, 1948.

In August, 1950, the Peterson Family moved to Plummer, following the death of his wife in June. Leonard bought the eighty-acre farm from Andrew Hemly, east of Plummer. Leonard's folks lived on a farm west of Plummer and helped take care of Allan who was nine months old, until a year before he started school. Leonard started out farming with a team of horses and a few cows. Then, in January 1951, he went to G.I. Agriculture School for four years.

He farmed until 1960 when he went to work at the Air Base in Grand Forks, as carpenter, commuting back and forth.

In May 1960, daughter Lorna graduated from high school and went to work in Thief River Falls as bookkeeper for Phillips 66 Gas Station. In October of that year, she married Russell Huotari of Plummer.

Janet graduated in May, 1962. On October 28, 1962, she married Duane Torkelson of Trail, and moved to South Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

On November 15, 1963 Leonard married Bernice Marsonette Engesther of Red Lake Falls, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Plummer. Joining the Peterson family were the six children of Bernice: Sharon, Le Roy, Robert, June, Gerald and Marvin.

Allan graduated in 1967 and worked during the summer and winter, and then joined the Navy for four years. Allan married in 1975, and is living in the Cities.

In July, 1965, Leonard started work at Detroiter and is still with the company. Between going fishing and visiting their ten children and their twenty-five grandchildren, it keeps them pretty busy.

ROBERT L. PETERSON AND ROSE PETERSON

Rose Peterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gust C. Peterson of Red Lake Falls married Robert L. Peterson of Pine River, Minnesota on November 16, 1940 at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls and moved to the Mentor area in Terrebonne Township where they still live.

Robert and Rose are the parents of five children: Marcia Melgaard of Richfield, Minnesota; Janet, Mrs. Merle Solie of Mentor; Renae, Mrs. L. W. Hunter of Goldendale, Washington; Neil C. Peterson of Crookston; and Jim who lives at home and attends Mentor High School.

Robert has been farming at their present home since 1942 and has had both dairy and beef cattle and also sheep. At the present time they have only beef cattle. He farms over four hundred acres, mostly in wheat and oats.

Robert has been a member of the Agricultural Extension Board for several years and on the Draft Board. He has been working for the Federal Crop Insurance for the past year.

Rose was a leader of the first Happy Hustler 4H club for several years and also a member of the Busy Helpers Homemakers Club. She has also worked as a Home Health Aide.

The Petersons were members of the First English Lutheran Church of Mentor until it closed and are now members of St. Johns Lutheran Church of Red Lake Falls. They have nine grandchildren.

WALTER C. PETERSON

Walter Christopher Peterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jergen Peterson, was born in 1892 at Mayville, North Dakota, where his father was a carpenter. In 1899 he moved with his parents and brothers, Gustave and Waldemar, and sisters, Christie, Emma, Annette, Austa and Elfreida to Thief River Falls where his father was employed at the Saw Mill when it was built. Here they lived a couple of years before his father homesteaded a farm in Wyandotte Township, Pennington County. Carl Peterson was one of the builders of the Clearwater Lutheran Church on Highway 59, between Plummer and Thief River Falls, and died in 1904 after a lingering illness leaving a large family to struggle on the farm through lots of hardships.

Most of the family were musical and Walter when a young boy, made his first violin out of a cigar box and played it for dances in the Hazel Community, getting $2 for a long night and also walked eight miles each way. In 1916 Walter, Waldemar and his mother moved to Plummer where Walter was working on a dredge.

In 1917 Walter was one of the first men from Red Lake County to enlist in the army in World War I where he played in the army band, since he could handle 'most any instrument. After the war in 1919, he returned to Plummer and took up the carpenter trade, building two homes, one for



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Peterson

himself and his mother, and another that he sold to August Roese, but which was later burned. He left for Minneapolis in 1921 where he worked until 1923, before going to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was employed as foreman for a large building firm. On September 9, 1926 he married Miss Idella Halseth, who was employed at Morrissette's Quality Store of Plummer, and they returned to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where they made their home until 1935 when they, with their young daughter, Eileen Valerie, moved back to Plummer. It was during the depression, and they still owned a home here. In Milwaukee, Walter played with the Blatz American Legion Post band, which, for four years, was named National Champions and in 1933 won the World's Championship. He also played trombone at lots of dances, and he was also quite a fiddler, in demand for playing at dances wherever they went, as they both loved to dance.

Walter built several homes in the Red Lake Falls and Brooks communities, and both Walter and Idella took a very active part in the Plummer Community. Walter was assistant Scoutmaster here for a couple years when H. I. Berger was superintendent. He taught carpentry classes to World War II veterans, and directed the Plummer school band one year when they had no director. Idella Peterson clerked again at Morrissette's Store until 1945, and has been news correspondent for the Thief River Falls Times, Red Lake Falls Gazette and Oklee Herald for at least the past twenty-five years. Both are very active in Legion and Auxiliary. Walter served as commander, and Idella was the first president of the unit and served again as President in 1969.

Walter is an avid hunter and fisherman, enjoying the great outdoors and loved living in a small town; city life was not for him. The last two years have found him in failing health.

Their daughter Eileen married in 1949 and lives in Minneapolis and has three children: William, Denise, and Kimberly Marshall, who have, through the years, spent lots of time with their grandparents here since their father died in 1958.

Walter still has three sisters living: Mrs. Elfreida Johansen of Dubuque, Iowa; Mrs. Christie Anderson and Mrs. Austa Amundson of Minneapolis. Idella is the only member left of her family as her parents, three brothers and four sisters, are all dead.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are members of the Brooks-Plummer Presbyterian Church and are also active in the Plummer Senior Citizen Center.

LEWIS PFANN AND DEANNA FOX PFANN

Lewis and Deanna Pfann moved to Red Lake Falls in June of 1973 when he became a partner of Norris Thune in the Red Lake County Insurance Agency. They had lived in Thief River Falls and Karlstad prior to coming here.

Lewis was born in 1940 at Sykston, N.D. and Deanna in 1943 at Clark, S.D. They were married in Clark in December of 1961 and are the parents of three children: Gary (b. 1962), Penny (b. 1967), and Kathy (b. 1975).

The Pfanns attend St. Joseph's Catholic Church where Lewis is a member of the Parish council. He is also active in Commercial Club, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Red Lake Falls Industries, Inc., and the Lions Club.

PHILION HISTORY

The Philion family in Red Lake Falls had its roots in four families that homesteaded on farms northwest of the Cyr school. The Durands, Philions, Chatels, and Havens all came to this county between 1875 and 1884.

The Durands came to Red Lake Falls in 1875, migrating from Quebec, Canada in 1860. Before arriving in Minnesota, they lived in Chicago, where the family luckily survived the Great Fire of 1871. For three days following the fire the family was separated from one another.

Born in 1850 at Lac St. Jean, Quebec, Lucian Philion came to Red Lake Falls with the Troumbleys in 1877. Besides farming in the area, he was the janitor at the court house in the city.

From Fall River, Massachusetts came the French Huguenot family of Peter Haven, settling first in Minneapolis. During the Civil War he enlisted in the Minnesota Division of the Union Army. During a southern battle, he was bayonetted and captured by the Confederates. Coming back to Minneapolis after the War, the family moved northward to Red Lake Falls where Peter eventually died of his war wounds, and was buried in the Cyr cemetery.

Exerie Chatel's parents, the Narcis Chatels, came to Red Lake Falls from Montreal in 1878 to farm. In later years, Exerie became the first plumber in Red Lake Falls, while his son, Elmer and Bert Wheeler were the city electricians.

The grandparents of Lawrence and Lloyd Philion all married in the 1880's in Red Lake Falls. Mary Durand became the bride of Lucian Philion in 1880 and Exerie Chatel wed Eugenie Haven in 1885. The Philions had six children with William born in 1882, and Sadie, Louise, Olive, Rose and Louis being born later. Eugenie Chatel, born in 1889 was one of four girls of the Exerie Chatels. Leah, Eva, and Edna and one son, Elmer were the other Chatel children.

In 1906 William "Billie" Philion, a grain bagger for the Red Lake Falls Milling Co., married Eugenie Chatel. His part-time business of racoon farming arose from his trapping experiences. Along with a brother-in-law, Fred Cyr, he would put his boat in at the Point and float down the Red Lake River to Huot, where they then loaded the boat in a horse-drawn buckboard and journeyed back to town. This mode of trapping is a far cry from the type employed by Billie's son, Lloyd, in which the automobile plays the major role.

Three sons, Lawrence, Leonard and



Seated: Lucian Philion, Grandfather Troumbly, and Mary. *Rear:* William, Olive. *Front:* Sadie, and Louise (baby).

Lloyd and one daughter, Rita, were born to the William Philions. Leonard and Rita settled in Elyria, Ohio, where he has since retired from Bendix-Westinghouse and she has been the housewife of Bob Doebele. The two other children have been life-long residents of Red Lake Falls with Lawrence being a civic leader since 1948. Besides being a city councilman, he was the mayor for two terms in the 1960's. Lawrence married Julie McDougal and they had one son, Gerald and one daughter, Dorla Souto.

Before his service with the U.S. Postal Service as a rural mail carrier, Lloyd was an employee of the Northern Pacific for 10 years. He married Elenore Nelson and they have five children, Sharon Lizotte, Michelle Schluter, William, Robert and Steven. They have 7 grandchildren. The grandchildren are the sixth generation of Philions to live in Red Lake Falls.

LAWRENCE PHILION

Lawrence Philion, alderman of the second ward in Red Lake Falls, was born in 1908 the son of William and Eugenie Chatel. He was graduated from the twelfth grade of St. Joseph's Parochial School.

In 1928 Lawrence went to the east coast, returning to take employment with the Smith Paper Company from 1938 to 1946. He was associated with Hunt Brothers Company from 1947 until 1952, when he moved to Wilcox Furniture Company where he is still employed.

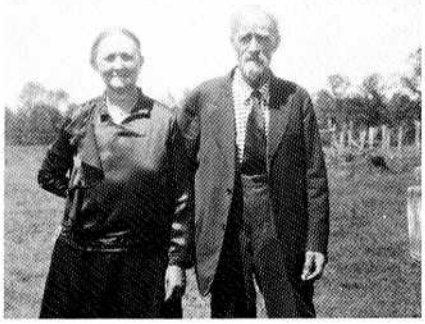
Lawrence was elected to the City Council in 1948 serving two terms as alderman to 1952. In 1953 he was appointed mayor of Red Lake Falls to finish the term of David St. Michel. He later filed for that office and was elected to serve until 1956. He continues to serve as alderman.

Lawrence Philion married Julia Dentz of Mahnomon in 1939. They had a son and a daughter, Gerald and Darla.

In 1958 Lawrence was chairman of the committee commemorating the centennial of the Old Crossing Treaty at Huot. He is also a member of the Red Lake County Historical Society. Julia (Jay) is an active member of the local Garden Club, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Royal Neighbors of America.

EUGENE AND ELLEN PICHE

Eugene Piche (b. 1862) and his wife Ellen (b. 1866) came from Canada and homesteaded in southern Minnesota. Later, they bought a farm at Detroit Lakes and later settled on a farm two miles east of Terrebonne. They had eleven children: Charles, Edwin, E. Hector, Rose Marie, Clifford, Frank, Ida (Mrs. John Parenteau), Joseph, Helen, Louise and Arthur.



Joseph Pigeons

JOSEPH PIGEON FAMILY

In 1857, in Joliette, Quebec, Canada, Joseph Pigeon was born to Louis and Edmire Longville Pigeon. At the age of 19, in 1876, Joseph migrated to Michigan with his parents.

He decided that Minnesota would be better so he came in 1879 and homesteaded in Poplar River Township. As of today the farm is still in the Pigeon family. Presently Leonard E. Boucher and his wife, the former Veronica Pigeon, own this property.

After Joseph Pigeon arrived here he worked at driving logs on the Red River. He later got a job at a saw mill in Crookston. While working there, he met Delina Tessier who was working at the Letourneau Hotel in Crookston. She was born in Ontario in 1868 and came to Minnesota as a very young girl. Joe and Delina were married in 1885 in Red Lake Falls. Joseph brought his wife to the homestead.

To this union eight children were born; Delia (Mrs. Felix Rossignol) was born in 1889 and is residing at Hillcrest Nursing Home at Red Lake Falls. They had two daughters. Her husband died in 1952. Leah (Mrs. Ira Hallas) was born in 1894 and had five children. She passed away in 1934 and her husband Ira died in 1957. Albert was born in 1899. He married Florence Carriere and had no children. Albert farmed with his brother Henry on the Joe Pigeon homestead. Albert and Florence are now living in Brooks. Henry was born in 1901 and married Marie Champagne. They had four children. Henry and Marie lived on the homestead until they retired and moved to Brooks. Henry died in 1974. Walter was born in 1903. He never married and lived in Minneapolis most of his life. He died in 1973.

Joe Pigeon was quite a fisherman and was very prominent in the Red Lake Falls area. He served as a county commissioner when the Red Lake County court house was built. His name is on a plaque at the court house. He also served as chairman of Poplar River Township and was a member of the school board for many years.

Like all of his neighbors who homesteaded, he removed the trees on his land and farmed with a pair of oxen. The house which he built out of logs is still standing and being used.

MICHEL PINSONNEAULT

Michel Pinsonneault was better known as "Mike" to every grade and high school student who attended LaFayette High School in Red Lake Falls from 1905 until 1942 when he retired as school custodian.

Michel Pinsonneault was the first-born of the fifteen children of French-Canadian Pierre Pinsonneault and his wife Odile. He was born at St. Michel de Napierville, Montreal, in 1874. His parents were truck farmers who supplied fresh produce to the city markets.

The constant gardening chores and the daily trips to the Farmers Market in the city were detested by Mike and his brother, Jean Baptiste, so they left home one fall when Mike was eighteen years old and crossed over to the United States to look for work. They found employment in the mines of northern Michigan and in the lumber camps of Northern Minnesota. In 1895, Mike decided to visit an uncle, a brother of his mother, who lived near Terrebonne. There he looked for and found work on the Charle Perrault farm in Lake Pleasant Township. It was here that he met a daughter of the house, Marguerite Perrault, and they were married at Red Lake Falls in January 1898.

The Pinsonneaults built a home on Champagne Avenue in Red Lake Falls after he began working for the Northern Pacific Railroad on a section crew that maintained tracks. This home is now the residence of his son, Joseph.

In 1905 Michel accepted the job as janitor of LaFayette School where he was employed for thirty-seven years. During this time the original school building burned down one winter night and classes were held wherever rooms were available in town, causing many extra hours on maintenance work. He was happy, as were all the students and teachers, when a new school was finally ready, so all could return to normalcy.

Mike Pinsonneault retired in 1942 at the end of the school term — a sick man — and he died two months later on July 21, 1942.

Michel and his wife, Marguerite, raised a family of seven children, all born in Red Lake Falls. They were:

Leonard, who died at nine months of age.

Lucille, who taught rural school in Red Lake County after graduation from LaFayette High School and the Normal Training Department. She also worked in local stores and married Walter Johnson, a banker, in 1951. Her home is in Red Lake Falls.

Bert (Albert) who graduated from LaFayette and attended the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks. He was county highway engineer for Red Lake County and then county engineer for Wabasha County until he retired in 1973. He married Marion Arel and they have six children: Larry (Lawrence) of Houston, Texas and Madison, New Jersey; Wayne of St. Paul; Judy, Mrs. Norman Davidson of Birmingham, Alabama; Mike of Madison, Minnesota; Alan of Wichita, Kansas; Mary Beth, Mrs. Dennis Thompson of Chicago, Illinois.

Napoleon (Nap) was with the Sea Bees in Alaska in the 1940's and was manager of the Robertson Lumber Company in Red Lake Falls until his retirement in 1971. He married Marie Bregier and they live in Red Lake Falls. They have three children: Louis, of Tucson, Arizona; Carol (Mrs. Mickleson) of St. Cloud; and Paul of Crookston.

Ann, Mrs. Oliver Proulx, owned and operated Marcoux Corner until her husband died, then sold the business and moved to Red Lake Falls. She taught school at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Red Lake Falls until her retirement in 1973. The Proulx's four children: Joe Oliver of New Haven, Connecticut; Daniel, who died at age twenty; George, who has a career with the U.S. Air Force and lives at Blythville, Arkansas; and Marie Jean, a nurse who lives in San Francisco, California.

Marie married Lloyd Jorgenson. They owned and operated Lloyd's Place in Plummer, Minnesota until Mr. Jorgenson died in 1973. Marie then sold the business and retired and makes her home with her daughters in Minneapolis and California and with her sisters in Red Lake Falls. The Jorgenson's three daughters are Patti, Mrs. Steve Bartolone, who lives in Anaheim, California; Marguerite, Mrs. John Thomas of Bloomington, Minnesota; and Susan of Minneapolis.

Joseph married Lorraine Longtin and was employed by hardware stores (Hunt's and Bjerke's) and by Wilcox Furniture and Appliance Co. all of Red Lake Falls. He is retired and lives in Red Lake Falls. Joseph and Lorraine have four children: Twins, Janet and James, Janet (Mrs. Don Nitti) lives in Winona and James lives in Plymouth, Minnesota; Donald lives in Red Lake Falls and Grand Forks, North Dakota; and Elizabeth lives in Winona, Minnesota.

POIRIER FAMILY

Rufus Poirier, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Poirier, was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, in 1866. When he was six months old, his parents moved to Michigan where they lived for eighteen years, coming to Red Lake Falls in 1884, where the family settled on a homestead north of the city. Rufus was engaged in the lumber business for many years, the last eight years of his life spent managing the Wilcox Lumber Company.

In 1890, he married Laura Gauthier, daughter of John and Mary Gauthier, and to this union were born eleven children: Robert, Sr. (deceased), Ella Sanders, Grand Rapids, Minnesota; Laura Oslund, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Myrtle Vogel, Rochester, Minnesota; Verna Lenhart (deceased); Omer, Sonoma, California; and Arthur deceased). Four children died in infancy.

The oldest son, Robert (Buck) Poirier, Sr. spent his entire life in Red Lake Falls and upon the death of his father in 1920, took over the management of the lumber company. Robert, Sr. was active in civic affairs, past president of the Commercial Club, former treasurer of the school board, and member of the park board. He was very involved in music circles and was a member of the early Red Lake Falls Orchestra which toured North Dakota and Montana, and entertained at many local affairs. In more recent years, he was a member of the Ninth District American Legion Band, Thief River Falls City Band, and sang with the Crookston Chorus. In his memory, the R. J. Poirier Award is presented each year to the outstanding music student of Lafayette High School.

Robert Poirier, Sr. was united in marriage to Orilla Lemieux, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tennis Lemieux, in 1917. Mrs. Poirier taught in the rural schools before her marriage. Three children were born of this marriage: Elryn (Mrs. Howard Quackenbush); Robert, Jr.; and Lorna (Mrs.

old Kraft).
)f the three children, Robert Poirier, Jr. remains a resident of the city and is rently employed in the Auditor's Office. and his wife, the former June Kubic of ntor, Minnesota, have seven children: nes; Mary (Mrs. John Luke); Connie s. Bill Schumacher); Susan (Mrs. Den-Haugen); Jane; Thomas and Peggy.
/rs. Harold Quackenbush (Elryn) lives San Jose, California, and she and her sband have six children: Daniel; Peter; rol (Mrs. Roger Payne); Diane (Mrs. y Pomeroy); Lorna and Tom.
/rs. Harold Kraft (Lorna) and her hus-id, "Pinky" live in Grand Forks, North kota, and they have two sons, Brian and an.

NICOLA AND NAPOLEON POULIOT FAMILIES

Nicola Pouliot was born in 1823 on a m in Ste. Isadore, Quebec, Canada. ien he was twenty years old he migrated Michigan, and from there to Old Supe-r, Wisconsin, across the lake from luth. Here he met and married Lucie rrisette. Five of their children were born Old Superior: Leocadie (Mrs. Arthur upin); Napoleon (who married Jeanette rvais); Thomas; Zepherin (married to sephine Gervais) and Lucy Delia (Mrs. race E. Gervais).
The family later moved to Corcoran wnship, near Minneapolis, and farmed ere where three more children were rn: Joseph; Pierre or Peter F., who mar-d Vina Lizotte; and Allier J., married to zanne Lizotte.
n the fall of 1876, Isaiah Gervais, a end of the Pouliots, came from the Little nada settlement, now St. Paul, to Polk unty and finding the land good and ntiful, invited his fellow Canadians to n him here. The Nicola Pouliot family me and settled on land which is now the rgen Knutson farm near Red Lake Falls. e homestead papers for this quarter sec-n were signed by Chester A. Arthur, en President of the United States. Annie uliot (Mrs. James Ford) was born on this mestead.
This land remained in the Pouliot family til the death of Erba, oldest daughter of poleon, in 1937. She deeded the land to r sister, Edna Pouliot St. Ives, whose sband, Eli, sold the property to Leo Mar-ildon in 1944, and his estate sold it to rgen Knutson in recent years.
Nicola and Lucie farmed the homestead til their son, Napoleon, took over. They en moved to Duluth where they remained until Nicola's death at the age of eighty. Lucie returned to Red Lake Falls and made her home with her son Peter and his family. She was a tiny, hardy, pioneer woman who lived to the age of eighty. Nicola and Lucie are both buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery. It would be hard to count their descendants today.

It is interesting to note how the Pouliot, Gervais and Lizotte families intermarried. Traveling facilities being what they were in those days, in speculating, it would seem that people married others within horse and buggy visiting distances.

Jeanette Gervais, who married Napoleon Pouliot, was born in 1869 at St. Paul, the daughter of Isaiah and Emily Semper Gervais; she was seven when the family came to Red Lake Falls. She and Napoleon were married in 1890, and they had eight children: Erba, deceased; Edna (Mrs. Eli St. Ives), deceased; Bernette, Clarence (married to Gladys Converse), Louise, Florence (Mrs. Sam Pearce), Russel (deceased) and Willis (married to Sarah Stuhr).

Napoleon died in 1928 and Jeanette in 1950, and both are interred in St. Joseph's Cemetery.



Peter and Alvina Pouliot

PETER AND VINA POULIOT

Pierre (Peter) Pouliot was born in Hennepin County in 1873, the son of Nicola and Lucie Morrisette Pouliot. He came with his parents to Red Lake Falls where his parents filed a claim on land south of the city. He attended local schools, St. John's University at Collegeville, and Curtis Business College in Minneapolis. Returning to Red Lake Falls, he obtained employment as cashier at the Merchants State Bank, the building which is now a part of Dodds Drug.

In 1909 he married Alvina Lizotte, the daughter of another pioneer family, Denis and Sophie Martin Lizotte. Denis and his brothers, Anthony and Vital, had migrated across the Canadian border into Maine to establish citizenship. They lived in Mataweska, Maine for a time, then came by oxcart to the Huot area of Red Lake County where they filed for homesteads. Here Denis married Sophie Martin and they raised eight children: Euphemie (Mrs. Art Huot); Frederick (married to Alvina LaCoursiere); Elise (Mrs. John Savard); Suzanne (Mrs. Allier Pouliot); Damas (married to Jenny Perry); Jules (married to a Provost daughter); Henri (married to a LeMieux daughter); and Alvina (Mrs. Peter Pouliot).

Alvina (Vina) taught school at Huot before her marriage. The Peter Pouliots lived on Main street in Red Lake Falls, where Peter was engaged in real estate and insurance business. In 1922 he was elected Clerk of Court for Red Lake County, a position he held for many years. He was active in community affairs until ill health took over several years before his death in 1943.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Pouliot left Red Lake Falls to live with her sister, Suzanne, in Puyallup, Washington, where she later died. Peter and Vina are buried in St. Josephs Cemetery in Red Lake Falls.

There were six children in the Peter Pouliot family: Martin, Celest, Gregg, Vivian, Vincent and Joseph.

Martin who worked for many years for the Smith Paper Company married Jane Buse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Buse. He was elected to the position of county Registrar of Deeds and held this position for many years until his death. Martin and Jane were the parents of two children, Sally and Michael. Sally is Mrs. Kenneth Figge of St. Paul, and she and her husband have three daughters. Michael and his wife, Judy, of White Bear Lake have a son and a daughter. Jane Pouliot died in 1959, and at the time of his death in 1970, Martin was married to Dorothy Tischart Carriere.

Celeste married August Bourque, a descendant of Pierre Bottineau. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren. Celeste now lives in California.

Gregg married Erma Perry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Perry, who operated the Lincoln Hotel at that time. Gregg worked for the Smith Paper Company and John Helm Implement Company before going into the service in 1942. He worked for the Robertson Clothing Company after his three years in the army, and is now with the Garden Valley Telephone Company. Gregg and Erma have two daughters, Beth and Nan. Beth is Mrs. Jerald Solheim of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and she and her husband have a son and a daughter. Nan is married to James D. Boutain of Red Lake Falls, and they have two daughters. The Gregg Pouliot home in Red Lake Falls is on Bottineau Avenue.

Vivian married Lester Schave and their home is in Piedmont, California. They have three sons and two grandchildren.

Vincent, Vivian's twin brother, has lived in Yakima, Washington for 35 years.

Joseph married Iolas LaCoursiere, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe LaCoursiere. They were parents of three children who all live in California. Joseph was manager of the Red Lake Falls liquor store before going into the service. He was managing a nursing home in California at the time of his death in 1973. Iolas has since remarried and lives in Texas.

As of the writing of this history, there is only one male Pouliot to carry on the family name. He is Josh Michael, son of Michael and Judy Pouliot.



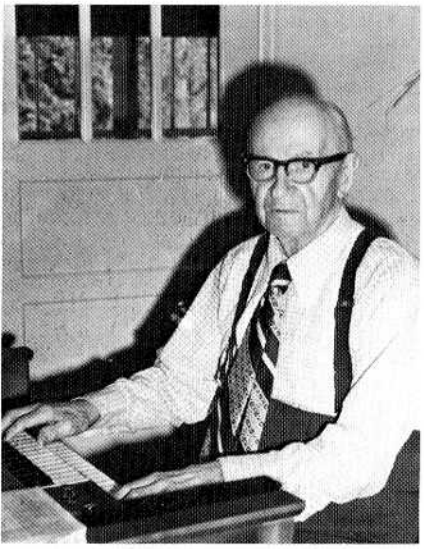
Vina Pouliot

THE GEORGE W. PRAY FAMILY HISTORY

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Pray from Cherokee, Iowa, purchased a farm in Lake Pleasant Township in 1910. They were accompanied by their sons Robert F. (Frank) and Harley E. Pray.

Mrs. George (Martha Dickerson) passed away in 1921 and George in 1925. Robert F. Pray died in 1953.

Harley married Pauline C. Gerlach in 1921. Their children were Rachel (Mrs. Frank Kruse), Harley Jr. and Robert (both deceased) and Alyce Mae (Mrs. James Kinney of Minneapolis). They farmed in Lake Pleasant Township. Pauline died in 1927 and Harley in 1965.



Art Prenevost at home

ARTHUR PRENEVOST FAMILY HISTORY

Arthur Prenevost was born on September 24, 1884 and raised in the Terrebonne community, the son of Hubert and Arlene Prenevost, the former Arlene Gauthier. His parents came from Canada and homesteaded in the Terrebonne area in the year 1877. He was the twelfth of fourteen children. He attended high school in Red Lake Falls and one year at Crookston College in 1903. He played trumpet in the Crookston band, and has been an avid music lover ever since.

At age 28, the appearance of some gray hair evoked enough apprehension to prompt him to get married to Miss Emma Sauve. Emma was the daughter of Xavier and Eveline Sauve, the former Eveline Perusse. Her parents were also Canadian immigrants, and she was born in 1890 at Terrebonne. She finished her high school education in Crookston and then attended a teacher training school in Red Lake Falls. She taught grade schools at Lambert and Terrebonne prior to her marriage.

The couple had six children: Frances (Mrs. Myron Hennen); Clarence; Lillian (Mrs. John Gaven); Ervie; Neil and Emalyn (Mrs. Jerome Sullivan). Mrs. Emma Prenevost died at Terrebonne in 1932 at age 42. Arthur Prenevost farmed with his father and subsequently on his own, until 1921. During this period of time he served on the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners from 1914 to 1918. In 1921 he went into road contracting with Jeff Seif. He continued in the dirt moving business with Theo Pahlen from 1926 until 1933, when Jack Pahlen succeeded his late brother until 1936.

In that year he was appointed County Auditor by the Red Lake County Board. He served in this capacity for twenty-six years, five months, being re-elected without opposition for six full terms. During his long term of service to Red Lake County, he noted numerous changes, some of which were the conversion to machines from the laborious hand written records, the drastic reduction of school districts that once numbered sixty-three, the appointment of a County Assessor to remove those duties from the auditor's office, and many, many more.

Arthur still lives in Red Lake Falls in the home he moved to in 1940. At age 91, he still enjoys his music, current events, sports, and his home is an oasis for relatives and friends who return here for a visit.

Arthur Prenevost recalls that not all county business was recorded in the proceedings of the Red Lake County Board. Shortly after the turn of the century, in the early 1900's, Red Lake County included the area that now comprises Pennington County. A petition from people in that area proposed moving the county seat to Thief River Falls. Some strange delaying tactics were effected until the local interested residents could assure themselves of three members of the County Board that were sympathetic to keeping the county seat in Red Lake Falls. The aforementioned petition mysteriously (mysterious to some people at least) disappeared. Subsequently another petition was filed; however, the county attorney ruled that the County Board had to act on the original petition before they could address themselves to the second one that was now on file. Meanwhile the local residents had elected three members of the County Board that were loyal to Red Lake Falls.

Having gained this valuable time, local officials and other interested persons took note of a law that stated that the county seat could not be moved if a permanent suitable building existed in the City where it was presently located, and of another law that stated that the county could bond themselves for up to $70,000.00 without a vote of the people if the county were without a suitable building (courthouse). Again quite mysteriously the old building, located where the present Red Lake Falls community hall is now, was burned to the ground. However, local firemen were very diligent in keeping water on a large vault that contained all county records. Employing some strategic maneuvers, the County Board then let contracts for construction of the present courthouse building for the $70,000.00 figure previously mentioned. Having exhausted the $70,000.00 allowable, the County Board then incurred additional debt to provide a few niceties in the new courthouse building, such as doors and windows.

Such imaginative planning was accomplished without the *expertise* of the myriad Federal, State and Regional planners that now boggle the minds of local officials.

NEIL (PETE) PRENEVOST

Neil (Pete) Prenevost is in his third term on the Board of County Commissioners, serving the fourth district since taking office in 1965. Pete is a public accountant in Red Lake Falls where he and his family reside.

He is the son of Arthur Prenevost, former county auditor, and Emma Sauve Prenevost and was born and raised in the Terrebonne community. Pete graduated from LaFayette High School in 1941 and attended St. John's University from 1941-1943, was in the U.S. Army from 1943-1945 and attended the University of North Dakota, graduating in 1948.

Pete married Loretta Swanson of Karlstad in 1952 and four children were born to them: Pamela, Lex, Mark and Jill (deceased).

Pete serves on numerous committees and boards through county appointment and has always served in many civic groups. The family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.



NOEL PROULX FAMILY

Albert Proulx, who was born in Quebec in 1860, and Leda Perreault, who was born in Quebec in 1863, were married in 1882 and moved to Argyle. Their son, Noel, was born there in October, 1899.

Noel married Cerisa Hamel of Gentilly in May, 1933, in St. Peter's Church. Cerisa's parents were William and Aldina Benoit Hamel. William was born in North Dakota in 1881 and Aldina in Gentilly in 1891. Following their marriage in 1910 in Gentilly, they moved to Maxbass, ND, where Cerisa was born in 1912. Later they moved back to Gentilly.

Noel and Cerisa came to Marcoux Corner in 1928 where Noel was employed by his brother-in-law, Ed Marcoux, the original owner. Ten years later, Ed sold "The Corner" to Noel and his brother, Oliver, who were in partnership until Noel was appointed Red Lake County sheriff in 1943 to succeed Carl Kankel, who had resigned.

During the 12 years that he was sheriff, Noel was involved in community and church activities. He was War Fund Chairman (1944-45), a volunteer fireman, and a special game warden, a board member of Catholic Social Services, an active member of the Holy Name Society and St. Joseph's Church choir.

Following his term as sheriff, Noel operated the former Art LaCoursiere barber shop, and later moved to St. Paul where he operated a barber shop for six years. Because of poor health, Noel and Cerisa, and their younger children, moved to their Maple Lake home. Noel operated a barber shop there and in Mentor, on a part-time basis. During this time, Cerisa was employed in the therapeutic activity program at Hillcrest Nursing Home. They later returned to St. Paul where Noel died in October, 1975.

The nine Proulx children all live in the Twin Cities area: Angeline (Mrs. Dean Rivard); Joan (Mrs. Roger Pasiuk); Phyllis (Mrs. Russ Walker); Sister Mary Ellen, C.S.J. (music teacher, Brady High School, West St. Paul); Monica (nursing student, St. Mary's, Minneapolis); John; Gene; Jim; and Bill.

Cerisa's present address is 2199 No. Helen St., North St. Paul, 55109.



REV. LOUIS PROULX

Louis Emil Proulx was born in Argyle in 1905. Here he attended St. Rose of Lima School and was confirmed by Bishop Timothy Corbett on the same day the bell was installed in the church tower. From Argyle, he attended St. Mary's College at Techny, Illinois, and Lake Beulah College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In the fall of 1921, Louis Proulx matriculated in St. John's University at Collegeville where he received his BA degree. He earned his STB degree from the Catholic University of Washington, D.C. and was ordained on June 5, 1933 at St. John's University.

In July of 1933, he was appointed pastor at St. Joseph's Church, Brooks where he was to remain for twenty-two years. While the parish priest of this community, Father Proulx was the great promoter of the cooperative movement and helped organize the Brooks Farmers Union Oil Company, the Brooks Farmers Co-operative Elevator, the Brooks Credit Union and the Red Lake County Blood Bank.

Beginning in 1955, he served twelve years as pastor of St. Anthony's Church of Terrebonne. In 1967, Father Proulx was transferred to Saints Peter and Paul Church of Warren where he remained for four years until he was appointed pastor of the Father Aulneau's Memorial Church of St. Mary's at Warroad. Father is now living a quiet life at St. Mary's and at his cottage, the "Ave Retreat." He still enjoys fishing and his old friends.

THOMAS PUGH AND ELIZABETH PARRY PUGH

In 1904 Thomas Pugh came to Red Lake County and homesteaded in Garnes Township on the northwest quarter of section twenty-eight.

He was born and grew to manhood in Wales, Great Britain. When he first came to America he was employed in many different states. His wife, Elizabeth Parry, came here in 1912, also from Wales.

Thomas and Elizabeth Pugh had five children: Ethel (b. 1914); Henry Lloyd (b. 1916); Llewelyn Edward (b. 1919); Thomas Idris (b. 1922) and Betty Jane (b. 1927). The Pugh children were all baptized in the Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Mayfield Township.

Thomas Pugh became ill in November of 1931 and died on May 17, 1932. Mrs. Pugh and the children remained on the farm.

Ethel married Ellsworth Milligan on December 10, 1937. Betty Jane married Donald Overland on July 5, 1948 and they live in Fertile, Minnesota. Thomas lives in Bloomington, Minnesota, and is married and has six children. Lloyd Pugh never married. He lives across the road from the home farm in Garnes Township. Llewelyn was killed on September 19, 1944 while in military service. Thomas was also in the military service and was wounded in October of 1944.

Mrs. Thomas Pugh left the farm in 1944 and went to live with her daughter, Mrs. Milligan until her death on December 23, 1947.

The farm was rented for a while and then sold to Cornelius Van Lith who lives there now.

ERNEST PURATH FAMILY

Ernest Purath and three of his four young children came to Red Lake County from St. Cloud, Minnesota ten years after his twenty-eight year old German-born wife, Sophia Goelz Purath died in Orient, South Dakota. The children, under six years of age at the time of her death in 1893, were Anna, Fred, Willie and Benjamin. Benjamin was raised by a bachelor uncle in South Dakota. Anna, (Mrs. David Weiss) and Fred grew to adulthood, married and lived with their families two miles apart in Lake Pleasant Township. Willie died in 1910.

Ernest settled in Section 15 of Lake Pleasant Township in 1903 on a farm owned by August Purath of Orient, South Dakota purchased from Frank and Theresa Hagl in 1902. Ernest bought the farm from his brother, August, in 1904, and farmed with his son Fred. In 1914, father and son started raising registered Black Angus cattle. For many years theirs was the only registered Angus herd in Red Lake County.

Ernest died in 1920, the day after his brother, August, from the flu at age sixty, while on a visit to South Dakota.

FRED PURATH FAMILY

When Fred Purath married Emma Schaper in 1917, she moved to Section 15 Lake Pleasant township, only four miles from her birthplace. She was born in 1891. Fred, born in Orient, South Dakota, in 1888 came to Lake Pleasant township with his widowed father, Ernest, sister Anna and brother Willie in 1903 from St. Cloud, Minnesota, and they farmed together until Ernest died in 1920.

Children of Fred and Emma are Esther, (Mrs. Herbert Walter) of Plummer, Russell, deceased 1956, Ernest, an airplane mechanic in Enumclaw, Washington, Willard, a farmer of Lake Pleasant township, Darrell, communications engineer at Fort Collins, Colorado, and Fern, (Mrs. Harold Slotnick) of Millbrae, California.

In 1941, Fred and Emma received the Red Lake County Farmer and Homemaker Award. Fred was one of the organizers of the Red Lake Falls Farmers Union Oil Company in 1935 and held offices for twenty-four years. He served as town clerk of Lake Pleasant township from 1920 and 1953, and he also served as clerk of school district No. 32 where their children received their elementary education, riding a horse and buggy the one and a half miles to school.

Their children took honors and won several state fair trips for achievements while enrolled in the Red Lake Stickers 4-H Club and were charter members of the Lake Pleasant 4-H Club when it was formed about 1940.



Willard Purath Family

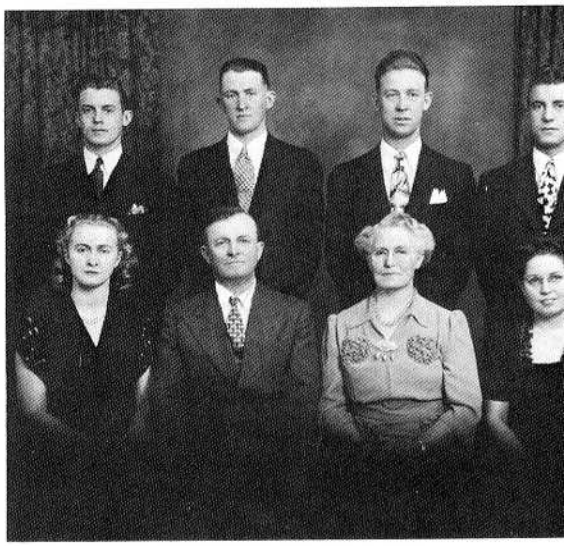
Retirement came for Fred and Emma when Willard bought the S½ of Section 15, Lake Pleasant township, the original homesight of his father and grandfather, and Willard's own birthplace in 1924.

Willard married Pauline Finkenbinder in 1948, eldest of five children of Ralph and Mariam Musselman Finkenbinder from Crookston. Pauline, a graduate of the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston, served as Assistant 4-H Club Agent in Red Lake County before their marriage.

Willard was educated in District No. 32 and Red Lake Falls High School. He served with the United States Air Force for three years and attended the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, for one and a half years before returning to the farm in 1948. During his years as a 4-H member in the "30's", Willard began ownership of his registered Angus herd foundation stock that he still carries on from his father and grandfather.

Willard served as Lake Pleasant township assessor, and since 1957, has been a member of the school board of District No. 630. He was chosen Red Lake County's first King Agassiz in 1961. The family was awarded the Soil and Water Conservation Award in 1973. They have been active in the Red River Valley Angus Assn., community organizations and the First Presbyterian Church of Red Lake Falls.

Children of Willard and Pauline are Gary, elementary educator, Jamestown, North Dakota; Janet, registered nurse, West Lafayette, Indiana; JeAnne, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Breckenridge, Minnesota; and Douglas, a junior of Lafayette High School.



Fred Puraths. *Back:* Ernest, Russell, Willard and Darrell. *Front:* Fern, Mr. and Mrs. Purath and Esther.

BEN PUSCHINSKY

Ben Puschinsky came to Red Lake Falls shortly before 1900 and opened a blacksmith and carriage shop, where he was engaged in general blacksmithing and the manufacture of wagons and sleighs. All parts of the vehicles, including wheels and runners, were made in the shop. Many wagons and sleighs for farm use were also made by him.

As a hobby, he also bought and sold fancy driving horses and high bred heavy farm horses. In those early days, he was known as the best shoer of horses in the area. He loved to hunt, and among his hunting buddies were Reverend Fayolle, Pete Starken and John Helm, Sr.

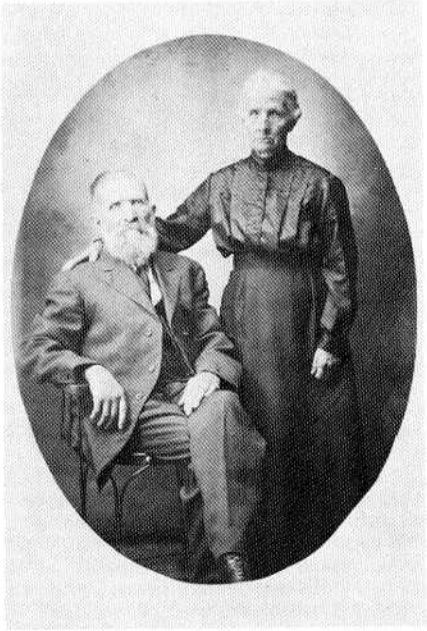
Mr. Puschinsky was born on March 1, 1865, at Hamilton, Ontario. He came to Minnesota at an early age and was engaged for a time as a salesman for a threshing machine company in Minneapolis. He later opened a blacksmith shop in Wells, Minnesota, where he met and married Ida Carlson, who had immigrated from Odeshog, Sweden. A few years later they closed the shop at Wells and moved to Red Lake Falls. They were both active in community work and Mrs. Puschinsky was a dedicated worker at the Presbyterian church. Mr. Puschinsky died on November 4, 1909 and Mrs. Puschinsky died on March 22, 1957.

Surviving, are two sons. They are Roland of St. Paul, Minnesota, who was employed by the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. and other phone companies for over half a century. After several years of work in communications he retired as a full colonel in the U.S. Air Force; and Vernon Pushing of Olivia, who is a retired newspaper editor and publisher following a professional career of some thirty-five years. Deceased are three sons; George of Fergus Falls, who died on February 23, 1972; Melville of Red Lake Falls, who died on November 28, 1943; and Leonard, who died soon after birth on September 11, 1909.

STEPHEN QUESNEL

Stephen Quesnel was born in 1842 at St. Anthony Quebec, Canada and married Elizabeth Christian. Seven children were born to them: Elizabeth, Celina, Sarah, Rose, William, Robert and Elsie. Before moving to Red Lake County, Stephen was captain on a ship on the St. Lawrence River until 1882 at which time he homesteaded in Terrebonne Township (lecher potate). He traveled by train to Crookston and by oxen to what is now Red Lake County. The Quesnel's built a log house which they lived in until 1900 when they built a frame house which still stands on the place, now remodeled and owned by Ralph Quesnell, a grandson. His wife, Elizabeth died in 1890. In 1891 he married Annie Lemay Quesnel also from Canada. She was the mother of six children by a previous marriage. They were Oliver, Tilly, Edmand, Archie, Joe and Lizzie. Three daughters were born to this union: Mable, Leah and Doria (mother of Mrs. Jude Dupont). The only survivor of this family is Leah, Mrs. Joe Theroux of Red Lake Falls.

Stephen passed away in 1922 and his wife in 1923.



Stephen and Annie Quesnel

Three of the children of this family, Elizabeth, Robert and Leah were lifetime residents of Red Lake County.

Elizabeth married Alcide Perusse; they had eight children: Ida, Joe, Ulrich, Della, Odina, Rose, Grace and Noella. Mrs. Perusse died in 1952.

Robert married Fedora Laurent daughter of Adelore Laurent and Belzimier Perruse in 1904.

Leah married Joe Theroux of this area and their children are Clinton, Rita, Eva Mae, Marvin, Barbara, Jean, Paul, Dorothy, Marc and Gary.

ROBERT QUESNEL

Robert, b. 1883, son of Stephen Quesnel and Elizabeth Christian was married to Fedora Laurent (b. 1882) daughter of Adelore Laurent and Belzimier Perusse. They built their home just one-half mile east of his father, Stephen Quesnel, on land given to him by his father.

Robert's farming consisted of grain and dairying. He and his family milked as many as 30 cows by hand, as milking machines were not in use at that time.

He also put up many tons of hay, at that time it was stacked in the field. Then during the winter the hay was baled and hauled on sleighs by horses to the nearby town (Mentor), loaded into box cars and shipped to farther destinations. These men would leave home in the very early morning with their loads and return after sundown. Many times it was too cold for them to ride their sleighs; they walked along side in order to keep warm.

Six children were born to this marriage, three still living in Red Lake County: Lorena who has lived on the home place the greater share of her life since the deaths of her father, Robert, and husband, Orville LaFayette in 1961; Ezella (Mrs. Anthony Schiefert) whose husband passed away in 1974, and who lives east of Terrebonne on her farm; Ralph, owner and operator of both his father's and grandfather's farms.

David who lived in Portland, Oregon died in 1973. Wallace lives in St. Paul and Buelah (Mrs. Merle Barrow) in Portland, Oregon. Robert was a school board member of Prairie Queen (District 80) for many years where all of his children got their elementary education. He was a strong believer in education and was determined that all his children have a high school education. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Quesnel celebrated their golden wedding anniversary July 10, 1954. Robert died March 13, 1960 and Fedora July 3, 1969 after living all their married life on the same farm in Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County.



Back: David, Ezella, Ralph and Wallace. *Front:* Beulah, Robert, Fedora and Lorena.

CARL G. QUIST FAMILY

My maiden name was Johanna A. Eastman and with my husband, Carl, and two sons, Carl Jr. age two and a half, and Rodger, age one, we came to Oklee in 1942 where Carl was to be the superintendent of the school for twenty-nine years. We have continued to make our home in Oklee since Carl retired four years ago.

Before we came to the Oklee community, Carl had graduated with a B.A. degree from Valley City State College in North Dakota and had begun work on his Master's degree at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, and has since completed that. His first teaching assignment was at Crary, North Dakota where he was also coach and where he especially remembers taking his teams on trains and staying overnight in small town hotels or private homes and waiting for the train the next day.

After that he was principal at Osnabrock, and after we were married, superintendent at Brocket, Ardoch, and Manvel before we came here. During the depression we were thankful he had a job at all but it wasn't easy making it on a $110 a month even if we did get a half-gallon pail of whole milk a day for five cents.

Carl's childhood home was Centuria, Wisconsin and his people were pioneers whose story was much like that told in the books *The Emigrants* and *Unto a Good Land* by Vilhelm Moberg. They came from the same part of Sweden, suffering many of the same hardships, and migrated to the same area, Taylors Falls and St. Croix Falls, but somewhat later so at least they weren't the first settlers there. Carl, being the youngest of that big Quist family, was often accused by the older ones of being spoiled but do give him credit for having worked his way through college and for having been an administrator of schools for forty years.

Now, more than ever, he has the fever to travel and we have gone from coast to coast, to the south and to the Canadian Rockies since we retired, but I guess he won't be quite happy until he gets at least as far north as Flin Flon. Right now we are getting ready to go to the west coast for nine months.



came from Pembina County in North ota and graduated from Grafton High ool, the last half of my senior year in a mal training course for being with hers with psychology and pedagogy gosh!) with much observation of hers at work in the grades and a few ks of practice teaching in a country ool. After passing tests, I was given a ficate qualifying me to teach in rural ools. Then I actually got a job — I n't quite eighteen yet — in a country room school where there were twenty- t pupils and all eight grades and I was $70 a month. This seemed a lot as my er had taught for $40 a month! I lived ugh it and even enjoyed that first year aching. The children were so dear and d — not a discipline problem among wenty-eight. I think the ones who were er than I must have been sorry for me ecided to help rather than hinder.

ut I must tell you about my first day at school. Being excited I got up very and hurried that two miles or so to ool only to find the door and windows ed! I walked back to my boarding place found that my landlady, that sweet, farm wife, had just forgotten to give the key. So again I trudged back six s before I got in! Anyway, teacher, as I called then, was the first person there, by four o'clock when the pupils left I a little tired and there was still the jani- ork to do and then another walk. Sup- was a welcome meal.

hat was the year banks closed all over country, ours "catching" the $200 I saved. Dad helped me to go to college what I could earn cooking in cook cars hreshing crews. I taught third and h grades in Martin and Crystal, North ota before that beautiful day in June 9 when Carl and I were married.

ow forty-six years later we have mostly y memories, many of them of right in e where we raised our two sons and yed our work and friends.

ur son, Rodger, and his wife Dian, and Kayla, Paul, and Letitia live in Little , Minnesota where Rodger is principal ncoln Elementary School. Our son, and his wife Agneta, and their John, a, and Freddy live in San Jose, Califor- where Carl Jr. has been a computer neer for many years.

ENE AND BETTY RADEKE

ene and Betty Radeke came to Red Falls in 1958 with their two sons Jeff, four, and Danny, then two. They ed from Fargo, North Dakota where e had been manager of the Westman Company.

Radeke took over the silo plant here and later bought the business, renaming it the Red Lake Falls Silo Company.

A third son, Douglas, was born in 1960. The couple built a new two story home on their property adjoining the silo plant in 1964.

American Legion and Auxiliary has been a big part of their lives. Gene was commander of the local post and has held several other offices. Betty was president of the local auxiliary and has served on many of its committees. She has also served as president of the Ninth District American Legion Auxiliary. A former Girl State Chairman, and Girl State counselor, Mrs. Radeke is currently serving on the Girl State finance committee.

Both Betty and Gene are avid golfers at Oak Knolls Club; of which Gene served as president for two years. Betty taught Sunday school at the Presbyterian Church.

Jeff is a junior at Bemidji State University, majoring in business administration. Danny is a sophomore at Bottineau School of Forestry, Bottineau, North Dakota. Douglas, at home, is a sophomore at Lafayette High School.



Rev. Roger Raebel Family

ROGER E. RAEBEL FAMILY

Rev. Roger E. Raebel, present pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls, arrived in the community with his family on April 30, 1966 and was installed in the local pastorate on May 1, 1966.

Pastor Raebel, his wife Phyllis, and the four children: Cynthia, David, Jared and Stephen came from ElDorado, Kansas concluding a ministry of about six years in that community. In earlier years of his ministry, the family had lived in Amenia, North Dakota and Dow City, Iowa.

Rev. Raebel has held board memberships with various institutions of the community: School Board (1971-1974), the board of St. John's Hospital (1972-1975), and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City (1968-). Besides these, he has shown voluntary interest and service in other community groups. Mrs. Raebel has acted as Executive Director of Fairview Manor, since its opening in 1970 and has participated in other community groups while keeping an active part in activities of St. John's Church. The children are active in local school activities. Cynthia, a graduate of Lafayette in 1974, is presently a student at Concordia College, St. Paul; David is in the Class of 1976 and is planning to attend the Technical School of the University of Minnesota, Crookston; Jared and Stephen are students at the public schools.

PAUL RAFFERTY AND IRENE VATTHAUER RAFFERTY

Irene Vatthauer (b. 1927) daughter of Henry Vatthauer and Laura Hagl, married Paul Rafferty in 1953. She is a graduate of LaFayette High School and the Grand Forks Deaconess School of Nursing. The Raffertys reside in Battle Creek, Michigan. Their children are: Patricia (b. 1955), Mary (b. 1956), Charles (b. 1958) and Joan (b. 1962).

Paul taught at Lafayette high school from 1950 to 1953 before the couple moved to Forest Lake where he taught for ten years. In 1963 he joined Horace Mann Insurance Company and remained in this field. Paul accepted a position as senior vice president of Marketing with the Federal Life and Casualty Insurance Company at Battle Creek, Michigan.

GEORGE RALPH

George Ralph, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Burroughs Ralph, was born September 16, 1860 at Huron County, Ontario, Canada. He had dreams of becoming a civil engineer. At the age of 15, his father wanted him to quit school and work on their farm. His mother encouraged him to seek his dreams of being an engineer. At the age of 17, he left home to earn money toward his college fund. He worked for an Alexander MacDonald for $150 per year, an Archie MacDonald for $180 a year, brother Joseph at Edmonton, Michigan for a few months, and in a lumber camp.

George then decided to go where he could earn money faster so headed for Fergus Falls where brother Tom was doing well as a contractor, earning his way as he traveled along. He then decided to go to Red Lake Falls, which was a new and booming town.

He landed in Red Lake Falls, July 2, 1881. Brother Tom followed. He did carpenter work and took small contracts for building sidewalks and clearing streets. He bought two lots and built a story and half house and sent for his mother, and those children still with her, to join him. They arrived on October 20, 1882. She had separated in 1878 from her husband who was depleting the family funds and farm with horse racing.

Encouraged by a Sunday School teacher, George studied and passed with the highest score in the examination, so he became a teacher at the NorthSide School, here in 1888 at $74 a month. The school had sixty pupils including his three sisters and two brothers. He became active in civic and political affairs. After renominating Judge Carruth for county superintendent of schools at a Republican convention, the judge in return helped him secure teaching certificates and schools for his three sisters, Elizabeth, Martha and Marie.

George Ralph finally had enough money for his college so he went on to school at Valparaiso, Indiana, where he received his engineering degree and met his future wife. Elizabeth earned her way through art school, Martha married her pupil and brother's partner Charles Bourdon and Marie became active in young women's groups. William was associated with Charles Bourdon in express deliveries and owned and ran a livery stable. The doctor asked him to nurse a fever-stricken salesman who came to Red Lake Falls. In three weeks both were dead of thyphoid fever (October 1896). Burroughs became a successful doctor in Kansas City.

There's a family story of Elizabeth Ralph visiting her son Burroughs in Kansas City. As a special treat he took her to a stage show which evidently had a chorus line, or at least dancing girls. She had never seen a show before but everything was just fine;

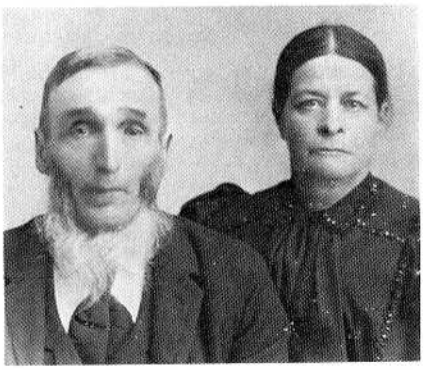
Elizabeth sitting there primly in her little black bonnet and shawl. Then the dancing girls in their abbreviated costumes appeared on stage. She was horrified and immediately turned her head away from the stage and insisted upon covering Burrough's eyes with her handkerchief!

When George Ralph and his bride arrived in Red Lake Falls in May 1887,.a band of painted, feathered Indians came galloping down the street on their ponies, shrilling their fierce "Yip, yip, ki, yi". She wanted to know if a person's hair grew back on after she's scalped.

George did much of the original surveying of northern Minnesota; the Red Lake Indian Reservation, Blackduck, Rainy River, Lake of the Woods, etc.

Personal anecdotes from George Ralph in 1889 while surveying for a Northern Pacific Branch Line: "At one point our survey line ran right through a large hay barn. I asked the farmer's wife, somewhat bewildered by the proceedings, to hold open the barn doors while I extended my line through the barn. Her mouth opened, 'Is your railroad going to run right on that line you are staking?' "I told her that would be the track's center line. She slammed the door shut. 'Well, if you think I'm going to hold these doors open every time a train goes through, you can stop right now! I've got plenty other work to do!' "

"One day an elderly Indian appeared at our camp. He had come a long way and hunting had been bad. He was very hungry. I had our cook fill him up with the best we had. He came back in less than a week with a saddle of venison. It weighed not less than thirty pounds, the choicest cut from a nice young buck, better than any lamb roast we had ever eaten. He insisted that I accept it as a present."



Pierre Raymond and wife Philomena.

RAYMOND FAMILY

Pierre Raymond was born on May 7, 1826 and lived in Corcoran Township, Hennepin County, Minnesota. In 1861, he married Philomene Patnode (b. March 11, 1838-d. April 16, 1901) and shortly after volunteered for the Army serving until 1865 when the Civil War ended. Pierre died in 1910 at the age of eighty-four. He is buried in the Huot cemetery.

In 1880 a party of families from the Hennepin County area came to what is now Louisville Township and filed claims for land. George Raymond was the seventh child in the family of thirteen children of Pierre and Philomene. The other children were Frank, Pierre, Jr., Celos, Cyprien, Joseph, Henry, Rosena (Mrs. Desroches), Mary (Mrs. J. B. Huot), Philomene (Mrs. Xavier Clement), Celina (Mrs. John Berry), Celeste and Alma. George was eleven years old when he came with his family from Hennepin County with Ox teams and wagons. The trip had many hardships and took three weeks. The Raymond family settled on land in section eleven, Louisville Township and soon built a log cabin and began clearing their land.

When the Raymond boys were old enough, they worked in the lumber camps and in the harvest fields in North Dakota.

In 1908 George Raymond married Noeme Carriere and in 1910 purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in section twelve of Louisville. Four children were born to them: Onezime (b. 1911-d. 1966), William (b. 1909) is presently living at Hillcrest Nursing Home, Dorothy (b. 1915) is Mrs. Rene Amiot and lives in Crookston, Felix Raymond (b. 1913). George Raymond died in 1955 at the age of eighty-five.

Three brothers of George Raymond, Joe, Peter and Cyprien, also farmed in Louisville Township. A school was built on the southeast corner of the Raymond homestead in the early 1900s. This was District 130 known as the Raymond School or Hilltop School.

Felix Raymond, son of George and Noeme, was born in 1913. He married Eva Perreault, daughter of Edward Perreault and Edna Rock Perreault of Terrebonne, in 1939. They farmed the Peter Raymond farm for two years before moving to Red Lake Falls. They have six children: Judy (b. 1941), Diane (b. 1943), Carol (b. 1945), Jim (b. 1948), Michael (b. 1950), and Wayne (b. 1955).

MYRON (DICK) RECK FAMILY

Dick and Grace were married April 9, 1947 near Walhalla, N.D. and lived on a farm they rented near Cavalier, N.D. Having the desire to own something of their own, they started looking for a farm and found the one they liked best here, 1 mile south and ½ mile east of Terrebonne which they bought in November 1948. Then they moved here in May of 1949. During the years, they have added more land and now own 820 acres.

They have three sons and three daughters. Milton, born March 18, 1948, is 27 and married and has two sons, Kurtis and Christopher. They own their home in Mentor where his wife Susan has her beauty salon. Mayo, born March 2, 1950, is 25 and served in the army 2 years. He was married this July 5, 1975 and they own their farm 4 miles south and 1 mile west of us. Diane, his wife, will be a Special Ed. teacher when she finishes this year at Moorhead. Milo, born June 13, 1951, is 24 and married and they own their farm ½ mile east and 1 mile south of us. Marilee, his wife, is a Social Worker employed at Hillcrest Nursing Home. Georgene, born December 6, 1953, is 21 and is married to Douglas Corbett. They live in Mason City, Iowa where Doug is a radio announcer and Georgene works at Penneys. Claudea, born May 14, 1957, is 18 and is working at Penneys in Thief River Falls. She will be attending NDSU at Fargo this fall to become a Home Economics teacher. Michelle, born October 6, 1964, is 10 and still attends school at Mentor.

They belong to the Brooks-Plummer Presbyterian Church in Plummer where both Dick and Grace have served several terms on the church session.

Dick has been chairman on the Mentor school board for many years, Terrebonne township board for many years, vocational board, and vocational governing board.

When they moved here Grace started the Terre Belles Homemakers Club. She has served as president of the Mentor P.T.A., is active in ladies aid (and is now the secretary); she was chairman of the Heart Fund, and is now the chairman of the United Fund for Terrebonne township.

Dick organized Reck Construction many years ago with his three sons carpentering with him. Milton also teaches the Carpenter vocational class in Red Lake Falls.

W. A. REICHEL

W. A. Reichel came to Red Lake Falls in 1888 from Dundas, Southern Minnesota and engaged in the photography business which he operated for many years. In 1894 he married Clara Krueger whose parents operated the Grand View Hotel. Seven children were born to the couple, five of whom are living: Alice Sheldon of Madera, California; Ruth Nicola of Riverside, California; Gladys Tucker of Temple City, California; Lowell Reichel of Alhambra, California and Leslie Reichel of Bakersfield, California. Mrs. Florence Balkins and Willard Reichel are deceased. The Reichel home in Red Lake Falls was built on the high bank of the Clearwater River, east of the Great Northern Depot.



Recks: Milton, Mayo, Myron, Douglas, Milo, Claude, Susan, Diane, Grace, Georgene, Marilee, Michelle, and grandsons, Kurtis and Christ Opher.



Halvor Reindal Family. Hulda, Ben, Tilly, Ted, Laura, Halvor and Gunhild and Emma.

HALVOR REINDAL AND GUNHILD KVALLEN REINDAL

Halvor Reindal was born in Telemarken, lorway and came to Albert Lea with his arents when he was a young man. Later ney moved to Iowa where he met Gunhild Kvallen whom he had known in Norway, nd who was to become his wife.

Gunhild had first come to the McFarland, Visconsin community in 1882 when she vas 18 years old. She later moved to Iowa vhere she met Halvor and they were mar- ed on July 12, 1886 in Mayville, in what vas then known as the Dakota Territory.

Mr. and Mrs. Reindal came to Equality ownship in this area in 1897 and estab- shed their homestead on the farm that is ow the home of the Lowell Enerson fam- y. The journey was made in a covered vagon with their four children: Ted, Ben- ie, Julia, and Tillie.

At Christmas time in 1897, the Reindals ffered their home as a place of worship nd friends and neighbors gathered there. heir daughter Hulda was baptized at this rst service of what was later to become ne present Clearwater Congregation. The ev. A. A. Opegaard of McIntosh con- ucted this service. When a church was uilt, Halvor assisted in hauling the lumber sed in its construction. He served many ffices in the congregation including trea- urer for many years and Gunhild was an ctive worker with the Ladies Aid Group.

Mr. Reindal served on the school board nd town board for many years. He was rst in the area to have a telephone stalled and many emergency calls went ut from their home. He was always ready o lend a helping hand to his neighbors in me of need.

Eight children were born to Halvor and unhild Reindal. Their first child, a daugh- r, died at the age of two on the day that ne second child, Theodore, was born. heodore resides on a farm north of Trail. ennie is at present living in Duluth. Two aughters, Mrs. Albert Berget (Tillie) and lrs. Andrew Fore (Laura) live in the village f Oklee. Mrs. Herbert Mickelson (Emma) ves in Ridgeland, Wisconsin. There were vo other daughters, Mrs. Grunde Qualley Hulda) who died in 1960 and Mrs. Julia raff who passed away in 1973.

In 1927 the Reindals sold their farm to heir son-in-law, Albert Berget. They noved to Thief River Falls where they pent four years. Later they moved to Oklee where they lived for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Reindal were privileged to observe their golden wedding anniversary in 1936. Five of their children have also celebrated their golden anniversaries.

Mr. Reindal passed away in 1937. Gunhild spent six years in McIntosh with her daughter Emma and her husband who operated Mickey's Cafe. She spent the last few years of her life in good health at the Sunset Memorial Home in McIntosh. She died July 30, 1967 at the age of 103. She was survived by a total of 100 descendants.



Theo. Reindal wedding.

THEODORE REINDAL FAMILY

Theodore Reindal came to Equality township, Red Lake County, with his parents, one brother, and two sisters from rural Cooperstown, No. Dakota, in 1897. The years had been too dry and they hadn't had any crops for a few years. They traveled by covered wagon, had twelve head of cattle, and it took them about one week to arrive in east Equality Twp. where his father homesteaded nine miles north east of Oklee.

Theodore was united in marriage to Valborg Bjorgum in December 1913. She came from McIntosh to teach in school District #8, later called the Shadow Lawn School. They resided on different farms in Equality Twp., finally in 1923 settling on one of his father's farms where he and one of his sons are still living.

In June 1964 Mr. and Mrs. Reindal celebrated their golden wedding in the Clearwater Lutheran Church. Nine children are Evelyn Lillo of Roseau, Gladys Reindal and Dellys Hill of Minneapolis, Leonard and Harold Reindal of Trail, Olga Dahlen of Goodridge, Sidney Reindal of Tower, Corinne Roisland of Thief River Falls, and Kent Reindal of Story, Wyoming. Mrs. Reindal passed away in 1968.

The roads in the area were narrow and muddy when wet, and no snow plows went in the winter, so it wasn't so easy to get around. Mr. Reindal had an early model T Ford, so the roads weren't quite so long in the summer as in the winter, when sleighs and horses had to be used. Mail was brought from Rudell three times a week. Eggs were exchanged for groceries in Oklee, and cream was taken to the creamery at Rolandson and later to River Valley.

In the fall, Mr. Reindal took wheat to Terrebonne to be ground into flour, and later he and a neighbor went to Thief River Falls and bought a ton of flour together. A hundred pound sack of sugar was also purchased. Peddlers would also come to the homes. The McConnons and Rawleigh men would sell spices, home remedies, and other household necessities.

Mr. Reindal was an avid hunter and trapper. Rabbits and deer were hunted for meat, muskrats and mink trapped for their fur. He and a neighbor also hunted wolves for bounty, which brought $25.00 apiece. Once he shot a bear with one shot. The little dog with him ran up to the bear, that grabbed it and with one swipe of his paw the dog was dead. It was also the end of the bear, as it was shot through the stomach.

Mr. Reindal farmed, had his own machine repair shop, a sawmill, did threshing in the neighborhood, and later was a well driller. At the age of 19 years, he built a well drilling machine and drilled the well on his father's farm which is still being used. He also made his own sawmill to saw lumber. The first machines were made of wood so didn't last too long. The third one was made of iron and is still in use. Now at the age of 86, Theodore still does some machine repair work.

JOHN A. REINSCHMIDT

John A. Reinschmidt was born in Germany in 1848 and came to America at the age of twenty-one, making his home at Maxwell, Iowa. Mrs. Reinschmidt (Philaben Stemlen) was born in 1868 in Stony County, Iowa. They were married in 1884. Children born in Iowa were Mary, Fred, Anna, Ida, Frank, Albert and Otto.

In the fall of 1901 the family moved to Red Lake County, and settled in Terrebonne Township where Edward, Clarence, August, Oscar and Gladys were born. All of these children attended school at the Prairie Queen school district No. 80 except Gladys. Mrs. Reinschmidt served on the school board for two terms and it was her daughter Mary who named the school "Prairie Queen."

The boys hauled milk to the cheese factory of Terrebonne in a buggy pulled by an ox, a distance of about three and a half miles. Later the family moved to Crook-

ston, in 1916, when another daughter, Doris, was born.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinschmidt have passed away and so did eight of their children. Survivors of the family of thirteen are: Otto of Chula Vista, California, Gladys of Crookston, Clarence in Brainerd, Oscar of Detroit Lakes and Doris of Little Falls.

GEORGE REMICK FAMILY

George Remick, born December 21, 1877 and Antoinette (Nettie) Heiker born December 11, 1882 near Northfield both grew up there on farms. They were married in 1900 and moved to Donnybrook, North Dakota where they settled on a farm until 1917. Six children were born there: Joe, Dan, Marion Aho, Nettie Perreault, Helen Brule and George Jr. The family later moved to Red Lake County, Lake Pleasant Township, near Badger Creek, buying the farm from Evangelist Quesnell. They were neighbors to O. Robillard, L. E. Slyter, LaChance, Demann, and the Luxumberg families. They did a little small grain farming and had a few cows, sheep and pigs. This farm is now owned by Vernon Knaack. Four children were born here: Bernard, Edward, Kevin and Kenneth. George was very active in community affairs, Farm Bureau, served on the school board and township board. He was the treasurer on the County Agricultural Adjustment Act Committee. He also was one of the original organizers of our local REA and helped serve as one of the first directors.

Mrs. Remick was very active in church activities and was one of the county leaders in 4-H Clubs. She was on the Red Lake County Agricultural Association board. They were both active and devoted a lot of time to the County Fairs.

The Remicks were very interested in higher education and sent two of their older children, Dan and Marion to Lafayette High School, driving every day with horse and buggy or sleigh in the winter time. In the early 1930's Mrs. Remick was one of the organizers to get the first school bus from Terrebonne to transport high school students. The bus was a homemade converted grain truck operated by Philip Dupont. My memory of this school bus was that there was a small wood heater in the middle of it and we used to sit on benches around it. I can remember that this school bus was also used to haul Terrebonne kids into Red Lake Falls to attend the show on Sunday afternoons for a nickel a ride.

The George Remicks were members of St. Mary's Catholic Church and are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. Mrs. Remick died in October, 1938 and Mr. Remick died in February, 1950.

Our family is scattered over the United States: Joe is married and a retired employee from the Ohio Murray bicycle factory, living in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee; Dan married Dora Roy and was a rural mail carrier in Bagley. He passsed away in 1966. Marion (Mrs. Ed Aho) is a retired librarian, living in Cleveland, Ohio; Nettie (Mrs. George Perreault) is a retired housewife and is living in Brooks; Helen (Mrs. Adrain Brule) is a retired housewife and is living near Red Lake Falls; George Jr. married to Cecilia Valley, is an auto partsman living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Bernard married Madeline Amiot and is president of Valley State Bank in Libby, Montana; Edward is married and superintendent of the Industrial Arts Department in the Lansing school system, Lansing, Michigan. Kevin married and is manager of the Student Union Center at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas; Kenneth married Charlotte St. Ives and is an electrical contractor in Red Lake Falls.



KENNETH AND CHARLOTTE (ST. IVES) REMICK

Ken and Charlotte are both natives of Red Lake Falls whose parents were the George Remicks Sr. and the Eli St. Ives, farmers in the Terrebonne area. Ken was born in 1927 on the family farm, attended grade school at the Badger School and graduated from Lafayette High School Class of 1944. Ken served in World War II in the Philippine Islands in the U.S. Navy as a Yeoman aboard an LST ship. After his discharge from the service, he worked for R.&D. Electric Service in Red Lake Falls, owned by Ray Rose and Peter Drees.

Charlotte St. Ives, daughter of Eli and Edna St. Ives, was born in 1927, attended grade school at the Beau Gerlot School and graduated from Lafayette High School in 1945. Ken and Charlotte married in 1948 and moved to the Eli St. Ives farm which they purchased and began farming, milking cows, feeding pigs and chickens. At this date they are still farming the land in small grains, with the help of the boys.

Ken and Charlotte have six children: Allen of Red Lake Falls who is married to Lois Casavan; Mary (Mrs. Don Weis) of Pine Island, Minnesota; Betty, a medical technologist at Bethesda Lutheran Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota; and Russell, Barbara and Charles who are at home. They also have two granddaughters, Tricia Weis and Jannelle Remick.

In 1965 Ken purchased the R.&D. Electric Service which was renamed Ken's Electric, with a shop located on Third Street. Two sons, Allen and Russell, attended electrical vocational school and joined the firm, with three other employees. Since the business began, it has become one of the larger commercial and residential electrical contractors in the area.

The Remick's are members of St. Anthony's Catholic Church of Terrebonne. Ken is active in community and civic organizations, served on the township board, on church council, and is a past commander of the American Legion Gunder Austad Post #22. Charlotte served as clerk on the rural school board (Beau Gerlot School) for a number of years and is now president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

ALLEN REMICK AND LOIS CASAVAN REMICK

Allen Remick and Lois Casavan were both born in Crookston and raised in Red Lake Falls. Their parents are Kenneth Remick and Charlotte St. Ives Remick and Lawrence and Eleanor Wieland Casavan.

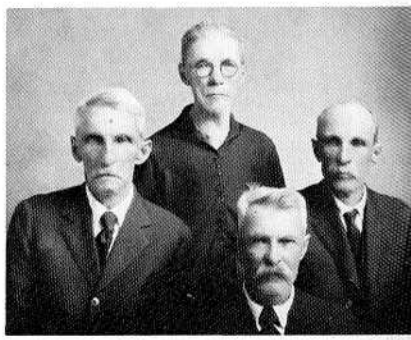
Allen and Lois attended LaFayette High School and graduated in 1967. Allen studied to be an electrician for two years at the Anoka Area Vocational School and is presently employed with his father at Ken's Electric Inc. in Red Lake Falls. Lois has been employed at the Red Lake County State Bank for the last six years.

Allen and Lois were married on August 25, 1973 and have one daughter, Janelle Lynn. They live east of Red Lake Falls on a farm.

EUCLID REOPELLE SR. FAMILY

Some time in the 1750's (French and Indian War, 1754-63) Joseph, Jean and Louis Riopelle came to America as soldiers of the French Army. (The name Riopelle is the correct French spelling. The name Reopelle appears on all school records at a later date). After the young men got out of the army, they did not return to France. Jean migrated to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Louis migrated to New York and Joseph settled in Quebec, Canada where he was a cabinet maker and a farmer.

Joseph married Philangie Beauchamp and they became the parents of four children, Joseph Jr., Armelene, Delphis, and Euclid. In 1878 Euclid and his brother Joseph Jr., left Quebec to homestead in the Red River Valley. They traveled to Minnesota via the Great Lakes waterways and found work clearing land for a railroad being built northwest to St. Vincent, Minnesota. Arriving in the Dakota Territory at Pembina, they filed claims near the Red River four miles southeast of what is now the village of Joliette, North Dakota, then a small but thriving French Canadian settlement. The first houses were built of sod. Joseph Jr. and Euclid built theirs of oak logs that were plentiful on their claim along the river. They had sod covered roofs.



Four brothers, Joseph, Armelene, Adolph and Euclid Reopelle.

The first two winters they spent working for the railroad in Minnesota and came back in summer to prove their claims. In 1880 they were joined by their sister, Armelene, and her husband, Victor Charigo and her brother Delphis. Delphis also took claims on the same section of land and built homes there.

In 1886 Euclid made a trip to Red Lake Falls to buy some farm machinery and a friend introduced him to Miss Elizabeth Baril, the daughter of Norbert Baril who homesteaded one and a half miles southwest of Red Lake Falls in 1877. Her mother, Valerie Ferland, came from Quebec, Canada, where Elizabeth was born in 1867.



rge and Dora Reopelle with Grace and Nor-

izabeth and Euclid were married in St. eph's Church in Red Lake Falls in 3. After their marriage they returned to home in North Dakota. Six children e born there: Victor, Euclid Jr., Leon- lldage, Diana, and Aurora.

1898 the terrible flood of the Red r forced my dad to move his family, tock, and personal belongings eight s west to the nearest place of safety. oldest child was ten and the baby was ut two months old. About ten families e already sheltered in the small build- that were on this farm. After the water ded, they returned home to find three of mud on the first and the second rs. There was a total destruction of s, animals, and parts of buildings.

uclid, my dad, came to Red Lake Falls bought four hundred acres of land, ost covered with large hard wood trees, miles south and two and one half miles of Red Lake Falls along the south side ne Clearwater River. Section thirty-one in Gervais Township and section six in ebonne Township. He sold the land in h Dakota.

e loaded all his belongings, horses, livestock in box cars and his family in passenger train and arrived at Crook- , the end of the railroad line.

ith the help of Grandfather Baril and e neighbors, they were moved to their home. The log house which was on and was replaced the next summer by ge house, and the following summer, a e barn and a granary were built. There a lot of hard work clearing the land of trees which were sold for fuel. Times e hard, so my dad hired four or five ng men to chop wood for their board, fifty cents a day. In the summer time ired older men to dig out the stumps grub hoes at a dollar a day and board. was fortunate to have a middle-aged from Belgium to grub out stumps for . For many years this Belgian man ked in lumber camps in the winter, and y summer he would return to help Dad r land.

he children attended the Badger ool and the family attended the St. eph's Catholic Church in Red Lake . I was quite young but I remember the uggy with a top, two seats, side cur- s, and the horses that took us all to rch.

he farms got larger and so did the fam- Five more children were born: Albert at the age of 26, Roseanna died at of fourteen, George passed away at age of six, and Phillip died in infancy. Then there was I, George II, still living.

In 1912, Dad built a house in Red Lake Falls. It is the Z. C. Picard home today. The following year he divided the land into three farms. The Euclid Jr. home place now belongs to Pat Hanson, Victor's farm is now owned by his son Maurice, and Ildage's land is owned by his son Rene. The rest of the family moved to town.

I, George, attended St. Joseph's School for ten years. In 1933 I married Cora Dondoneau. Dad bought an eighty-acre farm for us six miles east of Red Lake Falls in Gervais Township. We are the parents of two children: Grace, Mrs. Leonard Fehr of Franklin, Wisconsin and Norman Reopelle of Rochester, Minnesota where he teaches biology at the Rochester State Junior College. A son, Vern died in infancy. We have two grandchildren, Jeffery and Cindy Fehr. Cora and I still live on the farm.

I have two brothers living. Euclid Jr. is eighty-five and living in Red Lake Falls, Ildage is eighty-two and is in a nursing home in McIntosh. I also have one sister, Mrs. Diana Boucher, eighty, living in Oklee. I, George, am sixty-six.

KENNETH AND SUSAN BARIL REYNOLDS

Kenneth Reynolds, son of Cyrus and Lola Reynolds, was born in San Saba, Texas, and spent his early childhood there. He came with his parents to Minnesota in 1956, living on a farm in Polk County, and attending high school in Mentor.

In 1959 he married Susan Baril, youngest daughter of Theophile and Myrtle Baril. She was born and grew up in Red Lake Falls, attending Lafayette High School and Bemidji State College. They lived for a short time in rural Crookston where Kenneth was employed and Susan worked at St. Francis Hospital. Later they moved to Red Lake Falls where they now live, and Kenneth is employed by Stordahl Trucking Lines of Thief River Falls.

They have three children: Kevin in high school, Barbara in seventh grade, and Kurt who is two years old. Susan and Ken are sports enthusiasts and support the activities of their children.

THADDEUS RICHARD

Thaddeus Richard was born near Quebec, Canada in 1843, the eighth child in a family of eighteen children. His parents, August and Mary Blanchard Richard were French Canadians. His (August's) Grandfather and Grandmother had been natives of France.

Thaddeus Richard worked on a farm with his father until he reached his majority. In 1865 he immigrated to Bangor, Maine, where he worked in the woods and was also employed as a sexton of the Catholic Church. He attended school in Canada for about six months, and always had a great desire for learning. The parish priest in Bangor, Maine, aware of his interest, taught him to read fluently in French. Later as his children grew up and attended school, he studied with them and became proficient in the English language as well.

Leaving Maine in 1868, he visited a brother in Dayton, Minnesota. It was here he met and married Emilie Derouin in 1868. They lived in Minneapolis and Anoka for some time.

Emilie Derouin was born at Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada in 1848. When she was a young girl, she came to Minneapolis with her family.

In April 1877, Teddy went North with Pierre Bottineau a "Coureux de bois" (a runner of the woods, a scout) to the government lands of Polk County. In April of that year, he filed a claim to land in Section 21 of Red Lake Falls. This is now in Red Lake County. His wife and family followed later with a caravan that came to what is now Red Lake Falls. The trip from Anoka took three weeks and was made in a covered wagon drawn by oxen. There were no bridges this side of St. Cloud. It was quite a problem to cross some of the streams. They lived on this tract of land in Section 21 until 1883, when he disposed of the same and purchased land in Section 34 of Browns Creek Township, which to this day, has been owned by direct descendants of Teddy and Emilie Richard.

Emilie's parents settled in Louisville Township on what is now the Roland Brule farm. Her brother and his wife, Alphonse and Arelie Derouin, lived on the family farm for many years. At the time of negotiations of the "Old Crossing Treaty" Indians camped on the Derouin farm.

Teddy Richard came to this country without means, and after erecting a log house and getting his family settled, he had but a team of oxen and fifteen dollars of personal property. In a few years, Teddy and Emilie built a frame house, one of the first ones in the country. The lumber was hauled from the sawmill in Crookston, the closest one at that time. Like many of the



Thaddeus Richard Family. *Front:* Josephine, Mr. Richard, Mayme, Mrs. Richard, Ida and Ernest. *Back:* Mary, Fred, John, George, Frank, Edward and Clara.



Frank Richard, policeman

pioneers, he forged the square nails that were used to build their home. He became one of the substantial and well-to-do farmers of the country. As he had had no outside assistance, he was truly a self made man.

Emilie was especially adept at knitting and handiwork, which she taught to her daughters and many others. Through the years Emilie and daughter Mayme sold much knitting and handiwork for special orders of the Arts and Crafts Shop in Crookston operated by daughters, Mrs. Ida Swanson and Clara Richard.

To this union were born sixteen children eleven of whom grew to adulthood. They were named as follows:

Mary (Mrs. William Marleau Sr.); Edward; Frank; Ida (Mrs. S. A. Swanson); Mayme; Clara; Ernest; John; George and Josephine (Mrs. Roy Stainbrook) who is the sole survivor. Ida, Fred, Clara, George and Josephine started out as teachers. George and John served in World War I.

Teddy took interest in civic affairs and served as a member of the town board and aided in local government. He was a life long member of the Democratic party. He was affiliated with the Holy Catholic Church. He retired in 1917.

Most social activities centered around church, school and helping one another. Holidays and anniversaries were usually noted with neighborhood gatherings. Home parties and dances at Wylie were interesting stories recounted through the years. Song fests, card-playing and dancing were the usual home party entertainment. These pioneers told how they lived "off the land" at times. Wild game, fish, fruits and berries added variety to their diet. They dried vegetables and herbs; salted, cured or smoked meats to preserve them using large stoneware crocks for this. Vegetables were also salted and preserved in brine. Root vegetables kept well in their cellars. Home churned butter (sold at that time for fourteen cents a pound), eggs and other produce were sold to the stores and traded for supplies that were needed. Homes were heated with firewood. Houses were banked to the windows to help insulate the floors and basements for the winter. Doctors came to their homes to care for their medical needs. When they talked of their early life, it was usually of the happy times and how "Life was Good."

Mr. Richard died in 1920 and Mrs. Richard died in 1933.

FRANK RICHARD HISTORY

Frank Richard was born at Anoka, November 1, 1874, the son of Thaddeus and Emilie Derouin Richard and came to Red Lake Falls with his parents when a small child. He attended the rural school and farmed with his father. Frank never married but made his home with his parents and a sister, Mayme.

When he was a young man, he purchased a steam engine and grain separator, and with help of his brothers, Fred, John and George, did custom work for neighbors. Frank worked in the logging camps and took part in the log drives to the sawmills at Red Lake Falls and St. Hilaire and before prohibition, he tended bars in Red Lake Falls. He was a carpenter and worked at this trade in and around Red Lake Falls and continued this occupation after moving into Red Lake Falls in 1917. Frank became Chief of Police in Red Lake Falls in 1927 which position he held until his retirement in 1946. The following 1927 "contract" may be of interest: "Resolved that the salary of the Supt. of Police shall be $1,200.00 per year payable monthly, further that the duties of such officer in addition to his police duties, shall, without additional compensation, perform the duties of Fire Warden, City Water pumper, Fireman at City Hall, Water tank and pump house, attend to the turning on and off the city water for individual users when necessary, and he shall also have charge of the City lighting system. He shall also have charge of the fire apparatus and give this apparatus his closest care."

Frank and Mayme raised a niece, Dorothy Mae Richard, the daughter of Edward and Mabel Daugherty Richard, following the death of her mother at her birth.

Frank Richard died July 26, 1958.

FRED RICHARD FAMILY

Fred Richard was born in Red Lake Falls in 1881, the son of Thaddeus and Emilie Derouin Richard. In 1883 his parents moved from Sec. 21 of Red Lake Falls Township to Sec. 34 of Brown's Creek Township. His parents were both French Canadians who were born near Quebec, Canada.

Orore Huot was born in 1884 in Parnell Township, Polk County, the daughter of Leon and Olympe Cuillerier Huot. When she was five years old her parents moved to Sec. 33 of Wylie Township where she resided until her marriage. Her parents were French Canadians who were born near Quebec and Montreal.

Fred attended the rural school through the 8th grade and worked with his father on the farm. He then left home and went to Red Lake Falls, where he worked at various jobs while he attended high school. At harvest time, he and his brothers John, George and Frank were the crew that operated the steam engine and grain separator owned by Frank. The runs were usually long, so many years they did not start school until November first. Fuel for the steam engines was often times just straw, so it was quite a job to keep the engine properly stoked for steam to run the separator. Fred worked on various steam engine crews until the advent of gas tractors, and these he also ran. That required less work than the steam engines.

Fred graduated from the Red Lake Falls high school where he took part in football and debate. After leaving high school, he taught in various rural schools in the county. He also played baseball and was a



Fred and Orore Richard, Attendants: Mayme Richard and Theodore Huot

catcher on some of the early local teams.

In 1907 Fred Richard and Orore Huot were married at Louisville (now Huot) by Rev. Father Bouchard. Following their marriage they moved to St. Paul where they lived for a while, then moved to Dorothy, Minnesota. In 1911 they moved to Red Lake Falls.

Fred was a mechanic and steam engine operator. He worked at Findeisens, Jensens, and Evans, and Peoples Auto Company garages as a mechanic and salesman. Automobiles were new in those days and Fred taught many people to drive their cars. Some of these who were not too confident at the wheel, had him drive their cars on trips to Crookston, Grand Forks and Thief River Falls, usually to meet someone coming to the area on the train. He was also employed at Steinert Milling Company, engineer at the Tow Mill and for NRA (National Re-employment Association). For some years prior to his leaving for California in 1942, he was employed by the Minnesota State Railroad and Warehouse Commission. He was employed as an electrician in the shipyards from 1942 until a short time before his death.

In the years he lived in Red Lake Falls, Fred was active in the Fire Department. He was a member of the early drill teams and at one time was Fire Chief. He took great interest in politics and people. During World War I many people who were educated in French, but could not read English, brought their letters from their sons in service for him to read and interpret for them. His father Thaddeus often entertained with his fine tenor voice, but Fred told his stories.

Mrs. Richard was active in church affairs of St. Joseph's Church, the family parish. She was a member of St. Anne's Society and the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters.

Nine children were born to this union: Joseph (who died at birth); Walter (Jack); Grace (Mrs. William Hallameck); Raymond; Edgar; Daniel; Teddy; Donna (Mrs. Sheldon Meyer) and Patricia (Mrs. Robert N. Hosea). Walter and Daniel served in World War II, and Daniel was killed in France. Mr. Richard died in 1949 and Mrs. Richard died in 1940.



E. G. (DUTCH) ROBERTSON

Having made an agreement to purchase e clothing store owned by Max Ingber, utch and Florence Robertson came to ed Lake Falls in the fall of 1926, and took ossession of the business in January 927. In time, they expanded their retail othing business to include a store in oseau and a men's clothing store in Red ake Falls. The Robertson's continued to perate the two Red Lake Falls stores until 955, when the Style Shop was sold to ois Helm and the men's store to Gus Gerch.

Dutch was born January 17, 1896, in rgyle where he subsequently graduated om high school. Prior to World War I, he udied law for three years at the University f Minnesota. After serving in the infantry France for two years, he continued his udies at a law office in Fargo and was dmitted to the North Dakota Bar in 1921.

Florence had grown up in South Dakota nd graduated from the University of North akota. Prior to her marriage she was a ome economics teacher in Argyle.

An interest in business pursuits seemed nore desirable than the practice of law, so utch never did set up a law office. nstead, he and Florence were active in etail clothing stores, a wholesale applince company in Sioux Falls, South akota, and a finance company.

Dutch was a director of the Red Lake ounty State Bank and of the Twin Valley ank. After the "crash" and the closing of anks, Dutch was active as the chairman f a banking committee, whose objective as to provide some sort of banking servce for Red Lake Falls.

It should be of interest to relate how Red ake Falls solved its banking problems durng those trying times. An office was set up n the County Treasurer's Office, under the irection of Clarence Orr. Here merchants ould bring checks to be cashed, or to ave deposits made in a bank operated by George Beito of Gonvick. Beito would ring in sufficient silver coins or bills to take are of the needs of the Red Lake Falls ommunity, and he would redeem the hecks that accumulated during the week. his service enabled the merchants to arry on their businesses in much the ame manner as when the bank was operting.

Mr. Beito was encouraged to open a ank in Red Lake Falls, but he was not uite ready to act. In the meantime, the bank in Middle River showed interest in moving to Red Lake Falls.

Walter Johnson, then manager of the Middle River Bank, set up some requirements for the community to meet before he would move his bank. It was necessary to have 30 shares of bank stock purchased in Red Lake Falls in order to show good faith, and to also qualify three directors who would each be required to have ten shares. No one in the community would consider the purchase of ten shares of bank stock at that time.

To meet this contingency, a holding company was formed to own 30 shares which were paid for by individuals who were willing to risk the purchase of one share that they transferred to the Holding Company. While these arrangements with the Holding Company and Court House Exchange may not have been strictly legal all the way, they did solve a serious problem for the benefit of all.

This story from the past is related to show that the people in Red Lake Falls were able to meet a serious situation during hard times. They have continued to come up with answers as other problems have had to be faced. That is one reason why the Red Lake Falls community has prospered during the years.

Dutch was active in the American Legion, Masonic Lodge, Commercial Club, and was Chairman of the School Board for several years. The Robertsons now live in Sarasota, Florida, yet he continues to maintain a residence in Red Lake Falls. Fifty years of living in this most favored community are not soon forgotten.

CALIXTE ROBIDOUX

Calixte and Louisa Parenteau Robidoux emigrated from Quebec, Canada to the United States in the year 1900. They settled at the old townsite of Lambert and Mr. Robidoux started practicing his trade of cheese making. By 1904 the factory had progressed so that he was awarded by the State of Minnesota a silver cup for his fine cheese making.

He operated the factory until 1916 when he decided to move to section 16 of Terrebonne township and started a factory there. By 1924 the business was too big for one man. He had a young nephew, A. J. Parenteau, in Quebec who wanted to learn the cheese making trade so Mr. Robidoux sent for him. In 1926 Mr. Parenteau decided he wanted a factory of his own and went to Brooks to start one and that factory is still in operation.

Mr. Robidoux passed away in 1928 and the factory was abandoned. Mrs. Robidoux passed away in 1966. Of that union there were six children, Aurelius deceased, Mrs. Frank Switzer (Cecelia), Mrs. Laframboise (Bertha), Mrs. Bjarnason (Adelaide) all of Minneapolis. Royal of East Grand Forks, and Mrs. Clinton Theroux (Pauline).



Mr. and Mrs. Calix Robidoux

NARCISSE ROBIDOUX

Since 1888 the Robidoux farm in Poplar River Township, located half a mile east and half a mile south of Brooks, Minnesota has been operated by Narcisse Robidoux Sr. or one of his male descendants. The farm is now owned by the founder's great grandson, Dwight Robidoux, whose son Clayton is the fifth generation to live on the farm over a span of 86 years.

Narcisse Robidoux homesteaded the farm in 1888 when he came to Red Lake County from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He married Azelda Juneau in St. Francis Xavier church in Lambert with Father Fasch performing the ceremony.

First buildings on the farm were a log house and barn, both with sod roofs. Brush and timber were cleared by hand as the pioneer couple worked to farm with oxen. Later they purchased horses and were able to raise livestock and begin grain farming.

A new four-room log house was built in 1898 and seven of the eight children of Narcisse and Azilda were born in that house. A barn of lumber boards was built in 1902 and other buildings added later. In 1914 an eight room, two story house was built, and the last of the eight children, Olivene, was born there.

Children included were Napolean, Mary (Mrs. Pat Audette), Albina (Mrs. Louis Desautel), Narcisse Jr. and Ralph, now deceased, Peter and Olivene (Mrs. John Mattala) of Pequot Lakes.

Narcisse Sr. was active in church and community work. He did the local blacksmithing for people of the area before the village of Brooks came into being. For many years he was secretary of the school board. His wife was active in church work and a member of the Ladies of St. Anne Society.

Peter bought the farm in 1923 and the elder Robidoux couple moved into a home in Brooks where they lived until Narcisse Sr. died in 1930 and Azilda in 1958.

Peter was married to Deloise Payment by Father Bouchart in St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Terrebonne in 1922. They had two children, Lloyd and Dellas (Mrs. Luverne Felling) both now living at Brooks. Peter operated the farm as a stock and grain farm, built a dairy barn in 1939 and added new buildings, some of which replaced older structures. A water system was added in 1929 with a hand made windmill providing power. Electricity was added to the farm in 1940.

Peter was active in community and church affairs. He served on the township board for 42 years, the ASC committee from its beginning in the 1930's and was one of the organizers of the Farmers Co-op Elevator Association and the Brooks Co-op Oil Company. He also served as president of the elevator board and was on the oil company board for many years.

Mrs. Robidoux was a member of the Ladies of St. Anne, the Sew and Save Homemakers Club, the Hollyhock Garden Club and was involved in much church and charity work.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Robidoux received the Red River Valley Farmer and Homemaker Award in 1957 at the RRV Winter Shows. They now reside at the senior citizen housing units in Brooks.

Lloyd Robidoux purchased the farm in 1948, raised beef and dairy cattle and practiced crop rotation. He also improved productivity of the land by installing drainage ditches. A loafing barn for beef cattle was built, the house remodeled, eight steel



Robidouxs, five generations.

granaries and a double garage and two hay sheds built. Lloyd married Inez Hickman in 1945 in St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Larimore, North Dakota. Their five children include Sandrea (Mrs. Steven Zuintana) of Broomfield, Colorado; Dwight, Zodi and Echo at Brooks and Steven deceased.

Lloyd served on the elevator board, school board, A.A.S. and F.H.A. boards, is president of the Farmers Oil Company and has served on the church council.

His wife was active in community and church work, as a member of the Ladies of St. Ann, educational director for the Farmers Union local and a member of the Ladies Guild. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Robidoux were group leaders for the Mayflower 4-H Club. They now live in a new home which Lloyd and Dwight built one eighth of a mile north of the home place.

Dwight bought the farm in 1973. He raises beef cattle and sheep and produces mostly hay and feed grains. Dwight served one and a half years in the U.S. Army. He is presently clerk of Poplar River Township board, treasurer of the school board and on the supervisory committee of the Credit Union.

Dwight married Mary Laumback in Christ the King Catholic Church in Presko, South Dakota in 1971 with Msgr. A. B. Grady officiating. They have one son Clayton and a daughter, Amber Michelle born October 6, 1975.

NAPOLEON ROBIDOUX

Both Napoleon Robidoux and his wife, Laura Fournier, were born in Red Lake County, he the son of Narcisse Robidoux and Ozilda Juneau and Laura the daughter of Toussaint Fournier and Melvina Boucher. They were married April 12, 1915 in Terrebonne and farmed in Poplar River township.

Children are John, Maria (Mrs. Melvin Boucher), Rose (Mrs. Norman Boucher), Xavier, Alice (Mrs. Robert Gluemke), Lucille Bluemke, Margaret and Robert.

Napoleon Robidoux died December 2, 1968 and Mrs. Robidoux November 30, 1966.

THE TRIFFLE ROBIDOUX HISTORY

Mr. and Mrs. Triffle Robidoux both came from Canada. Triffle Robidoux who came from Montreal married Olivine Juneau of Quebec in 1889 in St. Francis Xavier church in Lambert Township.

They lived in Poplar River Township until 1915, then moved to Red Lake Falls. Mrs. Robidoux was a midwife assisting families in Poplar River Township and in the Brooks area. After moving to Red Lake Falls, she served as an assistant to Dr. J. A. Roi for many years.

Triffle died in 1942 and Olivine in 1944. They did not have a family.

OVILLA ROBILLARD

In 1878 Ovilla Robillard, at the age of seven, came with his parents, Desiree and Elizabeth Deschense Robillard from Quebec Canada. They homesteaded on section nine in Terrebonne Township at Badger Creek. The family consisted of five sons and two daughters: Joseph, Telesphore, Aristide, George, Ovilla, Elodia (Mrs. Joe LaChance) and Felicite (Mrs. Mose Ducharme).

Mr. Robillard with the help of his four sons built a log cabin which housed twenty-four relatives the first winter they arrived in Minnesota. In the spring other homes were built for the several couples. The first log cabin was supposed to be temporary but as it turned out, four generations of Robillards lived there.

The early pioneer living involved contact with Indians. One time a small band of Indians camped in their woodland to rest. These Indians were on their way to Winnipeg to gather snake root which they used and also sold for medicine.

While the Indians were camped there they begged for food. The Robillards gave them an ox which they butchered and they roasted all of it even the inners. They had a real pow wow and enjoyed themselves till the last of the ox was eaten.

Neighbors were few and far between and when Ovilla's sister Felicite was to be married, his mother sent him to the neighbors four miles away to get eggs for the wedding cake. He traveled eight miles and came home with only two eggs but reported that the nieghbor lady told him if he could wait till evening the hens might lay more.

At twenty years of age, Ovilla Robillard married Velena Gregoire of Gentilly. They lived with his father at the original homestead. This union had six children: Doria (Mrs. Joe LaPlante); Clara (Mrs. Louis Quesnelle); Ildage, Leo, Homer and Louina (Mrs. Millard Hunt).

Velena Robillard passed away in 1908 when Leo was eleven years old, leaving the older girls and great grandfather to care for the household.

Ovilla remarried Rebecca Brunelle Bray in 1915. She had eight children who were Gilbert, Madelene (Mrs. Henry Bray), Anetta, Morris, Alfred, Cecille (Mrs. Tom Fitzgerald), Marie (Mrs. Tom Ducharme). She passed away in 1927 leaving him a widower again.

Ovilla Robillard was a self taught carpenter and built many barns and machine sheds in the area. He also raised Chester White Pigs in partnership with Ferment Derosier and took many prizes at fairs.

Mr. Robillard continued to live on his farm with his son and family until he died at the age of 90 in 1961.

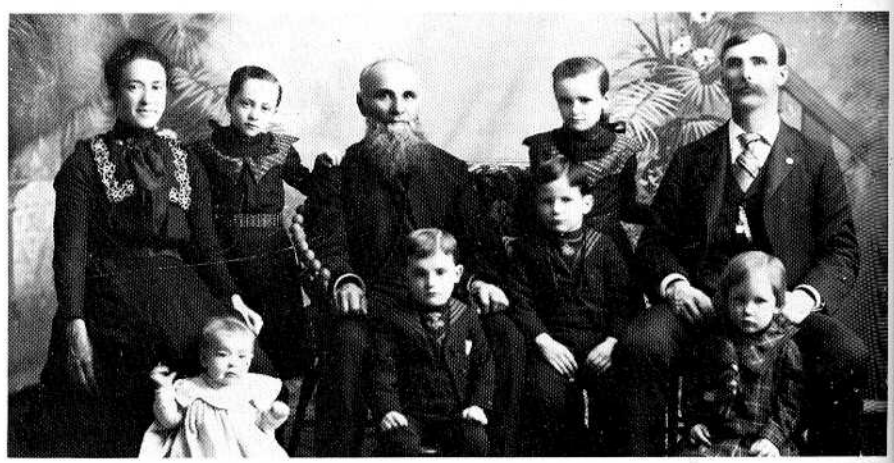
In 1924 Leo had married Amanda Clement. They lived in Minneapolis the first year and then moved back to Terrebonne where Leo was employed by Terrebonne Milling. In 1927 they moved back to the home farm and lived with his father. This union had four children: Donald of Eveleth; Marilyn (Mrs. Leslie Seeger, Red Lake Falls); and twins Renee (Mrs. Bob Mickelson, Minneapolis); and Clair who died at two years of age.

In 1936 Leo had purchased his first tractor and a threshing machine a year later. He threshed grain for his neighbors until 1958 when the combines came in.

In 1973 Leo and Amanda Robillard moved from the farm into Nelson apartments and their grandson, Lynn Seeger farms the land.



Napoleon Robidoux family 1964.



Robillards 1902.



Mr. and Mrs. Ovila Rock.

OVILLA ROCK

Ovilla Rock was one of the French Canaans from Montreal, who came to Terrebonne in 1879. He settled on a farm three miles south of Terrebonne. He married Josephine Perusse in 1884 and eight children were born to them. Three of these children died in infancy and five grew up in the Terrebonne area. They were Emma, George, Harvey, Edna and Cecilia, who is the only survivor. Ovilla Rock died in 1903 and his wife in 1914.

George and Harvey farmed the home place and when Harvey married he moved to an adjoining farm.

Dona Rock, who is of the third generation, farms the original farm place, and is very active in community affairs.

GEORGE ROCK

George Rock was born 1893 on the Dona Rock farm in Terrebonne Township to Ovilla Rock and Josephine Perusse. He married Clara Perrault in 1915. She was born in 1896, on the Ed Perrault farm in Terrebonne Township to Louis Perrault and Mary Burgard.

George Rock farmed most of his life in Terrebonne Township. For two years during the 1920's he was a cheese maker at Madium, Minnesota. In 1952 they moved to Red Lake Falls, where he did carpenter work until he retired. Clara Rock died in 1969 at the age of seventy-two. George Rock died in 1972 at the age of seventy-nine. They are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery Red Lake Falls.

Their children are Laurence Norman Rock who was born in 1917 and died in 1920 of a malignant tumor.

Geneva Rock married Medore Lussier of Crookston in 1941 at Terrebonne. They are living in Lander, Wyoming where Med is a shovel operator for United States Steel. Their children are Gary, married to Bonita Steinke, and living in Prior Lake, Minnesota, with their four children. He is an office controller for Watkins Pattern Company of Lakeville. Wayne Allen married Nancy Lawkinson of Chicago City. He graduates December from the University of Minnesota, with a Master's degree in accounting. Bryan married Toni Stenner of Riverton, Wyoming. He is a Vision Optical Optician and they live in Casper, Wyoming. Gregory married Sabrana Penny of Lander. He is a truck driver for U.S.S. at Atlantic City. Lynette married John McCall II of Snohomish, Washington. He is in the air force. They have one child. Randy married Kathleen Hutson of Lander. He is an oil drill worker in Lander. Jay is a student of Lander Valley High School.

Elmer Rock married Lucille Zutz of Red Lake Falls in 1946. Their children are Dale, married to Sally Marie Hendrix, (they have two children and are living in Tacoma, Washington, where he is in the U.S. Naval Reserve); Gary (married Joyce Ann McCall. They have one child. He is an assistant manager of Safeway Store in Tacoma); Eddie is a student at a University in Washington. Elmer died in Tacoma in 1971.

Lester Rock married Dorothy Huot of Dorothy. They owned Rock's Jewelry in Crookston. Their children are Sister Collen who teaches in Moorhead. Charlow married Patrick Munn of Crookston. They live with their two children in Overland Park, Kansas where he is an assistant manager of the Alemeda Hotel. Roselyn married Jeff Kirk of Dorothy. They live in Grand Forks. He is a student in Chemical engineering at U.N.D. Mary Lou married Brian Nielson of Erskine. He works in the mines near Biwabik. Richard married Jean Cournia of Crookston. He is in the air force. Marcella, Rodney, Thomas, John, and Julie are living at home. Lester died in 1972, when his airplane crashed and burned near Clearbrook, Minnesota.

Madonna Rock married Lloyd La Bore of White Bear Lake. He is an independent contractor. Their children are Diane, Marie, Dale, married to Sue Buhl. He works for Whirlpool Industries in the cities. William married Mary Jane Schaughnessy. He works for the State of Minnesota in St. Paul. Sharon married Steve Summers who works for the Target Company. They have one child. Debra, Susan, Carol, Michelle, and Mark are living at home.

Dona Rock is the twin brother of Madonna. His family is the third generation living in Terrebonne Township.

Monica Rock married Harlan Hanson of Seattle, Washington. Their children are Eric, Todd, and Lynn. He is a controller and they live in Santa Rosa, California.

Gloria Rock married Louis Demarais of Red Lake Falls. Their children are: Janet, James, Suzanne, Daniel, and Lee. Louis works for the State Health Department of North Dakota and they live in Bismark.

DONA ROCK

Dona Rock was born in Terrebonne Township to George Rock and Clara Perrault in 1928. He attended Terrebonne grade schools, served in the United States Navy from 1946-1948, and worked in Milwaukee in 1949-1950. He returned to Terrebonne and purchased the home farm where he was born, to become the third generation owner of the property. He now owns 900 acres and rents 960.

In 1952, he married Joyce Boucher who was born 1931, in Crookston to David Boucher and Noella St. Yves.

Dona and Joyce are the parents of eight children:

David, Douglas, and Mitchell were very active in sports at the Mentor High School, and were named 1970, 1971, 1972 homecoming kings. Peggy was homecoming queen in 1974. Pamela is the 1975 Blast to Brooks queen and will have a biographical sketch in Who's Who among American High School Students 1974-1975.



George Rock Family. 50th anniversary.

David married Roxanne Boyum of Mentor. They own a farm near Brooks. Douglas married Karen Grundahl of Mentor. He is an electrician. Peggy married Louis Martell of Red Lake Falls. He is a carpenter and they are living in Osseo. Mitchell is farming with his father. Pamela, Valerie and Vanessa are attending the Mentor Schools. A son, Michael, died at the age of four months of pneumonia.

Dona has served on the following boards: Township, A.S.C.S. Committee, F.H.S., Farmers Union Oil, Brooks Cemetery Association, Soil Conservation, and is presently on the Productive Credit Association board of Thief River Falls and Roseau.

Joyce is a graduate of Moorhead State University and has taught in Climax, Mentor, Plummer, McIntosh, Gentilly, and the Crookston Catholic and Public schools.

ROLANDSON FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Rolandson were pioneers of Equality township in Red Lake Co. Mr. Rolandson was born in Volders, Wisc. and came to Minnesota in 1884. Caroline Bondy Rolandson was born in Rice Co. May 2, 1869; moved the same year to Norman Co. On December 27, 1888 she married Andrew Rolandson at the Trinity Lutheran Church at Clitherdahl, Minn.

In 1893, they moved to Fosston, Minn. where Mr. Rolandson was engaged in the implement business. In 1904, the Indian Reservation opened up and they moved their homestead shack across the Clearwater river. It was not unusual to see Indians camping by the river, and digging snake root on their farm.

After a lot of hard work, the land was cleared and soil worked for farming. A few years later a store, Post Office, and creamery were built on the place. Otto Dahl built and operated the first store, later sold to Bondy Bros. and then the Rolandson's purchased it, selling it after a few years to their son Knute and wife. This was called Roland after the "Rolandson" name. A large house, barn and milk house were built and are still at the present site.

Twelve children were born to this union; six deceased and six living. *Arthur* — Died at an early age. *Anniebelle* — Married Jens Fore. Jens died in 1933, Anniebelle died in 1958. They had nine children: Alice (Todd); Agnes (Smothers); Alma (Lillo); James, Mllo, Orville, Arlie, Roy and Elmer. *Edward* — Died in 1918 during the flu epidemic. *Melvin* — Served in the 1st World War, married Hazel Paulson and they had four children, Layne, Gorden, Richard and Rodger. Retired Gamble Store operator and John Deer dealer. Died in 1963. *Knute* — Married Inga Halstensgaard, and is a retired John Deer dealer and store owner.



Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Rolandson

They have four children — Lois Ann, deceased, Arlo, Kenneth and Lorraine (Mrs. Hotvet). *Ella* — Married Jacob Simonson who is now a retired railroad man. They had two sons, LeRoy and Dausel. Mr. Simonson died in 1963. Ella lives at Fertile. *Clifford* — Married Ida Pederson and farmed near Oklee. They had two children — Clarissa (Mrs. Auld) and Jerome. Clifford and Jerome both deceased. *Agnes* — Married Melvin L. Johnson. They operated the Oklee Hotel and jewelry store and farmed in Lambert township. One daughter, Sharon (Mrs. Ronald Remick). Melvin died in 1956. Agnes resides in Rudyard, Montana. *Arthur* — Married Mae Hackett and operated a cafe and store in Gully, Minn. and at the present time has the John Deere agency at Circle, Montana. Four children, Arvid, Kermit, Dean and Gayle (Mrs. G. Knudson). *Mabel* — Married Bill Seeger, together they operated and owned the Seeger's Hardware store, also the first bowling alley at Oklee. At present, Bill is Director of the Multi-County Housing Authority. One son, Charles. Mabel and Bill live at Mentor, Minn. *Orville* — Married Bella Anderson and farm near Thief River Falls, Minn., also, has beef cattle and hogs. Four children, Beverly (Mrs. R. Larson), Gary, Delores (Mrs. Freeberg) and Kenneth.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolandson were active in church and community affairs. Mrs. Rolandson was well known for her care of the sick and a "midwife." The welcome mat was always out for friends and relatives. Mr. Rolandson passed away November 10, 1938. Mrs. Rolandson moved into Oklee, Minn. a few years later. She died December 22, 1946.

ROSCH FAMILY

Two brothers, Moritz and Benedict Rosch, emigrants from the German Rhine land, settled first in Minneapolis and then moved to Red Lake Falls in 1895. Benedict, usually called Ben, was accompanied by his wife, the former Miss Amelia Schoenouer, whom he had married in 1890 in Minneapolis. Moritz married Miss Martha Sernou, also a German emigrant, in Minneapolis in 1894.

First Ben and then Mortiz found work on the section for the Northern Pacific Railroad and subsequently both were made foremen. Ben's crew worked south of town, and Moritz's crew worked west of town. After World War I the two sections were consolidated into one with Ben as foreman. The two brothers continued to work for the railroad company all of their remaining, active years. Mortiz retired in 1923 after twenty-eight years on the tracks, and Ben retired about four years later.

Benedict and his wife had one daughter, Annie, who taught school for several years in the Red Lake County schools. Later she married Ludolf Jahnke and they farmed in Red Lake Falls Township most of their lives.

Moritz and his wife had six daughters and four sons. Hulda, the oldest, taught school for several years in Red Lake County rural schools. She became the wife of Frank P. Grenier who served as county commissioner for thirty-six years, from 1918 to 1954. They also farmed in Red Lake Falls Township until they retired in 1961. He died in 1962 at the age of eighty-four years. Helen, the second daughter, taught school for several years before her service of thirty years as a clerk at the Red Lake Falls Post Office. After her retirement she lived in Minneapolis for a time and died in Red Lake Falls in 1971 following a long illness. Marie married George Wagner, custodian of the County Court House for thirty-two years. Before moving to Red Lake Falls they farmed with his father east of town. Mr. Wagner died in 1972. Margaret Rosche's husband, Richard Zins, was a well driller as his father before him. He died in 1970 after a long illness.

Herbert Rosch, son of Moritz, worked for the Beltrami County Welfare Board in Bemidji for thirty-two years retiring in 1974. Brothers Frank and Dale Rosch started farming in Red Lake Falls Township in 1940, and the two youngest girls, Anne and Dorothy, made their home with them. After the death of Dale in 1950, Frank and the two sisters remained on the farm and continued farming until 1959 when they moved into Red Lake Falls. Henry, the oldest of the boys, died in 1930. Dorothy died in 1962.

From a prior marriage in Germany, Moritz had two daughters, Annie and Margaret, after whom two girls from his subsequent marriage were named. These daughters married brothers William and John Kraemer and lived in Red Lake Falls for a short time. John and Margaret Kraemer moved to East Jorden, Michigan, and William and Annie Kraemer to Saskatchewan, Canada. William worked for the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company and eventually retired with a pension. Annie Rosch Kraemer died in 1973 in her 94th year, in Kerrobert Saskatchewan. Margaret Rosch Kraemer died in 1968 in her 85th year in East Jordon, Michigan.

Moritz Rosch brought from his German homeland a great love of music. He was a long time member of the Red Lake Falls City Band and director for part of the time. His favorite instruments were the coronet and violin. His own orchestra played for public dances and frequently provided music for community functions. This was quite a while before World War I. Moritz died in the Northern Pacific Hospital in St. Paul in 1938, age 82. Martha, his wife, died in St. Vincent's Hospital in Crookston in 1941 at the age of 65.

The Moritz Rosch home in northwest Red Lake Falls is still occupied by Frank and Anne Rosch.

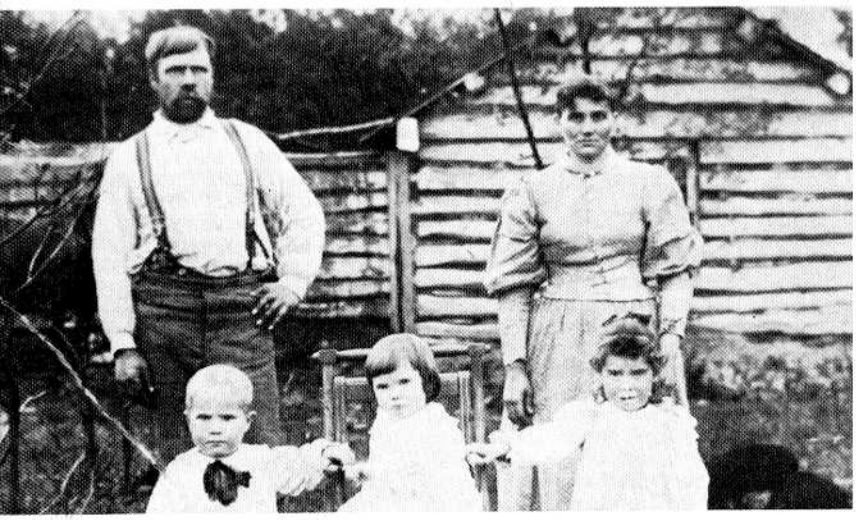
JOHN ALEXANDER ROSE

John Alexander Rose, one of the earliest homesteaders of Emardville township, was the son of a German immigrant, Alexander Rose. John was born in Kiel, Germany and came to America after his parents had settled in South Dakota. He was only thirteen when he made the voyage earning his passage by serving as messenger of the ship.

Later in South Dakota, John met Belle Johnson, a Norwegian immigrant, and married her in 1889 at Verdon. The couple arrived in Emardville by covered wagon with a small convoy of cattle and two small children. John built a log cabin and a dugout barn. He herded one hundred sheep and milked cows. The wolves were plentiful and the sheep had to be guarded closely to protect them from harm. Often, the children had to corral the wolves from the flock as they'd sneak into the fold when the sheep came home at night.

John and Belle had nine children, six living; Edward of Sacto, California, a retired farmer, John of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a retired shipyard worker, and Clarence of Olympia, Washington, a retired mechanic. Daughters are Mrs. Dora Skorheim, a one-time telephone operator in Red Lake Falls, and longtime resident of this city, Mrs. Anna Newman, Lead, South Dakota, and Mrs. Alice Closson, Port Angelos, Washington. Earl, a lad, drowned at the Terrebonne dam when he was just fourteen. Another brother died at age two of pneumonia and a boy in infancy.

The children made hay, picked wild blueberries, strawberries, plums and chokecherries. They also raised quantities of garden vegetables and kept a basement full of ice to keep foodstuff cold. Meat was either canned, salted down, or fried and dropped in lard crocks. John sold the homestead in the early 1900's and came to Red Lake Falls where he managed the Matt Skala farm for a period and later worked as a sack sewer for the Red Lake Falls Milling company. Belle died in 1929 and in 1932 John moved to Olympia where he farmed and did carpentry work. He died just a few days before his 99th birthday at a resthome in 1962, Mrs. Dora Skorheim, who celebrated her 85th birthday on February 2, 1976, lives at Fairview Manor with her daughter, Mrs. Ethel Westerlund whose husband died in 1970.



John and Belle Rose with children.

JACOB ROSEN

The Rosen family came to Red Lake s in 1923. The father, Jacob (Jack), d visited many times as a traveling sales- n and bought the general store oper- d by Max Ingber.

He was accompanied by his wife, Bess, d son, Harold, better known as arney," a nickname he got when he g the then hit song, "Barney Google," ing an intermission at the Lotus Theater rtly after they came to town.

They originally lived above the store on n Street, but later moved to "The Hol- ," where they lived in what had been Presbyterian Church manse.

Ruth was born in 1930; Faith in 1931. e family liquidated the business and urned to the Twin Cities in 1932.

Harold and Ruth both graduated from University of Minnesota. Ruth, now s. Allen Orbuch, lives in Encino, Califor- . Harold, after more than 25 years trav- g and living all over the world while in International Division of Ford Motor mpany, now resides with his wife and children in Birmingham, Michigan.

NELS L. ROSSEN

Nels was born in Flennsburg, Denmark nuary 21, 1863. This little part of Den- rk was then under Germany's regime. s was again restored to Denmark after rld War I. All of Nels' family for genera- ns had been employed as uniformed hway patrolmen, but to avoid being mili- zed there, he came to the United States 883. He was employed for two years in ois where he attended country school two winters.

Eleanora Andersen was born in Aalborg, nmark in 1865 and immigrated to Amer- in 1883 to Nashua, Iowa.

Nels and Eleanora met and were married Waverly, Iowa in 1887, making their first me in Omaha, Nebraska where Nels was ployed in a lumberyard for five years. anora took in boarders.

Deciding to go farming, in 1892 they k a homestead in Lyon County, Tyler, nnesota where they farmed with oxen d lived in a sod house. Eleanora took e of the sick in the neighborhood. Mr. d Mrs. Rossen sold their farm there and ught a fruit farm at Eugene, Oregon, nking it would be a more healthy and ductive climate. This piece of land now art of the University of Eugene.

Livelihood was not so easy at Eugene for them, as they had no knowledge of orchards or farming in this part of the country, so had many hardships and grief. Compulsory fumigation for contagious diseases was not well enforced. They lost a child of smallpox when living there only three weeks. They lived in the vicinity five years, until they traded properties with a Ben Withers of near Terrebonne, Red Lake County. This farm in Terrebonne Township presently belongs to their daughter's family "The Jim Casey's."

N. L. Rossen passed away in December 1935 and Mrs. Rossen in 1923.

N. L. Rossen was a charter member of the Masonic Order when it was organized at Marshall, Minnesota.

N. L. Rossen served as 2nd District County Commissioner from 1921-1933. Some of his proud moments resulting from this office was when the road was built east of what is now known as Marcoux and when the County Board was in attendance at Huot Park when that land was dedicated and purchased for a State Park. His name is one of those commissioners engraved on the plaque at the Old Crossing Treaty State Park.

He helped bring in the Garden Valley Telephone Service to this community and was a director of Farmer's Store, the Elevator, and the Creamery Board at Mentor. He served on the township board and was a school board member of District 80.

Mrs. Rossen was Ladies Aid President of the Congregational Ladies Aid for many years, and they were faithful members of this church.

Four children were born to this family: Anna Hall, Myrtle, Walter Rossen, and Edna Casey.



N. L. Rossen wedding.

JOHN BAPTISTE ROSSIGNOL

Among the many and greatly-needed workmen of the last century, in 1875 came John Baptiste Rossignol from Quebec and New Brunswick. Under his direction many important and much needed bridges, dams and roads were built in Red Lake and neighboring counties.

He was born in 1854 and married Celina St. Mars also of Quebec who was born in 1867.

Their home here was on a piece of land in Terrebonne township south of the present John LaCrosse home. LaCrosse now owns the land. The Rossignol family moved to where Halvor Knutson lives for a while, sold this to Joe Perreault, then moved across the road, buying the property now owned by Maxcime (Mike) Rossignol.

The children born of this union: Felix, now deceased, formerly a farmer near Brooks; Thomas, now deceased, soldier in World War One; Eliza, deceased; William, now deceased, served as a sergeant and interpreter in France during World War One; Mattie Bouffleur, deceased; Maggie, deceased; Ann Targeon, living in Minneapolis; Albert, deceased; Max (Mike), living in Terrebonne township; Clarence, living in Everett, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rossignol were regular memebers of St. Anthony's church in Terrebonne and he was a member of the school board of District 80, Prairie Queen, where all of their children attended school. John Rissignol died in 1932 and Celina in 1945.

DR. J. A. ROY

Dr. J. A. Roy practiced medicine in Red Lake Falls from 1922 until his death from a heart attack in 1941. For a part of that time, he was the only doctor in town, and his was an exhausting profession in a town with no hospital and when house calls were the rule, even in rural areas and in winter weather.

Dr. Roy gave freely of his time, not only to his patients but to civic affairs, serving as Mayor of Red Lake Falls for nine years. He was also interested in national politics and, as a staunch Democrat, had been in the Minnesota delegation at the inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. He served as chairman of the County Democratic Committee for many years and was one of Minnesota's Democratic Electors in 1936.

The Catholic Order of Foresters was another organization for which he worked enthusiastically. He was elected Chief Ranger for six years and was instrumental in having the Golden Jubilee Convention held here in 1933 with outstanding success.

Other offices he held for many years were County Coroner, City Health Officer and member of the County Board of Health.

Joseph A. Roy was born in 1888 at Anaclet, Quebec, Canada. He attended the University of Montreal, graduating from the College of Medicine in 1913. In the same year he married Corinne Bousquet at Montreal, where they lived until 1913 when they moved to St. Paul.

While in St. Paul, he took the Minnesota Medical Examinations and then moved to Kensington to practice medicine until 1919. He then lived in Argyle for a short time before coming to Red Lake Falls in 1922.

After Dr. Roy's death in 1941, the family continued to live here. There were three sons: Robert, Raymond and Maurice, and four daughters Therese, Madeline, Jacqueline, and Germaine. Mrs. Roy survived her husband by four years, passing away in 1945. The children left Red Lake Falls and drifted west. For a time they were all living in Colorado.

Maurice was drowned in 1952 when a Military Transport plane, on which he was returning home on leave from the Korean War, crashed off the coast of British Columbia. He was striving to save the stewardess, but both lost their lives. His wife, Dorothy Masey Roy, and son survive.

JOSEPH ROY, SR.

Following is an account of the life of Joseph Roy, Sr. written by him in his own words, and found after his death, March 9, 1956:

"I, Joseph Roy, the son of Charles Roy and Susan Cyr Roy, was born on October 9, 1873, in St. Eleanor Parish, Madawaska County, New Brunswick, Canada, and was baptized in Grand Falls, New Brunswick. I lived there on a farm until I was almost twelve years old. I left there with my parents and three brothers, Eloi, Levi, and Phillip, and one sister, Mary, on August 5th, 1885. With us were my brother Eloi's wife and their four children. We landed in Crookston, Minnesota, August 17, 1885 and drove from Crookston in a lumber wagon the same day through mud and mosquitoes to the Eli Cyr farm six miles southwest of Red Lake Falls, now the Christ Wetenkamp farm. Here we lived for three months. From there we moved to a little house on what is now the Eldon Klipping farm, and there my brother Eloi died on October 17, 1885, leaving his wife and four children, Alphonse, age six, Theodore, age five, Charley, age three, and Marie, nine months old. From there we moved to the farm which Majoric LaTendresse owns today. We lived there one year, then moved to Red Lake Falls and lived here two years. Then in March of 1888, we moved into our shanty in Louisville on the southwest quarter of section twenty-nine, and lived there for ten years. There my father died on December 12, 1897. We left that place in 1898.

On November 22, 1898, I married Rosanna Lizotte, daughter of Vital Lizotte and Domatil Chaser Lizotte, and we lived together three years on a farm south of Dorothy where Rosanna died of small-pox on February 9, 1902, leaving me with a little daughter, Alice, two years old. I left the farm and moved back to Red Lake Falls and built my home, which I still occupy.

On December 26, 1904, I married Alice Brault, the daughter of Louis Brault and Julia La Friniere. To this union were born: Julia (who died in a fall July 26, 1909 at age three), Paul, Louis, Joe, Jr., Eva (who died of a ruptured appendix October 26, 1917, also at age three), Cecilia and Marie. Alice, my daughter from my first marriage, stayed with me and took care of the family until she was married nine years later on November 22, 1927."

Mr. Roy's autobiography ends here when he was fifty-four years old, but he lived to be eighty-two. He spent most of those years until he retired doing carpenter work, cement work and house-moving. His sons, Paul and Louis worked with him, and Louis carried on the moving business after his father retired.

Alice Roy married Arnold Miller in 1927. (See Arnold Miller Story) Paul Roy married Alice Grandbois, daughter of Felix Grandbois and Elizabeth Gedde, in September of 1929. They lived in Red Lake Falls until 1943 when they moved with their family to the state of Washington. They had eight children.

Louis Roy married Florence Noel in 1928. (See Louis Roy history) Joseph Roy, Jr. married Monica Sherry, daughter of Tom and Elizabeth Sherry, in June of 1939. They had two boys and two girls. They lived in Red Lake Falls until about 1946 or 1947, when they moved to Hastings, Minnesota. Joseph, Jr. also was a carpenter like his father and brothers. He died in April, 1974 at the age of sixty-four.

Cecilia (Sister Pierre, OSB) has been with the Benedictine order of Nuns, whose mother house is in Crookston, since 1927. She is a music teacher and has taught in many of the Catholic schools throughout the state.

Marie Roy married Henry Noel, son of Anthony and Exina Noel, in November of 1939. To them were born six boys and one girl. They lived in Red Lake Falls until about 1943 when they moved to the state of Washington for a few years before returning to the midwest. They settled in Mayville, North Dakota, where they have since lived.



Jos. Roy Sr. with Louis, Paul and Jos. Jr., Alice, Marie and Cecilia.

LOUIS ROY FAMILY

Louis Roy was born June 18, 1909, the son of Joseph Roy and Alice Brault Roy on a farm west of Red Lake Falls now known as the Zins farm. Two years later the family moved back to town in the house his father had built in the summer of 1904 and which is still home for the Roys.

Louis married Florence Noel July 24, 1928, and they have twelve children, six boys and six girls: Lucille (Mrs. Lloyd Dufault) of Fosston; Julia (Mrs. Bill Franken Rochester; Evelyn (Mrs. James Larson) of Preston; Eraine (Mrs. Lee Faust) of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida; Madonna (Mrs. Gordon Stickle) DeMoines, Iowa; Jean (Mrs. Marcel LaJesse) of Crookston; Louis, Jr. and wife Pauline Dufault live in Minneapolis; Lawrence and wife Gloria Brunelle, Columbus, Nebraska; Philip and wife Rosalie Reinonn live in Concord, California; Anthony and wife Tricia Jones of St. Paul and John and wife Mary Hultin in Crystal.

Louis Roy was in the moving business with his father for a few years then on his own for several years and since 1962 has been janitor at St. Joseph's Church. He is now semi-retired.

RUSTAD — THORESON

Hans Rustad and Mathilda Thoreson moved from Emardville Township to Section 26 Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County in 1935. They were the parents of Alvin, Lawrence and Helen Rustad.

Their son, Lawrence, married Agnes Ostgaarden and moved at the same time to Section 25 and lived there until his death in 1952. No children were born to this union. Agnes sold the farm to Bob Fjeldt who now owns it. Agnes is now living at Roseau, Minnesota, wife of Marvin Dahl.

Nick Thoreson, son of Brede Thoreson and Emma Erickson, also moved to this vicinity about the same time from Emardville Township and left for Gary, Indiana, in the early 1940's where they still reside. They raised four children, Harry, Harold, Hannah and Ellen. All reside near Gary, except Hannah who passed away several years ago. These people attended school in Plummer and Mentor.





ELI AND EDNA ST. IVES

As we get together to write a history recalling our childhood, we can remember many pleasant memories growing up on the family farm of our father and mother, Eli and Edna Pouliot St. Ives, in Terrebonne Township, section eight.

Eli was the son of Louis and Arize Laurent St. Yves, who migrated to this area from Quebec, Canada in the 1880's and homesteaded on a farm in Section seven, Terrebonne township. Eli was born on Oct. 21, 1887, one of a family of 12 children. He grew up helping on the family farm and during the winters, he along with many men from the area would go to work in the lumber camps north of Bemidji. They would be gone all winter as the trip there and back was with horses and took a long time. Many stories of the hazards and experiences with the Indians, as well as the anecdotes of camp living made an evening's entertainment for us. He also helped to build many of the roads in our county as well as the railroad overhead bridge just south of Red Lake Falls. Our father would be better remembered by the nickname "Bedo." This is the French translation for bell ringer, as he assisted the parish priest with those duties as a young boy.

In 1918, Eli purchased a farm in section eight, Terrebonne Township, from Dolphis Clement. His mother lived there with him until his marriage to Edna Pouliot in Nov. 1925, in Red Lake Falls. Edna was the

ghter of Napoleon and Jeanette Ger- Pouliot and was born on March 28, 2, the eldest of eight children. Her e was in Red Lake Falls and she had nded the local schools and Normal ning. She taught in the county for 13 s prior to her marriage. Memories of eaching days, both the hardships and santries were enjoyable stories. Edna made many friends, as teachers in e days boarded in the homes of the s and were part of the family.

dna's sister, our beloved Aunt Erba iot, became County Supt. of Schools Red Lake County during this time and ed in that capacity for 16 years until death in Feb. 1937. We can recall the ng of the county schools and people ng from all parts of the county for her ral in St. Joseph Church in Red Lake . She was held in high esteem by all knew her.

and Edna have four living children: rlotte, Sybil, Glen and Julie. Two chil- died at birth. We all attended District 81, Beaugerlot School for the grades which is just a short distance from the e farm. It was a two room school with teachers, grades 1-4, and 5-8. We ember the pot bellied stove which kept varm and also our noon lunches. The king fountain was a fascination for yone. The little red barn housed many rse while the ABC's were being taught. ilies who attended that school when did were the Perreault, Derosier, Four- Gagnon, St. Ives, Payment, Cham- x, Piche and Jolly families. We have y a fond memory of our numerous hers also. The four St. Ives children all graduates of Lafayette High School ed Lake Falls.

harlotte, Mrs. Ken Remick was born in 7. She was married in 1948 and moved he family farm which they purchased our father. They are the parents of six dren.

ybil, born in 1929, married Maurice sier and lives in Lake Pleasant Town- on a farm purchased from the T. J. nville family in 1952. They have six dren.

len, born in 1931, lives in Hartford, nnecticut, and is an employee of an rance firm.

lie Costello, born in 1932, lives in St. . She is a widow and has two children.

i and Edna farmed all of their married The highlight of the years on the farm us children was when the threshing hine would come to thresh the yearly . We had many a ride on the loads of



Mr. and Mrs. Louis St. Yves

bundles and sacks of grain. The meals served were banquets! Eli served as clerk of School District No. 81 for many years as well as supervisor on the township board. They were members of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Terrebonne. They are both buried in the church cemetery; Edna — 1946, Eli — 1962.

THE JOS. W. STE. MARIE FAMILY HISTORY

We would like to feel that anyone who was raised around Terrebonne in the first half of this century will read this history of our family, and that with the exception of references to our specific family members, will recall with us a way of life that was changing radically in the 30's and was never to be the same after the 40's.

Raphael Ste. Marie was born April 20, 1845 in St. Constant, Quebec, Canada. Marie Poupart was born on November 4, 1850 in St. Isadore, Quebec and they were married August 4, 1870, in St. Isadore and came to homestead a farm in Section 2, then part of Polk County, around Terrebonne. They had five children, only two of whom survived to adulthood. Jos. W. Ste. Marie and Veleda who married Willie Montreuil. Raphael was a farmer until his retirement.

Louis St. Yves was born on March 17, 1841 in St. Justin, Quebec. Arize Laurent was born February 9, 1850 in the same village. They were married there January 23, 1872 and had three children; Florestine, Lumena, and Justin were all born in St. Justin before the family migrated to Terrebonne to homestead a farm on Section 7. Their other children, Edward, Willie, Eli, Harvey and Emma were born and raised in the Terrebonne community where their parents remained as farmers the rest of their lives.

Jos. W. Ste. Marie, born March 16, 1890 and Emma St. Yves, born February 11, 1892 were married August 3, 1914 in St. Anthony's Church in Terrebonne. There were nine children born to them: Reaume, Elise and Lucy Ann of Seattle, Washington; Isabelle of Bayport, Harriet of Roscoe, Eraine of St. Paul, Barney of Honolulu, Hawaii, Carole of Aberdeen, Washington and Don, who is the only family member presently living in the Terrebonne area. He and his family still farm part of the original homestead and actively participate in the life of this community.

Jos. W. Ste. Marie became a partner in the Terrebonne Milling Company with Charles Kankel in 1912 and with his son Carl Kankel after the senior Kankel's death. The mill was built on the banks of the Clearwater River which furnished the water power for the two turbines. This early structure was destroyed by fire January 19, 1915. With the first water power rights on the Clearwater River still remaining, the owners (plus a group of stockholders and a capital stock of $25,000) rebuilt the mill on the same location during the same year. Due to the shortage of water power in the early 30's, the mill property was greatly improved by installing a 60 horsepower Diesel engine. This then furnished power and electric lights for the mill. Exchanging flour for wheat was the specialty of the Terrebonne Mill during these drought years. La Belle and Snowball flour were their popular brands. They also carried a full line of commercial feeds. They continued in business for forty-two years until fire destroyed the structure on July 4, 1954.

While employed at the mill, Jos. W. Ste.



Ste. Marie Family

Marie served as a trustee of St. Anthony's Church, Clerk of School District #79, and director of the REA board for many years. Both he and his wife were very active in community affairs. Destruction of the mill by fire in 1954 forced him into retirement and in 1970 he and Emma moved to Red Lake Falls. He died on April 15, 1972 and Emma, now 83, resides there and represents one of the oldest members of the Terrebonne community.

The community of Terrebonne, from its inception until the early 1940's was a small community of Catholic French Canadian immigrants and their families. Most homes were richly bilingual. Life centered strongly around the beliefs, practices and holy days of the Church. The names of many of the early founders of the community are permanently inscribed in the lower panels of the beautiful stained glass windows of St. Anthony's Church. The pageantry of processions on rogation days, and the Feast of Christ the King, the austerity of Good Friday service, the joy of Easter and Christmas, the severity of admonition against sin, the rigidity of Lenten fasts, the devotion to the Blessed Virgin and to St. Isadore, the patron saint of farmers, are marks of the church life that all its parishioners must remember with nostalgia. The week's events were exchanged on the steps of the church following Sunday Mass and it was not uncommon to find someone there 30 or 40 minutes after the service was over. Sunday was a day of rest as there were few places to hurry to. Religion penetrated the public schools of that day as it was common practice for the parish priest to hold Catechism lessons there on Fridays. Sunday sermons were given in French and in English to insure that everyone heard the Word.

Business establishments were minimal, but a farmer could have many machinery parts repaired in Ed. Dandurand's blacksmith shop or at Ted Clement's garage. Homer Parenteau had mysterious stores of wares in his basement in addition to his regular stock in his grocery store. Louis Laundry's store was the other grocery and competition was friendly. Most families



Raphael and Marie Ste. Marie



Don and Zola Ste. Marie

operated on credit and the bills were paid after harvest. Bills sometimes did not exceed $100 for an entire year, testimonial to the richness of gardens, the canning skills of the women and the self-sufficiency of the farms.

Children attended one or two-room country schools, staffed almost exclusively by women with generally one year of normal training, a program headed for years in Red Lake Falls by Mrs. Stella Kelly. Field trips, audio visual aids, current magazines and enrichment programs were non-existent. Discipline was strict; emphasis was on the basics; state boards had to be passed; and attrition was high. Winter walks were long and cold, playground equipment was absent for the most part, lunches were carried in syrup pails. Every child had chores of one kind or another and juvenile delinquency was an unknown term.

Social life meant family or parish gatherings primarily. Leisure time was rare. For almost sixty years with slight variation this was the tempo of community life. But changes were on the way. In the 1930's tractors and electricity were to bring major changes. But World War II was to cause an exodus whose effect would be permanent. The simplicity and the isolation of community would be gone for good. Nevertheless, those origins gave to all of us who lived there, a background for life which can never be labeled deprived.

DONALD AND ZOLA STE. MARIE

Donald Ste. Marie was born in Terrebonne in 1921 to Jos. W. and Emma Ste. Marie. He attended grade school in Terrebonne and graduated from the Crookston A.C. in 1940. In 1945 he was united in marriage to Zola Haaland, who was born in 1926 to Oscar and Anna Haaland in Ada. She attended the Ada schools and graduated in 1944.

The Don Ste. Maries live on a farm in Gervais Township where they raise small grains and have a herd of Hereford beef cows. Don and Zola are both active in organizations at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Terrebonne. He is presently serving on the Red Lake County Fair Board and is a member of the Northwest Stockmen's Association. Don served as County Commissioner from 1963 to 1971. In 1964 they were awarded the Valley Farmer and Homemaker Award at the Red River Valley Winter Shows in Crookston.

The Don Ste. Maries are parents of six children: Mike, Manager of Guild Living Center in Fargo, North Dakota; (he is married to Susan Vicento); Steve, working with Ziegler, Inc., Bloomington; (he is married to Karan Temp); Alan, presently attending Moorhead Tech; David, a student at Thief River Falls Tech; and Kathy and Ken at home.

JOSEPH AND DULICE DEMARAIS ST. MARIE

Joseph St. Marie, son of Henry and Marie Goulet St. Marie, was born in Louisville township, Red Lake county in 1902. He attended the Catholic school in Crookston until his completion of the eighth grade when he left school to help his father on the farm.

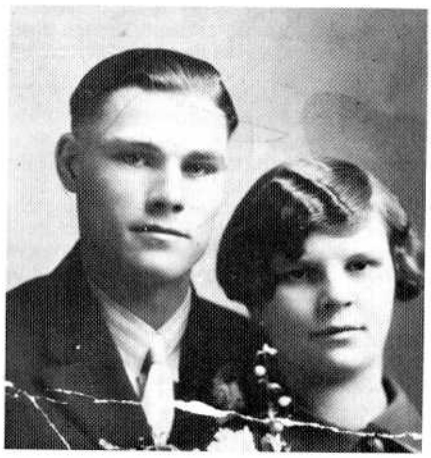
In 1925 he married Dulice Demarais, daughter of Philip Demarais. They lived first on the Bison farm in Gervais Township and later moved to farms formerly owned by Charles Patnode and Roy Walker.

On his first farm, Joseph started out owning two cows. Values have changed considerably since 1929 when he sold his first cow for twelve dollars. Dulice churned butter to trade at the store for groceries and Joseph would cut and haul a load of wood to town for money to buy a pair of overalls.

Joseph served on the county district 112 school board for several years, and the teacher boarded at the St. Marie home for eighteen dollars a month. Their son Raymond received three dollars each month for hauling the daily supply of water to the school.

In 1959, the St. Marie's moved to Red Lake Falls where both Joseph and Dulice were employed at the Alma Mobile Homes, later the Detroiter plant.

Eight children were born to Joseph and Dulice St. Marie: Raymond, Delbert, JoAnn (Brunelle), Marlys (Vaudrin), Carol (Pederson), Julie (King), and Robert, who is deceased. There are twenty-six grandchildren at this time.



Joseph F. St. Marie wedding 1925.

LOUIS ST. MICHEL

Louis St. Michel is the first ancestor whose history is somewhat complete, as far as the records go. There is a comment about his father having immigrated to Canada from France and taking his wife's name in order to avoid the draft. Louis married Zoe Miron and lived near Valleyfield, Quebec. They had five sons, the oldest of whom was Alphonse.

Alphonse was born in 1847 and lived until 1925. In 1861, at the age of 14, he ran away from home and worked on a wagon train en route to California. From California, he made his way to Utah, Wyoming, and Montana, working in these states as a mule-skinner, cowboy, and bronc buster. After this, he worked as a driver, guide and scout, leading wagon trains for 15 years from St. Louis to San Francisco. His prized possessions were a bowie knife, a black jack, and a whip, which he used to kill flies without hitting anything on the table but the fly. In 1876, he returned to Canada, buying horses and selling them in the States. He married Odile Roi in 1877 in Canada, and Alfred was born in 1878.

When Alfred was two, he came to Minnesota with his parents who homesteaded in Louisville Township, then Pennington County. His brother and two sisters were born there; Victor (1881-1935), who married Florence Huot, Exerine (1885-1930), who married Antoine Noel, Clarinda (1887-1962), who married Domina Amiot.

Alfred married Henriette Patnode in January, 1898, and they had the following children:

1. Leo Toussaint (1899-1975), who married Alice LaCoursiere.
   a. Leo, Jr., married Jean Manning and they have four children and live in Pakistan.
   b. Loren John married Ethel Swanson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Swanson of rural Red Lake Falls. They have six children and live in St. Paul.
2. Loria, who lived one year.
3. Mary Lea, lived five months.
4. Olivine Adeline married Alfred Hance. Their children are Dolores, Leland, James, Edward, Joan, and Thomas. For more information about them, see the Alfred Hance family history.
5. Eli married Esther Gregoire and lives in Dorothy.
6. Emery (1908-1964) married Alice Boutain. She still resides in Crookston. Their children are Shirley Ann, Roger, Carol, and Bonita.
7. Ann married Anthony Patnode and they live in Minneapolis. Their children are Richard, Renee, and Carol.
8. David married Julette (Jay) Sundahl of Oklee in 1936. She died in 1958. They had three children:
   a. Sally married Bill Herzog of Shakopee where they reside with their three children.
   b. Michael lives in Wichita, Kansas, with his wife, Phyllis, and son, Steve.
   c. Judy married Peter French. They have two children and live in San Jose, California.
   "Dave" married Bernice Perras Bichel in 1966. They reside in Nadeau, Michigan.
9. Joseph married Allyce Borgen of Felton. They live in Halstad where they operate a supermarket. Their children are Steven, Lorraine, Teresa, Tony, Tim, Robert, and Kevin. A son, Leonard, died in infancy.
10. Arabelle married Vernon Lindquist of St. Hilaire where they had a grocery store for many years. Now Arabelle is postmistress. Their children are:
    a. Diane married Clark Scott. They have one son and live in Denver.
    b. Susan married Darrel Mercil, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Mercil of Red Lake Falls. They have four boys and live in Moorhead.
    c. Vern is a 1976 graduate of Moorhead State University.
11. Leonard was killed during World War II in Germany in 1945.
12. Madeline (1919-1971) married Gordon Anderson. They had four sons and lived in San Diego.

Mrs. Alfred St. Michel (Henriette) died in 925. In 1927, Alfred married Josephine :. Antoine Gallant. She had two sons, em (1917-1971) who married Irene Wills ıd lived in Taconite, and Emanuel, who arried Eleanor St. Ives and lives in Cali-rnia. Alfred and Josephine had three ɔns:

1. Kenneth married Lois Deizel. They have three boys and a girl and live in Sah Diego.
2. Maurice married Ruth Deizel. They, too, live in San Diego with their four children.
3. Ernest Jerome (Jerry) married Gail Hofius, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hofius of Plummer. They have two sons, Gordon and Jeff, and live in Red Lake Falls. Jeff is a 1976 graduate of Lafayette High School and Gordon is a college student studying occupational therapy.

EDWARD ST. YVES

Edward and Bertha St. Yves have the stinction of having one of the largest fam-es in Terrebonne Township and even Red ake County. Ed was born on the "home ırm" three miles west of Terrebonne on eptember 26, 1881. The farm was home-teaded by his father Louis in the late 300's. Louis came from Canada. Ed was ıe second oldest in his family. He married ertha Collier in 1907 and from this union ame the family of sixteen children. They re Modest Gervais, St. Paul; Noella arum, Crookston; Paul St. Yves, Seattle, Vashington; Wallace St. Yves, Red Lake alls; Bernice Ruchan, Seattle, Washing-ɔn; Armond St. Yves, Osseo; Ella Mae Veise, Oxnard, California; Marrietta Sauve, anCouver, Washington; Jean Nordlinder, eattle, Washington; Oliver St. Yves, oledo, Ohio; Virginia St. Yves, Fergus alls; and five sons have died over the ears.

On the farm all the joys and some sor-ɔws were experienced by all in the family. t times either Ed's parents or Bertha's arents lived with them in this old house. In ıct, one winter when things were tough, ıere were four generations living in this ɔur bedroom house, seventeen people in ll.

The old dwelling had the distinction of eing a log house. The first two rooms built y Louis were from logs and as time went y, there were additions added.

On June 26, 1945 Ed passed away from sudden heart attack. He was a great loss ɔ the area as he had been active in many ommunity affairs. For years he was clerk ıf Badger school where his children eceived their grade school education. He ıas also assessor for Red Lake County nd census taker for years. He was a mem-ıer of Modern Woodmen of America odge.

After her husband's death, Bertha emained on the farm with her son Wal-ace. The three younger children were still t home and attending school. After they eft home, Bertha and Wallace remained on ıe farm until about 1965 when they sold ıe farm and moved into Red Lake Falls vhere Bertha lived until 1970 when she ıoved to St. Paul. She lived there until her leath at the age of 88 in 1975.

The old house with all of its memories is ıo more. The old homestead has only the ınique white silo remaining and we all ıope it will be there for many more years.



Edward St. Ives Family

JOSEPH SALLEY

Joseph Salley and Ida Koke Salley were among the earlier and longer continuous residents of Red Lake Falls, Joseph coming to the area as a young man of about 20 around 1892 and Ida as a young girl with her family in the late 1880s. They were married June 27, 1901 in St. Mary's church and lived in their house at the corner of Main Street and Bottineau Avenue until Joseph's death in May 1949. Ida continued to occupy the house until 1957 and intermittently thereafter until she entered the Valley Home in Thief River Falls in 1963. She died there in February 1967.

Joseph Salley was born in Hungary on October 15, 1872, the youngest of nine children of Szalay Josef and Toth Terezia. His early years were spent in Budapest and in Bosarkany, a small village on the Hungarian-Austrian border. At about the age of 10 he came to the United States with one of his sisters and her husband. They settled in Fremont, Ohio, but after three or four years Joseph ran away from home. He eventually made his way to Milner, North Dakota and worked in that region for a number of years. Among other things, he rode race horses as a jockey for Ed Moran who ran horses at fairs and meets in North Dakota and Minnesota. About 1892 he came to Red Lake Falls, presumably because the Morans (Mrs. Moran was Mary Brady) were residents of the city. One of his jobs in Red Lake Falls was as a teamster for Charles N. Bourdon, especially to "tote" supplies to Red Lake, a long drive through what was then a wilderness. In 1900 he obtained the transfer and dray line business from Mr. Bourdon, whom he always regarded gratefully as his benefactor. In subsequent years he added a retail coal business and an agency for wholesale beer distribution. Besides his business activities, Joseph Salley participated for many years in the affairs of the city, as a member of the council, the school board, the fire department, and the county fair board.

Ida Koke was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, October 20, 1878, to Henry Koke and Gertrude Hauschop. Her parents had come as young people with their respective parents from Westphalia, a Rhineland province in Germany, to Wisconsin, had met there, and married in Iowa. Henry Koke was an itinerant "braumeister" and as a consequence the family moved frequently. They lived for a time in North Washington, Iowa, in Eau Claire, and in Stillwater, Minnesota, where the mother ran a boarding house for St. Croix rivermen. Henry brought the family to Red Lake Falls about 1887-88 and they lived in a small house in the flat on the west bank of the Red Lake river a few rods south of the Great Northern Railway bridge. In this house, to prepare for winter, six inches of straw were laid down in all the rooms and then a wall-to-wall canvas was tacked over it; in the spring all had to be taken up. Although Henry Koke continued to move from place to place, Gertrude Koke decided to remain in Red Lake Falls. In December 1889 she was able to buy from Henriette and Francis Detling for $125, a house on Sixth Street NE on the North Side, and this remained the Koke home until her death from pneumonia at 62 in December 1902. Henry Koke lived in various towns in North Dakota and Montana, and died in 1925 at his son's home in Malta, Montana.

In addition to Ida, there were two brothers and a sister in the Koke family. The oldest, Bernard, worked in a harness shop in Red Lake Falls, then in Ulen, then moved in 1906 to Malta, Montana. There he established a harness business, ran a ranch, and was clerk of court; he died in 1945. The second child, Frances, married Fred Holzknecht of Thief River Falls in 1897 and lived in that city until her death in 1954. The youngest, Joseph, worked at the Red Lake Falls Gazette from about 1895 to 1903, then in 1904 moved to Eugene, Oregon, where he started a printing business, ran a newspaper, and served as mayor and



Koke family 1892. Joseph, Bernard, Francis and Ida with mother Gertrude.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Salley

in many other civic posts. He died in 1956.

Ida Koke attended school in Red Lake Falls and took a teacher training course in Crookston which provided her with a teaching certificate. In 1894, when she was 16 years old, she took her first school, in Euclid, and she taught country schools in Polk and Red Lake Counties from that time until her marriage.

Joseph and Ida Salley had one son, Donovan, born December 4, 1905. His school years were spent in Red Lake Falls, and then he attended the University of North Dakota, Princeton University, and the University of Vienna in Austria. In 1936 he joined the American Cyanamid Company as a chemist in their laboratories in Stamford, Connecticut, and remained with that company until his retirement in 1970. He married Helen McLaughlin of Garden City, New York, in 1941 and they had three children, Stephen, David, and Joanne. Mr. and Mrs. Salley continue to live in Stamford, Connecticut.

CHARLES SAMPSON

Charles Sampson was born in Osseo, Hennepin county, Minnesota, on October 18, 1869, and was the fifth of thirteen children. He was the son of Nelson and Mary Gervais Sampson, who were of French descent and had come from Canada. His early life, until he was seventeen years of age, was passed on the family farm in Hennepin. In 1877 he went to Polk county, where his uncle lived, and there he worked at farm labor a few years, and in 1880 took up residence in Red Lake Falls. He worked as the foreman of a construction gang on the Northern Pacific Railroad for several years and in 1887 filed a claim to land as a homestead in section 26 of Gervais township, and there he took up his residence, developing a small farm and devoting himself to stock raising.

In 1883 he married Agnes Patnode. They were the parents of seven children: Charles, Fred, Henry, Oliver, David, and Horace.

Charles Sampson was active in the early county division fights and served as county sheriff for several terms after 1899, at which time he made his home in Red Lake Falls.

ISAAC SAUVE AND EVA CARRIERE SAUVE

Isaac Sauve was born in Poplar River Township on January 17, 1906. He was the eleventh child in a happy family of thirteen children. The death of three small daughters and two sons, during the diphtheria epidemic in 1910, brought sadness then thankfulness that they still had the others. His father, Joseph, was Canadian born. At the age of 24, he left his family to start a new life of his own. Like many other Canadians, he came to Minnesota and homesteaded on land between Terrebonne and Mentor. His mother, Mary Louise Dondoneau Sauve came to the same area with her family when she was 13 years old.

Eva Carriere, born May 6, 1903, was a daughter of Joseph Carriere and Delina Guerard Carriere. Delina was born May 30, 1869 at Drysdale, Ontario, Canada and was still a small child when her family came to the Brooks area to homestead. Joseph was born in Lampton, Quebec, Canada in 1865 on Sept. 10. In 1894, he and Delina were married by Fr. Roy in St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Terrebonne, Minn. The new couple moved into the log home he had built, complete with hand-hewn fencing, on the farm he had homesteaded as a single man. The homestead of 190 acres had only 40 cleared acres. The Lost River ran through the northern part of the farm. In 1927 a new home of tile replaced the original one. Joseph and Delima's family of nine were Marie, Clarice, Amie, Eva, Florence, Leah, Amie, Pearl and Celina. The first born son, Amie, when 4 years old, died of diphtheria and in memory of this first son, they baptized their second son with the same given name. The other children attended the township rural school. Eva and Leah graduated from the eighth grade in the country then went to Crookston to live with their aunts while they attended St. Joseph's Academy for two years and then as "live-in" students, Eva for one year. Leah graduated from high school and joined the convent to become a nun. As Sister Marie Adeline, she finished her studies in Bourg, France. She taught high school for 20 years and changed her vocation to nursing. She is now a bed-patient in St. Joseph's Hospital in Park Rapids where she cared for others for many years.



Joe and Delina Carriere

Celina was a day student and graduated from the Academy also. Of this family, 4 grew to marry and one to serve the Lord. Mrs. Florence Pigeon lives in Brooks with her husband. They had no children but she cared for many children after leaving the farm. Celina Lambert is in Cudahy, Wisconsin, where her brother, Aime, also resides.

We, Isaac Sauve and Eva Carriere were married by Fr. Paquin in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Brooks on June 18, 1929. We started our new life together during the depression but living on a farm made it easier for us than for those who didn't. We had nine children when twins were born but these babies lived one day only. We have 5 living children. Virgil and Melvin live in St. Paul, Raymond lives in Roseau, Darrell in Denver, Colorado and our only daughter, Noella, lives in St. Louis, Missouri. We have 27 grandchildren and one great grandson.

All four sons served in the U.S. Army, the two oldest spending about a year in Korea. At one time, they were both in Seoul without the other being aware of it until they returned home. Some war "happenings" are still frightening. Virgil and others were surrounded and trapped by the enemy for four days in an army tank — without food and water. He lost 20 lbs. before he and the others were rescued. Raymond had a narrow escape — a shell grazed his scalp but he recovered completely. God saved our sons from anything more serious.

We left the farm in the fall of 1951 and moved to Thief River Falls. There I was assistant manager of the Co-op Elevator for three years. I was obliged to leave the job I liked because of the grain dust that was injuring my lungs. Our next home was in East Grand Forks where Eva and I worked for one very enjoyable year for Father Merth as housekeeper and school custodian. I wasn't ready to retire so I changed jobs and worked for Coca-Cola Bottling Company for 14 years.

Now we are retired. We live in Red Lake Falls in the former Joe Paquin residence. The attached garage is my furniture reupholstery shop — a business that grew from a hobby.

JOSEPH SAUVE FAMILY

The Canadian beginnings of the Sauve family go back to the end of the seventeenth century. The first ancestor who established himself in New France, Pierre Sauve, was originally of Libourne, a diocese of Bordeaux. He came to Canada as a soldier with a detachment of sailors. We find his marriage recorded on the 27th of February, 1696, in the register of Lachine. He married Marie Michel, whose father was a victim of Iriquois Indians during the massacre of Lachine, seven years beforehand.



Joseph and Marie Sauve

Soon after his marriage, Pierre Sauve left military life to work at Sainte Anne-de-levue and spent the rest of his life there. e descendants of that ancestor spread oughout all the provinces of Quebec d elsewhere, but principally in the ions of Montreal, Lachine, Deux-Mon-nes, Beauharnois, Soulanges, Saint-oycap, Vandreuil, Valleyfield, Points-irs, and Chateauguay.

One of these descendants, Joseph uve, was born in 1855 in Quebec, son of raham Sauve and Marceline Walker m England. As a young man of about enty-four he arrived from Coteau Land-l, Quebec, Canada about 1879 to what s then Polk County near Mentor, Minne-ta. He homesteaded there, building a house cabin. Due to a misunderstand-g in the homestead papers, he lost his mestead and then moved to the Terre-nne area.

In 1887 he married Marie Louise Dondo-au, daughter of Narciss Dondoneau and e Bruneau of Terrebonne. To this union re born thirteen children, of which only ree remain living today. Herman and ac of Red Lake Falls and Alvina (Mrs. ancis Desrosier) of Beltrami. Emma died age three in 1896. Rosanna, Emil, salva, and Willie were taken within one nth of diphtheria in 1919. Theophile in 66, Eva (Mrs. Ralph Barrow of Effie) in 71, Regina (Mrs. Philip Prudhomme, ookston) in 1972 and Alfred in 1974.

Mr. Sauve spent his entire life farming in e Terrebonne-Brooks area. He was a od carpenter helping many of his neigh-rs. He retired to a small home in Brooks til the death of his wife January 19, 940. He then lived with a son Issac until s death April 9, 1945.

His descendants number forty-four andchildren in all parts of the United ates, many of whom still live in this area d the state of Minnesota.

XAVIER SAUVE FAMILY

Xavier Sauve, as a very young man, left uebec, Canada and migrated to Califor-a at the end of the Gold Rush. From there came to Minnesota and did farm work ound Crookston. After a few years he me to Terrebonne. In 1882, he married velyn Perusse, who had claimed a farm section three when she came here from noka with her family.

Mr. Sauve built up the farm which until en had only a log cabin where Evelyn d to stay a few nights a month to keep r claim. More of the land was cleared d the farm expanded.

Besides farming, Mr. Sauve with his rothers-in-law, Alferie and Alcide erusse, made ditches with horses and nd scrapers. They also helped build the ade for the Soo Line Railroad coming rough Brooks.

In 1900 when lightning destroyed the riginal homestead barn, a barn raising ee was organized immediately to build a ew and larger barn. In those days it was e custom to donate labor to the neigh-rs. All the settlers could do carpentry ork and were equipped with the building ols. A building went up in a hurry.

The wives would come with food and ould help the lady of the house cook and erve the meals to the working men. When arkness came and the evening meal was ver, the people entertained themselves isiting and square dancing. There always as a musician in the crowd who could lay the harmonica or fiddle. These people eally had enjoyable times.

Mrs. John Keifenheim (Zelia Perusse) said that she attended a big dinner which was held in the new structure. All the neighbors with their families were present. Long tables were put up on sawhorses and there was room for everyone at a grand spread, with Mrs. Bruno Derosier as the chief meat cook.

The Sauve family consisted of Regina (Mrs. Sam Boucher), Ernest, Eva (Mrs. Romeo St. Marie — Mrs. Pete Laundry), Eli, Emma (Mrs. Art Prenevost), Rose (Mrs. Norman LaJambe), Henry and Viola.

The Sauve farm has been in the family all these years. Mr. and Mrs. Noel Brule now own it. Mrs. Brule is Lucille Sauve, a granddaughter of Xavier Sauve.

JOHN E. SAVARD FAMILY

John E. Savard was born in 1874 in Quebec, Canada. At an early age in 1897 he left his mother, a widow with four children, to make his own way in the world. From Quebec he came to Wisconsin where men were being recruited to work in lumber camps. Thirty-one men poled their way down river on log rafts into Crookston.

There John applied for a second cook's job at the lumber camp. When asked if he could bake bread, he readily assented. He thought it had looked easy watching his mother do it, but his first attempt was not very successful. Taking yeast water and a one hundred pound bag of flour, he mixed and kneaded but nothing happened. So he tried more yeast, water and another bag of flour, kneaded well, but still there was no activity. Becoming frightened and worried about losing his job, he dragged the whole mess out into the back woods, dug a hole and buried it. All went well. He denied to the head chef any knowledge of the shortage of flour. Then along came the spring with warm sunshine. The dough started rising, the earth rising with it! With this evidence, he admitted his guilt. He didn't lose his job but had to pay for the flour. This was his unforgettable experience in proving the danger of telling a lie.

In 1901 John Savard married Elise Lizotte. Five children were born to them, three sons, Lorenzo, better known as Kaiser, Allarie and Rayome, and two daughters Bernetta Savard Capistran and Cecilia Savard Nelson.

The Savards started a small bakery and restaurant in the old bakery building, now torn down. They soon moved up the street, a block and called their place The White Front. Then in 1927 this was remodeled, modernized, and included a beautiful ice cream fountain. The establishment was renamed The Green Lantern. John Savard gained a reputation for excellent food, one specialty being French Style Pea Soup. His pies were superb.

In 1916, John acquired a parcel of farm land two miles west of Huot. Mrs. Savard, thinking a farm the best place to raise a family managed this until 1934 when it was sold. The family preferred city life. Mr. Savard was a dedicated Republican and showed a great interest in politics. He continued in his business in the same building for fifty-five years until his retirement. He died in 1950.

LORENZO J. SAVARD

Lorenzo Savard, better known as Kaiser, was born in Red Lake Falls in 1903. He grew up here attending St. Joseph's and Lafayette schools. He served in the Army in World War II and then joined his father in the restaurant business in Red Lake Falls.



Mrs. Xavier Sauve *(standing left)* with friends.

For three years he operated the Brown Derby Club in St. Paul, then returned to Red Lake Falls to purchase the Jewel building which was then a theatre. He changed it into an eight-lane bowling alley which proved to be unsuccessful as there seemed to be no interest in bowling at that time. He then remodeled the building as a restaurant and the Jewel Tavern was for years a Main Center of entertainment around this area. His bar-b-que ribs became famous.

Kaiser and his brothers at one time operated eleven restaurants and clubs in Northwestern Minnesota.

In 1947 Kaiser was married to Ellen Stein. They were the parents of two children, son Michael and daughter, Barbara.

Kaiser took up flying in 1928 and purchased his own plane. His hobby brought him the title, "Red Baron" but after about two years and a couple of minor accidents, he disposed of his plane. He also did quite a bit of boxing, putting on various bouts. One of his main opponents who always drew a crowd was the former Kid Parenteau, known as the Brooks Cheese King.

Politics interested Kaiser and he was a staunch Republican. He served on the city council and was Commander of the American Legion Gunder Austad Post No. 22 in Red Lake Falls. He was a member of the Crookston Elks Lodge for forty-six years.

He will be remembered as a keen promoter of sports and a colorful character in Red Lake Falls. Kaiser passed away in 1973.

JOHN SCHAFER AND MARY ANNE SCHINDLER

Our family history started on Monday, August 7, 1950, when we were united in marriage at the old St. Mary's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls.

We are engaged in farming, living on the home place which included 320 acres in Section 9, south one-half. We also rent 480 acres from an uncle.

Our family consists of eight children. Stephen, born in 1951, lives in New Orleans and is attending classes at Notre Dame Seminary and belongs to the "Community of Jesus the Lord," a new order of priest yet to be organized formally — and who are establishing a House of Prayer at their residence.

William, born in 1952, attended one year at Bemidji State College, worked in California for two years and is now at home farming.

David, born in 1953, attended Northland Jr. College for one year, worked in Grand Forks and New Orleans for a time, and is now engaged in farming.

Louis, born in 1956, is in his second year at the University of Minnesota, Crookston,



The John Schafer family with parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Schafer and Mr. and Mrs. John Schindler.

majoring in Agriculture Business.

Majorie, born in 1957, is attending Moorhead State University and is majoring in Art.

Laura, born in 1959, is a junior at Lafayette High School.

Joseph, born in 1961, is a freshman at Lafayette, is our number one chore boy.

Glenn, born in 1964, is a sixth grader at St. Joseph Parochial School.

The Schafer children all attended grade school at St. Joseph's. They all were members of the Hilltop Ramblers 4-H Club, first organized in the early 1930's. Louis won a trip to Washington, D.C. with the 4-H Citizenship Sport Course contest in 1973. They are active in the school programs and sports.

We are members of St. Joseph's Church in Red Lake Falls. John served on the Parish Council board and is active in church programs. He is at present the president of the board of directors of the Farmers Union Oil Company. He is a member of the Red Lake Falls Flying Club and on the board. He has served as secretary-treasurer for the Red Lake Falls Township a number of years.

Mary Anne is active in Church and school work, and also served as president of the American Legion Auxiliary in 1971-72.

John is interested in old machinery and has built tractors, both for farm use and as a hobby. The Schafers have held two old time Threshing Bees at their farm home.

The hi-lite of 1975 for the Schafer family was the celebration of their 25th Wedding Anniversary at their farm home. Officiating at an outdoor mass was Father Daniel Noah, who united them in marriage twenty-five years before. Con-celebrant was Father Larry Weiseler. Mr. and Mrs. John Schindler and Mr. and Mrs. George Schafer, parents of Mary Anne and John, their eight children and many relatives and friends were present on this special day.

ROBERT AND JUDITH SCHAFER

Robert Schafer was born in April 1941 to Frank Schafer and Annie Linnertz of Gervais Township. His paternal grandparents are John Schafer and Mary Wolf; maternal grandparents, John Linnertz and Mary Majeres. He has three brothers, Willard, Larry and Eugene (Jimmy), and one sister, Margaret (Mrs. Dale Boutain). Bob's mother died from polio at the age of thirty-six in 1946. Frank continued to live on the farm and raise his family.

Following graduation from Lafayette high school, Bob entered the military service and completed six months of active duty with the National Guard and three years in the Reserve. He received barber training at Waterloo Barber College, Waterloo, Iowa, and returned to Red Lake Falls where he is the owner-manager of Bob's Barber Shop.

Robert Schafer married Judith Zornig in September 1969, the daughter of Harry Zornig and Mary Ridge. Judy's maternal grandparents are Festy Ridge and Anna Nee. Her father came to this community from Davenport, Iowa in 1912 at the age of 12 to farm in Red Lake Falls Township. He died in February, 1972.

Judy was born June 1945 and attended St. Joseph's Parochial School and Lafayette high school in Red Lake Falls. She enrolled in St. Joseph's School of Nursing at Grand Forks, graduated a registered nurse in 1966, and was immediately employed at St. Michael's Hospital. Following her marriage, she accepted a position as Nursing Supervisor at Hillcrest Nursing Home where she remained for three and a half years.

Bob is a member of the Red Lake Falls Flying Club and a pilot instructor. He is also a member of the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department, the Sportsmen's Club, St. Joseph's Men's Club, Knights of Columbus, American Legion, and the Red Lake Falls Credit Union.

The Schafers have a son, Michael born December 1973. Judy continues to work part time at St. John's Hospital. They live at 7th Street S.E. in the home purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Garfield Benson.

WILLIAM SCHAPER FAMILY

William Schaper came to Dundas, Minnesota with his parents from Perth Amboy, New Jersey, where he was born in 1857.

In 1878, at age twenty-one, he took a homestead in Section 4, Lake Pleasant Township, then Polk County.

After farming for eight years, he returned to Dundas to marry Wilhemina (Minnie) Ludwig in 1885. She was born in Hannover, Germany in 1860 and came to United States with her parents, Fred and Minnie Yentz Ludwig in 1863, and to Dundas from New York in 1868.

William and Minnie Schaper had five children: Selma married Fred Seeger in 1907, Agnes, married David Sanders of Crookston in 1917, Emma married Fred Purath 1917, Roland who married and lives in Minneapolis, and Arthur.

In 1879 William Schaper was elected first treasurer of Lake Pleasant Township, a position he held until 1916 and served as clerk of school district No. 216. Ida Koke Salley was Emmas first teacher and would pick up the Schaper children with her horse and buggy on her way to school. The schoolhouse is in use today as a home on Dow Avenue Southeast in Red Lake Falls.

William hauled grain to Crookston using dependable oxen. He could walk faster than the oxen and often would return home and would have eaten his supper by the time the oxen arrived. When he was finally able to buy horses, he had the misfortune of losing his barn and horses by fire and had to return to farming with oxen.

After Minnie died in 1933 and William in 1939, the farm was operated and the high grade dairy herd maintained by the unmarried son, Arthur. Arthur sold the farm to Henry and Pauline Seeger Knott in 1953. It is owned now in 1976 by Duane and Henry W. Knott, a brother partnership, with Henry W. Knott living on the homestead.

Arthur Schaper died in August, 1974. He had been a resident the last five years at Hillcrest Nursing Home where he lived a quiet and productive life due to his interest and hobby of the rug loom.

JACOB SCHEHR

The Schehr family came to the Red Lake Falls area in August 1910 and settled west of the city on the old Finseth farm. They came on the train from Jackson County, Minnesota.

Jacob Schehr and his wife, Catherine Marie Luft, had ten children, but only the four youngest came at that time, and their Grandma Luft came with them. The children were — Marie, who later married Elmer Nelson; Alta, who married Phillip Gauthier; Adam, who married Myrtle Schultz in 1924; and Melvin, who married Esther Schultz in 1925, and is presently living on a farm west of Mentor. Henry came about three years later than the family and married Rose Demann in 1918.

Bill Kiesling brought their belongings on the emigrant car — the first one was free, but a second car would have cost $35.00. On the railroad car was a binder, plow, wagon, spring buggy, car, a cook stove and a couple salt barrels of apples picked from their own trees in Jackson, and also seven horses. Bill Kiesling was seven years old when his mother died so he lived with the Schehrs.

The family lived on the Finseth farm for two and a half years, then sold it and rented the Hinkelman farm. They lived there from March until September when they bought the Adelore Laurent farm in Lake Pleasant Twp. Both Grandma Luft and Jacob Schehr died here.

There was no well on the Finseth farm, so summer and winter they had to drive the cattle down to the river to water them. Of course, in the winter, a hole would have to be cut in the ice. They hauled water in barrels on the stone-boat to use for washing clothes and such. In the summer, they carried drinking water in three gallon pails from the N.P. water tank, but boiled river water for drinking in the winter.

Melvin started school in Jackson and continued on here in the rural Jahnke School and Demann School. He remembers that cows were rather hard to buy when they came here, but they eventually worked up to about fifteen milk cows in the later years. Also remembers men hauling cord wood with their teams of oxen.

Both Jacob and Catherine were born in Germany, he had worked his way over on a boat when about seventeen. They met here in America, married and homesteaded in Iowa before moving to Jackson.

The older children were — Anna, Mrs. Charles Miller; Elizabeth "Lizzie," Mrs. Claus Yonker; Margaret, Mrs. Gust Miller; Minnie, Mrs. Herman Yeadicke; and Barbara "Bertha," Mrs. John Kiesling.



Andrew Schiefert Family. *Back:* Andrew Jr., Arthur, Leo, Anthony, Bennie and Joseph. *Front:* Anna, Andrew, Sr. Margaret, Mrs. Anna Schiefert and Angela.

ANDREW SCHIEFERT, SR.

Andrew Schiefert, Sr., son of George and Margaret Schiefert, was born in Austria in 1871. He, along with his parents, two sisters and one brother, came to the United States in 1880 and settled in Sibley County, southern Minnesota where they were engaged in farming.

In 1900 he was united in marriage to Anna Gitter. They farmed in Sibley County and then moved to Ranville County. Nine children were born to them.

In 1919 they came to northern Minnesota. Andrew and the three older children traveled by car while Anna and the younger children came by rail. Their cattle and household goods were also shipped by rail. They purchased a farm in Emardville township, Red Lake County, six miles northeast of Plummer. Here the family grew up and attended school. Andrew was on the school board for many years.

The children are: Angela (Mrs. Frank Schmidt Sr.), Red Lake Falls; Joseph of Rewey, Wisconsin; Anna (Mrs. Frank Keim), passed away in 1969; Margaret (Mrs. Floyd Russell), Madison, Wisconsin; Andrew Jr., Plummer, Minnesota; Anthony, passed away in 1974; Leo, Thief River Falls, Minnesota; Bennie, Butler, Wisconsin; Arthur, lives on the home place near Plummer.

Andrew and Anna Schiefert had 31 grandchildren.

In 1945 Andrew Sr. and Anna retired and along with their son Leo moved to Red Lake Falls. Andrew Sr. passed away in 1947. Anna spent some time at Hillcrest Nursing home before she passed away in 1961.

ANTHONY SCHIEFERT HISTORY

Anthony Schiefert was born in 1909 in Sibley County, southern Minnesota to Andrew and Anna Gitter Schiefert. He attended his first years of school there and in 1919, when he was ten years old, he came to Red Lake County with his parents and family. They settled on a farm north of Plummer. Here he finished school and later began farming with his father.

In 1939 Anthony married Ezella Quesnel, daughter of Robert and Fedora Laurent Quesnel, at Terrebonne. They rented and farmed the land then owned by Katherine McAnulty. During the three years they lived on the McAnulty farm their first child, Roberta, was born. Anthony and his family then moved to a farm north of Red Lake Falls owned by the Nelson estate. They stayed here for one year. Here their son Lonnie was born. In 1942 the Schieferts purchased a farm in Poplar River Township, two miles east of Terrebonne. Here five more children were born. They farmed here for twenty-eight years and he did carpenter work.



Anthony Schiefert Family

Anthony was very active in public affairs, serving on the Brooks school board, Farmers Union board, Credit Union, Plummer Creamery board and as a church trustee.

In 1970, he discontinued farming and did carpenter work until poor health forced his retirement. He passed away on July 26, 1974. Ezella still lives on the home farm.

The children are Roberta who married Gerald Belland. He works for the Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company. They live in Dallas, Texas and have two daughters, Lisa and Lora. Lonnie is a conservation officer at Northome. He married Ann Rolfson and they have a son, Brent. Gerald Clair is an accountant for Tape, Inc., a manufacturing company in Hopkins. He married Marlys Perreault and they have three children, Steven, Stephenie and Sara. Marlin is the Assistant Manager of the American Legion Club of Thief River Falls. He married Ruth Schmitz and they have two children, Todd and Marla.

DeLayne married Delbert Schmitz. She works for DMH Company in Red Lake Falls. Delbert is Warranty Manager for Hydra-Mac of Thief River Falls. They live in a mobile home on the Schiefert farm with her mother and have two children, DeAnna and Darin. DeEtte married Duane Walter. She is an accountant for Bechtold Excavating Company in Minot, North Dakota and Duane is a self employed appliance repair man and also works for I. Keating. Roxanne is a Junior at NDU in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

JOHN SCHINDLER AND MARY SCHMITZ SCHINDLER FAMILY

John Schindler was born at Sibley, Iowa, on May 2, 1893. In 1914 his parents moved to Iona, Minnesota, then to Clay county and in 1916 they came to Red Lake County. John and his brother, Will, drove a herd of horses to this area, and also shipped their cattle up here by train. Here they began farming operations in Red Lake Falls Township, southwest of the city.

Mary Schmitz, daughter of Joseph Schmitz, was born July 8, 1897 in a tar paper house in Browns Creek Township. She was educated in a little red school house one and a half miles from home. As a young woman, Mary sang in St. Mary's Catholic Church choir and also played the organ with her brother, Crist, for country dances.

John Schindler and Mary Schmitz were married February 5, 1918 at St. Mary's Church. They farmed most of their married life in Lake Pleasant Township. Twelve children were born to them, Edward, Louise, Louis who died in infancy, Veronica, Josephine, Raymond, Bernard, Mary Ann, Eugene, Vernon, Theodore, and Val.

The family lived in Gentilly Township, Polk County, from 1922 to 1928 and then moved back to Lake Pleasant Township where they made their living farming and dairying. They also raised sheep, hogs, chickens, turkeys and geese. Every member of the family worked and knew how to work. Mary made butter and sold it to town folks, and John cut cord wood in the winter for sale. All the farm work was done with horses and mules. John also raised mules especially for power to pull the machinery.

The older children went to country school District 216, two and a half miles from home, although in the winter, it was sometimes next to impossible to get there. Later, when a private bus was hired, the younger children attended Red Lake Falls schools. Public school buses made it much easier to get an education.

John served on the school board for District 216 for several terms. He was also on the Lake Pleasant Town Board for fifteen years, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Community Co-operative Store. In 1935 the first John Deere Model A tractor was purchased. Later years they bought a threshing machine and the family did all their own harvesting.

Living conditions were improved when a portable Delco light plant was purchased and installed and the buildings were wired for electricity. The Red Lake Electric Co-operative provided electricity later. As farm prices and conditions improved, the Schindlers built a beautiful modern farm home in 1949 and improved all the farm buildings.

John and Mary Schindler were named Red Lake County's honored dairy couple in 1949. They quit the dairy business ten years later. For twelve years they spent their winters in Alamo, Texas, where they owned a home. Here they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1968. When they came back to Red Lake Falls that fall, their children honored them at an open house at their farm home.

John and Mary Schindler moved to Red Lake Falls in 1969 where they now reside, and celebrated their fifty-fifth anniversary in 1973.

The eleven children are all engaged in farming with nine of them living in Red Lake County. There are 78 grandchildren and 23 great-great-grandchildren.

Edward married Jean Amiot and they have eight children and farm in Lake Pleasant Township. Louise married Joseph Kees. They farm in Red Lake Falls Township and have five children. Veronica married Leo Hoefer of Lake Pleasant Township and they have nine children. Josephine married Gene Taggetz. They farm in Mentor and have six children. Raymond mar-



John Schindler Family. *Back:* Vernon, Bernard, Raymond and Eugene. *Middle:* Mary Anne, Josephine, Edward, Louise and Veronica. *Front:* Val, John and Mary, Theodore.

ried Maryann Linnertz and they live and farm in Pennington County with six children. Bernard farms in Red Lake County. Maryann married John Schafer who farms in Red Lake Falls Township and they have eight children. Eugene married Patricia Amiot. They farm in Lake Pleasant Township and have eleven children. Vernon married Mary Pueringer and farms in Terrebonne Township with six children. Theodore married Marion Hagl. They farm in Lake Pleasant Township (on John's farm) and they have nine children. Valentine "Val" married Delores Hagl and farms in Gervais Township with ten children.

EDWARD SCHINDLER AND GENEVIEVE (JEAN) AMIOT SCHINDLER

Edward Schindler (b. 1918), son of John Schindler and Mary Schmitz, married Genevieve (Jean) Amiot, daughter of Isidore and Diane Poirier, in November of 1943. In February of 1945 Ed was drafted into military service and served one year in Korea.

Ed and Jean have farmed for thirty-three years and reside in the southeast corner of Louisville township, section 36, on a farm. Their farm consists of 560 acres and they have dairy and beef cattle, sheep and chickens. Their present home is situated near the farms where both were raised.

Before this marriage, Jean worked for a number of years as a nurses aid. She is presently employed by School District # 630 as a bus driver, a job she has held for the past four years. Ed also became a school bus driver in 1975.

Ed is a member of the Knights of Columbus, American Legion and St. Joseph's Men's Guild. Jean belongs to the Catholic Daughters of America, The American Legion Auxiliary, St. John's Hospital Auxiliary, St. Joseph's Ladies Guild, St. Anne's Society and is also a 4-H leader.

Jean and Ed have nine children: All but the youngest son, Roger, have graduated from LaFayette and have attended the Thief River Falls Vocational School. Judy (b. 1944) is married to Roger Dziengel and they farm near Kennedy. Their children are Michael and Wendy; Germaine (b. 1947) is the wife of John VanDenEinde and they live and farm near Winger. Their children are Anthony, Sheila and Connie; Jerome (b. 1948) is married to Margaret Schmitz. They live in Red Lake Falls and have a daughter, Dawn; Dorothy (b. 1950) is the wife of LeRoy Nelson. Their home is in Thief River Falls and they have two sons, Dean and Jeffrey; Anna Mae (b. 1953) married James Schoenmann and because of his job as a geological surveyor they change residence frequently; Alan (b. 1956) is presently serving in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in Arizona. Mary Lou (b. 1957) attends TRF Vocational School. Her twin brother John died at birth; Roger (b. 1961) attends LaFayette High School.



Ed Schindler Family.

JEROME SCHINDLER AND MARGARET SCHMITZ SCHINDLER

Jerome, the son of Edward Schindler and Jean Amiot, and Margaret "Markie" Schmitz, the daughter of Bernard Schmitz Sr. and Elizabeth Knott were united in marriage on July 17, 1971. They reside in Red Lake Falls.

Jerry is a 1966 graduate of Lafayette high school. He served three years in the U.S. Army, one of which was in Vietnam. Jerry has been employed by Detroiter, the Red Lake Falls Water Department, Cenex, and is presently employed by Miller Ford. He completed a two year course at the Thief River Falls Area Vocational Technical Institute for Auto Mechanics.

Markie is a 1969 graduate of Mount St. Benedict in Crookston. She was employed at the Red Lake County State Bank and also as a secretary at St. Joseph's School. Following the birth of their first child, a daughter, Dawn, Markie still finds ample time to pursue her hobby of "lettering" and making plaques.

FRANK SCHIRRICK, SR.

Frank Schirrick, Sr. was born November 11, 1852 in Bauch, Austria. He came to the United States settling first in the Wabasha and Goodhue county areas where he became friends of Matt Skala and Peter Kilburg who were all to meet again in Red Lake County.

In June 1891, Mr. Schirrick married Mary Lozert who was born May 20, 1869 also at Bauch, Austria, and came to the United States in 1891.

The Schirricks settled on a farm in Wylie Township that Frank previously homesteaded in 1881. (Frank Schirrick, Mrs. Peter Kilburg Sr., and Mrs. Joseph Schmitz were brother and sisters).

Nine children were born: Mary (deceased), Paul and Peter of Red Lake Falls, Nick (deceased), Annie (Sr. Everia, deceased), John in Texas, Martha (Sister Francisca, deceased), Frank and Agnes (Mrs. Joe Rynne) of Detroit, Michigan.

Frank died in 1912 and Mary in 1946.

PETER SCHIRRICK

I was born in 1894, the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schirrick. My father passed away in 1912, so I was obligated to quit school to help support the family.

In 1919, I bought the NE¼ of Section 2 in Louisville Township, and the home place in 1927.

In August, 1926, I married Emma M. Whalen and we farmed until 1958. Our family consisted of six children, five of whom are still living. They are Joseph, Donald, Madonna, Cecilia, and Carol. Our son, Peter, Jr., met death in Havre, Montana, on June 12, 1956, in a plane crash while crop spraying. Don now operates our farm. Joseph lives in Dearborn, Michigan, Madonna in Bloomington, Cecilia in Crookston, and Carol in San Bruno, California.

I was the founder of the Red Lake County Crop Improvement Association and its director for thirty-one years. I was also director of the Red River Valley Crops and Soil Association for thirty years. During that time, Carl Ash of Crookston and I got a carload of registered and certified newly released Selkirk wheat from Canada. This carload of wheat was stationed at Warren and the seed was distributed up and down the Red River Valley to eligible growers.

I was interested in proving that we could grow superior quality grain crops in Red Lake County. This proved to be true and I won the title of Minnesota State Wheat King from 1941 through 1943, as well as the Phillip W. Pillsbury Award for three years, the Red River Valley Master Crop Grower Award four times. In 1943, I showed the reserve grand champion sample of wheat at the International Livestock Show in Chicago.

Peter Schirrick purchased a new treshing machine in 1921 and for approximately the next 24 years moved from farm to farm helping to harvest small grain crops for farmers in the neighboring townships through Polk Centre (Wylie), Louisville, Red Lake Falls, Browns Creek and north of the Pennington county line.

Back in 1934, I had won a major award at the World Exhibition and Grain Conference at Regina, Canada, with a sample of durum wheat that weighed sixty-seven pounds. Times were hard then, and without the untiring efforts on the part of my wife, they would have been much worse. It was she who, in 1934, said, "Let's go to Crookston and buy a combine." We did just that. It was the first combine to come

into Red Lake County and, consequently, some of our neighbors called us crazy. Within a year or so, I was being asked to do combining, and did, for several of the neighbors. In a matter of a few years, combines became very popular and everyone had one. (The picture is of our first Minneapolis-Moline combine.)

I helped organize the Farmers Union Oil Company of Red Lake Falls and was one of the original incorporators. I was the first secretary and also served as president for a time. I was an active member for forty years, holding the first share in the company.

I was secretary-treasurer of Telephone Line Company F6 that the farmers built in 1913 until it was sold some thirty years later, director and officer of the Wylie Cooperative Elevator for forty years, clerk of School District No. 124J for twenty-seven years, assessor of Wylie Township for four years, and clerk of Wylie Township for fourteen years.

We are members of St. Dorothy's Church in Dorothy..

DON AND KAREN SCHIRRICK HISTORY

Don Schirrick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schirrick was born in 1931 in Wylie Township. He attended local schools and graduated in 1949 from Lafayette high school. Later he attended the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

An avid 4-H member, he won trips to National 4-H club congress in Chicago in 1949 and 1951 and in latter years was selected as the top boy in the United States in the field of 4-H community relations and was awarded a $300 college scholarship from Gene Autry and Wrigley Gum Company.

On September 9, 1961 Don married Karen Murray, the daughter of George and Carroll Murray from Grand Forks. Her grandparents, Eusebe and Grace Normandeau were long time residents of the Red Lake Falls community. She had attended Sacred Heart school and graduated from high school in 1957 and then completed nurses training at St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Grand Forks in 1960.

The Don Schirricks operate the farm northwest of Red Lake Falls where he was born and which was homesteaded by his grandfather, Frank Schirrick. The farming centers around the raising of small grains and certified seed, registered Aberdeen Angus cattle, and waterfoul.

Don served as president of the Red Lake County crop improvement association and the Farmers Union Oil Company.

Don and Karen are the parents of four children who attend school in Red Lake Falls: David, Jennifer, Daniel and Thomas.

In 1968 Don joined Strout Realty, a nationwide firm, and operated a real estate office for them out of his home. For superior selling activity he was awarded the sales executive club award in 1973 and the master salesman's award in 1974. In 1970 he was selected as Red Lake County King Agassiz for the Red River Valley Winter Shows.

Karen works for the Inter-County Nursing Service out of Red Lake Falls. The family are members of and are active in church affairs of St. Dorothy's Catholic Church.

EYVIND SCHJELDERUP

Eyvind Schjelderup was born at Forsa, Tysfjorden Norway on October 24, 1863, to Kristafer and Anne Krogh Schjelderup, and was the youngest of seven children. He attended school and was confirmed in Norway. Having lost his father by drowning, he felt there should be an easier way of making a living than on the sea, so at the age of sixteen he left, all alone, for America, promising his mother he would return in five years. But this was not to be. He encountered many hardships; unable to speak the language, work was hard to come by, and wages poor.

In 1914, he received the sad news of his mother's death, and from then on he lost all desire to return to Norway.

When arriving in New York, he met a Norse couple who were coming to North Dakota and they asked him to accompany them. This he did, but for some reason he decided to part company with them at Erskine, Minnesota. Here he was offered work on a farm, and remained there until his marriage to Betsy Hemly, in 1889. She had come from Norway with her parents in 1877 and was born at Eidsvald, Norway, to Jens and Maren Hall Hemly. She had four brothers: Kristian, Andor, Ole, and Andrew. The two latter lived in Plummer until their deaths.

The Schjelderups had eleven children. The two eldest, Carl and Andrew, were born in Woodside township, rural Erskine. The others were all born at Plummer. Two died as infants. Carl, Andrew, Mary and Henry are deceased. Hilda (Mrs. Edwin H. Jocabson) Little Marais; Elmer and Bennie, Plummer; Ida Eagleton, Woodburn, Oregon; and Louise (Mrs. J. C. Moreland) Rolling Hills Estate, California, are the rest of the children.

The folks moved to Plummer in 1899 where they homesteaded on S½ SE¼ and S½ SW¼ of Section 9, township 151, range 42, Emardville Township. Part of this later became first addition to Plummer. A 1.32 acre tract was deeded to school district 16, on December 13, 1899, and 150 feet of right of way was sold to the Soo line for their tracks.

Mother and dad's good and life long friends, the Gustav Swendbys, homesteaded the N½ SE¼, which is original Plummer village townsite.

The folks built their home on the bank of the Clearwater River, one mile west of Plummer and lived there until their deaths — Mom in 1947 and Dad in 1954.

Many stories were related to us about the pioneer days, and the many hardships they faced. They would travel on foot to Red Lake Falls for their supplies, a distance of thirteen miles, and on one such trip dad, who had to cross the river, had a raft handy for crossing. When he returned on this trip, his raft was gone and it being early winter there was already ice along the edge of the river. He had no choice but to swim across with groceries on his back. Later, he acquired an ox team and would haul cord wood to Red Lake Falls. On the days when making these trips, it meant getting up early, taking a lantern and hanging it in a tree while cutting wood, until it was time to go home and feed and harness the oxen, have his breakfast and be on his way — and this for one dollar and fifty cents a cord.

After Plummer came into being, the folks sold milk to town people. In the morning we would deliver it on our way to school. A syrup pail full (1½ qt.) sold for five cents. It was neither pasteurized or homogenized.

In the evenings it would often get dark by the time we were ready to go home, and it was not unusual to hear wolves howling in the distance. This would hurry us along, and the folks would hear us coming by the sound of pails clanging.



Eyvind Schjelderup Family 1940

In reminiscing, we often wonder what our parents and grandparents would think of our mode of living today. Would they approve or would they say, as dad often did when relating the hardships of these days, "We were happy then, we helped one another as best we could, and got along with what we had. There was no keeping up with the Jones' for we were all in very much the same circumstances."

FRANZ AND CHARLES SCHMIDT FAMILIES

Franz Schmidt came to the United States from Austria in 1884 to settle at New Ulm where Annie Clisenue, his bride to be, also from Austria, came one year later. They were united in marriage at New Ulm June 3, 1885 and soon after moved to Redwood Falls where they farmed for fourteen years. The family moved to Red Lake Falls in 1900 and settled on a farm. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 3, 1935 with all their twelve children present. Five daughters: Tracy (Mrs. Nels Berg), Kate (Mrs. Robert Ford), Annie (Mrs. E. Ravertz), Lena (Mrs. James Ford), and Marrie. Seven sons: Charles, John, Joseph, Frank, Anton, Henry and Peter. Franz and his wife both passed away in 1951; Franz at the age of 91 and his wife at the age of 90.

Charles Schmidt Sr., son of Franz and Annie Schmidt, homesteaded on a farm east of Plummer and married Annie Mares in 1915 at Plummer. Later they sold the farm and moved to Plummer. They bought a hotel, operated it several years and later sold it to buy a general store. People had very little money in those days so Charlie took wood, chickens, and steers in exchange for groceries and clothing, plus over half the business on credit. Their four children were born at Plummer: Charles Jr., Elizabeth, Clarissa, and Francis. When the store and living quarters were completely destroyed by fire, the only possession saved was the piano, the instrument that started them in music careers. Soon after, another building was moved on the same site and remodeled into a general store that is still in operation.

In 1926 the Schmidts sold the store and moved to a farm just outside Red Lake Falls. Mrs. Charles Schmidt passed away in 1936. At this time the depression was being felt by everyone. The Schmidt family, being quite musically inclined, decided to pool their talents to organize a dance band. Charles and Elizabeth (Betty) played dances, parties, etc. and were later joined by Clarissa and Francis (Bylo). Money was hard to come by but they were able to keep the family together. Charles Schmidt Sr.



Franz Schmidt Family. *Back:* Anna, Frank, Lena, Joseph, John, Kate and Charles. *Seated:* Franz, Tony, Mrs. Schmidt, Theresa and Henry. Peter and Mary in front.

built a dance pavilion known as "Sleepy Hollow" located on the banks of the Red Lake River. He operated it for a short time then bought a tavern on the North Side of Red Lake Falls which he managed until retirement age. Charles Schmidt Sr. passed away in 1968 at the age of 84 years.

Charles Jr. was born at Plummer in 1917 and came to Red Lake Falls with his parents in 1926. Shortly after his high school days he organized his own dance band with engagements in Minot, Bismarck, Moorhead, Detroit Lakes and Fargo. Later he served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 in the North Pacific. After his return, he married Orrie Strande of Thief River Falls in 1947. They lived at Fargo for three years before returning to Red Lake Falls where they have since made their home. Charles is employed by the city at the Municipal Liquor Supply. He is also a member of the Smith Brothers Orchestra playing at the American Legion Club at Fargo. They have two children, Michael and Susan.

FRANK SCHMIDT, SR.

Frank Schmidt, Sr., came to Red Lake Falls with his parents, Franz Schmidt and Anna Glassner, from Lamberton, Minnesota, in 1900 when the family moved onto a farm in the area that "was all woods and had to be cleared to make fields for grain."

In October 1921, Frank married Angela Schiefert who had come with her parents, Andrew Schiefert and Anna Gitter, from Fairfax to a farm near Plummer in 1919. The Frank Schmidts settled immediately on a farm northeast of Red Lake Falls where they raised their seven children and still reside.

Frank Schmidt, Sr., attended School District No. 88 in Gervais Township and served on the school board for the same district in later years.

Their children are Margaret (Mrs. Roland Lanctot) of Gentilly, Raymond, Harold, Harriet (Mrs. Fred Violette), of Red Lake Falls, Andrew of Watertown, Wisconsin, Frank A. of Red Lake Falls, and Evelyn (Mrs. Delbert Desrosier) of Crookston.

The Schmidts family have been members of St. Joseph's Church, Red Lake Falls.



Frank Schmidt, Sr. Family

JOHN SCHMITZ — ANNA PAHLEN

John, the first child born to Joseph and Louise Schmitz, was born November 6, 1892. John said when he started school, he could not speak English, he could only talk German. So his mother taught him the following sentences so he could speak to his teacher the first day of school. "My name is John Schmitz. I am six years old. My father's name is Joseph Schmitz". His mother told him to go into the school, go up to the teacher and tell her this. It was his first English speaking experience.

He married Anna Pahlen in 1917. John was a flour miller by trade and worked at Steinert's Milling Co. for 37 years until the time of his death on June 9, 1955. Like his grandpa John, he too followed in the footsteps of a butcher and did much of this in his spare time. After their 13 children were raised, Anna worked as a clerk in the Co-op store for a number of years. She passed away December 28, 1972 at the age of 73.

While the children were growing up, their home seemed to be a gathering place for many friends and relatives. Its location near St. Mary's Church (where John did janitor work for many years) made it a handy stopping-off place before and after church services, choir practice, devotions and the like. During early years people came with horse and buggies and often stayed overnight and would offer home cured hams, eggs and home rendered lard in payment for their lodging, altho Anna never expected any pay.

St. Mary's Church and choir played an important part in the life of the Schmitz family and some of them were members of the choir. Mr. Schmitz himself was quite a musician and would often sit outside on warm summer evenings and play his old two-button row accordian. A frequent visitor at such "concerts" was Father Henry Pelger who would sit and smoke his cigars and enjoy the music.

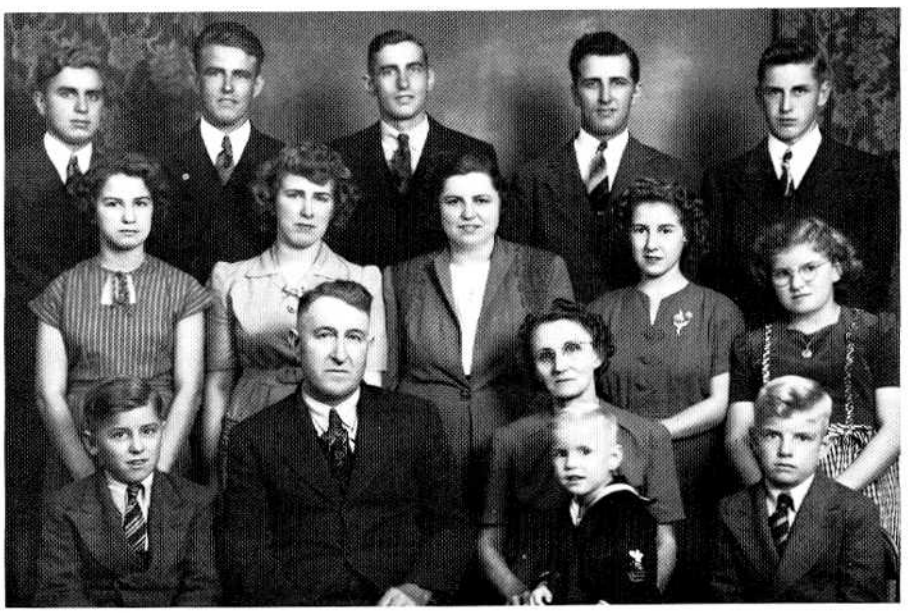
John and Anna's family grew to include not only their 13 children, but 89 grandchildren and 35 great-granchildren as well. Their children:

Elizabeth married Leonard Guerard. He is an electrician at Donnybrook, N.D. They have seven children and 10 grandchildren.

Joseph married Marlys Boutain. He works in a civil service job at the Grand Forks Air Base. They have nine children and seven grandchildren.

Sylvester married Helen Weiss. He farms, is a retired carpenter and lives north of Red Lake Falls. They have 14 children and four grandchildren.

Vincent married Helen Miller. He works as an REA line foreman in Red Lake Falls



John Schmitz family

and they have nine children and three grandchildren.

Lucille married Maurice Desotell and lives in Clarissa. They have a cattle and grain farm and Lucille is a part-time teacher. They have six children (1 deceased) and four grandchildren. Maurice passed away December 1975.

Louis married Jean Hesse and lives in Farmington. He is an REA electrical maintenance man. They have nine children and one grandchild.

Leonard married Frances Donarski. They live in Farmington, where he works as an REA electrical maintenance man. They have seven children and two grandchildren.

Margaret married Edward Cuno and lives in Red Lake Falls. Ed is an REA electrical maintenance man and Margaret works as a clerk at Eckstein's. They have five children and one grandchild.

Clarice married Donald Knott. They live and farm in rural Red Lake Falls. They have 11 children and three grandchildren.

Marilyn married Philip Cuno and lives in Red Lake Falls. Philip is the city clerk and they have three children.

John Schmitz married Rose Kraft and lives in Thief River Falls. John is a high school math teacher and they have five children (one deceased).

Anthony Schmitz married Marlene Tiedeman and lives in Crookston. Tony is the Administrator of St. John's Hospital in Red Lake Falls. They have four children.

David was killed in a car accident at Maple Lake in 1957.

CRISPEN SCHMITZ

Crispen "Crist" Schmitz, born December 24, 1895, was the third child of Joseph and Louise Schmitz. Crist mentioned several incidents of his earlier childhood days, but the time when he was called to serve his country is very vivid to him. During World War I, his classification was lowered because he was needed on the farm. One day to his bewilderment, there in the mail was a call to report immediately to be inducted into the Army. The next morning, very tearfully his dad, Joseph, gave him $25.00 to help on his unforeseen journey. Most of this money, Crist lent out to several of his buddies that were also called at this time. The money was spent to buy better food on the nine day trip aboard the cattle ship across the Atlantic to France. The menu consisted daily of hardtack biscuits, and many of the boys were getting sick from this food. Crist was a determined young man and survived the trip, the months served in France, and the serious attack of pneumonia that almost took his life.

Following his return to the States, Crist was united in marriage to Freida Schindler (deceased December 18, 1938). For several years, they farmed 400 acres in Pennington County. Drought, grasshoppers, poor prices plus his wife's illness caused the family to leave Pennington County. Moving back to Red Lake County, he again became engaged in farming until a number of years ago. His sons, Francis and Arthur have purchased and reside on the home farms. In 1960 Crist retired and is now living in Red Lake Falls. He is one of our well-known citizens at the age of 80 years. They had four children, 30 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Francis married Evelyn Kirschman and they are parents of seven children. They live on and farm one of his father's farms in Red Lake Falls township.

Loretta married LaVern Knott. They have 15 children and one grandchild. They live and farm in Red Lake Falls township.

Donald married Bernadette Kaufman and works as a welder in a factory in South Milwaukee. They have four daughters.

Arthur married Joan Walsh and lives on and operates one of his father's farms in Red Lake Falls township. They have four sons.

BERNARD SCHMITZ AND ELIZABETH KNOTT

Bernard "Ben" Schmitz was born August 20, 1899, the fifth child of Joseph and Louise Schmitz. Ben recalling his childhood, said that much of the field and farm work was completed either by hand or with the help of horses. They had to care for twenty work horses and some mules that were used to pull the farm machines. Some of the main crops were wheat, oats and hay. The wheat was sold to buy farm supplies, and the oats and hay were used to feed the horses and cattle. Ben remembers when he was too short to sit on the hay rake and could only stand in order to operate it. It was during these formative years of his farming life that Ben learned to be a top-notch stacker. His formal education consisted of eight years in "The Little Red School" in Brown's Creek Township, Distirct #43. He desired more education, but there was too great a need for him on the farm.

Later, Ben learned a carpentry trade while working as a carpenter's helper in Minneapolis during 1925 and 1926, at the Elliot Memorial Cancer Hospital, which was then being built. With about ten men for every job, he was happy to be able to work and earn forty cents an hour. His room and board was eight dollars a week, one-half of his week's pay check. During this time, he also learned to be a weather stripper and a bricklayer — all valuable assets following his return to Red Lake County.

On September 11, 1929, Ben was united in marriage to Elizabeth Knott. With four mules, three cows, three heifers, and one pig, they began their married life as farmers by renting the Elsie Jefferson quarter north of Red Lake Falls. They rented until 1940 and then purcahsed this homestead in Red Lake Falls Township.

On June 14, 1951, Elizabeth died, so Ben and the nine children were left alone to live and farm the section of land that he had acquired. Much of the land was hay or pasture for a 32 cow dairy herd, and the remainder was seeded into small grain. To help supplement his farm income, Ben continued with his carpentry, brick and block work in the surrounding area.

Prior to the closing of St. Mary's Church in 1952, Ben was an active tenor in the adult choir and continued this role in St. Joseph's choir. This musical ability carried over into his social life, for he would often be found either singing or playing some musical instrument.

This past year Ben has become a semi-retired farmer, but still resides on the home place. He helps till his farm which is now rented to several of his sons. His winter pastime is wood-carving. Many fond childhood memories again take form in the miniature replicas of different machinery, coaches, wagons, carts, sleighs or the Budweiser Beer Wagon, just to name a few. You can well imagine when any of his 46 grandchildren or two great-grandchildren see some of this work, they stand around looking in awe. "Grandpa, do you think . . .?, could you . . .? Oh, I wish . . .!". Grandpa usually understands their secret thoughts!



Bernard Schmitz Family

All nine children except Leon, reside in or near Red Lake County. Alois married Dorine Beauchane. They have 15 children and reside in Red Lake Falls Township. He is a grain and dairy farmer and is in partnership in Schmitz Construction Company with his brother Linus.

Henry married Phyllis St. Marie and they reside in Red Lake Falls with their five children. Both are employed at Detroiter Mfg.

JoAnn married George Derosier and resides on a farm in Terrebonne Township. JoAnn is an elementary teacher at St. Joseph's Parochial School in Red Lake Falls, and they are the parents of five sons.

Monica married Charles Stephens and resides in Red Lake Falls. Besides caring for her seven step-children, Monica finds time for a few hobbies such as refinishing furniture, farming and gardening.

Bernard married Clarice Haupt and farms in Emardville Township. He also is a carpenter with Schmitz Construction. They have six children.

Linus married Beverly Ford and resides in Red Lake Falls. Linus is a carpenter and formed a partnership with his brother Alois, which is known as Schmitz Construction. They have two children.

Leon married Diane Kees and lived in Red Lake Falls where he was manager of the Robertson Lumber Co. until 1974. He is now the District Supervisor of nineteen yards in North Dakota. They live in Park River, North Dakota with their three children.

Marlys married Darrell Casavan and they are farming in Pennington County near St. Hilaire. Marlys is very adept at handling farm equipment and helps manage their large dairy herd. They have two children.

Margaret "Markie" married Jerome Schindler and they reside in Red Lake Falls. They are the parents of a daughter, Dawn. Markie still finds ample time to pursue her hobby of making plaques and "lettering".

EDWARD J. SCHMITZ AND GERTRUDE KNOTT SCHMITZ

Gertrude M. Knott, daughter of Leo and Margaret Knott, and I were married on September 26th, 1934 in St. Mary's Catholic Church by Rev. Henry Pelger. Our attendants were my sister Martha Oman and Henery R. Knott, brother of the bride.

We rented a farm in Black River Township, Pennington County, farming with five horses and mules.

Our first son Ronald was born in this place in 1935 and passed away in 1971.

The winter was cold and the dwelling in



Edward Schmitz Sr. Family

poor condition. It kept one busy gathering firewood to keep warm. For light, we depended on kerosene lamps and lanterns. We milked our cows by hand, separated the milk and sold the cream.

In the spring of 1937 we moved to a farm in Red Lake Falls Township owned by William Constant, four miles northeast of Red Lake Falls where we continued to farm, renting the first few years. Then we purchased the farm. Our second child, Vivian, was born there in 1937. She attended country school for a few years and also St. Joseph's, then on to Lafayette high school, graduating from there in 1954. She went on to school in Grand Forks to become an R.N. and married James Talley. They have five sons, Mark, Stephen, Craig, James and Paul and live in Parkers Prairie, where James is administrator of the hospital.

As time went on, we purchased more land, a total of 640 acres. We could handle it very well with the help of a new John Deere B tractor, on rubber tires. That was in 1941.

Edward H., our third child was born in 1940. He finished high school and then enlisted in the navy for four years, becoming a radio technician on the U.S.S. Tuban. After his discharge he became a licensed electrician, working with Ken's Electric. He and his wife, Gaylene, have purchased the family farm. They have three sons, Allen, Jeffrey and Rodney and one daughter Janelle. They were married September 19, 1964.

It was a happy day when R.E.A. came out our way, making farm life much more comfortable with electricity.

James was born in 1941. He also went to country school and on to high school. He helped farm a few years then joined the U.S. Army and was a member in the U.S. Army Band. After basic training, he was sent to Vietnam for one year, finishing the remaining time in the United States. In June 1969, he married Theresa Ayotte. They own a farm four miles northwest of Red Lake Falls. They have one son, Neil, and a daughter, Kristi. He is employed with Schmitz Construction Company.

Leo, our fifth child was born in 1942. He went to grade school in the country and to Lafayette and, after graduation, to the University of North Dakota, becoming a teacher and majoring in Math. He teaches in Clarissa and does some farming.

Janice, our sixth, born in 1946, was the only child born in a hospital. The greater part of her grade school was at St. Joseph's and after graduation from Lafayette, she went on to college to become an R.N. and worked at St. Michael's Hospital in Grand Forks for a year. In November, 1967, she married Vern Ebersviller and they have one daughter, Nicole. They live in Waconia, Minnesota where Janice works part-time in the hospital.

We lived on the farm until November, 1970, when we retired and moved into Red Lake Falls.

THEODORE SCHMITZ — LEONA HOEFER

In 1909 on a farm in Red Lake Falls, Theodore "Ted" Schmitz, the tenth child of Joseph and Louise Schmitz, was born. He grew up on his father's farm and married Leona Hoefer October 14, 1941. He purchased 160 acres in Red Lake County and later bought another 160 acres in Pennington County. Leona was born in South Dakota and came to Minnesota with her family because of the drought. It was four years before she married Ted. They are the parents of 10 children and grandparents of 9 grandchildren.

Delbert was born December 28, 1942 and married Delayne Schiefert. He works for Hydra-Mac Inc. and Delayne works for Detroiter. They have two children and live near Terrebonne.

Veronica was born November 16, 1943 and married Farnk Kasprowicz. They live on a farm near Stephen.

Bonita was born September 29, 1945 and married Anthony Kazmierczak. They have two children and live on a farm near Strandquist.

Pauline was born January 16, 1949 and married Clarence Kuznia. They have three children and live in Bloomington where he owns the Viking Dry Wall Co.

Ruth was born February 26, 1960 and married Marlin Schiefert. They have two children. Ruth is an LPN at St. John's Hospital, and Marlin is assistant manager of the American Legion in Thief River Falls.

Daniel was born September 9, 1952 (a twin sister died at birth). Dan lives in Bloomington and works for the Viking Dry Wall Co.

Ted was born January 7, 1957. He lives at home and works for the County Ditching Dept.

Dolores was born July 28, 1963, lives at home and is a student at St. Joseph's School.

Theodore Schmitz, Sr. passed away June 9, 1972 after a short illness. Leona has remained on the farm with Ted Jr., Tom and Dolores, and has been employed at Hillcrest Nursing Home for the past ten years. Ted, Sr., has a twin sister, Cecelia (Majeres) still living. Leona has a twin brother still living.



Theodore Schmitz family.

ALOIS SCHMITZ AND DORINE BEAUCHANE SCHMITZ

Alois Schmitz, eldest child of Bernard Schmitz Sr., married Dorine Beauchane, daughter of Medy Beauchane and Rose Dufault, on October 7, 1952. One month after their marriage, Alois went to serve in the Army Airborne Forces for two years. After his return home, he became the assistant manager of the Robertson Lumber Co. in Red Lake Falls and continued in this position for nine years. He then purchased a farm in Red Lake Falls Township where the family still makes their home. Alois is a member of the St. Joseph's Men's Guild and the St. Joseph's School Board, The American Legion and Farmers Union Oil Co. Board. He is also the president of the Schmitz Construction Co., a partnership with his brother Linus which began in 1969.

Dorine is a member of the Catholc Daughters of America and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Alois and Dorine have fifteen children: Robert, Richard, Paul, Darlene, Karen, Laurie, Marlen, Lisa, Jacqueline, Sheila, Mary Lynn, Melanie, Andrea, Michelle and Trissa.

BERNARD SCHMITZ JR.

Bernard Schmitz Jr. and Clarice Haupt, daughter of Edward and Eunice Haupt, were married in 1961 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Red Lake Falls.

Bernard is employed as a carpenter with the Schmitz Construction Company. The family resides on a farm in Emardville Township.

Bernard served in the National Guard for five years at both Fort Leonard Wood and Junction City, Kansas.

Bernard and Clarice have six children Bernadette, Arnold, Teresa, Jerold, Darrell and Lee.

The children attend the Plummer Public School and the family are members of the St. Vincent De Paul Church at Plummer.

EDWARD AND GAYLENE LEWIS SCHMITZ

Edward Schmitz and the former Gaylene Lewis of Goodridge were married in September, 1964. They lived at Keewatin, Minnesota, before moving to Red Lake Falls in 1970, when they purchased the family farm.

They have four children: Allen, Janelle, Jeffrey and Rodney.

LEON SCHMITZ FAMILY

Leon J. Schmitz, son of Bernard Schmitz Sr. and Diane Kees, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Kees were united in marriage in July, 1969. Prior to their marriage, Leon served in the U.S. Army, based at Missouri and a tour of duty in Germany. Leon has been affiliated with the Robertson Lumber Company for a number of years, starting as a relief worker in Warren, Minnesota, serving several towns in this area and also in North Dakota. He became manager of the Robertson Lumber Company in Red Lake Falls and held that position for seven years. Leon was a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Park Board, Co-op Credit Union, St. Joseph's Choir and the Parish Council.

Diane was active in the Legion Auxiliary, Catholic Daughters of America and Minnesota Citizen's Concerned for Life. She was employed at the Detroiter Mobile Factory as secretary and also at the Social Services office for Red Lake County.

Leon and Diane have three children, Kerry, Elizabeth and Faye. In 1974 Leon became the manager of the Robertson Lumber Company at Carrington, North Dakota and later was promoted to District

Supervisor of nineteen North Dakota yards. The family is presently living at Park River, North Dakota.

LINUS SCHMITZ FAMILY

Linus Schmitz and Beverly Ford were married at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on June 3, 1967. Linus is the son of Bernard Schmitz Sr. and Beverly is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ford.

They have two children, Craig and Coreen.

In 1969 Linus and his brother, Alois, formed the Schmitz Construction Company. Linus enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting and farming in his spare time. Beverly is employed by Red Lake Electric. Her hobbies are gardening and sewing. Craig attends St. Joseph's School and Coreen is in kindergarten at Washington Elementary.

VINCENT AND HELEN MILLER SCHMITZ

Vincent and Helen Schmitz, both natives of Red Lake Falls, attended St. Joseph's and Lafayette Schools. Vincent, born in 1923, was the fourth of thirteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Schmitz, and Helen, born in 1928, is the daughter of the Arnold Millers.

They were married in 1947 and have always made their home in Red Lake Falls, where Vincent has been employed by Red Lake Electric for the past thirty years.

Nine children have been born to them: Marlene (Mrs. George Neys) — the Neys have one daughter, Renae; Mike is married to Karen Charlson and they have a daughter, Rachel; Charlotte (Mrs. Milo Trangsrud) — the Trangsruds have a son, Marty; Bonnie (Mrs. Les Olson); Tim; Polly; Connie; Val and Larry.

PAUL E. SCHOENAUER

Paul E. Schoenauer was born September 25, 1888 to Paul and Ursula (Kepfeldsberger) Schoenauer of Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County. He attended school in Lake Pleasant Township and in Red Lake Falls, and as a young man, attended Technical School in Minneapolis.

Edythe M. Demann was born June 30, 1891 to Mr. and Mrs. W. C. L. Demann of Lake Pleasant Township. She attended grade school in Lake Pleasant Township, and high school and teacher's training in Red Lake Falls. She taught in rural Red Lake County schools before her marriage.

On January 24, 1911, Paul E. Schoenauer and Edythe M. Demann were married in Red Lake Falls. They made their home on a farm in Lake Pleasant Township for about two years. Paul owned a steam threshing machine and threshed grain for area farmers. In the winter, he and his wife spent time on their timber land near Gully, and, with the help of a neighbor, Paul cleared and logged the greater part of the timber. The logs were hauled to the LaBlanc Sawmill near Gully where they were sawed into lumber.

Paul wanted to own a business of his own where he could work with the public and found just such an opportunity in the village of Plummer. He purchased some lots, brought his lumber to Plummer, and hired a carpenter to build the first garage and service station in the village. A temporary dwelling place was built onto the rear of the garage, and the family moved to Plummer on Thanksgiving Day, 1914. Later, they purchased another house and their first one became a workshop.

The following years were busy ones and not without much hard work and many sacrifices. Paul became a Studebaker dealer and made his first automobile sale to the Plummer bankers. He also became a dealer for International Harvester Company and sold farm machinery and repairs for over forty years. He owned the Clearwater Mink Ranch and other farms in the area. He was a man of great ambition, and took an active interest in his community. He served on the Plummer Village Council, as Treasurer of the School Board, and as a director of the Plummer State Bank for a number of years. He was a good friend and neighbor, always ready with a helping hand.

In 1963, Paul Schoenauer sold his business and some other property and retired because of failing health. He passed away July 7, 1970 at the age of eighty-one.

The Schoenauers had three children — Pauline (Mrs. Martin Walker) of Oklee; Deane, married and living in Phoenix, Arizona; and Alene, living in Plummer with her mother.

W. A. SCHREITER FAMILY

Wentzel August Schreiter, the second man to start a retail business in Red Lake Falls, was born in Lentz, Austria, December 2, 1856. The family emigrated in 1958, and settled in Appleton, Wisconsin. At the age of fourteen, young Schreiter went to Chicago to learn the drug business. He returned to Appleton two years later, and worked there, in Milwaukee, and in Manistee, Michigan for about seven years. In the spring of 1880, he decided that the time had come to start his own business. He had found the girl he wanted to marry, Magdalene Hoernig, in Oshkosh, about twenty miles from Appleton, his home town. He decided to look for a suitable business location in northwestern Minnesota.

After spending a day and a half in Moorhead, he bought a ticket to Grand Forks, but got off the train at Crookston to look around. A chance conversation with an old Frenchman sparked an interest in the French Colony some twenty miles east of Crookston. Off he went, on foot, to look over this promising young town. When he arrived at Gentilly several hours later, he was fortunate enough to find someone about to drive to Red Lake Falls, as the French Colony was later named. In an interview fifty years later, Mr. Schreiter gave the following account of his arrival:

"Red Lake Falls was not a large settlement but there was lots of activity here and the potential water powers made it appear that it was to be the big city in this section of the Northwest. The late Frank E. Hunt was the proprietor of the only store and was the postmaster. There was no regular mail service between Red Lake Falls and Crookston, and Postmaster Hunt used to dispatch the mail by the first farmer who was driving over. Sometimes a farmer would take the outgoing mail sack home with him and would not go to Crookston for a week or more. I recall one time we were two weeks without mail. There was a sawmill running in 1880, but the machinery was barely covered. The mill sawed lumber to build a grist mill and other structures. I started a general merchandise and drug store where E. H. Normandeau's residence now stands on Main Street. (This building is on the northwest corner of the intersection of Bottineau and Main Avenues. Ed.) In June, 1881, I returned to Wisconsin, but only long enough to be married. In 1882 it was decided to incorporate Red Lake Falls as a village, so Ernest Buse, father of E. G. Buse (and grandfather of Al Buse, our present postmaster) sent to Fergus Falls for a copy of their village charter and Miss Mamie Zeh and I had the job of copying it off."

Later, Mr. Schreiter moved his drug store uptown, south of where the Gazette building now stands. When the building was destroyed by fire in 1889, he moved to a location about fifty feet north of the present Standard Station. Subsequently the business was moved again to the approximate location of the present drug store.

This early drug store, like its modern successors, stocked a wide variety of other goods. An 1897 ad for the Schreiter store lists, in addition to the prescription department, "the purest wines and liquors for medicinal purposes", paints, varnishes and oils, cigars, groceries, clothing, boots and shoes, including "the best two dollar shoes on the market."

Red Lake Falls had had a telephone line to Crookston since 1882, built by John Kretzschmar. Eight years later, this enterprising merchant, Schreiter, started a telephone exchange in the rear of his store, with twenty-three subscribers. It would be interesting to know who the first "Central" was. Two years later, there were 85 telephones, some of them in the Wylie area. In the early twenties, the telephone exchange was sold to E. F. Wheeler.

Mr. Schreiter had other interests: the First State Bank, water power on the Red Lake River at Thief River Falls, village and city councils, and the school board.

Mrs. Schreiter died in 1938, at the age of seventy-seven. W. A. Schreiter, no longer active in business, took up his residence in Crookston, where his son, Norman C. Schreiter, and his daughters Erma Brunelle and Mrs. J. J. Padden then resided. He died in 1952, at the age of ninety-six.

LOUIS SCHUE FAMILY

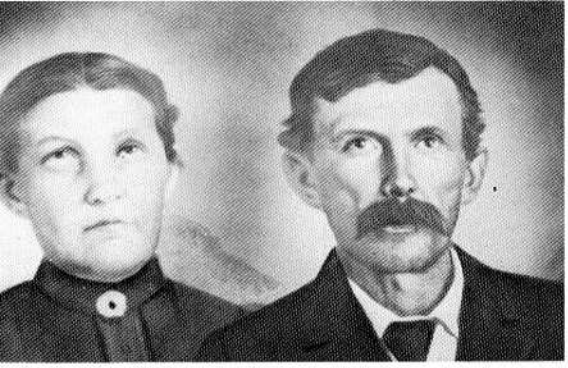
Louis Schue married Violet Teal of Euclid on June 19, 1947. They are presently making their home at 114 Bottineau Avenue, Red Lake Falls.

Louie worked at several business places in town and now has his own business, Schue's Carpet Service, operating out of his home. Vi is employed as secretary by Inter-County Nursing Service at the Red Lake County Courthouse.

They have 8 children — Mrs. Peter (Kathryn) Stich, Red Lake Falls, MN; Mrs. Mark (Joette) Casavan, Spearfish, S.D.; Richard, a student at Mankato State University, Mankato, MN; Thomas, a radiologic technician at Staples, MN. Tom is married to the former Yvonne Hoefer of Red Lake Falls. At home are Timothy, a student at Lafayette High School; Roberta, Mary Beth and Scott, students at St. Joseph Parochial School. There are 5 grandchildren — Louis and Chris Stich, Nicole and Marc Casavan and Bridget Schue.

HERMAN SCHULTZ

Herman Schultz was born at Pommern, Germany, January 1, 1852. At the age of nine, he moved with his parents to Canada where he met and married Wilhelmina Ziebell at Pembroke, Ontario in 1874. She also was born in Germany and had come to Canada from her native country at the same time but on a different ship. While in Canada, Mr. Schultz worked in lumber camps as a cook and six children were born there. Later they lived in Milwaukee,



Herman and Wilhemina Schultz

Wisconsin and Crookston for short periods of time and while in Crookston, he helped build the original dam on the Red Lake River.

In 1885 the Herman Schultzs homesteaded on Section Two in Louisville Township where their first home was a log cabin, one he built himself. The rest of the family (eight more children) were born here. Mrs. Schultz died in 1923 and Mr. Schultz died in 1941. The children were Leo, Bertha (Mrs. Fred Goosen), Fred, Herman, Hulda (Mrs. Alex Knaack), Henry, Albert, Minnie (Mrs. Nick Drees), Irene (Mrs. Charles Zeibell), Ferdinand, Edward, Erdmann, and Ben. All are deceased but Mrs. Minnie Drees of Hillcrest Nursing Home and Mrs. Irene Zeibell of Bloomer, Wisconsin.

In later years Mr. Schultz purchased more land totaling 720 acres. All of this land is now farmed by his grandchildren and great-grand-children. In 1901 a new home was built on the farm.

Mr. Schultz served as Red Lake County Commissioner from the first district from November 1910-1919. The Herman Schultz family lived on the farm until January, 1923 when Erdman and his wife took over the farming operation.

ERDMANN SCHULTZ

Erdmann Schultz, son of Herman Schultz and Wilhelmina (Ziebell) Schultz was born July 10, 1893 in Louisville Township on the farm which his father homesteaded. He attended Black River School, Wylie Township and took a short course in carpentry in Red Lake Falls.

Elsie (Wolff) Schultz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August Wolff was born in Worth County, Iowa April 16, 1897. She attended a country school for eight years.

On Nov. 30, 1922, they were married at Myrtle, Minnesota. They had four children: Bernice (Mrs. Delbert Schuhmacher) Glenville, Minnesota; Ellen, (Mrs. Richard Weiss); Arley and Mavis (Mrs. Roger Arvidson) all of Red Lake Falls.

Mr. Schultz was one of the members of the first board of directors which organized the Community Co-operative Association. He served on this board for approximately 20 years. He also served on the school board, township board and church board.

He purchased a threshing machine and did custom threshing for many years.

Erdmann Schultz continued his farming operation until 1959 when his son, Arley, took over. At this time they built a new home on the farm, so Mr. Schultz lived his entire lifetime on the same place. He died Oct. 4, 1969. Mrs. Schultz is still living on the farm.



Louis and Orissa Schultz

FREDERICK AND LOUIS SCHULTZ FAMILIES

Frederick Michael Schultz (b. 1878) was the third child of Herman Schultz and Wilhelmina Ziebell who came from Pembroke, Ontario in 1882. In 1903 he married Jessie Wylie, daughter of William and Mary Jane Barnes Wylie, and moved to a farm in Wylie township given to him by his father. (Herman Schultz provided a farm for each of his sons.)

Seven children were born to them: Mildred (Mrs. Hubert Huot); Doris, (Mrs. Clarence Sather); Louis; Frederick; Inez (Mrs. Andrew Neilson); Arthur and Donald.

Louis Schultz attended the Black River school and often stayed out of school to help his father who did well-drilling in addition to farming. They used horses for power until they acquired a new drilling rig which used two stationary engines. Later Louis went out on his own with a threshing machine and had a crew of ten to fifteen men. He did custom threshing during the fall, and custom feed grinding and baling during the winter months.

Louis married Orissa Ione Prestegaard in June, 1942. Orissa had come to Dorothy to help her sister the year before, and also clerked in Hance's store. In 1943 they bought the quarter of land he was renting, and Louis continued his custom work until the farm was self-supporting.

Three sons were born: Louis, Jr., Herman Vincent, and Delbert Lee. They all attended the Dorothy school through the 6th grade and graduated from Lafayette in Red Lake Falls. Louis, Jr. served in the U.S. Navy and Seabees in Cuba. He married Judy McIntyre, and presently has a Top and Body Shop in Mt. Vernon, New York. They have two children, Celaine and Louis. Herman was in the Marines. He married Rosie Theroux and they live in Red Lake Falls with their three sons, Wayde, Chad and Robbie. Delbert graduated from Moorhead State University and is employed by the Burlington Northern Railroad.



Erdmann Schultz family.



Arley Schultz family.

ARLEY AND VERNA SCHULTZ

Arley Schultz was born in 1930 on the farm where he now lives in section two in Louisville township. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Erdmann Schultz, and attended school at the Black River School in Wylie Township. He farmed with his father and purchased 160 acres of land from Mrs. Matt Drees in 1949.

In 1959, Arley married Verna Amundson at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ulen, Minnesota. She was born on a farm in Becker County near Ulen in 1934, and attended Ulen Public School and Moorhead State College, graduating in 1957. She taught school in Twin Valley for three years and two years in Thief River Falls.

Their son, Lyndon, was born in 1963 in Hennepin County. He is attending Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls.

Their daughter, Loreen was born in 1969 in Hennepin County and attends Washington Elementary School in Red Lake Falls.

In 1959, Arley purchased the farm from his father, the same farm his grandfather had homesteaded in 1882. He now operates a Grade-A dairy farm.

The family attends St. John's Lutheran Church. Arley has served on the Church Council at various times and is president of the Men's Club. Verna has been active in Ladies Aid and Teaches Sunday school.

Arley has served on the board of directors of the Community Co-operative Association and is a member of the Louisville township board.

BARTHOLOMEW SCHUSSER

Bartholomew and Anna Suttner Schusser came to Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, from Chilton, Wisconsin; in the middle or late 1880s and settled on the northside in Red Lake Falls. Bartholomew, born in Austria in 1839, worked in a sawmill and was a carpenter. Anna Suttner was born in Austria in 1847. Their family of eight children were all born at Chilton, Wisconsin.

Joseph Schusser, born in 1867, worked in the sawmills of the area. In June 1892 he married Emma Eleanore Sandberg. They had two daughters: Bernetta and Irene. Joseph Schusser died on March 26, 1910.

Anna Schusser, born in 1871, married William Lennon. They had one daughter, Joyce Seveland of Minneapolis, Minnesota, two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Anna Schusser Lennon died in 1941.

Theresa Schusser born in 1873, married Paul Holzknecht. Their five children were: Earl, Leo, Anna, Goldie and Lucille. Theresa Schusser Holzknecht died in 1945.

Sophia Schusser, born 1875 was a seamstress in Red Lake Falls for many years. She died in 1949.



Bartholomew and Anna Schusser

Michael Schusser, born 1877, worked in the sawmills of the area as a scaler until he got the wanderlust and traveled west to the mills in Idaho and Montana. Michael died in 1969.

Mary Schusser, born 1879, taught school at the Little Red Schoolhouse, north of Red Lake Falls and at the Columbus School, south of the city. The former Columbus Schoolhouse is now the Bernard Columbus garage. She married Patrick Roark. Their five children were Lucille, Ruth, Margaret, Lillian and Stephen. Mary Schusser Roark died in 1967.

Carl Schusser, born 1881, was a self-taught man with his early education reaching only through the fifth grade, but he was an avid reader and became a teacher at several rural schools in Red Lake County, including the Patnode School, Wildwood School, Old Lambert School, Hinrichs-Gauthier School and the Jahnke School. During the summers, he took courses at Moorhead State College. Charlie Bottineau, son of Pierre Bottineau, for whom this centennial in 1976 is being celebrated, was a neighbor of Carl's. Many were the discussions that they had about the early history of Red Lake Falls and the surrounding area. Carl was appointed a rural mail carrier from the Red Lake Falls post office, and served Route No. 3, east of the city, until his retirement in 1952. He was a member of the Rural Letter Carriers Association and the Retired Teachers Association. Carl Schusser died in 1969.

Anton Schusser, born 1883, worked for the Red Lake Falls Gazette while he attended high school and was graduated from Lafayette High School in 1903. "Tony" became a printer in Kelliher, Bemidji and Winona, Minnesota. He died in 1942. His widow, Florence, lives in Michigan.

Bartholomew and Anna Schusser continued to live in Red Lake Falls where he died in 1904, and she died in 1929.

JOSEPH SCHUSSER FAMILY

Joseph Schusser, the son of Bartholomew and Anna Suttner Schusser, was born in 1867 at Chilton, Wisconsin. When a youth, he came with his parents to Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, where he worked in sawmills in the area. In June 1892, he was married to Emma Eleanore Sandberg, who was born 1866 in Philippstad, Sweden. She was the daughter of Knute and Anna Sandberg.

Knute Fritiof Sandberg, b. 1839, in Boras, Sweden, was a graduate of Stockholm University and was in the jewelry and clothing business. The writer of this history is the proud possessor of a leather trunk that was used by Knute Sandberg when he attended the University. Knute's wife, Anna, was born in 1840 in Philippstad, Sweden. They had eight children: Selma (Mrs. C. E. Scholander), Axel, Gustav, and Emma (Mrs. Joseph Schusser).

The Sandbergs emigrated from Sweden with their family in 1880, crossing the Atlantic in a sailboat. Emma, then fourteen years of age, related that the experience left her with no desire to return to her native Sweden. That same year, they homesteaded in Black River Township in Polk County. When county lines were changed, this property was in Red Lake County for a time. Following another change in county lines, Black River became part of Pennington County. The property is now owned by Charles VanderWeg, and the original house is still standing. After farming on their homestead for twenty-eight years, Knute and Anna Sandberg retired in 1908 and moved to Crookston. Knute died in 1918. Anna lived for a time with her daughter, Anna Johnson, in Minneapolis where she died in 1921.

Joseph and Emma Sandberg Schusser had two daughters, Bernetta Sophie and Irene Rose, both born in Red Lake Falls.

Bernetta (b. 1893) was graduated from Lafayette High School in 1912. She taught at the Shaper School, the Wylie School, and the Patnode School in Red Lake County, and one year at Kelsey, Minnesota. For two years, she worked for Theo. LaBissioniere's "Big Store" in Red Lake Falls. On July 1, 1919, she was married to Herbert Schuler Findeisen.

Irene (b. 1898) was graduated from Lafayette in 1916. She took part in operettas and was an active member of St. Mary's Church choir. Irene taught at the Patnode School, the Green-Equality School, the Whalen School, the Lasha School and the Remick School, all in Red Lake County. She attended summer school at Moorhead State College in 1917. On June 14, 1921, she was married to Edward Adam Zins of Red Lake Falls.

Following a lingering illness and paralysis, Joseph Schusser died on March 26, 1910.

Emma Schusser spoke English, Swedish and German fluently and was being tutored in French when the family came to America. She had many interests and led an active life. Emma worked for several Red Lake Falls families, loved to cook, crocheted beautifully and read the newspaper daily. One story, maybe a word to the wise, can be told about Emma. She was in her eighties when one day she was visiting with a much younger woman who always had a maid to do the housework, but still complained about her aches and pains and life in general. Emma quipped, "Get busy and do something, work never hurt anyone." She remained active almost to the moment of her death at ninety-nine and a half years of age. She lived with her daughter and husband, the Findeisens, from 1921 until her death on January 28, 1966.



Emma Schusser

JAMES SCOTT

Jim Scott's grandfather Glasser was from Alsaise Lorraine, and he remembers his grandmother was Norwegian and couldn't speak English. Jim was born in Canton, South Dakota, October, 1937 and moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota when he was four years old and lived there until he was about twenty-three.

Marie's grandparents on her mother's side were from Norway and on her father's side were from Germany. Marie was born in Goshen, Oregon in March, 1938 and moved to Roslyn, South Dakota before one year old. Jim and Marie met in Sioux Falls, married in Luverne, Minnesota and lived in Sioux Falls from 1955 to 1959. A daughter Terri was born in July, 1956 in Sioux Falls.

Jim took on a management trainee position with the J. J. Newberry company and arrived in Red Lake Falls by method of transfer from Sioux Falls to Aberdeen, South Dakota to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where the store closed and Jim went to work for the Sweetheart Bread Company. He served many of the businesses in Red Lake Falls as well as surrounding area. The company stationed the family in Crookston.

In April of 1963, both Jim and Marie went to work for Detroiter Mobile Homes and settled in Oaks Mobile Home Park for four years. In 1967 they purchased lots in the Klondike area, a piece of land that Alexis Beauregard got from the United States in September, 1875.

Jim still works for Detroiter as an electrician, Marie works for the Crookston Regional Interdistrict Council for Special Education as an office manager, and Terri is going to school at the University of Minnesota Technical College in Crookston, Minnesota.

BOUFFEUR — SEBENALER

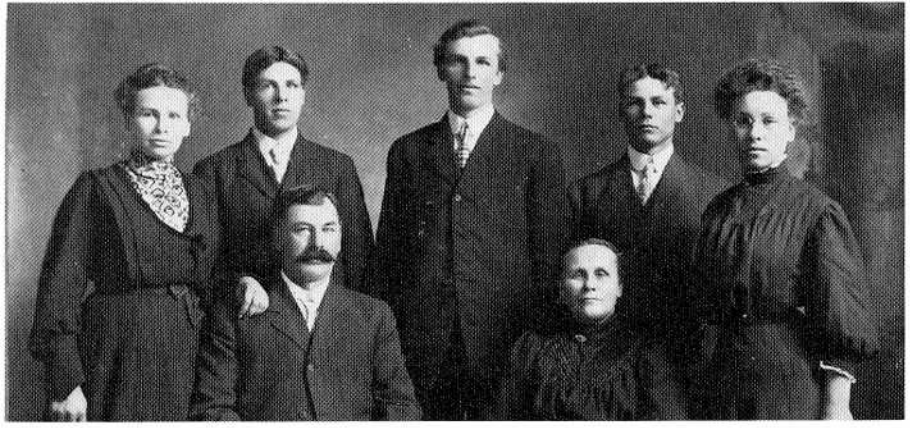
One spring day in 1954, a young couple got stuck on the main street in Oklee while looking for a place to live there. I, the young man had just accepted a position at the Oklee Creamery. They were Delton and Dorothy Sebenaler and until this time, there had been no Sebenalers in Red Lake County. Today, we're still here.

However, my great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bouffeur, came to this county from Dover, Minnesota, and originally from Lucren, Wisconsin. The Bouffeurs bought a farm south of Red Lake Falls and three children were born to them, two sons and a daughter. Their daughter, Hazel, married Peter Sebenaler who farmed in Polk County near the Red Lake County line.

Fred Bouffeur was a quiet man and spent much of his time tending the farm. Marie was a kind and gentle woman, loved by all.

Tragedy struck this family when their daughter, Hazel, died at age forty leaving her husband and six children. Great-grandmother Bouffeur helped raise the family. My father, Delton, was only five years old at the time.

These good people are gone now, laid to rest in Red Lake County.



Charles Seeger, Sr. Family

CHARLES SEEGER FAMILY

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seeger Sr. both came to America from Sulfeld Germany (a village not far from Hannover) in 1882. They came to New Ulm and worked a year for Gruzendorf on a farm near Courtland in Nicolet County. Then they rented a farm; later they farmed at Gibbon and Buffalo Lake. In 1893 they bought a house in Buffalo Lake so the children could attend school (country schools were miles apart) but father continued farming. We had our horses, cows and chickens in town. Many others also had cows; in the summer the cows were taken to the city pasture, for which rent was paid, to graze. The cows would be taken out after milking in the morning and brought home in time for the evening milking. You could not buy milk in stores, so those who had no cows would buy from those that had cows for 5¢ a quart. Nobody had refrigerators, so the milk and butter were kept in the cellar.

In 1900 Ed Healy of Marshall came to Buffalo Lake and persuaded a group of men to come to Red Lake county. My father, Charles Seeger Sr. bought the former Frank Jeffers farm, (at present the VanderWeg farm) in Gervais township. We moved via the Great Northern Railroad in 1901. The house, barn, granary, and chicken house were all log buildings, and only about 25 acres under cultivation. When that was seeded, Dad and his sons were busy grubbing out trees and breaking up more land. There were no bulldozers or tractors in those days. After that, the roots had to be picked up, piled, and burned before the field was ready for seeding. It took a lot of "man power and horse power". When seeding was finished, the one-room log house was torn down, and we lived in the granary which had four grain bins and a hallway where the fanning mill stood and where we cleaned the grain before seeding. This hallway became our kitchen and the four bins our bedrooms. In August 1901 we moved into our new house and, of course, in later years as money and time permitted, all new buildings were built. Dad had quite a few cows so he built a big barn and was one of the first to buy an Empire Cream Separator from J. Helm Sr. Implement. We hauled our cream to a small creamery which was built somewhere near the present fairgrounds.

When we came to Red Lake Falls in 1901 roads were in poor shape, even for buggies and wagons. At times you'd have to stop and chop some brush to put across the road so the buggy wheels would not sink down to the hubs. That was mostly where there was speculation land. Farmers, in those days, would work several days with the horses and scraper to build up the road. It was called, "working off the poll tax".

I believe it was the lovely grove that induced dad to buy the farm. When Frank Jeffers was in the neighborhood, he loved to walk through the grove and tell us how many pails of water he had carried to these trees. We put out our croquet set and on Sundays neighbors would come and play horseshoes and croquet.

Christ Geddies from Arlington, Minn. moved here two weeks before we did. Mrs. Lizzie Grandbois, who passed away recently, was the oldest of the Geddie family. Anna Geddie and my sister Dora soon became good friends and she was Dora's bridesmaid. Bill Cuno, Philip's dad, was another that would come over.

July 4th, 1901 all the neighbors of German descent came: Claus Hinricks, John Hartjex, Gomolls, Pete Mathias, Altnows, Geddies; and that afternoon they decided to ask Rev. Val Kern of the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wylie to come and have services in our little red school house, Dist. 88, Gervais Township. So Claus Hinrichs and Charles Seeger drove to Wylie and the Immanuel Lutheran board gave their consent. We had our first services the last Sunday in July. That was the beginning of St. John's Lutheran church. The Fred Behn family moved here from Iowa in 1902 and Reicks from Waseca. Then it was decided to build a church in Red Lake Falls on the "North Side". Paul Rogge was the carpenter and Charles Seeger helped him. On July 31, 1904, the first class was confirmed. Members of the class were Lizzie Hinrichs, Ida Hinrichs, Lizzie Hartje, John Hartje, Otto Geddie, Helen Reick, Maria Seeger.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seeger Sr. had five children. Dora, the oldest, married Fred Ulrich Sr. in 1901. He was also of Buffalo Lake and came here with us and bought the Emard farm in River township. Their son, John, still lives on that farm. Fred Seeger married Selma Schaper in 1907. Ernest Seeger married Lydia Funte in 1911. Charley Seeger worked in Red Lake Falls at the L. Kaufman Harness and repair shop in Oklee. He married Flore Tessier, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Tessier. When horses became a thing of the past, he started the Seeger Hardware Store in Oklee.

In 1909 Father, mother and I (Marie Seeger) left for Germany to visit relatives. We sailed on the Empress of Britain. It was on this ship that I met Fred S. Erdmann of Parkston, So. Dak. We were married in 1910 and lived in Parkston, So. Dak. where my husband was assistant cashier of the First National Bank. We lived there two years. I loved Red Lake Falls and persuaded him to buy a farm next to my sister Dora Ulrich. This farm had no buildings and no land under cultivation so that meant a lot of hard work to build a house and barn, grub trees and break up the land. We hauled cream to the St. Hilaire Creamery. My husband, Fred S. Erdmann, was elected Secretary, the office he held for nineteen years, until we sold the farm and moved to Thief River Falls. He was Vice President of Land O' Lakes Dist. 17 for 25 years. He was also Vice President of Consumers Co-op (gas) in Thief River Falls and President of the Thief River Falls Production Credit Association from its beginning in 1934 until his death in 1947. He held office on the church and school board.

We had three children. Maria Erdmann, the oldest, was stricken with polio at the age of 9 in 1920 (an epidemic at that time) and could not walk for two years. She loved music so we bought a piano and Maria took lessons and received her diploma from McPhail and taught music. In 1936 she married Fred Miller. She was organist at Bethany Lutheran church until her passing in 1948 of pneumonia. Our second child, Helena Erdmann with her sister Maria, graduated from St. Hilaire High School in 1929. Helena entered Concordia College, Moorhead and graduated with the class of 1933. At the height of the depression when teachers outnumbered the positions available she took up more work in the Home Economics field at the U. of North Dakota and taught German and Home Economics at Brainerd, Minn. for four years before marrying Carl Lehrer in 1939. They have five children.

Our son Fred Carl Erdmann married Viola Sefkow in 1940. She died in 1950 following surgery. They had no children. In January, 1954 he married Violet Walker. He was employed at the car shops of the Great Northern Co. and Burlington Northern Railroad Co. at Waite Park, Minn. for 28 years. He was a foreman at the time of his death. Fred was killed instantly while at work dismantling cars at the shops in 1972. He is survived by his wife, one daughter and four sons ranging in ages from 9 to 17.

The Carl Lehrers had five children. They all graduated from Lafayette High School. Carol, the oldest, received her BA in Home Economics from Concordia College at Moorhead and taught school and worked in Extension work. She married Jay Borchert and lives in Thief River Falls, Minn. They have a daughter 7 and a son 3.

Wayne went into the ministry and served a parish in Jacksonville, Florida before becoming a Chaplain in the Army at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He married Lois Spomer and they have two sons. Sharon is a licensed practical nurse and also graduated from Concordia College of St. Paul and has taught parochial school in Des Moines for 6 years. She married Robert Wuggazer and have twins — a boy and girl — born in, 1975. Joel attended the University of North Dakota and was employed by the Burlington Railroad as relief agent for several years before going into business for himself. He married Shirley Cota and they have two girls ages 7 and 5. Terry received his BA degree from Moorhead State, before serving in the army at Fort Lewis, Washington for two years. Terry lives at home and is engaged in farming and works with his brother Joel when time permits.



Fred Seegers. *Back:* Leslie, Isabelle, Harry, Lucille, Elsie and George. *Front:* Fred, Pauline, Erma and Selma.

FRED SEEGER AND SELMA SCHAPER SEEGER

Fred Seeger was born September 25, 1885 on a farm near Gibbon, Minnesota. In 1901 at the age of 16, he moved with his parents to Red Lake Falls where they made their home on a farm in Gervais Township. Later Fred began working as a farm laborer for different farmers in Red Lake County. In 1907 he married Selma Schaper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Schaper. She was born in 1886 on a farm in Lake Pleasant Township.

The Seegers rented a farm for several years and in 1910 bought a farm in Red Lake Falls Township. Some of the land had to be cleared and as there were no buildings, they had to build them all. This was a lot of hard work.

They had seven children: Elsie (Mrs. Clarence Harmoning) (died in 1960); Harry, married Oriet Lee and they live in Prescott, Arizona; Lucille, (Mrs. Rueban Harmoning), lives in Red Lake Falls; Isabelle, (Mrs. Frank Knott), Red Lake Falls; Pauline (Mrs. Henry Knott), Red Lake Falls; Leslie married Marilyn Robillard and they live in Red Lake Falls; George married Lois Schantzen and lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

In 1929 Irma Sanders, a six-month old niece came to live with them. Irma's mother had died and she lived with the Seegers until she graduated from high school. She now lives in California.

Fred Seeger was a member of the school board and held church offices for many years. Mrs. Seeger died in 1943 at the age of 57 and Mr. Seeger died in 1960 at the age of 75.

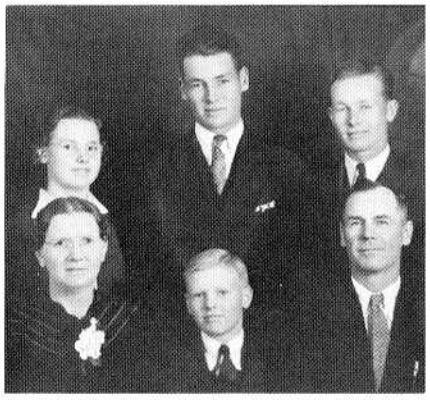
LESLIE SEEGER FAMILY

In the fall of 1949 Leslie Seeger married Marilyn Robillard, daughter of Leo and Amanda Robillard of Terrebonne. In February of 1950 they moved across the road from the Fred Seeger home to a house they rented from his father. It was originally built by Art Steele. This home had been vacant for approximately twenty years and had been used to store grain. An extensive remodeling has been done over the years but is still basically the original house built about 1920.

Leslie continued a farming partnership with his brother George, renting the land from their father. In 1954 George married and left the farm. In 1958 Leslie purchased part of the Fred Seeger land. He bought the remainder in 1964 after Mr. Seeger died and shortly after that time the original Seeger home was torn down.

Two sons were born, Lon in 1950 (of Westbrook, Minnesota) and Lynn in 1952 (Red Lake Falls).

Besides actively farming, Les has been employed at American Crystal Sugar at Crookston since 1955.



Ernest Seeger Family

ERNEST SEEGER AND LYDIA FUNTE SEEGER

Ernest Seeger was born in 1885 on a farm near Gibbon, Minnesota. In 1901 at the age of sixteen, his parents moved to Red Lake Falls. As a young man, he took up the trade of buttermaker and worked in St. Hilaire, Palermo, North Dakota, and Spokane, Washington, where he met Lydia Funte. They returned to Red Lake Falls and were married September 1911 at St. John's Lutheran Church. He continued to work as a buttermaker in the creamery in Red Lake Falls and they built a house on the North Side that is still occupied today. It was here that their first three sons were born. With three lively boys, Alvin, Reinhart, and Walter, they decided it was time to harness all their energy so they bought a farm three miles west of town, today the Walter Seeger farm. At that time the farm had no buildings. In the true pioneer spirit, the farm animals came before the family so the barn was built first and a small temporary building was used for the house.

That summer, their daughter, Clara was born with Dr. Wilkinson attending. While he was there, such a bad hail storm came up, that he cautioned the mother to cover the baby's ears to protect her from the terrible noise of the hail on the tin roof. Chilly fall days caused the family to consider other facilities and a small house was moved to the farm from town.

There were many happy times but tragedies struck too. In February of 1920, their oldest son, Alvin (age six years) passed away from sugar diabetes which he suffered from most of his short life.

In 1924 their fourth son, Herman Carl, was born at home with Dr. J. A. Roy as the attending physician.

In the summer of 1925 a new house was built. This same house, many times remodeled and modernized, is the residence of the Walter Seegers.

The Seeger family farmed and with the help of the two older boys, Reinhart and Walter, did threshing at the neighborhood farms.

From about 1932 to 1936, Ernest Seeger worked for the highway Department besides farming. In 1941 they moved to California where three of their four children were then residing.

They purchased a home in Van Nuys, California but made many trips back to Minnesota. They were grandparents to ten grandchildren.

Ernest Seeger passed away in 1948 and Lydia Seeger continued to live in their home until her death in 1972.

WALTER SEEGER

Walter (Wally) Seeger began farming his father's land in 1941 when his parents left to make their home in Van Nuys, California. In October of 1942 he married Marie Waldal who was employed at the time at the AAA County office in Red Lake Falls. They have four children, Kathleen (Mrs. Jorge Baluarte), Michael, Steven and Bradley.

The farm was purchased in 1948 and Wally, Marie and their youngest son, Brad, are now living there. Besides farming Wally has worked at American Crystal Sugar Company in Crookston as a mechanic since 1956. Marie was employed from 1963 to 1973 at the ASCS offices in Red Lake Falls and Crookston.

Michael, who was married to Karen Wright in October of 1975, and Steve have entered a partnership agreement with their father and along with other land are farming the land that has been in the Seeger family for the past sixty years.



Walter Seeger Family



Charlie and Flore Seeger on Oklee 50th anniversary float.

CHARLES AND BILL SEEGER

In 1910, Charles F. Seeger of Red Lake Falls, came to Oklee, purchased a lot and built a small harness shop, making and repairing harnesses and fixing shoes. He was one of the first business men on Main Street.

In 1912, he married Flore Tessier, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Tessier of Oklee. In 1918 he added hardware to his stock and in 1923 put in a "Curb Gasoline Pump." In 1937, he moved the harness building away and built a 24 x 60 modern hardware building in the same location. After Charlie and Flore had been in business 29 years, they sold to their son, Bill, in 1939. They also had three daughters, Florence, (Mrs. Abe Paquin) Kenwood, California; Frances (Mrs. Vincent Anderson) Long Beach, Calif.; Betty, (Mrs. Tom Melby) Oklee. After retiring, Charlie and Flore spent their winters in California and summers in Oklee.

Bill married Mabel Rolandson in 1938 and together they operated the hardware store. Bill was mayor of Oklee for many years and they were both active in civic affairs. In 1953, they remodeled and added a two story addition, with a furniture department and ladies powder room on the second floor. Now the little harness shop of 1910 grew to a 25 x 127 very modern hardware, giftware and furniture store. In 1958, Bill and Mabel bought the Co-op Store building on the same street, wanting a recreation center for the young people of their town. They remodeled and built a 6-lane bowling alley and restaurant. Their partners were Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bergh of Trail. Al and Clara were the managers of the Oklee Recreation Center. It was indeed a gathering place for everyone in the community. In 1964, the building burned. Another bowling alley and restaurant was built using the same site and name.

The Seegers together had the hardware business in Oklee 52 years. Bill and Mabel operated theirs for 23 years and in 1962 sold to Fred Festler; he sold to Don Walch, and later he sold to Wally Groberg where the Oklee Surplus store is today.

Since they also sold their home to Alice LaCoursiere, they moved to their Maple Lake home at Mentor where they are residing. Bill is president of the Maple Lake Association and Director of the Northwest Multi-County Housing Authority. Bill and Mabel have one son, Charles, who with his wife, Jani, (Paquin) and two sons, Carl and Glenn, live in Minneapolis, where Charles is manager of the "Wicks" Furniture stores. Charles F. Seeger passed away in California 1962. Flore A. Seeger passed away in California 1964.

CON SHORT AND JAMES WALKER FAMILIES

Con Short began working on the railroad when he came to the United States from Ireland. He also worked in the Klondike area of Alaska during the Gold Rush before settling in Equality Township to try his hand at farming. Con married Josie McNamara who had lived in Mohall, North Dakota. Con and Josie built one of the largest and nicest homes in that part of Red Lake County.

The Shorts had no children of their own, so they invited Con's sister-in-law, Mrs. Martin Short, a widow, and her four children, Mary, Maggie, Nellie and Pat, to come to America from Ireland to make their home with them. Mary, who had been born in Tipperary in 1881, was the first to arrive. She came in March of 1901, and her mother and the other children arrived a few years later.

The nearest town where Con and Maggie could buy supplies and see a doctor was Red Lake Falls, which was a twenty-five to thirty-mile trip. This journey would take more than two days by horse and buggy, so it was necessary for them to buy enough supplies to last several weeks. This led to their starting a store in their home. Because their home was large, they were also able to accommodate travelers and salesmen and, when a mail route was established in that area, Maggie became postmistress of the Lillo Office which was also located in their home.

Mrs. Martin Short lived to be ninety-four years old. Her son, Pat, was one of the first road-maintenance men in Equality Township and worked in the early years with a horse-drawn grader. He met his death in an accident when the tractor-grader he was driving while mowing ditches tipped, pinning him beneath.

In May of 1886, James Walker and his brother George of Arkwright, Ontario, Canada, claimed a homestead in Equality and were close neighbors of the Shorts. James and George cut wood to make a living and James also worked for Con Short as a hired man. James remained in Red Lake County when his brother returned to Canada. He and Mary Short were married on May 31, 1903 and they established their own home. James and Mary had nine children; Dolly (b. 1904); Bert (b. 1907); Martin (b. 1910); George (b. 1913); James (b. 1915); Rex (b. 1917); Ernest (b. 1920); Delmaine (b. 1922) and Leslie (b. 1925).

The first school in the area was a small one-room log house, with a woodburning stove in the center of the room providing heat. Andrew Hanson and Nels Fore were two of the first teachers. As the population of the area increased, a more modern structure was built and the new school was named, Shadowlawn.

All of the Walker sons were in military service except George who stayed at home to help his mother operate the farm as his father had died in 1927 at the age of fifty-two. Mary Walker died in June, 1969.

Leslie Walker became ill with polio shortly after returning from serving four years in the U.S. Navy. After care and therapy at the Sister Kenny Hospital, he was able to take care of himself and to get around in a wheelchair. Leslie married Martha Azelson in 1957. They had met when they were both patients at the Sister Kenny Institute. Martha died in 1964 and Leslie is presently living at the High Rise Home for the handicapped in Fargo.

George and Rex Walker are operating the home farm in Equality Township. Delmaine and James both died in 1969. James had married Bernice Riel (daughter of Albert and Celina Hince Riel) and they had four children: Lora Jean, John, Mary Jo and Kelly. Bernice died in 1951.

Ernest Walker and his wife Amber Boerger and their family live in Pengilly, Minnesota. Martin Walker and his wife, Pauline Schoenauer have one son, Marty, and they live in Oklee. Bert Walker and his wife, Rena Hance, live in Red Lake Falls. They are the parents of seven sons: James, Robert, Bruce, Douglas, Larry and twins, Tim and Terry. Bert worked for the County highway department for thirty-three years.

Dolly Walker is married to William Malwitz and they reside in Red Lake Falls. (see Malwitz history).

E. J. SHUKLE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. (Ed) Shukle and Linda Ann, age two, came to Red Lake Falls in August, 1946. Ed was the incoming principal of Lafayette High School. They made their home on Champagne Avenue for the four years he was employed in that capacity.

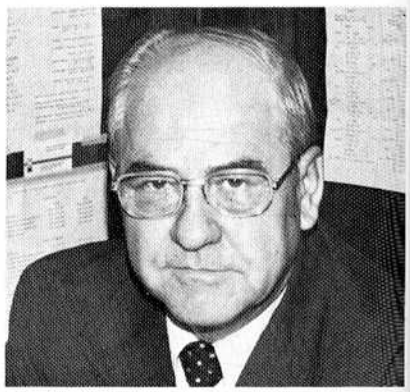
During those four years, Lafayette had its first homecoming celebration (complete with parade, bonfire and royalty) and the Variety Revue performances, which, with Harold (Pinky) Kraft's assistance, proved very popular and successful.

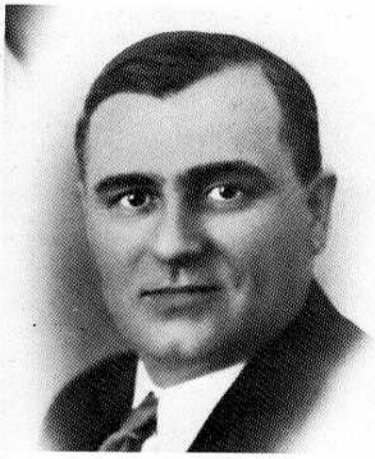
In 1950, Red Lake Falls' Superintendent, J. A. Hughes, accepted a position at Forest Lake, and E. J. Shukle was appointed as his replacement. The Shukle family, now increased by the birth of Kathleen Marie, moved into the former Hughes home and lived there until 1971. The Shukle's only son, Edward J. Jr. was born in 1953.

E. J. Shukle resigned as superintendent in 1955 and accepted a sales position. Later he became Program Coordinator for Northwest Minnesota Research and Development Council. Mrs. Shukle taught the second grade at Mentor for several years. The family continued to live in Red Lake Falls where the children took an active part in the school band, dramatic and sports programs. Ed Jr. was given the American Legion Award in 1971.

Linda Ann and Kathleen both attended the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, and became teachers. Linda Ann is now in San Diego, California, and Kathy, married to Michael Bitsura, is in Barrington, Rhode Island. Edward Jr., following his graduation from University of Minnesota, Duluth, is currently enrolled in graduate study at Mankato State University.

The Shukles now live at Hutchinson where he organized and is Director of the Crow River Vocational Center. Mrs. Shukle is the instructor at the Hutchinson Area Headstart Center.





Joseph F. Skala

SKALA FAMILY

Mathias Skala (b. 1852) came to Red Lake Falls about 1880 from Austria and went into business on the North Side of the city as proprietor of the North Side Sample Room dealing in "wines, liquors and cigars." A second saloon building was erected in 1889, and later in 1898, Matt went into the general merchandise business, selling the saloon business in 1902 to his friend, John Deutschman.

In 1887, Matt Skala married Anna Walter, the youngest daughter of John and Margaret Walter of this city. Two sons were born to the couple, Joseph in 1889 and Henry in 1891. (d. 1911).

Matt Skala purchased a fine section of land just north of the city in Red Lake Falls Township in the 1890's and operated it with hired help for several years until his son, Joe, took over.

The M. Skala Store grew and expanded to include all types of merchandise, groceries, dry goods, hardware items, stoves, heaters, and appliances of the times, as well as a large line of farm machinery and twine.

As was the custom of our pioneer merchants, Matt seldom locked the doors of the store, but, especially as he grew older, invited friends to sit long hours on the easy chairs that circled the big desk in the rear of the building. Spitoons were always in evidence. On the wall hung a tobacco box from which the men filled their pipes as they discussed farms, politics, and affairs of the day. A favorite anecdote of son, Joe, was the time when he, as a young lad, mixed black gunpowder in the tobacco, and, in the darkening shadows of the evening, watched the "fireworks" around the pot bellied stove.

Farmers brought the Matt Skala Store their eggs, cream and freshly churned butter to exchange for those items that couldn't be raised in gardens or on the farms. Clerks ladled out the peanut butter that came in large vats, the sugar and coffee from 100 pound sacks that were dumped in the big bins under the upper shelving behind the counters and soon became very adept at hand weighing the merchandise, tying it all together with the string that hung from the cone-shaped rolls overhead at every counter top. The smell of freshly ground coffee, vinegar in barrels, kerosene in the back room of the store, were the odors associated with the northside store. There were also the shelves with bolts of cloth, clothing items, hundreds of hardware items in that section, axes, stoves — it was all there.

Joseph grew to manhood helping his father, both in the store in the partnership of M. Skala and Son, and at the farm, but his great love was the soil.

In 1917 Joseph married Alice Columbus (b. 1892) daughter of Edward A. and Florestine Columbus, themselves pioneers who had settled in Lake Pleasant Township in 1878. The couple moved onto the farm and three daughters were born, Anne (Mrs. Martin Healy), Isabelle (Mrs. Sam Booth) of Portland, Oregon, and Evelyn (Mrs. Teddy Richards) of Downey, California. Due to the subsequent ill health of Matt Skala, the family moved to the north side and Henry, the only son, was born February 1925.

Mrs. Matt Skala died in September 1917, and Matt on Nov. 23, 1929. The store was finally sold in 1936 and Joe devoted his life to the farm and to the community. He was secretary-treasurer of the Red Lake Electric Co-operative for twenty-five years, a stockholder and director of the Red Lake County State Bank, a member of the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department for thirty years, officer of the Commercial Club and an Alderman of the First Ward to the City Council. Alice Skala died at the age of 62 in 1954 and Joseph in 1967.

Henry Skala, only son, attended local schools and served in the United States Navy during World War II. He married Beverly Scheiblauer of St. Paul and they moved onto the Skala farm. Four children were born, Joseph, Eugene, and twin daughters, Kathleen and Karen. Henry continues the farm operation raising small grains and stock cattle. In November 1969, he married Mrs. Erma LaPlante Perreault.

JOHN AND ARDITH HOVET SOLHEIM

John was born on June 3, 1942 to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Solheim of Thief River Falls. His father, now deceased, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Iver Solheim of Kratka Township, Pennington County and a building contractor for many years in Thief River Falls. John's mother resides in Thief River Falls and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Art Harris of Oklee, who had operated a hotel there. Mrs. Solheim was office director of the State Employment Services in both Red Lake Falls and Thief River Falls and is the sister of Mrs. Roy Wilcox (Charlotte) of Red Lake Falls.

John was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church at Thief River Falls and graduated from Lincoln High School in the class of 1960. After high school he was employed in Minneapolis until July of 1964 when he was inducted into the U.S. Army. He served for two years at Fort Carson, Colorado, until his discharge as a Specialist E-5. Subsequently he returned to Minneapolis, where he was employed as a machinist in the Twin City Army Ammunitions Plant.

In 1968, John met Ardith Hovet of Goodridge, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hovet. She was born on February 24, 1948, in Thief River Falls and was baptized and confirmed at Reiner Lutheran Free Church at Goodridge, attended school in Goodridge and graduated in the class of 1966. Ardith attended the Area Vocational Cosmetology School in Thief River Falls and, in 1967, went to Minneapolis and was employed at Tri-Mi Beauty Salon in downtown Minneapolis.

John and Ardith were married on October 11, 1969, at Trinity Lutheran Church at Thief River Falls. In June, 1970 they moved to Red Lake Falls where John was employed by Wilcox Furniture and Appliance Co. as a salesman and Ardith was employed by Kurlette Beauty Salon. In August of 1972 the Solheims began construction of a new home at 811 Stevens Avenue N.E. and moved into the home on January 7, 1973.

On October 11, 1974, their fifth anniversary, they were blessed with a little girl, whom they named Julie Janet.

CARL SORENSON FAMILY

Carl Sorenson, born in Grue, Salor, Norway, on October 5, 1869, came to Kerkhoven, Minnesota in June, 1887. His cousin, Carlos Martinson, had sent him a ticket to America, for which he had to work a year to repay. In the fall of 1888, he joined his brother and sisters near Kindred, North Dakota, where he worked on farms and did carpenter work. He helped construct the Lutheran Church in Kindred and was the one who put up the steeple. In 1892 his parents, Soren and Johanna Halvorson, and a younger brother and sister came from Norway. In 1895 Soren and sons, Carl and John, came to Northern Minnesota to look at the new land which had just opened for settlement. They staked a claim east of where Plummer is now, and this is still the Sorenson home. Soren stayed to prove up the homestead, while Carl and John returned to Kindred to work. Their new home was in a French Community and Soren spoke little English but they could communicate in spite of it. Soren stayed several weeks with a St. Martin family while he was building a house.

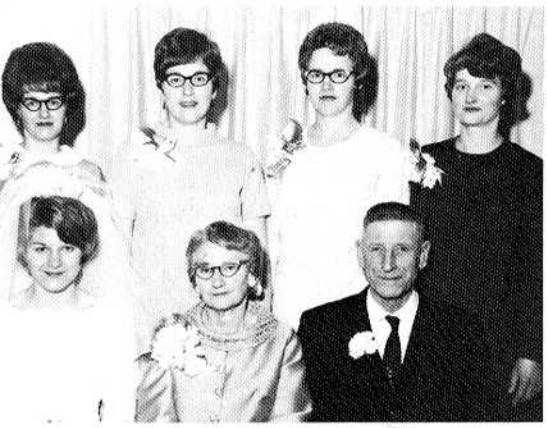
In 1896 Carl married Bergit Braaten who was born in Halingdal, Norway, on September 20, 1874. She had come to America with her family in 1880 and settled near Kindred. Carl and Bergit, together with his mother (Johanna) and brother John, made the journey together to the homestead in Northern Minnesota. They made the trip with horses and a covered wagon, with three cows tied behind.

St. Hilaire was the nearest town, about twenty miles away. There was a store and postoffice at Garnes where they could obtain groceries and other supplies.

Ten children were born to Carl and Bergit: Harry, who married Agnes Anderson, a teacher, and farmed an adjoining farm; Ingvald who died in infancy; Iver, who married Mae Thibert and operated a store in Plummer, died in 1933 at the age of thirty-three; Cora, who died in 1927, had been prepared to teach school when she was stricken by leukemia; Sarah married Frank Oberpiller, a baker at Minneapolis; Edna lived on a farm in Wisconsin. Her husband, Charles Hill, is a nephew of the late Earl Hill of Brooks. They are now retired from farming; Avis married Arthur Froiland and lives near Plummer; John, Neuben and Orville are on the Sorenson farm. John and Orville served in World War Two, and Orville spent several years on the Aleutian front. Bergit died in January of 1932 and Carl in September of 1950.

JOHN SORENSON

John Sorenson, the son of Soren and Johanne Tuskind Halvorson, was born in Brandval, Norway on the 15th of July, 1878. When John was still a young boy, the family immigrated to the United States and settled near Kindred, North Dakota. In 1896 they moved to Garnes Township against the advice of their relatives who were scared about the reports of Indians in the area.



Ralph Sorenson Family



Sortedahl Family. *Top:* Ralph, Olaf and John. *Middle:* Mildred, Mae, Myrtle and Cornelia. *Front:* Mrs. Sortedahl and Mr. Sortedahl.

In 1901, John was married to Randi Haaven, daughter of Haaken and Malena Broholm Haaven. She was born on the 12th of December 1880 and came to America with her parents from Sundalen, Norway in about 1889. Her family also homesteaded in Garnes Township.

The young couple bought a quarter of land from Iver Bell, farmed it and raised a family there. The first born was Helga (Mrs. Oliver Langie) of Virginia. The second arrival was Stella who now is Mrs. Henry Larson of Oklee. The first boy to be born was Ralph who lives near Plummer; the youngest was Sidney, who is now deceased.

John was on the Town Board and was a church trustee. Mrs. Sorenson passed away in April of 1932 and John died on the 30th of July, 1959.

RALPH SORENSON

Ralph Sorenson was born in January, 1910 the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sorenson in Garnes Township. He grew to manhood helping his father with the farm chores of the day.

In October 1933, Ralph and Helen Linder were married. She was born in January, 1911 to Gust and Bertine Anderson Linder also in Garnes Township and worked at home until married.

They had five girls, Bernice (Mrs. Bernice Johnson), Doris (Mrs. Elmer Hanson) both of Oklee, Rose (Mrs. Harvey Delage) of Thief River Falls, Laura (Mrs. Duane Pederson), Williston, North Dakota, and Carol (Mrs. Kory Chervestad) of Oklee.

Over the years, Ralph was on the town board, the Plummer School board and is presently on the Oklee Co-op Elevator board, and is the president of the Carpenters Local 649 at Crookston. He is also a trustee of the Salem Lutheran board and both have been active in the Farmers Union.

Ralph has farmed and worked out doing carpentry work for several years. He has now rented out his farm to his nephew, Orrin Linder.

MARTIN O. SORTEDAHL

Martin O. Sortedahl was born in Kenyon, Minnesota in 1866. He received his education in the public schools in Goodhue County and at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

In 1891, he came to Crookston and accepted a position as deputy Clerk of Court in Polk County, a position he held for eight years, when he resigned to buy out the interests of his partners in the real estate and abstract business at Sortedahl and Storasli (which they had established in 1897.) M. O. Sortedahl was also the proprietor and cashier of the Bank of Red Lake Falls, a strong financial institution in the early 1900's.

In 1898 he married Hilda Swandby of Warren, who had come to this country from Norway when she was twelve years old. They had seven children: Olaf, Mildred, John, Ralph, Mae, Cornelia, and Myrtle.

In 1918 Mr. Sortedahl was elected to the Minnesota State Legislature, serving as Representative from the 65th legislative district. He was re-elected in 1920, serving two terms.

On January 1, 1922, he was appointed Postmaster in Red Lake Falls, and continued to serve until 1934 when he retired.

The family home was that of the late Pierre Bottineau, located on the Clearwater River East of the Oak Knolls golf course. The children all grew up there and attended the local schools. Bricks for the dwelling were kilned on the property.

Ralph remembers the driving horses his dad owned and how the family would pile into the two-seated buggy and drive as far as Warren to visit the aunts and uncles — quite a ride with that mode of travel. He also remembers his dad had one of the first cars in Red Lake Falls, an Oldsmobile with high wheels.

In 1913 when the schoolhouse burned down in Red Lake Falls, it didn't mean vacation. The kids had classes in various locations: the courthouse, the Presbyterian Church, the Norwegian Lutheran Church, and the old school on the Northside, where Hillcrest Nursing Home is now located.

In those days, of course, with no immunization shots, the kids got about every disease there was. At one time the family was quarantined for five weeks with scarlet fever. When Ralph was four years old, he and his sister Myrtle had polio. Ralph couldn't walk for a year but he remembers his mother massaging his legs and he came out unscathed.

Cornelia, Mildred and Myrtle taught school. Mildred also worked in the Post Office at times, as did Mae. During World War II, Cornelia served in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) for two years, stationed at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland, where she worked in the Officers' Training School of Chemical Warfare.

Ralph and John farmed. Olaf, the oldest, upon graduating from high school, joined the Army in 1917. He later married Lillian Luxemberg of Red Lake Falls and they moved to Duluth, where they still reside.

Mildred married Clarence Dailey in 1929 and they farmed in Lake Pleasant township.

Mae died in 1936 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Minneapolis.

Myrtle married Clyde Cummins in Duluth in 1940, and they now reside in Barnum, Minnesota.

Ralph married Audrey Lewis of Minneapolis in 1941. They farmed in Red Lake Falls township until 1958 when they moved to town and operated the Tastee Freez for nine years.

John left Red Lake Falls in 1944 and went to Audubon, Iowa where he married Theo Jane Jensen and continued farming there. He is now retired.

Cornelia married Rosario Delorme in 1946. They reside in Red Lake Falls.

The parents died in 1949; Mr. Sortedahl on October 24 and his wife just twelve days later.

Mildred (Mrs. Clarence Dailey) died October 29, 1974.

OLE SOVDE

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sovde operated a grocery store in Oklee from 1935 to 1959, a period of twenty-four years. At first they rented the former X. A. Lambert building, then in 1938, they rented the Sandeen building which was on the site of the present Oklee Community Center. At this time they added dry goods to their store. In 1946 they built their own store on Main Street and Second Avenue.

In 1942 their son Lowell married Doris Skatvold, and he enlisted in the Air Force that same year. He returned from the service and became affiliated with his parents' business which now became known as Sovde and Son. Lowell continued in the business with his parents until he was appointed postmaster in 1957. Mr. and Mrs. Sovde retired from their mercantile business in 1959, when they sold their store to the Quern Brothers of Grand Forks. Since the sale of the store, they have continued to make their home in Oklee. Mr. Sovde once remarked to a neighbor, "I'm busier now than when I was in the grocery business." He has been custodian of the Zion Lutheran Church for many years, and their yard is kept in perfect order all summer long. Since their retirement they have spent many winters in McAllen, Texas.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sovde and Lowell

Ole Sovde was born at Perley, Minnesota, where his folks settled when they immigrated to America from Norway. Later they moved to Erskine, then sold their farm and went to Simpson, Saskatchewan, Canada, where they homesteaded.

During World War I, Ole served in the United States Army and he was discharged in December, 1918. He came back to Minnesota and settled at Holt, where he was in restaurant and barber business.

Luella Johnson was born near Albert Lea to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Johnson. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johnson, had come from Norway in the early 1860's. Luella remembers how her parents had told her about the Indian uprisings in that area. At one time, a report was given that a band of Indians was headed towards them, and every one was notified to leave at once. Luella's grandmother fled, carrying the youngest son with three other children clinging to her. All the women and children gathered at a certain barn until the Indians had gone away. Many other similar instances occurred.

Mrs. Sovde's parents later moved to Northern Minnesota and homesteaded in the Holt area north of Thief River Falls. Luella attended school at Middle River, and she worked for the Carlson Mercantile business at Holt.

Ole Sovde and Luella Johnson were married at the Nazareth Lutheran Church of Holt, on November 27, 1919. It was a very cold day and Luella's parents came into town with horses and a covered sleigh, but they were so cold that they had to go into the parsonage to "thaw out" before they went to the church for the wedding. On November 23, 1969, Mr. and Mrs. Sovde celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in the Zion Lutheran Church at Oklee.

The Sovde's have been active members of the Zion Lutheran Church. Luella is a member of the American Lutheran Church Women, the Elizabeth Circle, and for many years she taught first grade release-time classes at the church. Mr. Sovde is a member of the American Legion and Mrs. Sovde is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. They enjoy living in Oklee in their retirement.

HAROLD SPEARS FAMILY

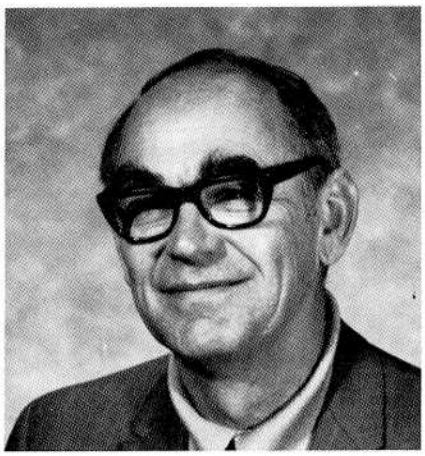
Harold and Evelyn Spears lived in Plummer for two years following their marriage on October 25, 1941, when Harold was Principal of the Plummer School.

Harold was born at Shooks, Beltrami County on May 8, 1918. He graduated from Kelliher High School and Bemidji State College and was a veteran of World War Two. Evelyn was born in 1922 at Bagley, graduated from Bagley High School and attended Bemidji State College.

The Spears family returned to Red Lake County in 1956, when Harold became a social studies instructor at Lafayette High School. Harold died on August 13, 1973. He had been a Commander of the Gunder Austad Post of The American Legion, Master of the Masonic Lodge and was voted Teacher of the Year in 1970.

The Spears two children are: Michael Harold, born at Bemidji in 1945, a graduate of Lafayette High School and the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. Michael has had a dental practice in Red Lake Falls since 1969. Kent Douglas was born at Bemidji in 1948. He graduated from Lafayette High School and attended Bemidji State College and University of Minnesota at Crookston. He spent a year in Vietnam during his four year tour of duty with the U.S. Navy. On December 27, 1975, Kent was married to Shelley Gackstetter and they are making their home in Red Lake Falls. He is manager of the American Legion Club.

Evelyn Spears married Howard Johnston in June, 1974.



Harold Spears

MY FAMILY AND THE STEINERT MILL

My recollection of our family is somewhat dimmed by the fact that I was very much a junior — some eighteen years younger than my oldest brother. I am now keenly aware that I have been the sole survivor of my generation of the family for twenty years. Also, my span of life with the family was very limited in years and, as must be true of most young boys, family history is of little interest.

My father, born in 1853, immigrated to the United States from northern Germany about 1878 where he undoubtedly grew up in a flour milling environment. He spent about four years in New York state before going to Red Lake Falls in 1882. He was very fond of the pears and apples so abundant in New York state. Pears evidently were new to him, and he liked to mention the time he stored a winter supply in his



Leo and Bertha Steinert 1884

room. This practice ended abruptly when his landlady discovered a slow drip from her ceiling!

One might wonder what drew him from New York to the vicinity of Red Lake Falls! Being a flour miller by nature, there can be little doubt that it was the attraction of northern hard spring wheat, the best wheat in the world, grown on new farm land.

My mother, Bertha Glaser, born in 1860, east of Leipsic, Germany, somehow crossed paths with father, because they were married a year or two after his arrival in Red Lake Falls. Just what attracted mother to Red Lake Falls is unknown — I suspect they may have met in New York. A posed photo of the type customary for weddings in those days was made in Crookston, indicating they were married there about 1884.

My knowledge of father's early activities are very sketchy, particularly as to timing. However, two things stand out. He was responsible for the construction of the brick block on Main street; this was the center of business activity in Red Lake Falls for many years. Also, during this period, he undertook management of the flour mill, which was located on the Red River, approximately three miles west of town.

This was a relatively large commercial mill of over 500 barrels daily capacity. In those days, flour was packed in wood hoop barrels of 196 pounds. Some years later the standard package was the 98 pound cotton bag. A Northern Pacific Railroad spur track enabled wheat to be delivered to the mill in car-load lots, and products to be shipped mostly to eastern and foreign markets. A "mill-in-transit" arrangement with the railroad gave preferential freight rates to the mill.

Power for the mill was supplied by a turbine water wheel. The dam across the Red Lake River was popularly known as the "Healy" dam, and was located below the confluence of the Clearwater and Red Lake Rivers. This dam was a popular site, especially during the spring log-driving and fishing season. A special event each spring was to witness the logs going over the dam and finally the Wanigan "shoot" the dam. The Wanigan was a form of house boat on which the log drivers lived, as they prog-

ressed down stream with the drive. It was a special treat for the younger boys to get a handout from the cook (when he was in the mood) and rightly so, because the food was exceptionally good!

During these years, my family lived in a typical frame house located on a street southwest of town, (name unknown). I arrived on the scene in 1902, and from my earliest recollection, living conditions were very bleak, particularly in winter. There were, of course, no utilities, and electric power did not arrive until about 1907, and then to a very limited extent . . . that is, one or two dim carbon filament lamps in the house. The arrival of the electric flat iron a few years later was a notable event. Before the "electric age" trimming the wicks on the kerosene lamp and lantern was a daily chore.

Theodore, and, of course, father, worked at the mill at least six days of the week, and ten to twelve working hours per day were common. I remember Theodore's routine very well. After cleaning the barn and milking the cow in the light of a kerosene lantern, he harnessed "Old Chief", our family horse, and then father and he rode to the mill, a distance of two to three miles. After dark they came home, had supper, and Theodore again did his barn chores.

I remember the neighbors on our street, as of around 1905. Reichert, a pharmacist, to the left; and progressing west were Mizen, Northern Pacific station master; Helm, farm implements; Kaufer, harness and leather goods; and Ben Rosch, Northern Pacific section foreman. House construction in those days was very poor. Insulation was unheard of and houses were supported to give about one foot of space under the house. During the winter the houses were "banked" and for heating we had a fancy base burner stove, with isinglass windows, which burned anthracite coal. Around 1906, Theodore excavated a cellar under our house, and installed a circulating hot water heating furnace. Access to the furnace was through a trap door in the kitchen floor. This was undoubtedly, the first central heating system in the Red Lake Falls area.

Sometime around 1901, Otto (my oldest brother) attended a vocational course in flour milling at Minneapolis. Following this, he was employed in mills at Blue Earth, and at Russell Miller in Minneapolis; also International Mill at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Through this experience he became a highly qualified miller, and an expert millwright. One of his hobbies was photography, and in those days that included processing and printing. The family photo, made about 1909, was a sample of his work. Another brother, Leo, born in 1898, died before this photo was made.

Around 1908 the big flour mill was completely destroyed by fire, and this must have been a severe blow to my father. There was about a year of decision making, which included a trip to Washington state. From the stories I heard, my father was quite favorably impressed with that part of the country, (particularly the apple orchards), but decided against a move to that area. Instead, he proceeded with the construction of the water power and mill on the Clearwater River, at the north end of Main Street.

In contrast with the old mill, this one was to be much smaller, about one hundred barrel capacity, designed for custom milling to serve the local area. The construction entailed the building of a saw mill and procurement of logs, most of which came from "dead-heads" left in the Red Lake River from previous log drives. Earth moving by horse power, and timber construction, involved much hard manual labor. Along with other workmen, Theodore played an important role in this operation.

My father succeeded in inducing Otto to return to Red Lake Falls, and the new mill started operating in the Fall of 1911, with Otto as the miller, and Theodore running the business end of the operation.

We moved from our old home to the "hollow" in 1911, and lived that winter in a new building, which was intended, for later use, as a barn. The following year our new home, located east of the mill, was built, and we moved into it in 1912.

About 1917 Theodore entered military service, and saw action in France and Germany. During that period I carried on some of his work as best I could, and even arranged to attend only half days during my last year in high school.

I would be remiss if I did not mention mother's important role in this activity. Besides being a good mother and home maker (of the old German school) she did in fact, perhaps without realizing it, serve as the tester of the flour produced by both mills over many years. Baking was done on a regular basis twice per week. Father always made it a practice to critically examine the quality of the bread. What a shock today's accepted bread standard of quality would be to him!

Theodore returned home around 1920. Mother suggested I look for more fertile fields, and in the fall of 1921 I enrolled in the University of Minnesota for a course in electrical engineering. The following spring catastrophe struck — mother died, followed by father, six months later. During those few months, father attempted to relieve the grief by making a trip to Germany with Joseph Perrault.

Father was always concerned with community affairs. He served at least one term as Mayor, and many years as Alderman. Following his death, Theodore succeeded him on the city council, and continued serving on the council for the next twenty-six years.

Theodore married Gertrude Harder in 1923, who now resides in Crookston. They have two daughters — Gerry (Mrs. Wm. McPherson, of International Falls) and Lois (Mrs. William Stein, of Duluth).

In 1915 Otto married Estelle Foss, at Blue Earth, and Estelle died in 1968. They are survived by Gordon, of Minneapolis; Donald, of Spring Valley, California; and Patricia (Mrs. Robert Ohlenkamp) of Northridge, California.

Following Otto's death in 1956, the mill and site were sold, and ceased to operate as a flour mill. The mill withstood twenty years of neglect, and the old landmark was finally razed in 1975.

After graduation at the University of Minnesota, I joined Westinghouse Electric Corporation. After a term on a graduate student course in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I served twenty years in their plant at Sharon, Pennsylvania, and twenty years at their Buffalo, N.Y. plant. I married Florence Havlak, of Sharon, in 1941. We have no descendants. After retiring from Westinghouse in 1966, and a year of touring the U.S., we moved to Scottsdale, Arizona.

by Emil Steinert

OTTO STEINERT FAMILY

Otto Emil Steinert was born September 4, 1885 in Red Lake Falls to Leo and Bertha Glaser Steinert. He attended school in



Otto and Estelle Steinert

Red Lake Falls and entered the milling business in Cannon Falls in 1901. He later was employed in mills in Blue Earth, the Russell Miller Milling Company of Minneapolis, and with the International Mill at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. He returned to Red Lake Falls in 1912 and entered the flour milling business with his father and brother Theodore.

He married Estelle Foss at Blue Earth in 1915. Otto and Estelle Steinert had three children: Gordon, Donald and Patricia.

Otto was a member of the Odd Fellows Fraternal Lodge; Estelle was a member of the Royal Neighbors of America, the Ladies' Guild of the Presbyterian Church and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Otto died March 18, 1956 and Estelle in 1968.

Patricia Steinert attended the University of Minnesota and in 1943 married Robert Ohlenkamp of Hutchinson, Minnesota. They have four children: Kurt, Kris, Neil and Lisa. Kurt, his wife Susan, and two children live in Litchfield, Minnesota. Patricia and Robert Ohlenkamp live in Northridge, California.

Donald Steinert attended the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis and served with the U.S. Navy for six years and was Chief Petty Officer. He was on the battleship U.S. Maryland in Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack; and it was days before the family knew of his safety. He married Irene Hallas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Hallas of Brooks in 1941. They have one sone Richard who with wife Karen and daughter Jennifer lives in Spring Valley, California. Donald and Irene Steinert live in Spring Valley, California. He is Clerk of Superior Court in San Diego.

Gordon married Sylvia Paquin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Paquin, in 1941. After service in the Army Engineers in World War II, Gordon worked at the Steinert Milling Company for several years. He worked as an agent for Hardware Mutual Insurance Company and then opened the Steinert Insurance Agency. He served as Veterans' Service Office and was active in the American Legion, serving as Commander, was president of the Commercial Club and a member of the Red Lake Falls Fire Department for many years.

Following high school at Lafayette, Sylvia took Teacher Training and taught in rural Red Lake County schools for four years. In 1938, forty-five dollars a month was a rural school teacher's average salary. Out of this salary, fifteen dollars a month would be the board and room at a farm family home near the school. One part of a school teacher's duties might be starting the fires in the Waterbury Stove with kindling she chopped. Becoming adept at banking the fire so that there would be a start for the next day was nec-

essary. When really cold weather came, boots were often worn all day. Floors were usually cold and when occasionally an "uninvited" mouse might interrupt a class, boots were a "protection". Cross-country skiing was not only a leisure activity then; it was a necessity when roads were blocked after a storm.

During World War II, part of a rural school teacher's duties was helping with the issuing of ration books, also going to the Court House to get surplus commodities to help supplement lunches at the school. Grapefruit juice and pinto beans were in plentiful supply, apparently, since rural school teachers distributed a lot of those. The cans were opened and warmed in the water pans on top of the stoves.

This brings to mind the day of the "bean explosion" at the Dorothy school. One morning there was a terrific explosion. Students were screaming "The Japs have hit us!" Terrified, all ran out of the school (teacher included). When we ventured back into the school a short time later, we discovered a can or two of beans had exploded and there were beans everywhere! School was over for the day and all began "debeaning" the school.

The melodramas put on by the Dorothy community were well attended and enjoyed by audiences and casts. They were always striving for realistic, convincing performances. On one occasion the scene called for a city gal to come onstage after a fall from a horse onto a spiny cactus. One of the Drees' boys, ever helpful, had filched a real spiny cactus from someone's parlor and the city gal came onstage with a realistic shriek. It was a memorable scene; at least long remembered by the actress!

During the war, while Gordon was in the Army, Sylvia lived in Alabama and in California. During his overseas duty from 1942 to 1946, Sylvia was employed in Los Angeles.

The Steinerts had three children: Sandra (1947), Stephen (1950), and Susan (1954). Sandra (Mrs. Stanley Jasnoch) lives in Rosemount and has three children: Michelle, Jennifer and Christopher. Stephen married Julie Ranum of Thief River Falls and they have four children: Dana, Synthia, Matthew and Krista. Susan (Mrs. Paul Thompson) has one daughter Jessica Anne. The Thompsons live in Racine, Wisconsin.

Sylvia Steinert presently lives in Red Lake Falls and is employed at the ASCS Office in Crookston.

OSCAR AND SIGNE LUNDE STENBERG

Oscar Stenberg was born at Horace, North Dakota in 1895. He grew to manhood there in the Red River Valley and served in the Army during World War I. After his discharge he started farming south of Minot, North Dakota where he met and married Signe Lunde November 15, 1921.

Signe was born in Telemarken, Norway in 1897. She came to America with her parents when she was seven years old and settled in North Dakota. Signe remembers the boat ride across the stormy Atlantic Ocean and landing in Boston on June 26, 1904. They came by train to homestead in North Dakota. No one could speak English. Her father had only the $42.00 required for an immigrant to enter the United States. A neighbor was traveling with them with his family of eight children and was admitted by sneaking that same $42.00 to him through customs. She remembers living in the sod shanty, her father digging a well by hand and lining it with rocks, and walking three miles to a three month school session, held only in summer because of weather conditions and using dried "cow pies" for fuel, because of a shortage of wood and coal. Signe enjoyed a visit to her old home in Norway in 1970.

Signe and Oscar started farming at Douglas, North Dakota in 1922 and continued there through the "dirty-thirties". They moved to Oklee, Minnesota, Red Lake County in 1939, where they farmed until 1958, and later retired off the farm to make their home in the village of Oklee in 1962.

They have six children: three sons and three daughters. Arnold, their eldest son, married Marjorie Spilde of Halma. They have been engaged in grain farming near Oklee and Arnold has been a rural mail carrier. He served in the Air Force in World War II, and has been on the village council of Oklee. His wife, Marjorie, has taught school in the Oklee public school system. They also have six children. Lynn is married to Frank Tallon, and lives in Appleton, Wisconsin. Kathy is married to Gary Williams and teaches in Petersburg, Illinois. Virginia and her husband, Dr. William Newman, are presently in the Army Air Force. Arne is at graduate school at U.N.D. Ken is in the Army, stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Bill is a student at Oklee high School.

Daughter, Margaret, is married to Leonard Johnson of Oklee. They raise Angus cattle and do some grain farming north of Oklee. They have two children, Judy, who is married to Dick Reger and living in Fargo; and David, who is farming with his folks.

Daughter, Doris is married to L. E. Ruprecht of Thief River Falls. They are living near Billings, Montana where LeRoy works for the Mohawk Rubber Co. They have three sons and two daughters. Their children are Mark, Debbie, Shelly, Jon and Barry. Barry and his wife, Jane presently live in Red Lake Falls where Barry is medical technologist at St. John's Hospital.

Son Jim, married Dorothy Brown of Liverpool, England, while serving there with the armed forces. They have six daughters, Sherron, Sandra, Susan, Gini, Renee and Jamie. They are presently living in Dallas, Texas, where he is self-employed.

Don is married to Alma Richardson of Midway, West Virginia. After his discharge from the army they have been engaged in grain farming in the Oklee area. They have two sons, Jeff and Douglas and one daughter, Donna. All are students of the Oklee public school. Don is a member of the Board of Directors of the Oklee Co-op Elevator and serves on the Oklee school board of Education.

Barbara is married to Dr. Harold Skjonsby. They live in Houston, Texas where Harold teaches in the Dental College. Barbara has taught school and is presently working part time as a dental assistant. They have two sons, Adam and Nathan, and one daughter, Amy.

Besides these six children, Signe and Oscar Stenberg have twenty-five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1971 and are enjoying their retirement years residing in Oklee, where they are active members of the Zion Lutheran Church.



Oscar Stenberg Family. *Back:* Margaret, Jim, Doris, Arnold and Don. *Front:* Oscar, Barbara, and Signe

CHARLES STEPHENS AND MONICA SCHMITZ

Charles "Chuck" Stephens, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Casper Stephens of Grand Forks was a 1946 graduate of Grand Forks Central high school. He entered the U.S. Army and served one year with the occupation forces in Japan. After returning home, he attended the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, graduating with a B.A. in social work. He worked two years at the Employment Service at Valley City, North Dakota and three years at the Welfare Office in Walker, Minnesota before moving to Red Lake Falls. Since July of 1956 he has served as Welfare Director of this county.

Chuck was united in marriage to Madonna Mae Derrick at St. Mary's in Grand Forks. They were the parents of seven children. The oldest is Cheryl who attended Moorhead State College, graduating with a B.S. degree in English and is now employed at Cameron-Sullivan Association, Inc. as office manager. Richard is employed in construction work; Linda is a graduate of Hibbing Jr. Colelge as a registered nurse and is employed at the Vet's Hospital in St. Cloud; Karen is married to Kent Schultz, the son of LaVern and Hazel Schultz and they have two sons, Brandon and Corey. They reside in Norfolk, Virginia where Kent is serving in the U.S. Navy; Mary Beth is attending the University of North Dakota; Michael is a senior at Lafayette and Jill is a sophomore.

In 1962 Madonna passed away following surgery. In 1964 Chuck married Monica Louise Schmitz, the daughter of Bernard Schmitz Sr. and Elizabeth Knott. Like her brothers and sisters she attended a rural school in Dist. 167 and high school at Lafayette. Following high school, Monica stayed home and cared for the family after her mother's death in 1951. Prior to her marriage she was employed at St. John's hospital as receptionist-secretary.

DANIEL STONEOUSE FAMILY

One of the earlier settlers of Equality Township was Daniel Stoneouse born in April, 1871, in Priceville, Ontario, Canada. At the age of one and a half, his mother died and his father remarried. His life was not too comfortable, so he left home at the age of fourteen and moved to his uncle's home in Wahpeton, North Dakota.

Through his uncle's aid he learned and apprenticed in the blacksmithing trade. He made his home there until he heard news that the reservation land would be opened for homesteading in 1896, and came to Minnesota to settle a quarter section of



Mr. and Mrs. Dan Stoneouse 1897

land in Equality Township, Red Lake County.

On this land he built a tar paper shanty about 14' by 16' for his first home. The following year Daniel married the daughter of another blacksmith and furniture maker, J. J. Donahue. Donahue had also settled and placed a claim in the same area with his wife and three teen-aged daughters. Kate Agnes Donahue became acquainted with and married Daniel Stoneouse in April, 1897. Kate was born in Eden Prairie, Wisconsin on October 12, 1877.

In the summer of 1899 Daniel and J. J. Donahue built a log house for his wife and newly started family. In the following years they managed to raise eight children on this land.

The early pioneer life was one of much privation and suffering. In the early years, Daniel had to spend time in North Dakota doing blacksmithing and operating a grain separator during harvest. This added financially to take care of many needs such as purchasing animals and machinery for farm and family growth. Its progress was good and well worth the courage and hard work they had to put into it.

Daniel was always charitable and would help many in the area. Many times he would have his Indian friends join in a family meal. His wife would be fearful and noted many times how silently they came and would startle her. The nearest railroad town was Plummer, some thirteen miles away. The children were taken there for their religious training during the summer months. It was, of course, a full day's journey to come and go at that time.

The children's schooling consisted of two terms each year. These sessions were held three months in the spring and three months in the fall until 1910 when a new school was built and they were able to have a full eight months. The early teachers were very dedicated and encouraged pupils to enter the professional world of teaching, nursing and other meaningful positions. Daniel, although his education had been limited, was forever reading and studying on his own and could do square root and many problems that even a well tutored person would have difficulty doing.

During a swamp fever epidemic when many horses were dying and the vets seemed helpless to save them, Daniel did some experimenting on his own and kept his horses alive. Word of his success spread and many farmers came to ask him for help. Willingly, he treated many of the horses around there. He was always doctor and nurse to all his family and untiring in his efforts to help others. It was through his example and courage that his two sons and six daughters were raised. The two sons, Donald and James, lived on the home place until their deaths. Two of the daughters are also deceased, Margaret and Francis. Daniel's wife passed away at age 55 years in 1932. Daniel suffered a stroke in December, 1943, and died at the age of 72 years.

The four daughters still living are active and all are retired from working professions except one. Minnie Stoneouse lives in Oklee and has remained in the area all through her many devoted years as a nurse. Katherine Stoneouse Huot lives in St. Paul and is retired from teaching and family raising. Sadie Stoneouse Lyman, now resides in Burney, California. She had been active in the business world in Minnesota before moving to California and raising her family. Effie Stoneouse Lange, the youngest, lives in Winona where she is still busy in her profession of nursing. She also has raised a family.

The old log house had a large kitchen added in 1916. It was covered with siding inside out, but today these inside walls are covered by paper and paint. All the crude machinery gave way gradually to progress. Tractors replaced the many horses. The house is now equipped with all modern conveniences, electricity replaced the kerosene lamp. The new washer and dryer replaced the old scrub board and clothesline. The residence still is home for a Stoneouse and one of Donald's sons, Orlean who lives there has started a fourth generation.

This brief sketch of Daniel Stoneouse was done by his granddaughter, Kathleen Huot Braun, whose mother, Katherine Stoneouse Huot, gave her many notes and many ideas to arrange into this story.



Minnie Stoneouse

DONALD STONEOUSE AND MYRTLE RYSTAD STONEOUSE

Donald Stoneouse, born in Equality Township, is one of eight children of Daniel and Kate Stoneouse. In Donald's early years he attended a country school one and a half miles from his father's farm. He attended school eight months a term thru the eighth grade at which time he went into farming with his father and older brother, Jim. Later he bought the J. J. Donahue farm that his grandfather had homesteaded.

In 1944 Donald married Myrtle Rystad, daughter of Ole and Pauline Rystad, and made their home on the Donahue farm. In 1949 after the deaths of his father in 1932 and his brother in 1948, Donald bought the farm his father had homesteaded and moved his family there. Thru the years, electricity and running water was brought into the house. A two room addition was built onto the original house also. The homesteaded land was enlarged by Donald and his father making a total of 320 acres. Improvements on the farm included a drainage ditch and a water pit for the beef cattle. Donald and Myrtle also milked about nine cows and sold the cream.

In 1971 Donald passed away and in 1972 his oldest son, Orlean, purchased the farm. Myrtle and her two youngest sons moved into Oklee, where she bought a home. Orlean is the third generation of the Stoneouse family to operate the farm.

His family consists of his wife, Virginia Lerohl, and two daughters, Kristy and Danielle. All six of the Donald Stoneouse children still live in the Oklee area.

Donavan married Marilyn Lefebvre and lives in Oklee. Myrna married Harold Parsley and lives in Oklee. They have two sons, Wade and Chad. Ramona married Larry Trontvedt and lives twelve miles north of Oklee. They have one son, Gene. Robert and Ronald are living at home with their mother in Oklee.

Orlean and Virginia, now operating the farm, made some of the pasture and hay land into grain fields when they sold the cattle. Two new grain bins were added and the machinery is a little bigger, but the buildings, with the house modernized, are the same as when Orlean's grandfather owned it.

PETER STORVICK AND LILLIE OLSON STORVICK

Peter Storvick was one of twelve children who lived in Storvick in northern Norway where fishing was the means of livelihood. He decided to emigrate to the United States and became a worker in the harvest fields of North Dakota.

Lillie Olson was one of three children living in Tinn, Telemarken in southern Norway. She immigrated to the United States and was a house maid for a family in Morris, Minnesota.

Peter Storvick worked in creameries and learned the business. He was working in Morris, Minnesota, and became acquainted with Lillie Olson. They were married in Minneapolis on April 12, 1911 and two sons were born to them, Engvald and Lloyd.

Peter owned and operated creameries in many cities in Minnesota.

In 1933 Peter purchased the Red Lake Falls Creamery from Ted Christianson. Engvald and Lloyd came with them to Red Lake Falls. Engvald had just finished business college, but Lloyd had one year left of high school. He enrolled in the Red Lake Falls high school and graduated from there.

Peter wanted both boys to work with him in the creamery, but Lloyd wasn't interested and went on to Chiropractic school in Davenport, Iowa. Engvald stayed and worked with Peter until he retired on February 1, 1936.

Engvald then continued to operate the creamery until May 15, 1939, when the creamery was sold to Mr. Mattson. Doria Baril, Glen Fellman and John Hendrickson

were employed at the creamery.

Engvald is the only surviving member of the family and at present is living in Pueblo, Colorado. The other members of the family passed away on the following dates: Lloyd in August of 1974; Mrs. Peter Storvick in October of 1968; and Peter in June of 1955.



Mr. and Mrs. Nels Strande

NELS STRANDE AND ANNE HOFSTAD STRANGE

Nels Strande and Anne Hofstad were married in 1912 in the Lost River Congregation at the parsonage by Reverend S. T. Palm. They were the first couple to be wed there. Nels had already built their two-room home. In 1939 the house was remodeled into a lovely, spacious home.

Nels was the mail carrier for fourteen years, traveling from Lambert to Wanke. He built the livery stable in 1910 and owned two teams of horses. He was the second person in Oklee to own a car. (Dr. Tessier owned the first). In 1931 Nels bought the Farmers and Merchants State Bank Building and converted it into a service station.

Three sons were born to the Strande's. Clifford was born in December 1913. Gerald was born in November 1917 and Ray in April 1920. Gerald passed away in the fall of 1958. He had worked in the station with his father after returning from the Army Air Corps in 1945. Clifford is an electrician in Milwaukee and Ray is in the Franchise Food business in San Diego, California.

Nels was in the oil station business from 1931 until 1960 when the business was sold to the Midland Co-operative.

The Strandes were members of the Oklee Zion Lutheran Church and Mrs. Strande is a member of a church circle and is active in the work of the church. They have been church members for sixty years.

In the spring of the year, Nels often walked to deliver the mail. When horses wore out, Nels owned several Fords that were used on the mail route.

Mrs. Strande still lives in her lovely home, does her own housework, and loves to bake and clean. Her memory is very keen and her many friends know her as a kind, sincere friend and a gracious hostess.

STRUTHERS — C.B.W. HONEY COMPANY

The abundant sweet clover fields in the green country side of Red Lake County were the reason that the C.B.W. Honey Company moved to Red Lake Falls in June, 1934, from the drouth area of Volga, South Dakota. This was a family company of Lewis A. Coblentz, his daughter and husband, Lorena and Enos Baker, and another daughter, Julia A. Waller, the mother of Mary Beth and Wandalee Waller. The company's name came from the first letter of each family name.

During the summer of 1934, the family lived in a house on North Broadway, the home of Bill Nieland in recent years. Part of a building at the present "Spot" location was used for equipment and packing honey. In October the company bought the Purath property on Broadway and 2nd Street. Members of the family still live there.

The C.B.W. Honey Company specialized to produce comb honey which was trucked to such cities as St. Joseph, Kansas City, Springfield, and Joplin, Missouri; Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Omaha, Nebraska; and Idaho Falls, Idaho. The extract honey went to the Sioux Honey Association, a copperative in Sioux City, Iowa. In 1936, the company was awarded the Honey Show Sweepstakes at the Minnesota State Fair. During the high production years of 1937 and 1938, extra fancy comb honey, each section well-filled and weighing over fourteen ounces, was shipped by railroad cars to both New York City and Alhambra, California. Much of this honey was exported. The Honey Company ranked first in the production of comb honey in the world.

During a season, thirty to thirty-five persons were hired. Some worked from April to November with bees and shop work. In June the sections were made and fitted with a thin foundation, a sheet of hexagon-patterned beeswax, to be put on bees for comb honey. As the season progressed, more help was needed for working bees, making shipping cases, packing honey, extracting honey, trucking, and packing bees for the winter. The peak of employment was in July, August and September, when several women were employed to pack honey. Each section of comb honey had propolis removed from the wood, each was weighed and stamped with its net weight, producer's name and location, and each was wrapped in vapor-proof cellophane. Sections were packed twelve or twenty-four in a case. Most of the comb honey was shipped by October 1, as cold weather made the tender wax brittle, and greatly increased shipping damage.

In October, 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Baker moved to California. They sold their part of the company to Harold Struthers, a Florida beekeeper who had married Mary Beth Waller in 1936. By 1943, with much less acreage of clover in the area and the change in climate, the bees did not make comb honey. The company built new equipment to produce extract honey. Mr. Struthers also started buying land to raise sweet clover for the bees.

Mr. Coblentz passed away in October, 1946.

On May 1, 1947, Mrs. Waller married Walter Tresp of Long Beach, California. They were active in producing honey until his sudden death in December, 1958. In November, 1961, Mrs. Tresp married Roy Eichleay of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and Lakeland, Florida. Each summer Mrs. Eichleay spends several weeks visiting her daughters, Mary Beth (Mrs. Harold Struthers) and Wandalee (Mrs. Kenneth Tischart) at Red Lake Falls.

The Struthers family are here each summer, but return to Florida in winter to care for their own bees. They have five children. Lewis, a graduate of University of Minnesota's Medical School, is a doctor in Parkers Prairie. He married the former Virginia Rose of Red Lake Falls, and they have four children. Julia, a graduate in practical nursing, is married to Ken Christiansen. They have two children and live in Fargo, North Dakota. Lorna, a graduate of University of North Dakota, married Gerald Schlichtmann and they farm east of Terrebonne. Lorna teaches in Washington Elementary School in Red Lake Falls and they have two children. Glenn, completing his service with the marines in Viet Nam, returned to Red Lake Falls and has owned the bees since 1970. Alden is a high school student and lives at home.

O. M. SUNDRUD FAMILY

The history of the Omar Sundrud family in Red Lake county is a 25-year slice of the history of the Oklee Herald. The family landed in the Oklee business loop on the first of February, 1947, after buying the Herald from Iver Gjernes who 10 years earlier had bought it from its founders, Nels and Kate Hagen.

Since its beginning in 1914, the Herald had been a newspaper composed entirely by hand. Mr. Gjernes had bought a typesetting machine from the discontinued Gonvick Banner and moved it into the Oklee plant, but it was not yet in working condition. The task of making it work accounted for the fact that for many nights there were lights burning in the building past midnight and a few times until sun-up.

Sundrud had some nervous ideas about modernizing to keep pace with a town that was itself nervous with post-war energy. In the summer the paint dealers were doing a brisk business. Throughout the loop there was painting and improving of store fronts and interiors. New homes were being built, old ones remodeled.

The early post-war years marked the beginning of a growth fever that ran high for years, dipped, surged, dipped again, but never really ended. Blueprints and crude drawings on restaurant napkins were pawed over far into the night. And early in the morning, about the time a country rooster would begin his cacophony, there was also the sound of flying hammers, screaming saws, squeaking wheelbarrow wheels and laughing carpenters. They were great years.

Meanwhile, over at the Herald building, Sundrud was surveying his domain and making plans to replace another piece of equipment. This process continued with awesome regularity, but it was to end eventually in the manner of an O. Henry short story.

While the decade of the 50's was probably the greatest time of building in Oklee, it was by no means the end. There was something new every summer, and not the least of these was Wally Groberg's Oklee Manufacturing Co., the fire that almost wiped it out, and the rebuilding. We give Wally an "A" for effort to provide jobs in Oklee, because he did. OMC peaked with something like 200 workers (mostly women) employed at one time. That eventually dwindled and almost disappeared, but we are not ready to say that Wally himself has "peaked." It may be that even now OMC is a sleeping giant.

There were many valiant efforts made to create jobs in Oklee and they met with varying degrees of success. These efforts continue even now, spurred by the conviction that no effort held out greater promise in the never-ending goal of keeping as many of our own people in the community as possible.

This might easily turn into a history of Oklee, which it is not. It is rather simply a brief smattering of highlights from the 25

years in which the Sundrud family lived in Oklee, published the Herald and was a part of the community.

In 1947, when they moved to Oklee from Fosston, there was only Omar and Erma and their son Scott, not yet two years old. Their second son, Jack, was born in September, 1949. Jeff arrived in November of 1953. And that's the family. All are OHS graduates. As each one became of high school age he also became as assistant printer and press operator. In this process there was extra help around for something like a dozen years.

Scott first became a teacher and athletic coach, later moving on to become a high school principal and, leaving that, he is now in the real estate business in Bemidji. His wife is the former Cindy Sovde of Oklee.

Jack attended junior college for a couple of terms but was soon so involved in music that he has pursued the art since. He now lives in Moorhead where he continues as a musician as well as a sound technician in a recording studio.

Jeff joined the military service about a year after graduation from high school. Three years later he returned to Oklee with a wife (the former Donna Fossum of Oklee) and a four-months-old son, Jonathan. They live in the family home on Lambert Street and Jeff is working with local carpenters. While in the service they lived in Arlington, Va., across the Potomac from Wachington, D.C., all the time wishing they were back in Oklee.

Flashing back to the time these young people were growing up, getting into mischief the same as most if not all young boys, going to school, playing ball and helping win a few games for OHS, Mr. Sundrud was busy at the helm of the newspaper with Erma always providing assistance.

As files of the Herald will indicate, there were times when headlines could be composed from very large type. There was the great celebration of the town's 50th anniversary in 1960, and the 60th in 1970. There were 25 years of fires and floods and accidents and hundreds of obituaries as our people one by one left the scene.

Other memories our family retains from a quarter century in Red Lake county include the building of the new school in 1952, the great channel improvement projects on the three rivers which traverse the area, Scandinavian conventions, festivals, Saturday night crowds, Sunday morning church bells and related activities.

There were scores of civic and community meetings and stormy village council sessions that droned on deep into the night. And home talent shows and fund raisers, Ladies Aid dinners and the harvest and the smell of clover.

And Sundrud planning another plant improvement.

Another well-remembered bit of small-town Americana was that early group of mostly retired gentlemen who were known affectionately as the Spit & Argue Club. Sometimes we joined in with them for the sheer pleasure and stimulation of it. They would sit on benches in front of Cyr's Hardware on a summer morning, earning the name that had been accorded them. They would spit and argue and chew snuff until the sun moved into the west. Then they would move in a body to the other side of the street to spit and argue on the steps of the old bank building where there was shade in the afternoon. Sometimes the topics got hotter than the rays of the sun. In the early spring and in the autumn they would reverse the order, remaining in the sun when the air carried a chill.

All those dear people, who were in their golden years when we were still young, have since crossed over into another realm. But we can imagine they have foregathered again and are continuing their discussions in perpetual sunshine.

But even then, Sundrud was making plans to improve his printing plant and the quality of the newspaper. In 1956 he installed a four-page newspaper press, which in those days was an event of some consequence. Now the press was ahead of the rest of the plant and in 1958 the old typesetting machine was replaced with a later model, which made other items of equipment in the plant seem out of date. In a few more years he had the plant equipped the way he wanted it and began to wish he had a more adequate building.

That, however, never got beyond the wishing stage. For about this time there was creeping change taking place in the country newspaper business. It was called "offset" printing — a photo-chemical process — faster, better, but costly, especially if one aspired to buy the big press on which newspapers are printed.

Country newspapers were grouping together and setting up central printing plants. One by one the small town newspapers were becoming parts of a group, printing by the offset process and coming out with sharper looking newspapers. It was only a matter of time, and here is the O. Henry ending of the tale: By the time the Herald plant had been "modernized — a process that had taken about 20 years — it was obsolete."

While reluctant to change, Sundrud in 1970 merged his interests with the Gonvick-Clearbrook and McIntosh newspapers which were already printed by the new process. A year later he sold his interests to Vic Aalbu who owned the other papers, and in another year Aalbu sold the business to Dick Richards of Clearbrook, who is now in charge.

By now the three Sundrud sons were out in the world on their own and Mr. and Mrs. Sundrud moved to Grand Forks. Omar is now on the advertising staff of the Grand Forks Herald and Erma is a registration clerk at the Grand Forks Clinic.

Looking back, we regard those years in Oklee as exciting and memorable. We agree with our sons that Oklee was, and still is, a great community to grow up in.

SOLOMON SWANSON FAMILY

Solomon and Christina Johnson Swanson came to America in the spring of 1883 and lived at Boone, Iowa for one year before coming to River Township, Red Lake County, where they homesteaded in Section 25. They had emigrated from Sweden because of the slavery problem practiced at that time. Two brothers, August and Otto, had come to America the year before. They were all pioneers and worked long hard hours, but with courage and determination, they made a home and prospered. St. Hilaire, the nearest town, was founded in 1884, but the Swansons had to cross the river to reach it. The nearest flour mill was at Crookston about thirty miles to the west. It seemed that the people of Scandinavian descent had chosen the poorer land in the eastern half of the country, while the French and Germans had settled on the better land in the western part.



Solomon and Christina Swanson with children.

Otto and Ida Swanson had two children, Arthur and Agnes. Arthur died in 1956 and Agnes is living in Thief River Falls. Otto had passed away in 1905. August Swanson had a family of seven children, four boys deceased and three girls living.

The Solomon Swansons had nine children: Selma, Jenny, Ida, Walter, and Ellen are deceased. Arthur and his family live in Minneapolis, Fredolph and sister Mabel are living on the home place where all children of the family were born and raised. Fredolph has been an active member in township affairs, a member of the A.S.C.S., and also presently a member on the Bray Mutual Insurance Board.

Carl Swanson was married to the former Ruth Anderson, who was born in the neighborhood. They have a family of four children: Mrs. Kenneth (Doris) Swanson of Pennington County, Mrs. Paul (Eunice) Thorstenson of Sioux City, Iowa, Mrs. Paul (Mary Ann) Johnson of Rochester, and Robert who lives in the same section as his parents. His wife is the former Arloine Anderson and they have a family of six children. They do grain farming and are also in the dairy business with the production of Grade A milk.

Carl Swanson served as County Commissioner of Red Lake County from 1935 to 1951 and also on the school board for eighteen years. From 1919 to 1934, he was a member on the town board. He is presently a director of the Plummer State Bank.

All of the families in the neighborhood worshipped in the same church. Services were held in the schoolhouse of District 33 for many years until the congregation became too large and a church was needed. Later they attended the Clara Church located in Pennington County and built in 1903.



Carl Swanson Family

JOE THEROUX FAMILY

Joe Theroux was born February 28, 1891, son of Louis Theroux and Philomene Vailancourt who had come from Yamaska Province of Quebec to settle north east of Plummer, Mayfair township now Pennington County. In 1899 they moved to Terreborne township, Red Lake County.

Joe married Leah Quesnel, daughter of Stephen and Annie Lemay Quesnel. Ten children were born to this union, all born in Red Lake County.

Clinton, Rita (Mrs. Rene Lizotte), Eve Mae (Mrs. Vern Bergeron), Marvin, Barbara (Mrs. Stanley Fay), Paul, Dorothy (Mrs. John Bower), and Gary. Jean Marie and Marc died in infancy.

The four boys served in the navy during World War II, the Korean Conflict and Viet Nam.

Joe and Leah farmed in Terrebonne township until 1926 when they moved into Red Lake Falls where they operated a beer parlor for 17 years.

In 1967 Mr. and Mrs. Theroux celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with all their children and spouses present and all but two of their 31 grandchildren. They have 19 great grandchildren.

LOUIS THEROUX FAMILY

Louis Theroux was born June 15, 1862, in the Province of Quebec. At the age of 18, he came to the United States and worked in the lumber camps in Michigan. Later he homesteaded land near Plummer and worked on the log drives through Red Lake Falls. In 1900, he bought a farm near Terrebonne and farmed until 1930.

Louis married Philomene Vallincourt in 1888. She was born in Montreal. She passed away in 1940 at the age of 73 years. Mr. Theroux died at the age of 93 years on March 19, 1956, at St. Vincent's Home in Crookston. There were nineteen children born to the Theroux family, nine of whom are deceased. They were Philomene, Louis, Joe, Mathilda, Lemi, Hormidas, Delima, Marie, Malvine, Philip, Emma, Angele, Telesphore, Herby, Herman, Bert, Harry, Annie and Rose Alma.

CLINTON AND PAULINE THEROUX

Clinton Theroux, son of Joseph and Leah Theroux, married Pauline Robidoux in Red Lake Falls in 1941. She was the daughter of Calixte and Louise Robidoux, former residents of Terrebonne township. Both attended local schools and Clinton was employed in the local bakery.

In 1945 he had served three and a half years in the United States Navy was discharged and began fifteen years of service for Northern States Power Company. In 1959 the Theroux's purchased the Red Lake Falls Bakery and operated the business at the old site until 1966 when they moved to a new building on the east side of Main Avenue and continued the business until 1971 when they sold. Clinton and Pauline now own and operate a grocery store in Plummer, one of the businesses first established when Plummer was founded.

Three children born to this family were: Douglas, manager of a sporting goods firm in Grand Forks, Valerie (Mrs. Richard Baril) and Claudette (Mrs. Kenneth Froehle).

Clinton is mayor of Plummer, present commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, member of the American Legion, 40 and 8, Eagles, and Catholic Order of Foresters. He was also manager of the American Legion Club for two and a half years.

Pauline is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Eagles Auxiliary and president of the Veterans of Foreign War Auxiliary.

THIBERT HISTORY

Moise Thibert and his wife, Elizabeth Perras were pioneers to the Crookston area from St. Genevive, Canada, arriving in 1877, and it was here that he built a shop where he made shoes and harnesses. About five years later in 1882, Moise moved from Crookston to Terrebonne Township where he homesteaded.

In 1884, Moise's son, Raymond, married Anna Prenevost, the daughter of Hubert Prenevost who had moved to Terrebonne from Canada also in 1877. Raymond and Anna raised ten children: Rose (Mrs. Harvey Page), Mae (Mrs. Iver Sorenson) and Agnes (Mrs. Aristide Cote.)

Joe married Rose Fournier and settled in Brooks where he operated a school bus and a garage. It was this couple that built the beautiful shrine now located at the intersection of Highways 59 and 92.

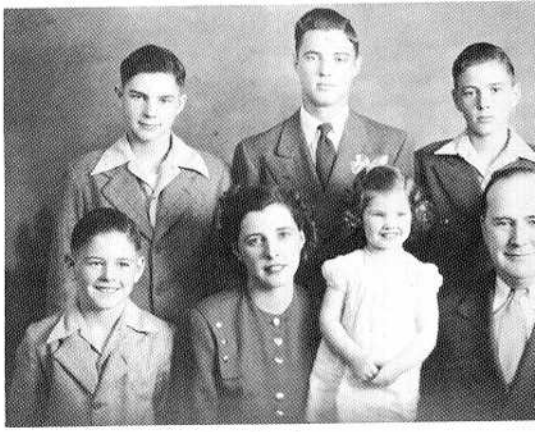
Georgianna married Adrian Fournier. Robert married Grace Perusse and moved to Chicago where he owned a bus and train line. Henry Thibert married Rose Dandurand and lived in Plummer and Chicago before coming to Red Lake Falls where he operated a service station. Maurice married Margaret Johnson and moved to Portland, Oregon, where he worked for Amtrack.

George Thibert married Agnes LaBonte, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis LaBonte of Crookston in 1925. They lived in Crookston where he was employed and later in Plummer where he operated a garage until 1940. It was this year that the George Thibert family came to Red Lake Falls and purchased the Peoples Auto Company, a Chevrolet dealership. George built the Thibert Chevrolet and Buick Company now located on Third Street and Main Avenue. The George Thiberts have five children: Vern (married to Donna Dovre) of Snohomish, Washington; Roger (married to JoAnn Hance) and present owner and operator of the Thibert Garage; Dwight (married to Betty Woolery), owner and operator of Thibert Sports Center; Jerry (married Darlene Bernier), Register of Deeds and County Abstractor for Red Lake County; and daughter Nancy (Mrs. Harold LaHaise.) There are sixteen grandchildren and one great grandchild.

GERALD W. THIBERT

Jerry Thibert, Red Lake County Register of Deeds, was born in 1936, the fourth son of George and Agnes Thibert while the family resided in Plummer. Four years later the family moved to Red Lake Falls where George purchased the Peoples Auto Company, a Chevrolet dealership.

Jerry attended local schools and graduated from Lafayette high school in 1954. He volunteered for the draft and was inducted into the United States Navy in the fall of 1954 and worked as a neuropsychiatric technician in hospitals in Virginia, Florida, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Following his discharge, Jerry attended the University of North Dakota and married Darlene Bernier, daughter of Edmond and Cecelia Bernier of Oklee. They moved to Crookson where he was employed as vice-president of Strander Abstract and Insurance. They became the parents of a daughter, Lynette, born in 1964, and a son, Timothy, in 1965.



George Thibert Family

The family moved to Red Lake Falls in 1968 when Jerry went into the insurance business and purchased the Higinbotham building on Main Avenue. He remodeled the structure and leased half to Bob's Barber Shop. Jerry was the organizer and first president of the Red Lake Falls Ambulance Service. He was also one of the organizers and president of the Pathfinders Snowmobile Club in 1970.

Upon the death of Martin Pouliot, Red Lake County Register of Deeds, Jerry was appointed to fill this vacancy. He was also appointed Deputy Motor Vehicle Registrar the same year and purchased the Red Lake County Abstract Company in 1970.

Jerry served as president of the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club and president of the St. Joseph's Church Council, and is a director of the Fair Board. Darlene is a Girl Scout consultant, a volunteer at St. John's Hospital and is active in St. Joseph's Church.



Gerald Thibert Family

ROGER THIBERT

Roger Thibert, second son of George and Agnes LaBonte Thibert, was born in Crookston in April, 1931. JoAnn Hance Thibert, first-born of Robert and Irene Krueger Hance was born in December, 1931. JoAnn has always lived in Red Lake County. She attended District #1 school at Wylie, where Mary Whalen Drees was

her first teacher. JoAnn's growing-up years on the farm saw many drastic changes in farming methods, from horse-drawn machinery and hand-milking, to tractors and milking machines after the advent of electricity on the farm in 1943.

JoAnn was a graduate of Deaconess School of Nursing in Grand Forks, and worked at the Red Lake Falls Clinic. Roger attended a two-year automotive institute in Flint, Michigan, and has always been associated with Thibert Chevrolet and Buick in Red Lake Falls.

Roger and JoAnn were married in September, 1953 and are the parents of five children: Michelle, Gary, Greg, John and James. All of the children were born at St. John's Hospital in Red Lake Falls. They lived in the city until January, 1964, when they moved to their Grand View Farm, four miles northwest of Red Lake Falls. The farm was named after Grandpa Krueger's Grand View Hotel. Now, in 1976, Michelle is a senior at Jamestown College and was married in December, 1975 to Mark Naplin of St. Hilaire. Gary is a freshman at NDSU. Greg is a sophomore and John a freshman at Lafayette, and James is a sixth-grader at St. Joseph's School. Roger is the present owner of Thibert Chevrolet and Buick and JoAnn is a county health nurse with Inter-County Nursing Service.

As much as JoAnn enjoyed listening to her grandparents tell about their youth — playing with Indians, making hay near Dorothy in the early 1900's, building a house in the Klondike, homesteading a farm in Gervais township, giving land for the building of the Immanuel Lutheran Church at Wylie, and life at the Grand View Hotel — she feels that she, too, could tell her "kids" many events from her early life that they would really think were from the "olden days".

DWIGHT THIBERT

Dwight, the son of George and Agnes Thibert, was born in Crookston August 15, 1932. At the age of two, he moved with his parents to Plummer where they operated a garage until 1940 when they moved to Red Lake Falls. Dwight attended grade and high school in Red Lake Falls and college in Flint, Michigan graduating from General Motors Tech in 1952.

He entered the U.S. Army in 1953 and served two years in Europe stationed mainly in England. After returning from service, Dwight was employed in the Red Lake Falls area until 1964 when he started the Thibert Honda Sales, and later Falls Equipment. He has been active in the business since that time.

Dwight married Betty Woolery in 1956. They have three children, Michael, Stephen and Patrick. Betty is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Woolery of Crookston.





Roseanna Chatel Thibodeau and sisters Exena and Mary Louise Chatel

THOMAS THIBODEAU

Thomas Thibodeau moved here from Keegan, Maine, where he was born in 1862. He worked at the saw mill at the time it was located near the Clearwater River, and also worked for farmers in the area.

He married Roseanna Chatel in 1904. They had eight children: Eraine, Leo, Agnes, Levite, Lucy, Ida, Francis and Helen.

Mr. Thibodeau had many plots around town where he raised vegetables, and also some small orchards. He raised rabbits to sell for food, or to trade, and for a time had an apiary with about fifty hives. In the winter he harvested ice from the river, and chopped wood to sell by the cord. He also hunted and trapped, and was good at finding water and telling the depth with a willow branch.

For many years Mr. Thibodeau worked as custodian at St. Joseph's church and school. He died in March, 1948.

HENRY THODE SR.

Henry Thode Sr. was born in Fehmarn, Germany, November 1890. He came to the United States by ship when in his teens, and lived in Wentworth, South Dakota, with his older brother, Nick, who had arrived here earlier. He married Etta Holtz in 1911 and lived on a farm in South Dakota. In 1917 they moved to a farm in Louisville Township and lived there until he passed away in 1970. Mrs. Thode passed away in November 1969. They had a family of eight sons and three daughters. Survivors are one daughter and five sons, twenty-four grandchildren, twenty-nine great grandchildren. They had five sons serving in World War II.

Their children are Fred, Paul, Louise, Henry Jr., Ann, Clara, Arnold, Ernest, Gerhardt, Carl and Raymond.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thode Sr. observed their 50th wedding anniversary December 30, 1961.

HENRY THODE JR. FAMILY

Henry Thode Jr. was born March 8, 1912 at Wentworth, South Dakota. In 1917 he came with his parents to a farm in Louisville Township. He went to school at the Meyer School, which has since burned down. He worked on the farm, then bought a truck, and hauled milk to the Gentilly Cheese Factory and also to the Conati Milk Plant in Crookston.

He married Clarice La Coursiere in June, 1940 and moved to the city of Red Lake.

Here he went into the gravelling business with Howard Johnston and Peter Schmidt. After an accident in the gravel pit, he sold his trucks and was appointed Chief of Police by Mayor Carsten Mead.

Henry held that position for twenty-one years until he was made Deputy Sheriff of Red Lake County, a position he still holds.

Henry built his own home in 1949. They have five children: Arlen, (Mrs. Wayne Marcotte of Jacksonville, Arkansas), Roger of Crookston, Joyce, (Mrs. Marlan Matheny) of Red Lake Falls, Carol at home and attending college, and David at home.

They also have six grandchildren.



Aslak Thompson Family 1902

ASLAK THOMPSON AND INGEBORG OLSON THOMPSON

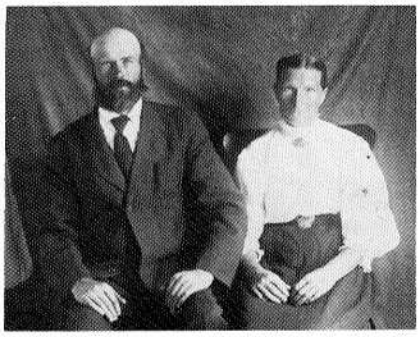
Aslak Thompson was born in Telemarken, Norway, on December 24, 1851. Ingeborg Olson was born on October 21, 1844. Aslak and Ingeborg were married in 1880 and immigrated to America in 1882. They lived in Goodhue County in Minnesota for two years before moving to Fertile where they lived for ten years. The Thompsons homesteaded land near Plummer and lived there for four years. Later they made their home with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Magnell. Aslak died in 1940 at the age of eighty-eight. His wife died on January 7, 1929. The children of Aslak and Ingeborg Thompson were: Betsy, Mrs. Carl Magnell; Emma, Mrs. George White; and Tommy Thompson.

MARNE AND SHIRLEY THOMPSON

Marne and Shirley Thompson came to Red Lake County from Rainy River, Ontario, in 1966 and have since owned and managed one of the oldest established businesses in the city of Red Lake Falls. The Hunt Hardware Store was built here in 1878 and sold to A. M. Bjerke in 1955. Thompsons purchased inventory from Bjerke and, subsequently, the building itself from the Hunt estate. They acknowledge the financial backing of friends, Charles and Gretel Potter.

Marne Thompson was born in February 1941, and Shirley Nordis in 1943, both in Rainy River, Ontario. They were married in 1962 and are parents of two children, Debbie (b. 1963) and Jeffrey (b. 1967). Previous to coming to this city, Marne managed a hardware store for five years.

Marne and Shirley are both active members of the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club.



Brede and Marie Thoreson

BREDE THORESON FAMILY

Brede and Marie Thoreson came to Erskine, Minnesota in 1895 from Norway with four children: Alice (Mrs. Jacob McKee), Mathilda (Mrs. Hans Rustad), Sigrid (Mrs. Sarah Smith) and Nickolai. One son, Sigurd, had died as a young boy in Norway.

Mrs. Thoreson had a cousin, Nickolai Heiermann, who was a minister at Erskine and he asked them to come to the area to live. Two more children were born: Anna (Mrs. Ole Boyum) and Rose (Mrs. Alfred Waldal). In the summer of 1899 the Thoreson family moved to Garnes township in Red Lake County and homesteaded there where three more children were born; Bertha (Mrs. Lester Nelson), Emelie (Mrs. George Severance) and Alfred.

Pioneering in Red Lake County was perhaps not easy but it proved a man could stretch his abilities to include many occupations. Mr. Thoreson would do grubbing in the spring and summer for fifty cents a day, and travel to the Dakotas for fall work. In the winters he went from home to home selling patent medicines and spices. This was done on foot and he would leave home on Monday not to return until Saturday, all this while he would be on the lookout for small calves and pigs to buy to raise. After the cattle herd was built up he sold home made butter in Erskine at ten cents a pound in exchange for groceries. Oxen as well as horses were used to clear land and put in crops.

In 1910 the railroad came through and Oklee came into existence. Many of the business places in Lambert were moved to Oklee. The railroad tracks became a good walking means to school and town.

In 1914 this farm was sold and the Thoresons purchased land in Emardville township from S. M. Sivertson. There a house and barn and other buildings were built.

Mrs. Thoreson clipped sheep for a neighbor in exchange for a gunny sack of wool for her day's wages. She would wash the wool and dry it on a pole fence. Then she would card and spin it and finally she would knit it into scarves, socks and mittens. The men would get double knitted articles but the girls had just the plain knit ones. She spent the long winter evenings doing this work while Mr. Thoreson would read aloud to the whole family. Papers from Norway were especially interesting. He was determined however to learn good English and purchased a dictionary. He entered a contest which was advertised in the New York Times involving listing all the words possible out of the letters in a few words. The prize was a piano. He won the instrument and immediately taught himself to play it.

The Thoresons retired in 1933, sold their farm to Harry Hinkley and moved to Williams where their daughter Alice and family were living. In their later years they moved to Gary, Indiana and made their home with Bertha and her family. Mr. Thoreson died there at the age of 87. Mrs. Thoreson died two years later at the age of 88.

VAUGHN AND MILDRED THORFINNSON FAMILY

Vaughn Thorfinnson, wife Mildred and four children, Richard, Kristi, Dennis and David, came to Red Lake Falls in August of 1964 when he was hired as counselor for the public school system. They previously lived in Lisbon, North Dakota and in Grand Forks in 1963 while Vaughn attended graduate school.

The Thorfinnsons purchased the old Samuel Gibeau home on Third Street and Vaughn immediately became active in the affairs of the city.

In November of 1965 a city election was to be held and only one candidate had filed for the several city offices to be filled. A group including Bob Dodds, John Hendrix, Roger Eckstein and Ed Etterman ran on a write-in ticket for the offices on the city council and Vaughn for Mayor. Kaiser Savard (incumbent) filed and was re-elected with the write-ins. Vaughn Thorfinnson still serves as mayor and was recently elected for his sixth term.

Vaughn remained as counselor at Lafayette and then resigned to take a position as Area Vocational Rehabilitation Co-ordinator, under the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation headquartered in the School Service Unit of District 564 in Thief River Falls. The program presently serves seven school systems in the area.

Dick Thorfinnson graduated from Lafayette high school and is serving in the U.S. Navy. Kristi graduated in 1975 and attends Concordia College in Moorhead. Dennis graduates in 1976 and David is beginning high school.

Red Lake Falls is a busy, active community and we have enjoyed being part of it. Mildred is employed at Eckstein's and serves as a lay member of the County Welfare Board. She also serves on the Board of Hillcrest Nursing Home. Vaughn is a board member of the Red Lake County Health Planning Council.

The entire family have been active members of St. John's Lutheran Church where Mildred and Vaughn both teach Sunday School classes.

HENRY TILLMAN

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tillman came from Norway county in 1900 and it took them two or three days to move here because they drove their cattle themselves across the country. Mr. Fred Zaiser was the drayman who moved the family to their home in Gervais township.

Nine boys and two girls were raised here. Frank remained single. Henry moved to Raleigh, North Dakota where he farmed. Herman married Hattie Arlt of Gervais township. Albert left Red Lake county and moved to Spokane, Washington where he worked as an engineer on the railroad. Fred married Nora Arlt from Gervais township. Paul married Segrid Anderson also from Gervais township. They lived in Duluth where he worked for many years. Segrid taught for ten years in various schools in Red Lake county. Pauline married Oliver Flage. They lived the rest of their lives in Gervais township. Walter moved to



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tillman

Grand Forks, where he worked as a brakeman on the Great Northern Railroad. Emil married Ella Marwitz. They lived on the home farm until he retired. Bertha, the baby of the family, married Anton Halverson. They farmed near the home place. Their farm was purcahsed from Rudolph Holzman, who was a jeweler in Red Lake Falls. They had no children.

PAUL W. TILLMAN

Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Tillman, nee Segrid Anderson, were married November 17, 1922. They moved to Duluth shortly after Kern was born in 1926 and Glenyce in 1928.

We lived in Duluth for seventeen years and returned to the farm in Gervais Township in 1941. Kern and Glenyce graduated from Pershing High School at Plummer in 1945 and 1946. He attended the Yale School of Art and the Los Angeles Art Center School. Glenyce attended the State Teachers College at St. Cloud.

Paul Tillman was employed by the Gowan Lenning Company at Duluth for seventeen years as stationary engineer.

He worked for Roy Bros. Construction Company and was custodian at the Plummer School until his health gave out. He died in 1948.

Segrid A. Tillman has been active in church work and still lives on the home farm.

TISCHART FAMILY

John B. Tschirhart was born in Germany near the French border in 1832. He married Catherine Dosmann in St. Agatha, Canada. She was born in 1837 in Ebekbergsheim, Germany. To this union were born eleven children: Marianna, Joseph, Ludwig, Mary, Rosina, Regina, Henry, Dr. Peter J., John, Catherine and George, all of whom were born in Ontario.

For many years John Tschirhart owned a hotel at Dunkeld, Ontario, a few miles west of Walkerton, Ontario. He later lived a few years in Mildmay, Ontario, until he built his home in Formosa where his wife, Catherine, died.

About 1900, three of the sons decided that the family name was too difficult to pronounce or spell, and had it changed to "Tischart" at Duluth.

Joseph Tischart, second child of John and Catherine, was born in 1858 and married Catherine Meinsinger in 1880. She was an orphan and was raised in a Catholic orphanage in Mildmay, Ontario. Joseph and Catherine homesteaded in the early 1880's at St. Leon, one hundred miles west of Winnipeg. They stayed only a short time here before moving to this country to

Langdon, North Dakota, and in 1892 to Red Lake Falls. Joseph Tischart was a carpenter. He and James Brady built St. Mary's parish house located on the Northside. Catherine was called upon many times to help deliver babies and to aid with illness among her neighbors. She was often referred to as the "angel of the neighborhood". To this couple was born thirteen children: Alex, Mary Amanda, John, Mary Magdalen (Lena), Edmond, Mary Amalia, Joseph F., Barbara, Marie Anna, Marie Antoinette (Nita), Anton, George and Marie. Mary Amanda, Mary Amalia, Barbara and Marie Anna all died in infancy. Of the nine surviving children, three did not marry: Alex, Anton and Nita.

John married Margaret Krantz at Red Lake Falls in 1913 and they had five children: Dolores (Clark), Merlyn (Dickens), Duane, Kenneth, and Jacqueline (Welle).

Mary Magdalen (Lena) married Joseph Valenta in 1915 in Oaks, North Dakota and they have one son, Francis.

Edmond Tischart married Catherine Krantz Rossmeisel in Red Lake Falls in 1914. To this union were born five children: Elaine, Dorothy, Charles, Dale and Daniel. There were also five stepchildren: Val, Otillia, Elmer, Frances and Marie Rossmeisl.

Joseph F. married Margaret Johnson at Bemidji in 1932 and they had two children, Dale and Yvonne. George married Sophie Busse in Red Lake Falls in 1930 and one child, Barbara, was born.

Marie married Fred Eifert in Red Lake Falls in 1934 and to them were born two children, Mary and Dr. Edward J.

Of the Joseph Tischart family there are four surviving children: Marie (Nita), Marie Eifert, George and Joseph.

JOHN TISCHART

John (Jack) Tischart, who was twelve years old when his parents came to Red Lake Falls from Langdon, North Dakota, spent the rest of his 89 years here. In that time he became a well-known businessman who was never too busy for a friendly chat with his customers. This career began when Jack, as a young man, was employed by M. Skala and Son. He then worked for Theo. LaBissioniere at the Big Store for about thirty years, and purchased and operated that store himself for about five years. At that time, he and his son, Ken, opened Tischart's Department Store, which they operated for nearly 25 years.

Jack Tischart married Margaret Krantz in 1913. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Krantz, had retired from farming near Regal in southern Minnesota. They decided to make Red Lake Falls their home as two daughters, Mrs. Annie Zins and Mrs. Katy Rossmeisl were living here. They purchased an automobile for the trip, and Margaret was the chauffeur! Thus, in 1910, she had the honor of being Red Lake Falls first woman driver. After her marriage, she often helped out at the store, and was the organist at St. Mary's Church for many years. Jack and Margaret celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in 1968. Margaret passed away in April, 1971, at the age of 84, and John passed away in March, 1973, at the age of 89.

KENNETH TISCHART

Kenneth Tischart married Wandalee Waller in Red Lake Falls in 1950. He owns fabric stores in Grand Forks, Thief River Falls and Fargo, with his main office in Red Lake Falls in the bank building. Ken served on the Red Lake Falls School Board for fifteen years. Wanda is employed by the Crookston Regional Inter-district Council of Special Education. They have four daughters: Teri, a U.N.D. graduate and kindergarten teacher in East Grand Forks; Barbara, a 1976 graduate in mechanical engineering, U.N.D.; Jill, a 1976 graduate of Lafayette High School, and Janet, a seventh grader at Lafayette.

G. LEONARD TORKELSON FAMILY

G. Leonard Torkelson and his wife, Helen, purchased the Mike Ford farm in Browns Creek Township in 1951. They moved to the farm in November with their three sons: Myron, George and David. Three daughters already were married and still live in North Dakota.

Leonard and Helen Torkelson were born in Firtle Township, Walsh County, North Dakota is where they grew up. They were married in September of 1927. Mr. Torkelson was engaged in farming and since 1929 operated the farm which had been homesteaded by his father in the 1880's. In 1951 they moved to the Red Lake Falls farm where he farmed until his death in 1973. Mr. Torkelson was township assessor from 1967 to 1972. They were members of the Bethany Lutheran Church.

Myron and George both attended and graduated from North West School at Crookston. Myron in 1952 and George in 1955. David attended Red Lake Falls schools. He graduated from Lafayette High School in 1964.

Mrs. Helen Torkelson still resides on the farm.

OLE TORKELSON

Ole Torkelson was born at Osaral, Norway to parents Torkel and Kari Olson, December 6, 1871. He came to America in 1884 with his mother and three sisters. On November 28, 1896 he married Margit Knutson, daughter of Knut and Berte Knutson at Bygland Township, Fisher. They lived at Bygland for a few years.

In 1901 they took a homestead in Equality Township, Red Lake County and continued living in Equality Township, Red Lake County, until 1941 when Mrs. Torkelson moved into Oklee. They had a family of thirteen children, of which eight are still living. Mr. Torkelson passed away July 18, 1936 and Mrs. Torkelson passed away in October, 1952. Their parents and brothers and sisters have all passed away.

LARS TORSKE AND ANETTA STROM TORSKE

Lars J. Torske was born in 1849 in Sundahl, Norway. In 1873 he immigrated to the United States, first coming to Iowa and later to Goodhue County. In 1878 he married Anetta Strom at Brandon in Douglas County, and there they lived and farmed until 1899.

Anetta Strom had come to this country with her parents in 1861 at the age of two years. The family made the trip by sailboat which took many weeks. Many became ill on the voyage and Anetta's mother died and was buried at sea. Her father and the two small children settled near Brandon.

In the year 1899, Lars, Anetta and their family moved to a farm in Garnes township, having purchased the homestead rights from the original owner. At that time there were no roads or ditches and wolves were plentiful as well as deer, ducks and prairie chickens. Land had to be cleared by hand and with the use of horse power.



Lars J. Torske Family

At that time there was a store and post office at Garnes and also a school, blacksmith shop and cheese factory. The nearest railroad was at McIntosh until the Soo Line came through Plummer and Oklee in 1910. The nearest doctor was at St. Hilaire. Travel was accomplished by horse and rig or by walking, until the railroad came to Plummer.

Lars Torske died in 1940 at age ninety and Mrs. Torske also was ninety at the time of her death in 1949.

Lars and Anetta had three sons, John, Henry and Severt. John spent many winters in the logging camps around Blackduck and Kelliher and later homesteaded in Montana where he farmed with his brother, Severt until they retired. Severt served with the U.S. Army in World War One, and later joined his brother in Montana and lived there the remainder of his life. John still lives in Montana and is now ninety-two years old.

Henry continued to farm the home place. In 1923 he married Inga Warstad and they had two children, a son, Alton, and a daughter, Lorina. Alton served more than two years overseas with the U.S. Army in World War Two and following his discharge from service, undertook the operation of the home farm and still lives there with his mother. Lorina married Herbert Vettleson and with their family live on a farm in Pennington County. Henry Torske died in 1969.

TOULOUSE FAMILY

My grandfather, Thomas Toulouse, is a descendant of two nationalities; French and Irish. His Grandfather, Louis Toulouse, came from France where he was born in the 1800's. Louis's family settled in eastern Canada. In search of good farm land the family moved to Austin, Minnesota. They were quite poor, so Louis at the age of seventeen went to work in lumber camps to help support the family and at the age of twenty, returned to Austin where he married Kathryn Ratchford, an immigrant from Ireland.

Louis and Kathryn decided to make their first home in Crookston, Minnesota, but being accustomed to a smaller community, they found it hard to adapt. They packed their few belongings and moved to Lambert Township where they made their permanent home. It was there that their nine children were born and raised. Three boys; John, Thomas and Louis Jr., and six girls; Kate, Matty, Unis, Jane, Rose and Nellie.

Louis Toulouse Jr., my great grandfather, was born in 1878 and was raised in



Toulouse Family 1895. *Back:* Max Perras and Nellie, Louis, Jennie and Ethel Young. *Front:* Thomas, John Louis and Katherine.

Lambert Township and attended the Lambert school. Like his father, he worked in lumber camps at the age of seventeen. Louis Jr. worked in the various camps at Blackduck, International Falls and Kelliher. When he wasn't working in the lumber camps, he was helping his father on the farm. They worked long hard days to support the family.

In 1898, Louis Jr. married Clara Bernier who was born in Cedar Lake, Minnesota in 1879 and moved to Lambert Township as a child. Clara was the daughter of Simon Bernier and Cilena Bernier (Berry) and came from a family of four boys; Alvida, Louis, Fred and Albert, and five girls; Clara, Delia, Leah, Rachelle and Lucy.

Louis and Clara farmed in Lambert Township. In 1900 their first child, Thomas, was born, followed by four other children; Frank, Albert, Rachelle, and Walter. Thomas, Frank and Albert attended Lambert school and Rachelle and Walter went to school in Oklee. Times were hard when the three older brothers went to school. The three boys would buy one pencil and cut it in three parts to share among them. Pencils weren't the only thing that Thomas, Frank and Albert had to share. They had one good suit that they also shared. Thomas completed school through the sixth grade and then worked on the farm and helped other farmers until he was fifteen. When he was fifteen he got a job working on road construction for Red Lake County. He was paid $45.00 per month.

On November 13, 1922, Thomas married Aldia Gibeau.

Aldia lived in Lambert Township with her parents, Philip Gibeau and Elmire Hince Gibeau and her twelve brothers and sisters. The family had seven boys; Ed, Sam, Omar, Art, Willie, Mose and Leo, and six girls; Laura, Rose, Agnes, Aldia, Antoinette, and Leona.

Aldia and Thomas moved to Oklee where Thomas bought the Oklee Drayline from his uncle, Fred Bernier. With his two horses and wagons, he delivered freight, owned and operated an ice house where he packed and delivered ice to homes and business places, hauled mail from the depot to the post office, graded streets and hauled garbage. Thomas ran the Drayline for fifty years. Along with the Drayline business, Tom served as a special deputy for the Red Lake County sheriff's department from 1925 until 1959 and as a special policeman from 1963 until 1966. Aldia and Thomas raised four children; Lorraine, born in 1924, Jim 1928, Dean 1933, and Janice 1938. Aldia died in March of 1970.

Thomas retired from the Drayline in 1972 but keeps busy working part time for Cyr's Truckline and Oklee Lumber Yard.

Tom's oldest son, Jim, is a sheet metal worker and lives in Reno, Nevada with his wife and family of three; the other son, Dean, is a barber at Moorhead, where he resides with his wife and five children. Tom's youngest daughter, Janice, lives in Minneapolis with her husband and family of two. Lorraine, Tom's oldest daughter, graduated from Oklee Public School in 1942. She was a clerk in Bergeron's store for eight years then went to Milwaukee to work as a machinist at Bucyrus Erie Co. making bolts. She worked there until 1955 when she met her husband, Jim Brown, and they were married in Arizona where his parents lived. They made their home in Phoenix, and Janet was born in June of 1958. In 1960, Lorraine and Janet came back to Oklee where they now live with their Dad and Grandpa, Tom Toulouse.



Thomas and Aldia Toulouse

TROUMBLY FAMILY

We were born, and like David Copperfield, that's a way to begin. A baby boy, who died in infancy, and seven girls — quite a family that, for Edmond and Winifred Troumbly, who came to these United States as "almost babies" themselves.

Winifred Cadieux, our mother, used to tell us of vague recollections she had of a covered wagon ride over a rugged prairie. She was born in St. Urbain, Quebec, and came with her parents, Louis and Domitile Cadieux, as part of a wagon train of French Canadians in 1877 at the age of two. Their destination was a beautiful little valley along the Clearwater River and Grandpa Louis named it Terrebonne, French for "good earth".

His claim, part of which he donated to be the village church site, St. Anthony's, developed into a prosperous farm. Mom used to tell of the first log house with sweet-smelling pine branches and tree leaves for bedding.

Our Dad, Edmond (1869-1960) was born in Trois Rivier, Quebec, the youngest of five. It was in the autumn of 1870 that his parents, Ernest and Jemina Troumbly, together with "many grand uncles", crossed into the States and settled at Fall River, Massachusetts. The winter proved severe, so in the spring the lure of the logging industry, newly opened, was enough to set part of the clan journeying to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.



Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Troumbly

Dad's youthful life there must have been pleasant, since he was chagrined when in 1888 the family moved to Lambert, Minnesota to settle on a claim farm. Clearing land for planting was slow, and Dad, like many young men, in order to stock the larder, worked winters in the logging camps of Wisconsin. Sometimes he would tell of his adventures, and we girls thought our Dad either a very brave man or a marvelous storyteller! I remember hearing him tell of his crossing the frozen lake in a blinding blizzard and letting the horses find their own way home because he was lost. And I was always proud to repeat the story about how my Dad saved the Red Lake Court House from blowing up. It was a stuck steam valve and Dad was able to release it slowly — saving the boiler and the building and himself.

This story always brings Mom to mind. Dependable, calm, and believing — I'm sure Mom prayed for his safety while he sweated over the valve. Her resourcefulness during the flu epidemic of 1918 was legend. She cared for and nursed back to health five of her own very sick children (two of us, the babies, were not very sick), my Dad, who succumbed last, but who was very sick, plus visiting and helping many neighbors and friends.

Edmond and Winifred were married in September, 1897, in Terrebonne and took up farming with Grandpa Troumbly. I don't believe Dad liked farming though he never said so, but he did give it up, and moved his little family to Red Lake Falls (1899), where he obtained employment as a tinsmith and hardware clerk for Hunt and Kankel Hardware Company. After the flu

epidemic, Dad worked also as a mortician, and with William (Bill) Hunt, tended the dead of Red Lake County. He had a beautiful rapport with people, and it was at times of sorrow that it genuinely shone through.

There were many lean years for the Troumblys as the family grew in numbers. There was sickness, but no major calamities and we counted our blessings. Enough to eat and enough to wear. Mom was a talented seamstress, an accomplished cook, and a mighty good gardener! And as for Dad, union contracts and eight-hour days were unheard of. He was always ready "to open the store" for a farmer who needed a part to make something operate. 6:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. was a common workday for Dad.

We spent our youth in Red Lake Falls, and each of us entered into the workaday world there.

Margaret married Vern Keifenheim at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, with Father Paul Cardin officiating. They took up residence in Thief River Falls. Dad retired from work in 1939; he was able to enjoy a long old age in very good health.

In 1942 we moved to Thief River Falls, and celebrated Muriel's wedding. She married Theofil Moudry of LeCenter at St. Bernard's in 1947. Our second sister, Vivienne, died after a long illness in 1949, and Dad, at ninety years, five months and eleven days in 1960.

Bernice moved with Mom to Mankato in 1962. Elvia, our oldest sister, died in Mankato in 1969. She had been living with Margaret in Grand Forks for about fifteen years prior to her death. After a long pleasant old age, Mom followed in 1970. She was 94 years, 5 months and 27 days old.

At the present writing Godelyne, Bernice and Theonilla are living in Mankato; Muriel in Le Center, and Margaret in Grand Forks.

We get together on special occasions and invariably, talk reverts fondly to "the old home town" and friends there.

ANTON FERDINAND TURGEON AND ROSE ANNA TURGEON

Anton Ferdinand Turgeon was born in Lambton, Quebec in 1863. At the age of sixteen he was allowed to accompany his brother-in-law, Augustin Mercier, and his wife Felixine Turgeon, together with his brother Louis Turgeon and wife Adeline Hince, and others of a group from Lambton, Quebec to come to Manitoba and then Minnesota.

Anton, often called John Turgeon, worked in Crookston, Polk county, at the round house, a railroad station, and also for a circus that came to Crookston.

After working in this area for some time, he filed a claim, which is now in Red Lake county, Lambert township. This was a quarter section that he farmed with oxen and then horses.

Anton Ferdinand met Rose Anna Poulin and they were married at Lambert, Polk county in 1890. From this union fourteen children were born and raised on this claim.

Rose Anna Poulin, born in eastern Canada in 1873 was only one year old when she left Canada with her family. They settled in Austin, Minnesota. When Rose Anna was six years old they moved to the Lost River, later known as the Welsh farm north of Brooks, Minnesota. She was very disappointed in this move because there were no schools, church, railroad or roads. She had received only six months of schooling.



A. F. Turgeon family homestead, Lambert township 1912.

There is a new house on this farm site, but some of the buildings built by Anton Ferdinand Turgeon are still in use.

DR. L. R. TWETE

Leonard Roy Twete was born in LaMoure, North Dakota and attended schools there. He served in the Armed Forces during World War One after which he returned to school and graduated from the University of Ohio in 1922.

In 1923, he began the practice of Veterinary Medicine in Thief River Falls and served the farmers over a wide area for thirty-seven years.

On June 23, 1924 he married Ruth Rustad of Hallock and they resided in Thief River Falls until his death on March 7, 1960. Ruth Twete now resides in Minneapolis.

Leonard and Ruth Twete had two children: Louis who is married to Frieda Vatthauer and resides in Glencoe and Donna who is married to Wilbert Steinke and resides in Minneapolis.

LOUIS TWETE AND FRIEDA VATTHAUER TWETE

Frieda Vatthauer (b. 1952) daughter of Henry Vatthauer and Laura Hagl, was born in Red Lake Falls and graduated from Lafayette and the Red Lake Falls Teacher Training Department. She taught in a rural school near Brooks for two years and was secretary to the Superintendent of Lafayette for nine years.

Frieda married Louis Twete, son of Dr. L. R. Twete in 1955. Louis was born in Thief River Falls and attended school there. Following his graduation he served two and a half years in the Navy and later graduated from the North Dakota State University. Louis and Frieda made their home in Red Lake County until 1968 when they moved to Glencoe.

They have two children, Leonard (b. 1956) and Ruth (b. 1957).

TYDLACKA FAMILY

Tom and Myrtle Tydlacka with their 18 month old son, Tim, moved to Red Lake Falls in June 1948 where they purchased the L. B. Hartz store from Albert Halvorson who, in turn, had bought the business from Ed Keifenheim.

Myrtle grew up in Otter Tail County and met Tom, a native of Taylor, Texas, at the University of Minnesota. They were married in 1945, shortly after he received his commission in the U.S. Air Force.

They operated their store in the Keifenheim building until the Standard Oil Company purchased the property. Then they moved across the street to their present location, the R and D electric building.

Much of the time Myrtle helped Tom in the store. In 1972 she accepted a secretarial position with the Northwest Educational Council and at present is at the Red Lake Falls Gazette. For a native of Texas, Tom has become acclimated and loves the hunting and fishing here.

Three more boys joined the family: Chuck, Mike and Jerry; and a daughter, Mary Jo, who arrived in 1964.

The oldest son Tim has been in the navy nine years. He married Bonnie Hjort from Waterville, Maine and now lives in Puerto Rico with his wife and adopted son Alan. Chuck married Julie Boutain. They have two children and live in Willmar. Mike married Roberta Miller. They have two boys and live in Hutchinson. Jerry lives at home and Mary Jo is a sixth grader at St. Joseph's school.



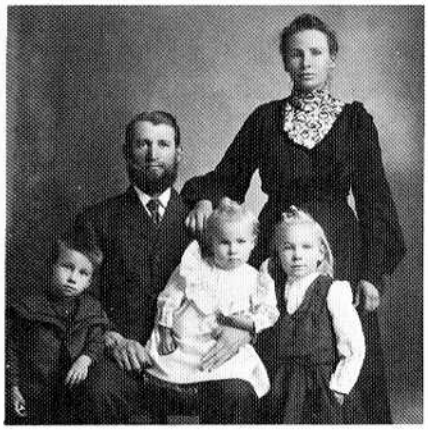
FRED ULRICH SR. FAMILY

Fred Ulrich Sr. was born in Mandern, Germany in 1874. He came to this country at the age of 14 with his two older sisters and brothers, arriving in Illinois. He stayed with his sisters and attended school long enough to learn the English language. Later they moved to New Ulm.

Fred worked in a logging mill and on farms. He met Dorothy Seeger in Buffalo Lakes whom he later married. In the meantime Fred lived in Red Lake Falls and had bought 160 acres of land which is still the Ulrich place owned by his son John. There was a small log house on the place and a small barn built in the hillside.

Fred lived across the river from his future wife whose parents had also moved to the Red Lake Falls area. Every week when Dorothy made bread, she would make one extra large loaf for Fred who was batching at the time. They were married in 1901 in Wylie. They drove to the church in a ribbon-trimmed surrey decorated by the bride's father.

Their daughter Marie was born in 1902 and the first son, Carl, in 1904 in the log cabin. A one-room house was built about 1905. Marie remembers when they moved to their new house. Her dad carried baby Carl while Marie (age three) hung on to her



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ulrich, Sr. with Carl, Marie and Fred, Jr.

dad's leg when they waded across a creek to their new home. Fred Jr. and daughter Dorothy were born there. The doctor had to come on horseback.

Later they built the "big house" in which they lived for 36 years and in time they added a living room and a porch. In this "big house" Ernest, Minnie, John, William, Hulda and Arthur were born. One son, Alvin, died at the age of one year.

Fred and his wife retired and moved to Red Lake Falls where they bought a small house. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1952. Mrs. Ulrich passed away in 1953 and Fred in 1957.

KENNETH ULRICH AND LINDA ULRICH

Kenneth Ulrich, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ulrich, was born in 1945 at Richmond, California. When he was a small boy the family moved back to Minnesota to farm John's father's farm. Ken attended Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls and the Area Vocational School. He served six years with the National Guard unit of the area. His wife, Linda, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence (Blackie) Casavan. She was born in 1949 at Crookston. Her twin sister, Lois, is married to Allen Remick. Linda was graduated from Lafayette High School and employed by the Prenevost Accounting Service for six years.

Ken and Linda were married May 11, 1968, in Red Lake Falls. They have one daughter, Julie born in 1972 and a son, Craig, in 1974. Ken is manager of the Ed J. Lyng Sunflower plant in Thief River Falls and is also engaged in farming with his father and brother, Ulrich Farms, Inc.

WILLIAM ULRICH FAMILY

William Ulrich was born in 1917 in Red Lake County. In 1938 he married Evelyn Arlt who was also born in 1917 in Red Lake County. They were married at the Wylie Church by Pastor Burgdorf.

They lived with his folks, the Fred Ulrichs Sr., the first few months helping his dad farm, then moving to Fargo, N.D. where William worked at the meat packing plant. From there they moved back to River Township and lived on his sister Hulda Craft's farm and farmed for a few years and helped his dad put up hay and hand pick corn. His first four children were born at the farm, Darryl, Gayle, Renette and Raynold.

They moved to a farm near Wylie where they stayed a year and then bought a farm by Terrebonne where they continued to farm. The two youngest daughters Cheryl and Bonnie were born here.

In 1953 they moved to the Iron Range at Buhl. William worked in the underground mine until he was laid off and, after working one winter in Aurora, he obtained a job in Greenland in 1958 while his family remained in Buhl. He operated a large machine drill while an airstrip was being constructed. When this job was completed he returned to Buhl and worked in the mines again until 1961 when he was laid off.

They moved back to River Township and lived at the Fred Erdman farm which was owned by his brother, John. They later bought the buildings and 10 acres of land where they now live. William was called back to the mines where he works as a blaster and a truck driver during the summer and fall. He lives on the farm in the winter. In three more years he expects to retire.

His oldest son married Darleen Backlund and works in research at Cargill in Minneapolis; Gayle married Waivel Erickson who works for Honeywell in Minneapolis; Renette married Glen Leas of Gentilly and lives in Thief River Falls; Cheryl married Larry Martini and lives in Pennington County; Bonnie married Dave Friedenback of Texas who is at present attending the State University in Fargo.

VARIN FAMILY

Joe Varin came from France in the 1840s and settled in Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada. Joe married Marie Scharboneau when he was about twenty-eight years old and they lived in Three Rivers about twenty-five years until Marie died. Joe had earned his living by trapping and lumbering. Joe and Marie had six children: Jacob, Dan, Eugenie, Josephine, Pierce and Remee.

After Marie's death, Joe and his youngest son, Remee, came to Minnesota. They traveled by way of the St. Lawrence River to Lake Ontario, across the Great Lakes to Duluth, and by wagon and ox team to the Crookston area. This was in 1844. In Crookston Joe filed claim to a quarter of land in the northwest corner of what is now Lambert Township. It was also in Lambert Township at a hotel located there that Remee met Georgianna Daoust, daughter of the hotel's owner, who later became his wife.

Because it was in the fall of the year when they arrived, Joe and Remee hurriedly built a cabin before winter set in. Their first winter was very hard. The cabin had a dirt floor and the temperature was very cold. The blankets they used were buffalo hides and a bear-skin rug. Joe and Remee lived mostly on wild game which was abundant.

Their first spring on the homestead was a busy one. They had to build a barn and granary and to clear the land that they planted. They managed to clear a few acres to plant wheat and corn for flour and vegetables.

In the fall of 1885, Remee married Georgianna Daoust and they moved into the cabin he had built. That winter was easier because they had vegetables and wheat for flour, and the cabin had a much needed



William Ulrich Family

improvement of a wooden floor. In the spring they built an addition to the cabin.

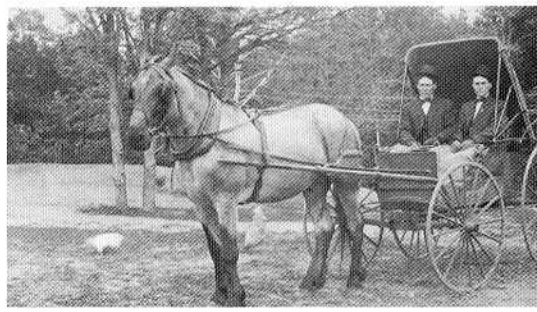
A son, Dan, was born to Remee and Georgianna on April 2, 1886. The other children born to them were: Paul, Blanch, Octave and Hector. Joe died about four years after their arrival here.

Remee's eldest son, Dan, at the age of thirty, married Marie Louise Beaudet who was from Canada and had been a maid for Miss Eugenie Brasharell. Dan and Marie Louise had three children, Georgette, Jenny and Marie Reine. They also lived where Joe and Remee had built their cabin. The cabin had been remodeled to make it more liveable.

Dan was the first person in the area to own a Rummely steam powered threshing machine and did custom combining. He also owned an Avori gas tractor and with it he helped build and repair many roads in Lambert Township. Dan was also town clerk for about thirty years.

Marie Reine, Dan's youngest daughter, married Lawrence Boucher in 1941. Lawrence and Marie live only about a mile and a half from where her parents had lived. Lawrence and Marie have five children: Roger, Yvonne, Lewellyn, Patti and Mark. The oldest daughter, Georgette (Mrs. Alfred Dale) lives at Rosemount.

Dan died in 1961 at the age of seventy-five and Marie Louise died in 1965.



Paul and Dan Varin

CLARENCE VATTHAUER AND FERN JOHNSON VATTHAUER

Clarence Henry Vatthauer (b. 1924) is the eldest of the six children born to Laura Hagl and Henry Vatthauer. Clarence attended a rural school through the fourth grade and completed his education in the local schools, graduating in the Lafayette class of 1942. Following his graduation he farmed with his father.

He married Fern Johnson (b. 1928), daughter of Fred and Selma Brooke Johnson, at McIntosh in 1949. Fern had met Clarence while attending the Teachers Training Department in Red Lake Falls.



Henry Vatthauers with children.

Before their marriage she taught at the Windsor school near Gonvick and at a rural school in McLeod County. Clarence and Fern moved to the old Duffy farm on the south edge of Red Lake Falls and lived in the house there which was one of the first sawed lumber houses built in Red Lake County. Clarence bought the farm from his father and after living in the old house for fifteen years, had it razed and built a new home.

Clarence and Fern have five children: Calvin (b. 1950) is married to Pat Ness; Julie (b. 1952) is married to Terry Ford; Ellen (b. 1953) is married to LeRoy Green; David (b. 1956) farms with his father and Billy (b. 1966) attends elementary school.

Clarence is an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church where the family are members. Clarence has also been a school bus driver for eighteen years, a member of the ASC committee and fair board, an ambulance volunteer and an auxiliary member of the Red Lake Falls fire department.

HENRY VATTHAUER AND LAURA HAGL VATTHAUER

Henry Vatthauer was born on November 4, 1888, at Estrup, Germany, and came to the United States as a child with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Vatthauer. The family first settled in Illinois and later in Iowa. Henry came to Red Lake Falls in 1918 and began farming. He married Laura Hagl (b. 1900) in 1923 and to them six children were born: Clarence (b. 1924), Frieda (b. 1925), Irene (b. 1927), Ernest (b. 1930), Dean (b. 1932) and Donald (b. 1942).

Henry died in 1965 and Laura presently resides at the Valley Home in Thief River Falls.

DEAN VATTHAUER AND CONNIE FRENCH VATTHAUER

Dean Vatthauer (b. 1932), son of Henry and Laura Hagl Vatthauer, and his wife, Connie French (b. 1931), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo French, reside on a farm three miles south of Red Lake Falls in Red Lake Falls Township where they moved in 1960.

Dean was born and raised in this area and Connie was born at Grafton, North Dakota, where she also attended school. She later graduated from Mayville State College and taught school in North Dakota and Brooks, Minnesota. Dean and Connie were married in 1956.

Dean and his brothers, Donald and Ernest, farm 2000 acres of land and raise grain and registered Angus cattle. They also operate Vatthauer Farm Supply, which has an office on Dean's farm.

Dean is actively involved in Farmers Union, having served a term as second Vice President of the State Organization and is presently serving his fourth term as director of the Marketing and Processing Division, a five state regional board. He has been involved in politics, both locally and on the state and national level and attended the 1972 National Convention in Miami as an alternate. Dean served in the U.S. Army for two years.

Dean holds a private pilot's license and owns his own aircraft, a Cessna 182, which he uses for business and attending meetings as well as for pleasure. He is presently working towards an instrument pilot's license.

Dean and Connie have three children, Brian (b. 1959), Eric (b. 1961) and Lisa Anne (b. 1963).

DONALD VATTHAUER AND KATHY SWENDSGAARD VATTHAUER

Donald Vatthauer (b. 1942), son of Henry and Laura Hagl Vatthauer, graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston in 1961 after which he served in the U.S. Army. Following his discharge from military service he joined his brothers in their farming operation.

In 1968 Donald married Kathy Swendsgaard (b. 1947) of Thief River Falls and they reside on a farm in Lake Pleasant township. A daughter, Kristen, was born to them in November of 1975, and a son, Dale Michael in September of 1973.

ERNEST VATTHAUER AND THERESA EFTA VATTHAUER

Ernest Vatthauer (b. 1930), son of Henry Vatthauer and Laura Hagl, married Theresa Efta (b. 1932), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Efta, in 1965. Theresa is a graduate of Moorhead State College and taught school prior to their marriage.

They make their home in Lake Pleasant Township where Ernest in partnership with his two brothers, farms 2000 acres of land in Lake Pleasant and Red Lake Falls townships, raises grain and registered Angus cattle and also operates the Vatthauer Farm Supply.

Ernest and Theresa have three children, James age nine, Joan age six and Kimberly age two.

ORPHIER AND VIOLA BEAUCHANE VAUDRIN

Orphier Vaudrin was born and raised on a farm situated east of Gentilly in Polk County. He married Viola Beauchane, daughter of Felix and Marie Lizotte Beauchane. Viola was born in a log cabin in Louisville Township, Red Lake County, in 1906.



Orphier Vaudrins

Viola attended the Huot School, walking a mile and a half to school except in winter after the field work was done when her brothers could use the horses to drive to school. She has pleasant memories of house parties and dancing to the accordion and violin music played by the young people of her neighborhood.

After their marriage in 1929, Orphier and Viola lived with a bachelor farmer doing farm and house work. They had twenty-five to thirty cows to milk by hand and other stock to care for. Their days often began at 4 a.m. and ended at 10 p.m., for which they received sixty dollars a month.

Because of Orphier's ill health, they lived for a time with his parents. Later Viola cared for a sick neighbor, and Orphier found temporary work until they finally rented a farm and began on their own. But crops were poor and prices low, fifteen cents a bushel for oats and thirty-five cents for wheat, and they had a difficult time.

In the 1930's their situation improved, more rain, better crops and higher prices enabling them to get more livestock. They then purchased the farm four miles west of Red Lake Falls on which they still live.

The Vaudrins had four children, Larry, Dwain, Carol and Monica. They all attended St. Joseph's and Lafayette schools.

Dwain served in the armed forces in Korea and on his return found employment in Minneapolis where he married Dorothy Dusaky. They have five children and live in Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

Carol is married to Philip Amiot. They live in Blaine, Minnesota with their five children.

Monica, married to James Seifert, lives in Bloomington and they have two children.

Larry, the oldest son, served in the army and spent one year in Korea. He has always remained on the home farm which he now has purchased. His parents live with him.

Orphier still helps in the field and drives the tractor. He and Viola look back on their hard work and struggle farming during the depression but feel now that it was well worth it.

NELS AND EFFIE VIGSTOL

Though not "old-timers", we have lived in Red Lake County since October, 1947. We moved here from rural Grand Forks, having bought the E. ½ of Sec. 29 in No. Emardville Twp. from Matt Gerardy, who moved to Fairfax, Minn.

Nels is of Norwegian heritage, as his parents immigrated to America from Norway about 1880. His father, John, born at Hagelund, Christiansand, Norway, came to Minnesota when he was 27 and settled at Stephen. He married Mari Torkelson there and Nels is the 8th of their 10 children. After they died Nels moved to Grand Forks where he married Effie Brower at Inkster on Jan. 1, 1935. We farmed 4 years at Lawton, North Dakota, 8 yrs. at Grand Forks, and came to Plummer in 1947. Effie calls herself Pennsylvania Dutch, with a bit of Scotch-Irish and English. Her parents, Wilbur Brower and Rose Miller were both born in Indiana and later moved to North Dakota where they married and farmed. Effie is the 2nd of their 7 children.

At the time of our move to Plummer we



Nels Vigstol Family

had 7 children: Neil, born in 1936; Anne, 1937; Lee, 1938; John Eldon, 1939; Ray, 1942; Richard, 1944, and Russell, 1945. The 4 oldest had attended a one-room school, known as Rye 25. Since North Dakota at that time ran no school buses, had very little REA and a poor supply of water, we decided to relocate. By answering a Herald ad, we found our farm. Nels remembers driving a tractor and its load thru Grand Forks, in the wee hours of the morning, lit only by a kerosene lantern.

It was exciting to move into a modern home with electricity and lots of good water. It was a little harder for the children to adjust to consolidated school. Elementary teachers handled two grades a piece then and space was limited. As the boys entered high school they participated in sports and played many basketball games in the city hall before Plummer's present gym was built. In 1950 twin boys were added to the family — David and Daniel, followed by Steven in 1956 and Maribeth in 1959. All have been active in sports and the younger children in the music department as it was developed.

We joined Immanuel Lutheran church in Plummer and have been active members in all departments. Nels has served as a trustee and treasurer. Effie as ALCW officer, S.S. teacher and has been organist since 1967. She has also been teaching beginning piano since then.

Our farm was originally 320 acres but we added the N.W. ¼ of the same section later, giving us enough land to keep a dairy herd and raise grain also. The new quarter needed clearing so there was always plenty of work to keep the boys busy. Most of them remember turning the cream separator by hand, also milking by hand before the days of electricity. When we first started farming in 1935, we had only horse power, but soon added a tractor. We were some of the last to convert to combine use, using the grain separator as recently as 1960. We also stacked hay with an overshot stacker until 1970 when Nels partially retired and we sold the N. ½ section to son Eldon. We built a new home that year, on the remaining S.E.¼ with most of the work done by the sons, five of whom were carpenters by then. The family enjoys the large, roomy house and it is often filled with the various children visiting with their families.

In July 1975 we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with the whole family attending. The clan has grown to 50 and we have 28 grandchildren. We have seen many changes thru the years, and our life in this area has had many ups and downs but having lived thru various depression years and seen the great improvements since then, we agree that we are glad that Red Lake County is our home.

ding anniversary, and in 1973 they enjoyed a happy 60th anniversary with all their fourteen children present: Agnes (Mrs. Francis Nash), Buhl; Sophie (Mrs. Justina), Crookston; David, Dixie, California; Florence (Mrs. Romeo Cyr), Red Lake Falls; Clarence, Minneapolis; Walter, Riverside, California; Omer, Buhl; Louis, Oklee; Fred, Red Lake Falls; Eli, California; Wilbert, Mankato; Mary Ann (Mrs. Jason Siven), California; Dorothy (Sr. Karen), Red Lake Falls; Virginia (Mrs. Charles Cooper) Long Beach, California. Most of their 54 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren were also in attendance.

Two of the sixteen children born to the Violettes died: Frances in 1916, and Mau-



Frank Violettes: *Back:* Louis, Walter, Omer, Agnes, Dave, Virginia, Bert, Fred, Clarence and Eli. *Front:* Florence, Sister Karen, Mr. and Mrs. Violette, Sister Justina and Mary Ann.

FRANK VIOLETTE FAMILY

The first Violette to come to this area was Frank Violette, Sr., who was born in Canada in 1848. He married Elise Cyr, who was born in Canada in 1853. They immigrated to Gentilly where they homesteaded. The Frank Violette who has lived in Red Lake Falls all these years was the fifth of their seventeen children. Seven others are still living: Dora (Mrs. Raoul Audette), Minneapolis; Sophie (Mrs. Paul LaCoursiere), Red Lake Falls; Susan (Mrs. Fred LaFave); Rose (Mrs. Louis Dubuque), Gentilly; Victoria (Mrs. Dave Delorme), Riverside, California; Albert, and Louis, Moxee City, Washington. Sophie, Susan and Albert are residents of Fairview Manor in Red Lake Falls.

In 1913, Frank Jr. married Emma LaCoursiere, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Octave LaCoursiere, born in 1895. The Octave LaCoursieres (Mary Roy), who came from Canada, had been married in Red Lake Falls in 1888.

Emma LaCoursiere Violette was one of seventeen children. Six others are still living; Ted, Plummer; Paul and Agnes (Mrs. Emery Violette), Hillcrest Nursing Home; Clara (Mrs. W. Reopelle), Tacoma, Washington; Rose (Sr. Gabriel), Thief River Falls; Dora (Sr. Baptiste), Mahnomen. Both nuns are elementary school principals.

Frank and Emma Violette lived all their lives in the vicinity of Red Lake Falls, farming for a few years just west of town, then moving in 1933 to the house in the Klondike which they occupied for 43 years. He was a dray-line operator for many years, and also produced and sold quality garden vegetables. When in 1970 they moved to Fairview Manor, Mr. Violette continued to garden as a hobby.

In 1963, they observed their 50th wedrice in 1939.

Florence Violette Cyr comments. "I want to say a few things about our big family. Maybe we were poor at times, but my mother always said, 'Love each other and stick together, and you will all make it and be happy'. This has happened and we have had many good times. (I bet we wore out 100 decks of cards!) There were sad times too. I remember all of us praying every night for the safe return of the boys when six of them were in World War II. All in all, we had a good family life, and I know what made it, was love and faith."

DENNIS WAHL

Dennis Wahl, principal of Lafayette High School, was born and raised in Mentor where he graduated from high school in 1960. After his graduation from Mayville State College in 1964, he taught in Grand Forks, North Dakota for five years. He received his Master's Degree from the University of North Dakota in 1970.

Dennis Wahl and Carol Hotreedt of East Grand Forks were married in 1967 and moved to Twin Valley where he was the high school principal for three years. In 1972 they came to Red Lake Falls when he accepted the position of principal in District 630.

Dennis and Carol have three children: Jodi, Jackie, and Jill.



Jacob and Johanna Waldal with sons, Alfred and Marvis

WALDAL FAMILY

Alfred Waldal came from Norway to America with his Mother, Johanna Anderson, with about a hundred other people on the American Line Boat. This was early in the year of 1889 and Alfred was then six years old. He remembered how sea sick his mother was but he was fine. To amuse himself, he would tie a piece of bread on a string for the fish to jump for. This sea journey took three weeks. They landed in New York Harbor and came by train in packed cars that were small, only about twelve feet in length.

Alfred and his mother lived in a Scandinavian settlement near Cisco, Minnesota close to Erskine. The school house was about eighty rods from their house and the school teacher boarded with them, a Frenchman by the name of Max Boucher who had a little dog for his companion. Two French boys came on skiis from Brooks and the rest of the pupils were Swedes and Norwegians. None were able to speak English and some of the boys were very stubborn about learning.

On January 23, 1890 Jacob O. Waldal married Johanna Anderson at Saran Lutheran Church near Erskine by Pastor Nickolai Heiermann. Mr. Waldal did carpenter work. Three children were born at this home: Marius, Emma and George. In 1896 they moved to a farm in Emardville township four miles southwest of Plummer. Land had to be cleared to build a log cabin. Their nearest neighbors were John Froiland, one half mile north and John Hagen, one half mile south. Two more children were born on this homestead; Olga and Jennie. Emma, who taught school for a year and a half in the county, died of tuberculosis in 1913. Mr. Waldal died in December of 1922, and Marius and George farmed the home place and raised potatoes. One year they left 150 acres of potatoes in the ground because it would cost five cents a bushel to dig them and all they would sell for at the time was five cents a bushel.

Early in the 1930's Marius was elected twice as representative to the State Legislature. He then ran for the office of senator and lost out to Walter Day.

In 1935 Mrs. Waldal died at the home place. The brothers continued farming until 1939 and then Marius left for Montana to do carpenter work. George worked on a farm in southern Minnesota. They got back together again in 1943 to do carpenter work in northern California. In 1947 George moved back to southern Minnesota and later married Edith Lind. Here they farmed until his death in 1972. Mrs. George Waldal is still living on their farm. Marius also married and lived in California until his death in 1974.

Jennie and Olga alternately stayed at home to help with the housework, and to go out for employment. Jennie left for California in 1937 where she still resides. Olga married Henry Rose of Plummer in 1939. He died in 1949. Olga is presently living at Fairview Manor in Red Lake Falls.

Alfred worked in the woods in the winter at a very young age and when he was sixteen years old he hauled cord-wood to Red Lake Falls, and with the money earned, bought a rifle at Hunt's Hardware.

He did road work, using a scraper and team of horses and helped build bridges. He would go to North Dakota in the fall for harvest and threshing and in the winter would work in the woods. He had a beautiful team of horses, well trained. In 1909, when he was working in North Dakota, he was offered a good price for them, sold them and bought wood land a mile south of his parents farm and homesteaded it. He cut the timber and brush and cleared it and built a house.

In 1910 Alfred married Clara Olson and they had five children: Selma (Evanston, Illinois), James (Vancover, Washington), Alvin (Red Lake Falls), Lawrence (Plummer) and Clara (Arcadia, California).

Many pioneers learned to become good carpenters and Alfred was no exception. In 1919, with some help, he built a large sturdy barn that is today a monument to good construction and good care.

This same year his wife, Clara, died after the youngest child, Clara, was born. Early in 1921 Alfred married Rose Thoreson, daughter of Brede Thoresons. To this union five more children were born: Marie (Mrs. Walter Seeger of Red Lake Falls), Beatrice (Mrs. Clayton Larson of Plummer), Rosella (Mrs. Kenneth McDonald of Merrillville, Indiana), Helen (Mrs. Wayne Ober of Flat Rock, Michigan) and Carolyn (Mrs. Wesley Myhre of Brooks).

Throughout the years additions were made to the little one room log cabin that was first built when the land was homesteaded and to this day this firm little home that raised nine of the children still stands. Clara was raised by her grandmother and her aunts Jennie and Olga, and now lives in California.

Alfred worked hard and long to improve his land, his home, his church and his community. He was always interested in today and tomorrow. He was a charter member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, and served on the town board, school board, Red Lake county fair board and on the Farm Bureau board. Mr. and Mrs. Waldal were the first farm couple to be honored from Red Lake County at the Red River Valley Winter Shows held in Crookston in 1939.

Alfred died at his home on December 23, 1973 at the age of ninety. Mrs. Waldal is living alone now in the house that holds a million memories. Beatrice and her husband Clayton farm the land.



Alfred Waldal Family

SWAN WALHAUG FAMILY

Swan Walhaug was born in 1873 at Oyfjeld Telemarken, Norway to parents Evind Walhaug and Engeborg Trondson Walhaug. He immigrated to America in 1893 and lived at Hawley, Minnesota and Kindred, North Dakota prior to coming to the Oklee community from Norway to seek a better living in the United States of America. Here, he found that being a first settler on a new land was not easy. He had to work hard to cut trees and brush, pick rocks and break up the soil in order to plant grain and gardens.

The following summary of a Norwegian bachelor living on his homestead in Garnes Township. Every fall of the year, Swan would travel to North Dakota with a team and hayrack wagon to get a job during the threshing season. He would work from 5 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night to earn only $3.50 to $4.00 a day. When the threshing was completed he started home again. He would stay overnight at livery barns and sleep in the hay mow nights sometimes facing snow storms.

One time when he arrived home he found a family had settled in the small house that he had built. At first he thought someone had taken over his homestead but to his surprise, when he entered the home, the wife explained her reasons and he found the family to be very friendly and all made the best of it. They remained friends ever since. The family was Mr. and Mrs. Ole Swenson. The following fall Swan made another trip to North Dakota to work to make money to survive through the coming winter. When he came home again, another family was living in the little house. This time it was Pastor Kolstoe and his family who stayed there until their own house nearby was constructed. The neighbors all pitched in to assist the new pastor in his venture.

Swan was also a lumberjack in the winter time. He also told about the time his boss in North Dakota stole $15 from him during a settlement. Of course, that was a lot of money at that time. He also attended country school to learn the English language. After about seven years of bachelorhood, Swan married Anna Fossgaard at Crookston, Minnesota. He was married for 38 years, the happiest of his life.

Anna was born in Jallo, Hallingdal, Norway in 1872. She had come to the United States as a child and for a short time made her home at Hatton, North Dakota and later was employed at the University of North Dakota for nine years. In 1897 she homesteaded in the town of Garnes. After the marriage, the Swan Walhaugs still made their home in Garnes.

Mr. and Mrs. Swan Walhaug raised seven children. Their first son Edwin was born in 1903. He worked on his father's farm until he married Minnie Johnson and they moved to a farm nearby to remain for almost 32 years. In the later years he was sexton of Salem church and parish treasurer. He died in 1969 and his wife now lives in Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

The second child, Clarence was born in 1905. He attended Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. He also worked on the home farm and did grain threshing

for neighbors until the combining took place on most of the farms. He was elected one of the first directors of the Oklee Co-operative Oil Association, organized in 1935. He married Martha Mattison. They also made their home on his farm in Garnes township. He died in 1972 and is survived by his wife, one son, Wayne, three daughters, Sharon, Shirley, Carol, one stepson, Eddie and several grandchildren. They are all married and most of them live in the Thief River Falls area.

The third child Lillian who was born in 1907 entered nurses training in Duluth in 1926 and practiced her profession since. She was married in 1945 to Howard Morton and died of a heart complication in 1957.

The fourth child Ida, born in 1910 graduated from McIntosh high school and was employed several years in North Dakota as a clerk. She is now retired.

The fifth child, Selmer, was born in 1912. After graduating from McIntosh high school in 1930, he entered the teaching profession, graduating from Normal Training at Thief River Falls in 1932. He taught one year in Dist. 252, Polk County and for two years in District 76, Red Lake County. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Bemidji State College in 1938 and his Master's Degree in Social Studies from the University of Minnesota in 1940. He taught school at Red Lake Indian Agency before entering the United States Army as a radar instructor. He saw action in the South Pacific and was discharged in 1945 with the rank of Master Sergeant. He also taught fourteen years at the Oklee high school serving as principal for several years. He also operated the family farm since the death of his father in 1958, was active in community affairs, and a member of the Oklee Community Club, Stamp Club, American Legion and the Minnesota Education Association, serving as area president for several terms. He died November 16, 1962.

The sixth child, Walter, was born in 1916 and worked on his father's farm for a number of years, raising chickens and pigs and also on his own farm in Garnes township. He was united in marriage with Mae E. Schauer at Grand Forks, North Dakota. They had gone to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to live, where Walter died of a heart attack on January 7, 1957.

The seventh child Lloyd, born in 1919, enlisted in the army in World War II and served with the African Invasion and later was taken prisoner until the end of the war. When he came home he finished barber school. He has his own shop at International Falls and later he opened his Wild Life Museum along with the barber shop. Relics from his own parents brought from Norway are shown at this museum. He was married to Luella Cronkite and they had two daughters, Rosanna and Shelly Jean.

Swan Walhaug died in 1958 at the age of 84 years. He was the last of the early settlers residing on his original homestead, a charter member of the Salem Lutheran Church, he served on the Garnes Township board and schoolboard, assisted in organizing and was a director of the local Co-operative Elevator, local shipping association and the creamery where he served as board president.

He was very much interested in education for his children. Going back to pioneer times when all worked hard for their money only the necessary things were bought and very few things were wasted. In contrast to our heated cars now, sad irons were heated on the stove the night before to be used the next morning to keep feet warm on the long drives to town behind horses.



Swan Walhaug Family in 1940. *Back:* Lloyd, Walter, Lillian, Clarence, Ida, Edwin, Selmer.

GEORGE WALKER FAMILY

George Walker was born at Rochester, Minnesota on December 20, 1869. His parents were farming in the Marshall area. George married Nellie Orr at Marshall on July 4, 1893, and they farmed there until 1903 when they bought a farm in Gervais Township, just east of Red Lake Falls. They had two children, Grace (Mrs. Walter Jacobson) and Clayton. The George Walkers retired from active farming in 1919 and moved into Red Lake Falls and left the farming to their son, Clayton. George died in 1936 and his wife, Nellie, in 1964.

Both Clayton and his sister, Grace, attended the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. It was there that Clayton met Hope Jensen of Clearbrook. They were married at Clearbrook on March 26, 1921.

Hope Jensen's parents were pioneers of Red Lake Falls. Her father, Lauritz Jensen, born in Denmark in 1865, arrived in Crookston in 1882 where he met Mattie Olson, born in Norway in 1866. The Jensen's were married in Crookston in 1886 and moved to Red Lake Falls. Lauritz Jensen was associated with Leo Steinert in the Steinert Milling Company and was also a real estate agent. Hope Jensen was born in Red Lake Falls on March 1, 1901. The Hensens moved to Clearbrook in 1903.

The Clayton Walkers had three children: Donald, Philip and Sharon. Philip is a post office employee in Fargo and lives in Moorhead. Sharon is now Mrs. Allen DuPont of Red Lake Falls and is executive secretary at Riverview Hospital in Crookston. Donald is still farming the same farm that his grandfather bought which has now been expanded to include 600 acres.

In 1946, the Clayton Walkers retired from farming and their retail dairy operation near Red Lake Falls and moved into town where he worked for the public school system until retiring in 1966. His wife, Hope, died on July 7, 1967. On September 14, 1968, he married Ila Miller in Crookston. Ila died in 1970. Clayton died on July 5, 1975.

On June 19, 1947, Donald married Florence Keim, daughter of the Frank Keims. She was a rural school teacher and taught in the one room schools that were in use at that time. Donald is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, a past Master and past Secretary of the Masonic Lodge, a Past Commander of the American Legion and was chairman of the Selective Service Board in Red Lake Falls until retiring from that post in 1973 after twenty years of service. He has been a director of several artificial breeding co-operatives for many years. He also was one of the organizers of the Red Lake County Dairy Herd Improvement Association and was its first president. Florence is a Past President of the American Legion Auxiliary and also worked with the Senior Citizens at their Social Center for a long time. The Donald Walker family has been specializing in raising Registered Holstein dairy cattle for many years.

Donald and Florence have six children: Paul, Alan, Lloyd, Arlene, Brian and Diane. Paul is the mathematics teacher at the Plummer High School. Alan is the assistant manager of the Local GTA Elevator. He married Paula Musil and they have two daughters, Amy and Becky. Lloyd is teaching vocational auto mechanics at Grafton, North Dakota. He married Charlene Petersen and she also works for the Grafton schools. Arlene is attending the vocational school in Thief River Falls and Brian and Diane are High school students in Red Lake Falls.



Mr. and Mrs. James Walker

MARTIN E. WALKER FAMILY

Martin Eldon Walker, son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Walker, was born November 13, 1910 in Equality Township and grew to manhood there. In the 1930's, he did independent trucking and had a cream route, hauling cream to the creamery at Roland and later to River Valley when the creamery was relocated there. He also owned and operated the first school bus in that area, transporting students to Oklee High School.

During World War II, Martin served with

the United States Army for almost four and one-half years. Over half of that time was spent in the Pacific theatre, and he took part in the invasion of the Philippines under General MacArthur. Sergeant Walker received the Bronze Star and other medals.

On August 2, 1948, Martin Walker and Pauline Schoenauer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schoenauer of Plummer, were united in marriage at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. They made their home in Oklee where Martin was employed by Oklee Public Schools as chief engineer and custodian and also as a bus driver. He will retire July 1, 1976 after thirty years of service. Martin was also a part-time insurance agent for Mutual Service Insurance Company for twenty-three years (1947-1970).

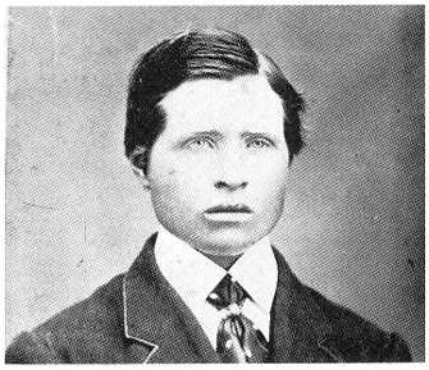
Pauline Elaine Schoenauer was born April 23, 1913 in Lake Pleasant Township and moved with her parents to Plummer in 1914. After graduating from high school there as valedictorian of the class of 1930, Pauline attended MacPhail College of Music in Minneapolis and later became a private piano teacher. She has taught in Plummer, Oklee and Gonvick, and several of her former pupils are now active in the music profession. In 1942-1943, she was employed as assistant to the manager of the music department at Donaldson's in Minneapolis, and was the pianist for Donaldson's style shows. Since her marriage, she has taught piano in Oklee, but will be retiring in 1976. She has been a Red Lake County member of the Northwest Regional Library Board of Trustees since 1968. In her spare time, Pauline writes poetry and her poems have been published in various national magazines since 1964. She has received awards for several of her poems. Her biography appears in the ninth edition (1975-1976) of Who's Who of American Women, the third and fourth editions of International Who's Who in Poetry, and the twelfth edition of Dictionary of International Biography.

Martin and Pauline Walker hvae one son, Martin Paul ("Marty"), born April 27, 1951 in Crookston. He is an Oklee High School graduate and is attending Bemidji State University. His movie criticism appears regularly in the campus newspaper, the NORTHERN STUDENT.

JOHN WALTER FAMILY

John Walter (1820-1903) and his wife Margaret Hoffman (1822-1906), pioneer settlers of Red Lake Falls, first immigrated to America from Bralzdarf, Bavaria, Germany, in 1846 and settled in the Red Wing area. After several years the family moved to Fergus Falls and farmed there until 1882 when they moved to Red Lake County and the community described as "a small inland village in nearly a wilderness" (a quote from a newspaper article owned by a granddaughter). All of the family and their belongings were transported in a covered wagon drawn by horses.

There were six children, Andrew, John, Philip, Margaret, Mary and Anna. The daughters were all to be wives of Red Lake County pioneers. Margaret married Richard Adler in 1881 and the couple moved to a farm near Wylie in 1882. Mary married Henry Kaus, owner of a neighborhood grocery store in Red Lake Falls in "The Hollow", and Anna was to wed Matt Skala in 1887.





Mr. and Mrs. Sam Warstad

SAM WARSTAD AND THORA HAUGEN WARSTAD

Samuel Warstad was born in 1856 at Sogn, Stavanger, Norway, where they were fishermen. He immigrated with his parents to the United States and they settled at Gary in Norman County where they farmed. In 1887 Samuel married Thora Haugen at Gary and they farmed there until about 1902 when they moved with their family to section 16 in Garnes township. The trip from Gary was made by wagon and ox team. The land was mostly trees and brush and had to be cleared by hand and with the use of oxen for stump pulling.

Sam and Thora Warstad lived on this farm all the rest of their lives and both died in 1938. The children born to them: Selmer, Emma, Lena, Ole, Inga, Simon and Marie. Emma, Lena and Inga married and had families of their own; Ole died as a young man and Selmer, Simon and Marie still live on the home place but are not actively farming.



Walter Family with daughters, Mary, Anna and Margaret



Dr. N. M. Watson

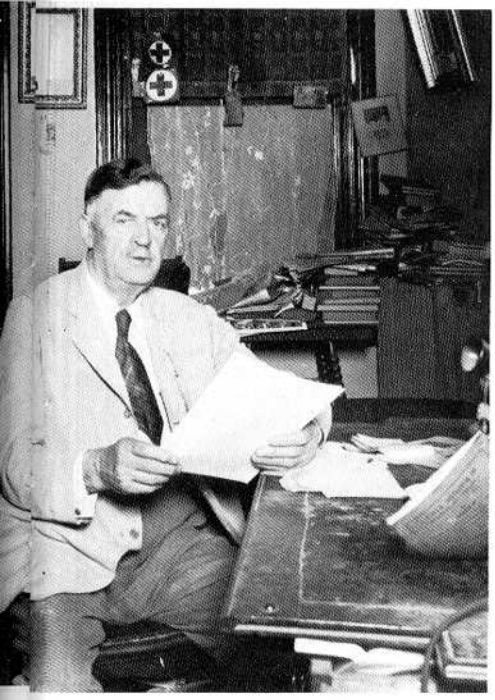
DR. WATSON

The frontier physician was a man of great courage, resourcefulness, and physical strength. He had no professional help, no X-rays, no potent drugs. Transportation was precarious and in most cases, he visited the patient, being called only in an extreme emergency: labor extending into days, wounds, obviously threatening to be fatal, broken bones, well-developed infections. At any time of the day or night, he was on call, expected at a moment's notice to proceed in haste with whatever implements and potions available, and, in his judgment, possibly necessary, often to some rude dwelling miles away. It was a rugged, demanding life, frequently requiring heroic measures and fateful decisions.

Neill Malcolm Watson arrived in Red Lake Falls in 1892 from Canada. He was twenty-seven years old and had graduated with M.D. and C.M. degrees from McGill University the year previous. He, too, took an active interest in politics and other community activities. He was a prominent part in the county division contest in 1896 when Red Lake County was created, and again in the county division fight of 1910 when Pennington County was formed. He served as mayor of Red Lake Falls for several terms, and as president of the Red Lake County Fair Board for several years. His primary concern, however, other than his profession, was education. He served on the school board for twenty-nine years, twenty-six of them as president. He was a staunch Republican, serving as county chairman and delegate to the state convention for thirty years or more.

Dr. Watson was a man of strong convictions and indomitable purpose. He was scrupulously careful never to divulge what he considered to be private information, and his fellow citizens soon learned not to inquire of him about the welfare of any of his patients, nor, indeed, to expect any morsels of gossip, whether medical or not.

He believed it to be an obligation of the president of the school board to address the graduates at commencement, and never failed to present a carefully-thought-out formal address to them at that time.



This was never an easy task for him, and its increasing difficulty as age took its toll may well have been a big factor in his decision to retire from the board in 1933, three years before his death.

His patients will remember him for his famous "pink salve", his thoroughness in swabbing sore throats, his concern, his dependability, his excellent judgment, and his miraculous filing system, haphazard in appearance, unerring in results.

More than any other person, he was responsible for guiding the local public school system through a very difficult period, and for laying deep and sure the foundations for the fine school system we have today.

VERN WAVRA FAMILY

I was born to Dorn and Mary Wavra in 1932 and lived in Lake Pleasant Township, Section 32. We moved to Euclid in 1938, where I attended a one-room school. I later attended the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. Some of my early jobs were with Vigen Construction of East Grand Forks and Strickler Brothers Farms of Euclid.

In 1951 I married Arlene Johnson, daughter of Edward Johnson of Thief River Falls. We worked for Strickler Brothers until the spring of 1955, when we moved into Red Lake Falls. I purchased the Blacksmith and Repair Shop from Vincent Shannon (I used to sharpen plow lays way into the night; now everything is "throw-away.")



In 1957, we built a new shop which is now owned by Ken Remick and in 1958 took over dealerships including Minneapolis Moline. Because of lack of space, we purchased Willard's Welding and Repair from Willard Constant. In 1962, heavy rains caused a hill-slide behind my shop and machinery was washed down the hill. There is still a combine under the debris somewhere!

After selling that property to the railroad company, we went into grain trucking and livestock hauling. In 1963, I became the first Polaris snowmobile dealer in Red Lake Falls.

In 1966, we disposed of most of our businesses and in 1967, purchased a farm in Brown's Creek, Section 25. In 1974, we sold the trucking business and are now engaged in livestock and grain farming. We have engaged in many related activities and in 1971, I was named "King Agassiz" of Red Lake County. I have also been a sustaining member of the Red River Valley Winter Shows, vice chairman, board of directors of the Farmers Union of Red Lake Falls, township board supervisor and am presently chairman of the A.S.C.S. Committee. I still have time to go hunting and fishing with my family and also do some camping.

These are our children: Dale, who married Patrice Dokken in 1973; they have one son and live in Dilworth where he is employed as a diesel mechanic for Northern States Power of Fargo. RaeAnn who married Richard Lynne in 1973; their only daughter Angela died in infancy. They live in Maddock, North Dakota, where he farms and is employed by Farmer's Union. Children living at home with us are Michael, Daniel, Jane and Joel. One son, Brian died in 1965.

GEORGE WEISS

George Weiss was born on March 25, 1845, at Grbertshansen Bavaria, Germany, and immigrated to America in 1875. He first settled at Rockburg, Wisconsin, where he was united in marriage to Marie Sellmeier who was born in Germany on February 21, 1854. They moved to Dundas, Rice County, Minnesota where they lived for three years and then came to Lake Pleasant Township which was then Polk County. In 1889 they moved to a farm northeast of Red Lake Falls in Red Lake Falls Township and in 1892 they moved to a farm in Browns Creek Township where they farmed until 1912 when they moved into Red Lake Falls where they made their home.

George and Marie had six children: Jenny, Louise, Henry, Fred, Paul and Sophie. George died in 1923 at the age of seventy-eight and Mrs. Weiss died in 1937 at the age of eighty-three. Their children are all deceased except Mrs. Sophie Weber who lives in Red Lake Falls.

FRED WEISS

Fred Weiss was born on August 17, 1884 in Lake Pleasant Township, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Weiss who had emigrated from Germany. As a child he moved with his parents to a farm in Red Lake Falls Township in 1889 and in 1892 they moved to a farm in Browns Creek Township.

In 1911 he was united in marriage to Mary Hilse, daughter of Ernest F. Hilse and Marie Simmon. Fred and Mary lived on the farm of his parents in Browns Creek Township where they farmed. He held various Township, School Board and Church offices and they were members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church at Wylie.

They had five daughters and one son. The son died in infancy. The daughters are: Mildred, Mrs: Leonard Lizotte; Evelyn, Mrs. Harvey Wagner; Lila, Mrs. Arlie Hams; Adeline, Mrs. Irving Beyer; Marie, Mrs. Harvey Casavan.

There are also eleven grandchildren, and sixteen great grandchildren. Fred Weiss died in 1948 and Mrs. Weiss lives in Red Lake Falls.

GARY WEISS FAMILY

Gary Weiss was born September 1, 1948 in Crookston to Richard Weiss and Ellen Schultz Weiss of Wylie township. He attended Black River country school until 1957, and later the old Washington Elementary school in Red Lake Falls. His high school years were spent at the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston where he graduated in 1966. He continued his college education at the University of Minnesota Technical Institute until he was drafted into the U.S. army in 1968. He served in Viet Nam until August 1969, when he was wounded. Gary was retired from the armed services in 1970.

Gary Weiss married Theresa Audette November 28, 1970 at Red Lake Falls.

Theresa Audette (Terry), daughter of Lawrence Audette and Noella Lasha Audette of Red Lake Falls, was born February 9, 1951 in Crookston. She attended St. Joseph's school, and later Mount St. Benedict Academy in Crookston and Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls. After graduation in 1969 she attended Moorhead State College until she married.

Following their marriage, Gary was employed by his father in farming. In 1972 Gary and Terry purchased a 320 acre farm in Wylie township, where they are now living.

Gary and Terry Weiss have two children: Jonathan Michael, born April 1, 1971; and Brigette Noel, born December 20, 1972.

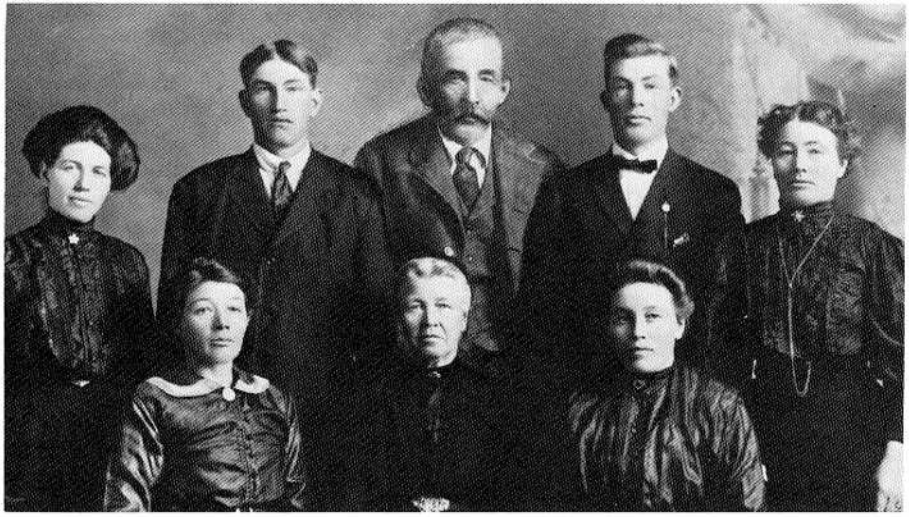
LUDWIG WEISS HISTORY

Ludwig Weiss came from Germany to Minnesota in the early 1870's. His wife Mina Gebert came later and on January 19, 1876 they were married in Rice County.

In 1882 they set out northward in a covered oxcart with their two children. They settled in section 33 in Lake Pleasant Township. The following year, on June 20, 1883 they obtained a federal land grant deed signed by President Chester A. Arthur. The land is still in the Weiss family and is now owned by Erwin Weiss, a grandson. The original building site is now a part of the new highway No. 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Weiss had eight children. Two daughters died in infancy. Anna married Bernard Duffy and continued to live in this area. She is the mother of Mrs. John Kuiper. Jennie, Larrina, Minnie and John married and moved away. David continued to live on the home farm after the death of his father in 1915.

In 1926 David married Anna Purath Luxenburg and moved to a farm in Section 14, Lake Pleasant Township. Three of their five children still live in Red Lake County. Dorothy (Mrs. Ernest Pederson) lives in Plummer; Betty (Mrs. Art Seibel) is in Red Lake Falls, and Erwin lives on the home farm. Jean (Mrs. Arnold Johnson) lives in Clear Lake, Iowa and Margie (Mrs. Fred Lindsay) lives at Darwin, Minnesota.



Ludwig Weiss Family

In 1950 Erwin Weiss married Lucille Page at Red Lake Falls. They have seven children: David, Ronald, Randy, Linda and Dana at home. Sandra is in the Army stationed at Fitzimmons Medical Center in Denver, Colorado and Bonnie (Mrs. Jerry Svir) lives on a farm near Badger and has a daughter, Helen Marie.

The Weisses operate a grain and dairy farm in Lake Pleasant Township.

RICHARD WEISS AND FAMILY

Richard Weiss, the son of Henry and Ida Henrichs Weiss, was born on July 25, 1918 in Red Lake Falls Township. He attended the Jahnke School for eight years. After working briefly for Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, California, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving from September 1942 to January 6, 1946. He served on both the East and West Coasts and at Portsmouth, England. He was on duty in the Pacific when World War II ended. Following his discharge, he returned to Red Lake Falls where he worked for about a year at Shannon's Welding Shop. On December 7, 1947, he was married to Ellen Schultz at Immanuel Lutheran Church at Wylie.

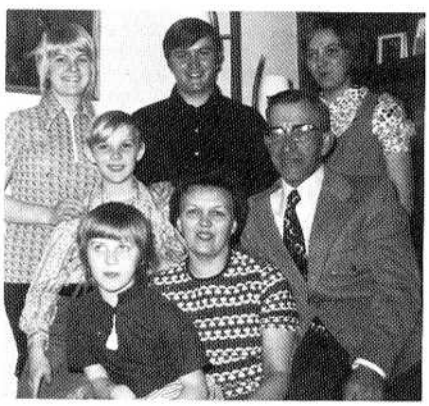
Ellen Schultz, the daughter of Erdmann and Elsie Wolff Schultz, was born on January 16, 1929 in Louisville Township. She attended the Black River School in Wylie Township for eight years and was graduated from Lafayette High School in 1946.

In 1948, Richard and Ellen Weiss bought the former William Lubitz farm in Wylie Township and in 1962 purchased a quarter section of adjoining land from the late Fred Schultz. They are presently farming four hundred and forty acres of land, where, since 1957, they have been operating a Grade A Dairy system and milking about forty cows.

There are five children in the family. Gary married Theresa Audette and they live in rural Red Lake Falls. Arlyce married Andrew Derosier and they live at Bloomington. Sherry married Michael Raymond, they are living at Crookston. Arlan and Kelly attend Lafayette High School. Richard and Ellen have three grandchildren.

Richard Weiss was elected to the Board of Directors of the Red Lake Electric Co-operative, Inc. in 1964 and continues to serve in that capacity. For a number of years he has been serving on the Board for the Community Co-operative Store in Red Lake Falls.

Ellen Weiss is a member of the Busy Janes Homemakers Club and is active in the Ladies Aid of St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls.



GEORGE WERTZ AND EDITH PALMATIER WERTZ GOLSTON

George Wertz was born on a farm near Aberdeen, South Dakota in 1884. He married Edith Palmatier, daughter of Frank Palmatier, in Aberdeen in 1938. Edith was born in Reno County, Kansas in 1902.

They came to this area in 1940 and in 1942 bought a quarter section of land north of Plummer.

They had one adopted daughter, Alice, who now has six children. Edith now lives in Pueblo, Colorado, where she moved some years ago for health reasons.

WETENKAMP FAMILY

My grandfather, William Wetenkamp, immigrated to America from Germany in November, 1878, with his parents, brothers and sisters. William was eight years old. They first settled at Welcome, Minnesota, in Martin County, where William grew to manhood and married Emma Ziemann.

In 1914 William Wetenkamp came to Red Lake County and bought a 174-acre farm in Louisville Township, about six miles west of Red Lake Falls. His oldest son, Christ, spent the winter of 1914 in a 10 x 12 tarpaper shack (which is still standing) which he built on his farm while the rest of the family returned to their home in southern Minnesota until spring. On April 15, 1915, William and Emma Wetenkamp and their two daughters and five more sons arrived by train in Red Lake County. The first summer was spent in a vacant house about three miles from their new farm while a two-story, single-wall building was constructed in which they lived for one year and then used as a granary. A new house was built the second summer. This house and granary are still standing on the original Wetenkamp farm, which I bought in 1975 from my uncle, R. H. Wetenkamp. William Wetenkamp died in 1966 at the age of 95 years.

The older daughter Gertrude took nurse's training at Fergus Falls and worked with Dr. Waldron at Drayton, North Dakota until she married Louis Jorde and they still live in Drayton. The younger daughter, Helen, died in 1925 of polio. The six sons all lived on farms in Louisville Township for many years. Christ and George have died, William lives now at Waubum, Reinhold at Clearbrook and Fred and Erwin (Mike) still live here.

My father, Erwin C. Wetenkamp, married Edith Feragen of Goodridge in 1935 and bought the farm where they still live in 1940. Their daughters are Mrs. Roger Aspevig (Irene) of Crookston and Mrs. John McKeever (Emma) of Fargo, North Dakota.

I served in the U.S. Army from 1960 to 1962 and have lived all my life in Louisville Township. I farm about 700 acres with my father, and in 1965 bought a farm from William Wetenkamp, which formerly belonged to Max Meyer. I married Marilyn Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Johnson, formerly of Crookston and now of Fort Collins, Colorado, in Crookston, in 1966. We built a new home that year and still live there. Marilyn taught English at Fertile and Red Lake Falls for four years. We now have two children, Daniel and Susan, and are members of Bethany Lutheran Church of Red Lake Falls.

KERENCE WHALEN

A resident of Oklee area from 1886 to 1961. Kerence Whalen came to Minnesota from Lansing, Iowa, as a young man. He settled in Equality township, Red Lake county in 1896. As a homesteader he lived and farmed on the same farm since 1896; a few years later he purchased a 240-acre addition to the south of his homestead.

On December 27, 1896, in town of Lambert he married Margaret Donahue, a daughter of James Donahue and Mary Ann McNamara, from Hudson, Wisconsin. She moved to Minnesota with her parents in 1896. She taught school about three miles north of where Oklee now stands for one year before they were married.

Kerence Whalen was active in community affairs. He served on the school board for fifteen years, and on the town board for many years. They had nine children, seven are still living, Florence, Hazel, Joe, George at Oklee, Mrs. Peter Schirrick (Emma) of Red Lake Falls, James. W. O. Brandson, Missouri, Tom of Los Angeles, California. His grandson Greg Whalen, son of George Whalen, has purchased this same farm Kerence homesteaded on 78 years ago. George Whalen owns and lives on the remaining 240 acres of land.

Kerence Whalen passed away April 2, 1961. His wife passed away March 5, 1957.

Besides grain farming he also had a large herd of beef cattle each year and used a windmill to pump water from a 200 foot deep well on his farm. This windmill has been removed from the farm. Only a

few of the buildings remain on this homestead. The large barn he built in 1919 has been taken down and the lumber re-used. The large modern house he built in 1922 was sold to Allen Bassinger who moved it to his farm two miles west of Trail. The dwelling which Kerence first built in 1896 is in good condition and is owned and occupied by Joe Whalen.

The evergreen trees he planted in 1923 are still standing, but the huge cottonwood trees have all been removed.

TOM WHALEN

Tom Whalen bought the farm northeast of Red Lake Falls, which the La Vern Knotts now own and live on. The purchase was made from Gedeon Poirier and his wife, Angelle Poirier, in 1904. It was sold at five dollars an acre for 160 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Whalen family moved to this area from their Le Seuer farm, in the fall of 1907. Their family consisted of three girls and two boys, all school teachers except the youngest son, George.

Anna married C. J. Keenan, who was a telegrapher on the Minnesota Iron Range. Mollie married Eugene Griffin. They lived in California. Josephine married Tom McKasy, owner of Twin Cities Granite Works. Dan married and lived on a farm north of the railroad tracks near Wylie. Later on, he moved to the last big white house on the south side of St. Hilaire. During this time, George had taken a carload of Clydesdale horses to Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, and was homesteading up there when his father called him to come to the farm he had bought in northern Minnesota.

It was necessary to begin building on the new farmstead as the Whalens had a lot of livestock. They bred and raised about twenty Poland China hogs. They usually had from thirty to forty head of milking shorthorn cattle, also Durham. They imported some of the horses, usually the number Clydesdales were around forty but a few times it was up to fifty. Then he also had Thoroughbred Hamiltonian horses. These were the race horses that were in all parts of the country.

First a barn was needed so a drying shed for the sawmill at St. Hilaire was moved down to the farm. It is the same barn that is there today. The original house was enlarged on the east with a big new addition. On the west another building was moved in from St. Hilaire. This was used for a woodshed on the down stairs level and sleeping space for hired hands for the farm. Then the hog barn and granary were built. This all took about a year or so before the family moved up from Le Seuer. They came by train to Red Lake Falls. During the time of hauling by teams out to the farm, one team had a runaway throwing out the old upright mahogany piano and two barrels of Mrs. Whalen's fine china. It didn't hurt the piano but her dishes were in bits and buried in the woods north of the house. As grandchildren, we would dig up bits to see what her dishes were like when we'd play house.

Mrs. Whalen didn't live long on the farm. She became ill and passed away at the age of forty-one in the year of 1913. Mr. Whalen lived on the farm until he was eighty-two years old. He passed away in 1934.

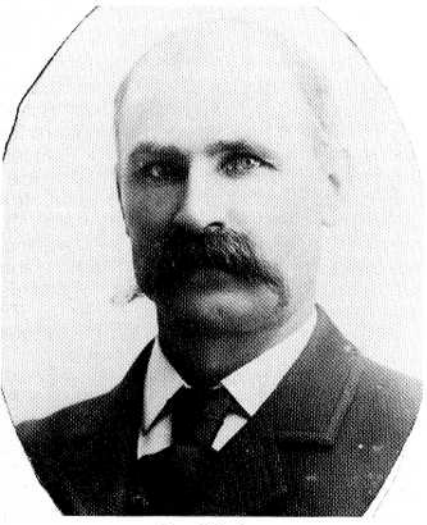
Tom Whalen and his son, at one time, farmed a section and a half. They believed in progress and the best in livestock and the latest advancements in machinery. They helped organize the County of Red Lake and were active as town board and school members. They worked hard for the best in St. Mary's Catholic Church at Red Lake Falls and also in setting up the cemetery. Along with the city council, at that time, they organized the first county fair in 1912. They showed their stock in many county fairs, also in state fairs and at the Chicago Fair, besides racing horses in many areas.

The Whalen farm was one of the first farms to be electrified. First a Delco plant was used and then when the Northern States Power Company went by the door, they hooked up to this power for water and an electric cream separator. The farm also had two telephones, a private line to St. Hilaire and the party line to Red Lake Falls.

George Whalen married Eva McAndress from St. Hilaire in 1914. They had nine children: Mary (Mrs. Chris Drees) of Red Lake Falls; Rose (Mrs. R. L. Guillemette) of Mankato; Thomas, married, lives in Minneapolis, Anne (Mrs. W. Nordby) of Missoula, Montana, deceased; Kieran, married, lives in Owatanna; Leone (Mrs. Douglas Anderson) of East Grand Forks; Grace (Mrs. Walter Thorson) of Kerkhoven; Joe, married, is a commander in the United States Navy at San Diego, California; and Kitty (Mrs. Ralph Gagnon) lives in Minneapolis.

The George Whalen family lived on the farm until October of 1941 then they moved to Red Lake Falls. They lived on third street where Walter LaPlante lives now. George Whalen worked at the tow mill until an accident at the yards caused his death in 1943.

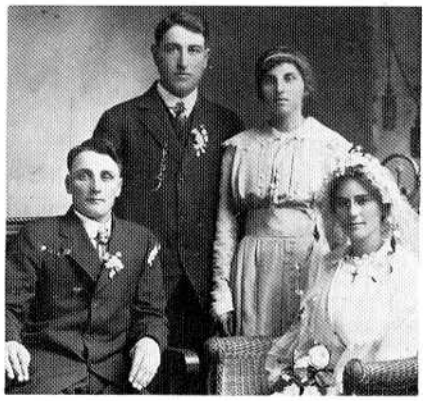
Mrs. George Whalen continued living on third street until 1945 when we bought the Henning's house. She lived in this home until November 1968, when she passed away.



Tom Whalen



Mrs. Tom Whalen



Art Wichterman wedding

ART WICHTERMAN AND ELIZABETH SCHMITZ

Art Wichterman and Elizabeth Schmitz, second child of Joseph and Louise Schmitz, were married in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls on October 16, 1916. They had 12 children. Their first children Eleanore and Pauline died as infants. Joseph was born in 1919 and died of scarlet fever at the age of five. Early in the year 1921, the family moved to a farm southwest of Red Lake Falls, where Elaine was born August 1, 1921, and Bernard July 31, 1923 (died of a heart attack June 1966). The family again moved back to the Plummer area, where Louis was born January 26, 1925; Alvin, October 10, 1926; Adeline, April 18, 1928; Lorraine February 7, 1930; Monica, 1932 (died at one and one-half years), Harvey, December 18, 1933; and Andrew November 10, 1937 (drowned June 29, 1955 at the age of 17.) Elizabeth Schmitz Wichterman passed away on Mother's Day, May 12, 1951. Besides the 12 children, there are 32 grandchildren (two deceased) and 12 great-grandchildren.

Most of his life, Art made his living as a farmer and carpenter. The earlier part of his life was spent building roads, with horses. Besides farming he worked in Kennewick, Washington on construction in 1947-48. Art is still very active at the time of this writing, driving tractor for surrounding Oklee farmers.

Elain (Mrs. Kenneth Moran) lives in Bloomington, Calif. Kenneth works for the postal department. They have seven children and 2 grandchildren.

Bernard "Ben" married Roma Varin. Ben died June 26, 1966. They have 11 children (1 deceased), and seven grandchildren. Roma and children reside in Buffalo.

Louis "Louie" married Mae Gagner and they are parents of six children. He lived in Red Lake County most of his life and moved to Hutchinson in 1972 where he and his family now reside. Louis owned a crop spraying business, and Mae was a teacher.

Alvin and his wife Rose (Smith) live in Falls Church, Virginia near Washington, D.C. with their two children. Al works for

the U.S. Security Service.

Adeline married Bill Griglac and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Lorraine married Marvin Olson who farms near Crookston and they have 6 children and three grandchildren.

Harvey lives in Duluth and is employed at Jeno's Pizza.

BERNARD "BEN" WICHTERMAN AND ROMA VARIN WICHTERMAN

Bernard "Ben" Wichterman was born on July 31, 1923, the son of Arthur Wichterman and Elizabeth Schmitz. Ben married Roma Varin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Octave Varin, on December 30, 1944. Ben served eight years in the Minnesota State Legislature, four years on the state ASCS Commission and five years on the State Junior College Board. Ben farmed a thousand acres of land near Plummer and operated an aerial crop spraying service for fourteen years. Ben died on June 26, 1966, at the age of forty-two years. Roma presently lives in Buffalo, Minnesota, where she owns and operates a beauty salon. Ben and Roma Wichterman had eleven children: Mary lives in Minneapolis and is employed at the Minneapolis Medical Research Foundation; Mike also lives in Minneapolis and is employed at the First National Bank. He is married to Shannon Narveson, the daughter of the Alfred Narvesons of White Hall, Wisconsin. They have one son; Patrick lives in Plummer where he is engaged in farming. He is married to Bonnie Hesse, daughter of the Floyd Hesses of Plummer, and they have two sons and one daughter; Bob lives in Minneapolis where he is employed at Hitchcock Industries. Bob is married to Diane Boucher, daughter of the Leonard Bouchers of Brooks. They are the parents of two sons and a daughter; Gordon also lives in Minneapolis and works for Hitchcock Industries. His wife is Sherry Olson, the daughter of the James Olsons of Minneapolis; James makes his home in Buffalo and is employed at Schlief Construction Company; Tom lives in Minneapolis and is employed at Aquaris Pools; Nancy, Judy, Jack and Glenn are students in the Buffalo school system.

LOUIS WICHTERMAN AND MAE GAGNER WICHTERMAN

Louis Wichterman, born January 26, 1925, on a farm near Plummer was the fifth child born to Arthur Wichterman and Elizabeth Schmitz. On November 21, 1926, on a farm west of Brooks, Mae Gagner was born to Robert Gagner and Rose Mercil Gagner. This made the Gagners very happy as their first chidl had died in infancy. Louis grew up around the Plummer Area, attended Plummer Area schools and helped around the family farm. When he was about twelve, the family moved to a farm north of Brooks. He remembers how they herded cattle from their farm north of Plummer to their new home. He attended Brooks school until they moved to a farm south of Plummer where he attended the Cloverland School, which was later consolidated with Plummer. He worked in lumber camps as a dozer operator and in 1942, went into the armed services and served in the Pacific Theater as a paratrooper.

In his absence, a neighborhood girl he knew as Mae Gagner had grown up. She still lived on the same farm one-half mile north of Brooks where the family moved when she was a year old. She attended school at Brooks, Plummer, Red Lake Falls and the Lafayette Teacher's Training Department and went on to teach a rural school west of Stephen, Minnesota. In later years, she continued her education at Northland Junior College, Moorhead State and graduated from Bemidji State in 1970.

On June 26, 1948, Louis and Mae were married at St. Joseph's Church in Brooks. They lived mainly in Red Lake County, in the village of Plummer from 1948 until 1952, then in Oklee for about a year. They moved to the North Shore at Silver Bay where Louis worked on Construction and maintenance of the Taconite Plant. In 1955, they moved to Crookston where Louis operated the Municipal Airport. In 1957, Louis purchased the Ted Clement home and school bus in Terrebonne and resided there for fifteen years while he drove the school bus and later managed the transportation system for Red Lake Falls schools. Through the years he has worked as a heavy equipment operator on road construction and as a carpenter and pilot. During the summer months he and his family were busy operating Wichterman Flying Service, an aerial spraying company.

Mae has taught school in various rural schools in Red Lake County, such as Terrebonne, Dorothy, Brooks, Oklee and also several years at Cathedral Grade School in Crookston.

Louis and Mae have six children: Kenneth (b. 1952), Jane (b. 1955), Gregory (b. 1959), Michael (b. 1960), Melissa (b. 1967), Sally (b. 1969).

The family moved to Hutchinson, Minnesota in the summer of 1972 and fondly remember their many friends and happy times in Red Lake County.

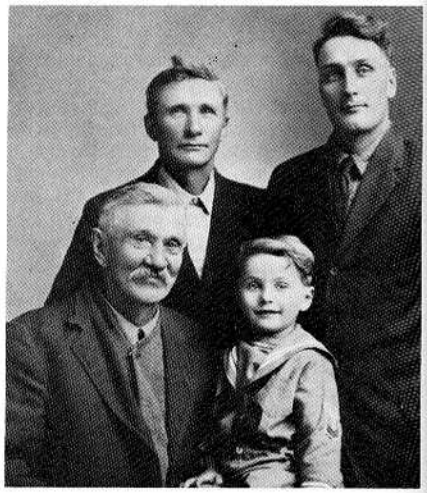


Louis Wichtermans

LEON WICHTERMAN AND KATHRYN O'BRIEN WICHTERMAN

In the late 1880's two young people formerly from the state of New York, decided to marry and make a life for themselves in Minnesota. Their names were Leon Edward Wichterman and Kathryn O'Brien. From this marriage nine children were born.

They first settled in Hill River Township, Polk County, where their son, Arthur, was born on May 30, 1892. Times were hard and many hardships were endured. Raymond was born April 2, 1894 and Jonas on November 23, 1896. The family moved to Chester Township in 1897 where Minnie was born on August 16, 1899 and Elsie on December 23, 1900. The family then moved to a farm then called "The school



Four generations Wichtermans

Section" near Gully and here Walter was born in 1902 and Evelyn in 1904. The family moved into Red Lake County on a farm east of Plummer in 1907 where the last of the children were born, Reno on March 9, 1910 and Alice on January 11, 1912.

Making a living in those days was very hard for everyone. Arthur tells of times when his father was away for long periods of time working in lumber camps or hauling straw or grain in order to make enough money to feed his family. At times, the children were left alone to feed themselves and get wood to keep warm while their mother went to care for a sick neighbor. Some of the children went out to work for their board and room at an early age. Arthur started by working at the livery stable in Plummer which was owned by his grandfather. In 1913 Arthur and his brother, Ray, rented a farm seven miles northeast of Plummer where they continued farming in partnership for a number of years. Ray married and Jonas moved in with brother Art. Art met and married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Schmitz, daughter of Joseph Schmitz, who was born in Wisconsin and Louise Schnirch who had been born in Austria and immigrated to our country at an early age.

Arthur and his sister, Elsie (Mrs. Herman Lillo), now make their home together in Oklee.

PAUL WICKS AND IDA PARSONS WICKS

Paul Herman Wicks and Ida Parsons were both immigrants to the United States. Paul was born in Germany on September 11, 1878, and had come to America with his family when he was two years old settling near Round Prairie. Ida Lundquist (Ingeborg Parsons) was twelve years old when she came to this country with her mother, Christine Parsons, a widow, and her brother Peter. Ida was born in Sweden on June 10, 1879. Her mother, Christine, later married Nels Lundquist.

Paul and Ida met in North Dakota where they had both worked during harvest season, he as a farm hand and she as a cook. They were married in 1906 and lived in Round Prairie until 1913 when they moved to Red Lake County, making their home in the Plummer area where Paul farmed and did farm labor most of his life.

Ida died in 1926 at age forty-seven when

their youngest child was only a few months old. Paul died in January of 1944 in a fire that destroyed his home. The children of Paul and Ida Wicks are Harry (b. 1907-d. 1971) Marie (b. 1909), Mrs. Elmer Hince; Leona (b. 1912), Mrs. Ray Grieves; Eva (Campbell) (b. 1914); Raymond (b. 1913); Helen (b. 1915); Mrs. Harold Utech; George (b. 1918) and Paul Herman, Jr. (b. 1926).

WICKSTROM FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Adolf Wickstrom came to Emardville Township in 1919. Mrs. Wickstrom resided on the farm with her son Oscar until her death in January, 1976. Mr. Wickstrom died in 1947.

O. A. Wickstrom and Anna Johanson were married in Harding County, South Dakota in 1912. Both had emigrated there from Sweden several years previously. They homesteaded in Glenlevit Township until 1919, when they moved to Emardville Township with their three children, Oscar, Olga and Mae. Four more children were born here: Anne, Gust, Harold and Victor.

Five of their seven children were in the service of their country. Oscar spent four years in the infantry division of the Army in New Guinea, Australia and the Philippines. Gust was in the Navy and gave his life in the second battle of the Philippines. Harold was in the Army in the European theater. Anne was in the Waves and Victor was in the Air Force.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Amundson (Olga) live in Erskine, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heggar (Mae) in Grand Forks, Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCook (Anne) in Dallas, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wickstrom (Viola Kettner) in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and Victor in Minneapolis.

The Wickstroms had fifteen grandchildren and four great granddaughters.

WALTER WIELAND FAMILY

Walter Wieland's grandparents came from Germany in 1848 and settled at Perryville, Ohio. Hearing about copper on the Great Lakes, the family moved to Beaver Bay in 1856. They went into the lumber business, cutting trees by hand and building their home. Later they began shipping lumber across the lake to Marquette, Ontonagen, and Hancock, Michigan. They had their own schooner named "Charlie" with which they made the many trips across the lake to bring back food stuffs for the family.

In 1856 they heard of gold up at Vermillion, so they shut down the mill and went searching. They found no gold, but the compass showed iron ore. With their five sons, they acquired 3000 acres of land but didn't have the money to develop it so they were forced to sell. This land is the present site of the Mesabi Range. The Wielands had a cemetery at Beaver Bay where just Wielands were buried. Silver Bay was built here but the cemetery was never disturbed. The Wieland family moved to Duluth, where Walter was born in 1894. In 1897 his mother passed away, and his father and brother moved to Fisher, Minnesota.

My grandparents came from Germany and settled in Wisconsin. My parents came to Fisher and also farmed. My father was Charles Wagner, my mother was Freda Michaels and I was born in 1901. Walter and I were married at Fisher in 1923 and farmed there until 1932, when our home and all our belongings were burned. In 1938 we moved to the Wylie area. We lived on and later bought the Ferd Gother farm. We have farmed all our lives and still live on the farm near Wylie. We have six children: Eleanor, the oldest, Mrs. Lawrence (Blackie) Casavan, is living near Red Lake Falls and is a secretary at Hillcrest. Kenneth and Alvis are single and living at home and farming. Henry married Marilyn Henke and they live near us. Donald married Audrey Hegg. They live in Crookston, where he works as a fireman at U.M.C. Technical College. Dean married Mae Holland and they live in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where he is a Civil Engineer. We have eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

We attend church at St. John's Lutheran Church at Red Lake Falls. Walter has served on the church board, school and town boards. He served in World War I from December 1917 until May 1919. Our son, Kenneth, served in World War II in the Japan Theater in 1945 to 1946. Alvis and Henry were both in the 47th National Guard Division and served in Korea in 1950 to 1952. Donald was in the Naval Air Force from 1956 to 1960. He served in Hawaii for some time.

Walter and I celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1973. Although retired and living in our farm home, we are in the best of health.

HENRY WIELAND

Henry is the son of the Walter Wieland's. He was born in Fisher where he attended a rural school until 1938 when his parents moved from the Fisher area to a farm Northwest of Red Lake Falls in Wylie Township. Henry then attended a rural school of Red Lake County until he completed the eighth grade. He helped his dad and brothers on the farm and also worked in the potato fields and hauled milk for the St. Hilaire Creamery.

Henry served in the National Guard and in the Korean War. When he returned from service he bought a farm with his brothers and they went into dairy and grain farming. From 1960 to 1961 he worked at the Alma Trailer Factory.

In the fall of 1961 Henry married the former Marilyn Henke who is the daughter of Clarence Henke, Sr. Marilyn was born in Grafton, N.D. She and her family moved to Red Lake Falls from Fordville, N.D. in 1947 when they bought the former Linnihan farm. Marilyn attended the rural schools and graduated from Lafayette High School. After the marriage of Henry and Marilyn they lived on the old Fred Weiss farm which was owned by his brother. From this farm they moved to the Gerlach farm which Henry and his brothers bought.

In 1963 Debra Lynn was born. She attended Washington school and is a student at Lafayette. In 1965 Todd Philip was born and is attending the Washington School. Kristi Ann was born in 1968 and is also attending the elementary school.

Henry served on the Louisville Township board as Chairman and was also an ASC Community Committeeman. Henry and Marilyn built a new home on a piece of land bought from Henry's father. Henry and his two brothers farm and operate a Grade A dairy farm and are on DHIA testing.

THE WILCOX FAMILY

In October of 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Wilcox and their two sons, Roy and Clifford, from Gilby, North Dakota, stopped in Red Lake Falls on their way to Thief River Falls, where they intended to buy a service station. The family had sold their farm



Stewart and Gladys Wilcox seated, Roy and Charlotte

because of the drought and economic depression of that time. The stop in Red Lake Falls for lunch that day changed their plans, as they liked the community so well they decided to make it their home.

They purchased a building from Charles Evenson which had formerly been a post office. The business located in this building at the time was was a grocery store and living quarters were situated at the rear of the building. That fall they began the construction of a service station across the street where the present business is now located.

In 1935, a year later, they discontinued the grocery business and started a David Park Ice Cream Parlor and also bought eggs and cream. Roy was the manager and they featured a triple-scoop ice cream cone for five cents with twenty flavors to choose from.

In 1939 they dropped their franchise and manufactured their own ice cream. In the meantime, their Texaco Station was enlarged and in 1938 a hamburger stand was added which was managed by Bob Fellman. Both the station and the cafe were open twenty-four hours a day.

Roy recalls that although the times were rough on the farm, trying to keep the new business going in the years from 1934 through 1940 were equally as difficult.

The family traded wood for gas and tires for heat in the winter. Stewart, Roy and Clifford also worked at other jobs to keep the business going.

On November 20, 1941, Roy married Charlotte Harris, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Harris of Oklee. They were married in Red Lake Falls at the First Presbyterian Church with Reverend Henry Lindholm officiating. In 1942 Roy entered military service and served for almost three years.

Clifford was also in service, stationed at Prince Rupert, Vancouver British Columbia. He married Jeanette Hanson Miller of Fertile in January of 1947.

In 1950, Clifford sold his interest in the service station and began a hardware store which was later sold to Clayte Paul and located in the present Eckstein building. Ada Wilcox operated the Ice Cream Parlor when Clifford and Roy were in service and Stewart operated the station. In November of 1956, Ada died and the store was sold to Steve Kanyusik.

Stewart Wilcox married Gladys Elliot on November 17, 1963. She was from Gilby, North Dakota and they make their home in Red Lake Falls.

The service station was added to several times and the creamery, located next door

and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Sig Bredeson, was purchased from its owner, Walter Johnson, in 1963. Later the two buildings were joined, forming the block-long store it is today. The business now handles plumbing and heating and T.V. repair and sells furniture, carpeting, appliances and T.V. and Stereo equipment. It is the largest home furnishing store in the northwest.

The business became a corporation in 1967 with Stewart serving as president, Roy as vice-president and Charlotte as secretary. Today the store employs from twenty to twenty-five people and has nine service and delivery trucks.

The Wilcoxs' say, "Our business was built by people (our customers and employees), not buildings, and we will do everything in our power to keep these people. Forty-one years of history has seen many changes in our business. We look forward to the decades ahead with appreciation, confidence and optimism, and above all else, 'We give thanks to the Lord from whom all Blessings flow'."

PAUL WILKENS FAMILY

In March 1946 the Paul Wilkens family took over the farm formerly owned by Art Lussier near Brooks.

Ruth was originally from Halstad moving to Crookston where she attended high school and following graduation in 1941 was employed by Bridgeman Company.

Paul was a resident of Crookston. He entered the United States Armed Services in 1940, serving in England, Europe and the Invasion of Normandy Beach. He received the Purple Heart and in 1945 was discharged as Second Lieutenant.

The Wilkins are members of the Brooks-Plummer Presbyterian Church where Paul has been a ruling elder and at present Ruth is an elder.

Both are members of the Plummer Legion and Auxiliary. They were also members of the Brooks Legion and Auxiliary, now discontinued. Paul is a supervisor of Poplar River Township.

Ruth worked at Hillcrest Nursing Home for approximately twelve years.

There are three children in the Wilkens family. Diane, who is married and living in Crookston. They have two boys and a girl. The oldest son, Dennis, lives near St. Hilaire and is a welding instructor in the Vocational School in Thief River Falls. He is married and has two girls and a boy. The youngest son is a Moorhead State University graduate with a degree in the Bachelor of Arts. He is now employed as Assistant Administrator of the Community Hospital in Ralette, North Dakota.

At present Paul is a part time farmer and a full time employee of American Crystal Company in Crookston where he has worked for nineteen years, the last four years as a full time employee.

DR. JOHN C. WILKINSON FAMILY

Dr. John C. Wilkinson, pioneer physician, practiced medicine in Red Lake Falls between the years 1901-1922, except for the two years he served in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army during WWI.

Born in Iowa, he graduated from the University of Iowa Medical School and began practicing medicine at Armstrong, Iowa. There he met and married Dora Glass, a daughter of John H. and Ellen Glass, in 1898. A son, Leslie, was born in 1899.

In 1901 they moved to Red Lake Falls. The first office and living quarters were upstairs in the Kaus Block. In 1903 twin daughters, Elizabeth and Marguerite were born.

Back in the horse and buggy (or sleigh) days, the country doctor had his own horse, which he cared for and "hitched up" in order to call on his patients. He was on call day and night in all kinds of weather. Sometimes he would hire a "rig" from the livery stable with a driver, especially in the winter time.

The coming of the "horseless carriage" was welcomed by the doctor and he was one of the first in the county to have an automobile. But ownership was not all pleasure. The roads were not built for cars and a tire patching kit and hand-pump were standard equipment. Passengers were almost a necessity for when one was stuck in the mud or sand, or stalled on a hill, they were expected to get out and push, or at least, to relieve the load.

In 1912, another daughter, Dorothy, was born. She died in 1914 and Elizabeth died in 1916.

Leslie and Marguerite both attended and graduated from Lafayette high school in Red Lake Falls. An unforgettable event was the burning of the old frame school building. It was a spectacular blaze, and there was much rejoicing by many students. However, temporary quarters were soon found and it was back to school.

Sports in those days were different. There was a town baseball team and everyone gave it their full support. High school sports were attended only by the students. Football was played without benefit of a stadium, with cheering section following the team up and down the field. The cheer leaders were the ones with the loudest voices. Basketball was played on an outdoor court and tennis was just beginning to be popular in the mid-teens. Golf was still some years away for Red Lake Falls.

In 1917 Dr. Wilkinson enlisted in the Army. He attended officer's training at Fort Riley, Kansas, and from there went to Love Field, Dallas, Texas, and then to Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas. He retired as a Major in the Reserves. He was the first American Legion Commander of the Post at Red Lake Falls.

The family moved to Donna, Texas in 1922 where they had a citrus orchard. In 1926 Dr. Wilkinson went to the Panama Canal Zone where he was a government doctor until his death in 1936. Mrs. Wilkinson returned to Donna to live until her death in 1968.

JOHN WILLIAMS FAMILY

Joanes Baptiste Willems was born in Eecloo, Belgium, June 1873, son of Louis Willems and Roselia Frederick. He married Maria Sophia Vervinckt June 1900. Maria was born in Eecloo, Belgium, June 1874, daughter of Edwardus Vervinckt and Amelia Verhas. They lived in Belgium until 1903. Hearing of the many opportunities and wonderful country of the United States they decided to come to America. Mr. Willems came first, followed by his wife and three small children a few months later. It took three weeks to cross the ocean by boat.

They went to East Moline, Illinois to live, where he was employed as a fireman in a smelting plant.

In 1910 the family moved to Hillsdale, Illinois where they farmed. Apple orchards were abundant and so were gypsy bands that roamed the countryside. The children were warned to be careful of them.

Hearing of rich farmland in the north, Mr. Willems set forth and purchased an 160 acre farm two miles west of Red Lake Falls in January 1915. In February the rest of the family followed and were met by bitter cold and snowdrifts. This was an experience for them.

Learning a new language was a new experience too. After much study Mr. Willems received the certificate which made him a naturalized citizen of the United States in July 1929 at the age of fifty-six. Here his name is Jon or John Williams.

Times were hard and farms proved to be self efficient. A walk to town with extra butter and eggs to sell was a means of earning money for things which couldn't be raised on the farm. There was an annual trip to the flour mill with meat to exchange for flour. Fall was the time most people replenished the meat supply as freezers were not common. Meat was preserved by canning and putting hams in salt and sugar cure. Some meat was fried, packed in crocks and sealed in lard.

There were fun times also. A sleigh ride to a nearby farm, found neighbors gathering for a fun Friday night. Young and old alike exchanged news, ideas, and dancing to the music of the old piano and fiddle. Everyone brought a dish of food for the lunch.

Mrs. Williams died in December of 1936, and Mr. Williams died in March of 1951.

Of the ten children, four survived: Rose of Minneapolis, (Mrs. Horace Bedard) who died in 1974; Raphael (Mrs. Frank Hagl) of Red Lake Falls; Gust of Red Lake Falls; and Ann (Mrs. Ernest Cardinal) of Brooks.

REV. LARRY WIESLER

Father Larry A. Wieseler was born in St. Helena, Nebraska, and attended schools there. His seminary training included Crosier Seminary, Onamia, Resurrection College at Kitchener, Ontario, and St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul.

Father Wieseler was ordained in 1969 and assigned to St. Peter's Church at Park Rapids. He was transferred to Sacred Heart Church, East Grand Forks, in 1971, and appointed pastor of the parishes of St. Joseph, Brooks, St. Anthony in Terrebonne, and St. Vincent dePaul in Plummer, August 1, 1972.



WOODROW WILSON FAMILY

Woodrow C. Wilson and Harriet Vinge Wilson came to Red Lake Falls in 1944 when Woodrow had accepted a job as the Farmer Union manager of Red Lake Falls. They resided in Klondike and have been there ever since.

Woodrow's father, Charles Wilson, was born in Cyrus, Minnesota, and married Cecilia Rygg. Cecilia was born in Norway and moved to United States at the age of three. They had six sons.

Harriet Vinge's father came to United States from Norway and married Thea Tollefson. She was born in Pope County, Minnesota. They had nine children.

Woodrow and Harriet have nine children:

Warren, a doctor of veterinary medicine, is married and living in Plain, Wisconsin.

Janice Wilson Bolstad is a registered nurse, married and living in St. Peter, Minnesota.

Darlene Wilson Mickelson attended a Secretarial and Cosmetology school, is married and now living in Brooklyn Center.

Richard, a West Point graduate, is a 1st Lt. stationed in Japan.

Byron is living in Red Lake Falls and going to school at Northland Community College. He also served three years in the United States Navy.

Scott is working and living in Red Lake Falls.

Kathy goes to school at University of Minnesota, Crookston.

Renae goes to Lafayette High School and Laurie is in Washington Elementary School.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson have three grandchildren, Brenda and Karen, daughters of Warren, and Kara Leah, daughter of Darlene.



Cor and Lee Woodard

CORWIN C. WOODARD FAMILY

Corwin C. and Lee Woodard with their daughter Sue moved to Crookston in January, 1962 to open the Detroiter Mobile Home Factory in Red Lake Falls. Cor Woodard was the first General Manager of the company and later promoted to Vice President and an officer of Detroiter Mobile Homes, Inc.

In 1967 Cor and Lee moved to Red Lake Falls leasing the Skala home and in 1970 built their present home on River Drive.

Cor Woodard, before joining Detroiter Mobile Homes in 1959, was District Manager for Sealtest Ice Cream Division of National Dairy Products now Krafco Corporation. His headquarters located in Pontiac, Michigan.

Cor was associated with the dairy industry for 19 years in the Pontiac area starting as a milkman, to Sales Representative for the ice cream division to Sales Manager and later District Manager for Sealtest Ice Cream Division of National Dairy Corporation.

Cor and Lee have two daughters, Linda Sue and Mrs. Carolynn Lasher, and one granddaughter, Kimberley Anne. Sue is laboratory technician for Dr. Quick in the University of Minnesota Hospital under cancer research. Carolynn Lasher is the Private Secretary to John Fetzer, owner of the Detroit Tigers and several Radio Stations in Michigan. Lee Woodard serves as Memorial Chairman of the American Cancer Society in Red Lake County and is a Board member of St. Johns Hospital Auxiliary.

Cor and Lee's hobbies are golf, boating, and fishing.

Cor is the District President of DMH Company, whose executive offices are in St. Louis, Michigan, a division of National Gypsum Company.

Lee's father, Daniel O'Brien, was born in Ireland and her mother, Jessica Gimson, in England. They were married in England and came to the United States in 1908 and settled in Pontiac, Michigan where Lee was born, the youngest of five children.

Cor was the youngest of five children and moved to Michigan with his mother and father and four sisters when four years old. He lived in the Detroit, Michigan area most of his younger life, graduating from Royal Oak High School in 1933.

WILLIAM WYLIE

William Wylie, born in 1850 in England, married Mary Jane Barnes in Ontario, Canada in 1874 where three daughters were born: Mary Lottie in 1875, Margaret Jane in 1877, and Martha in 1879.

The Wylie family moved to Crookston in 1880 and subsequently to the area in 1883, Polk Centre Township (Wylie) where he filed homestead rights June 30, 1883 on the NE ¼ of Section 25. A daughter, Ida was born May 1881. They had three more daughters, Jessie in 1884, Sylvia in 1886 and Sarah Helen in 1891, all in Wylie.

William Wylie was a school teacher and held classes in his home long before the Wylie school was built.

Finding it difficult to make a living for his family, William left in March, 1892 for Colorado to work in the mines. He never returned and an accident caused his death on July 25, 1901. Meanwhile, the Wylies had separated in 1896 and Mrs. Wylie married Andrew Letvig, a well digger. Mary Jane Wylie Letvig died in Wylie on October 6, 1901 and Mr. Letvig in 1947.

Jessie Wylie married Frederick Michael Schultz and their descendants are still in the county.



William and Mary Jane Wylie





ZAISER FAMILY

John Zaiser was born in 1825 in Germany and came to Red Lake Falls from Fergus Falls in 1886 looking for a place to homestead. It was the famous guide, Pierre Bottineau, who showed him around this heavily-timbered area and Mr. Zaiser decided the location had everything to make a big and booming town. Here were lumber and water power and natural beauty. He filed a homestead on land near the Marshall Dam. Later Mr. Zaiser sold his power site to Charles Kretschmar for $1400.

John Zaiser brought his family to Red Lake Falls from Fergus Falls in 1877 in a covered wagon pulled by a team of oxen. The trip took ten days. When they first arrived, John Zaiser built a small log cabin south west of Red Lake Falls in what is now Red Lake Falls Township section 33, and now known as the Carmody Farm. Later John Zaiser built a permanent dwelling on Champagne Avenue, the house that still stands today south of St. Joseph's convent. This structure is of hewn logs, now covered with siding and is one of the very first dwellings in Red Lake Falls. John Zaiser died March 17, 1886 and was buried in Fertile, Minnesota. Mrs. Zaiser sold the house on Champagne Avenue and acquired a house on Bottineau Avenue.

Her son, Fred, filed for homestead on the farm southwest of town in the name of an adult friend of the family as he was not of age. Fred worked on the railroad when he was a very young man and then on the first newspaper, the Gazette, started by Olie and Jim Holmes. He met his future wife, Tillie Daley, the daughter of Norwegian immigrants, when she was working in a hotel on the North Side. When the two young people decided to marry it became necessary to borrow some money. Fred thought $50 would be sufficient so he went to the bank. He was loaned the $50 at 24% interest for six months and the interest was deducted in advance from the loan. He, also, had to mortgage the cow his bride owned, his own cow and the team of horses given him by his father as well as the wagon and the harness. Fred and Tillie were married in his mother's house on Bottineau Avenue on March 26, 1889. After her sons's marriage, Mrs. Zaiser moved to Fertile to live with her sister, deeding her house in Red Lake Falls to Fred. Fred and Tillie lived their entire 70 years of married life in this house and it is now owned and occupied by their daughter, Mrs. Alice Baker.

During their first years of marriage, Fred and Tillie farmed and lived in the log cabin on the farm in the summer months, returning to the house in town in the winter. He also worked for a saw mill.

Fred sold the farm and started a livery business with his brother, Otto, where the Miller Ford Co. is now located. In 1910 they sold the livery business and started a construction business using genuine horse power. They built the first race track in Red Lake Falls on the old Fairground site where DMH is now located. Fred continued in the construction business until his retirement. Tillie Zaiser passed away October 13, 1959. Fred died March 3, 1961. Seven children were born to them and all survived



The Zaisers. *Back:* Myrtle, Jan, Gus, Louise and Hazel. *Front:* Alice, Mr. and Mrs. Zaiser and Robert.

them. Their children were Robert Zaiser, Mrs. Alice Baker, Mrs. Hazel LaCrosse (Henry), Mrs. Myrtle (Mel) Jorgenson, Gustav Zaiser, Mrs. Louise Huot Brostrom, and Mrs. Janette (George) Bourdon.

The following family history of Aslak Dale is pertinent to the family history of the John Zaiser family.

ASLAK DALE, GUNDERSON, DALEY (Depending upon the year)

Aslak, son of Gunder Dale, was born either in 1828 or 1834 in Norway. He came to the United States in 1854. He served as a private under the name of Aslak Gunderson (using his father's first name and adding the son) from 1862 to 1865 with Co. B. of the 19th Vol. Infantry Regiment, Wisconsin, during the war of Rebellion. According to an affidavit dated June 9, 1893, which he filed for pension purposes, he had chopped a toe off while cutting tent stakes down in Virginia, contracted rheumatism from marching and sleeping in mud and water, acquired eyesight because he was moon struck, and failing hearing which he attributed to concussion caused by heavy cannon fire while he was loading under attack near New Bern, Carolina.

After the war, he married Anne Berland. In a book "History of Fillmore County" written in 1882, Aslak Gunderson arrived in this township in 1855 and secured a stopping place in section twelve, where he remained until 1881 when he went to Dakota. Their daughter Josephine was born in May of 1881 in Red Lake Falls and the children born after that were born in the surrounding area indicating they never got that far.

Apparently he took the name of Dale when he went to Red Lake Falls because in 1888 he changed his last name from Dale to Daley. In 1899 the Aslak Daley family moved back to Fillmore County.

Their daughter Tillie married Fred Zaiser, March 26, 1889.

ZIMPEL FAMILY

Albert Zimpel was born in West Prussia, Germany, in July of 1861. When he was two years old, his family came to the United States and settled in the Arlington, Minnesota area. His father was engaged in bringing supplies from southern Minnesota to the north along the old Pembina Trail. Many times he was chased by Indians as he delivered his goods.

In 1898 Albert Zimpel was married to Ottilie Clara Kurtzweg in Arlington. Miss Kurtzweg was born during the Indian uprising in 1862. The Albert Zimpels moved to the Red Lake Falls area the same year they were married. He was a builder and contractor and built many of the first homes in the Red Lake Falls and Plummer areas. Many of these houses are still in use. Albert also helped build the Steinert Mill which at this time is being torn down. He also constructed many elevators in the newly settled areas of northern Minnesota and North Dakota.

In 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Zimpel moved to Gervais Township. They had two daughters, Melvina, Mrs. Ernest Gagnon of Terrebonne, and Ivy, Mrs. Newell Dale of Red Lake Falls. One son, Russell, still lives on the original homestead where he has lived for over sixty years.

Ottilie Zimpel also had two children by a previous marriage; Mrs. Pauline Hennings and William Neiland, both deceased. Mrs. Albert Zimpel died in April of 1931 and Albert died in 1947.

Russell Zimpel continued to farm the homestead and married Hulda Westerlund in September of 1923. He recalls that the area was almost all woods all the way to Red Lake Falls and in the evening the wolves could be heard howling.

Mrs. Zimpel was a teacher. The Zimpels had one daughter, Delores, Mrs. Roy Dale, of Bloomington, Minnesota, who has one son, Roy, Jr., Mrs. Roy Dale is a teacher in the Bloomington school system.

The Zimpels also had four sons: Russell, Jr. (Bud), is married to Arlene Rice and they have five children, Lynelle, Susan, Nancy, John and Diane. Bud is engaged in construction work and his wife teaches kindergarten in the Plummer School. They make their home in Plummer; Duane, injured in a car accident is residing at the Fargo Veterans Hospital; Richard died at the age of nine months of complications from whooping cough; James is engaged in farming and trapping in the Plummer area and is married to Ardith Hanson. They have one daughter, Sandra.

ANTON ZINS FAMILY

Anton and Clara Epper Zins and their children Mary and Edward, came to Red Lake Falls from Fulda, in the year 1913 to settle on a farm one mile west of the city on the Red Lake river.

Anton was born to Wilhelm and Johanna Elizabeth Stocken Zins in 1869 at Swan Lake in Nicollet County. He had six brothers: Cornelius, Joseph, (who also came to Red Lake Falls to live), Peter, Henry, Adam and Hubert, and two sisters, Kate and Lizzie, who was Mrs. John Johanneck, Sr. of Red Lake Falls. Clara Epper was born to Adam and Anna Schons Epper in 1871 at Swan Lake. Anton and Clara were married in 1890. Four children were born to them at Fulda: Mary (Mrs. Joseph Platt, Red Lake Falls) born in 1891; Edward Adam born in 1894; Elizabeth born in 1896 and died in 1904; Lawrence born 1898 and died in 1903.

Anton and Clara Zins and their son Edward were successful farmers. They raised registered shorthorn cattle for many years. Anton served several terms on the town board and was Chairman of the Red Cross for Red Lake Township during World War I. A story deviating from the farm scene, yet related to the Zins farm, was about a day in May 1927, very shortly after Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic, that Anton planted an ash tree in remembrance of the crossing. The family has always called the tree the Lindy tree, and it stands to this day, in its very special place in the center of the yard. Little did Anton realize that one day on September 2, 1935 Charles Lindbergh would land his plane on the Kirschman farm, across the fence from the Lindy tree.

Clara Epper Zins died suddenly on October 3, 1927 of a heart attack. Anton retired from farming in 1936 and moved to Red Lake Falls, purchasing the home now occupied by the William Ford family on the North Side. He died on June 8, 1945 of a heart condition.

On June 14, 1921 Edward Adam Zins married Irene Rose Schusser, and continued farming with his parents. Ed was an avid sports enthusiast. He played first base with the Red Lake Falls team from 1915 to 1923. Each fall, plowing interferred with his listening to the World Series or the Minnesota football games. But in the latter thirties, with the pleasure of a car radio, Irene would have to plan to spend some time at the field and at every round of the field he would stop for a play-by-play report of the games.

Two daughters were born to Ed and Irene: Phyllis Mae in 1925 and Jean Marie in 1930. Phyllis graduated from Lafayette High School in 1943 and until 1948 was employed at the Red Lake County State Bank. On June 28, 1948 she married Navy Lieutenant (jg) Lee Anthony Theroux of Crookston. A daughter Renee Mary was born to them in 1954, at Oaknoll Naval Hospital, Oakland, California. On March 22, 1955 Lt. Lee Theroux died in a plane crash on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii. Phyllis and Renee returned to Red Lake Falls and purchased the former Sam E. Hunt home. Phyllis became the receptionist-bookkeeper for the Red Lake Falls Clinic until June 2, 1960 when she married Valerian Marchildon, an Elementary Supervisor and Audio-Visual director of the Mt. Iron, Minnesota school district. Five children were born: Janine Anne 1961, Laura Jean 1962, Martha Jean and Michael John 1964, and Mark Thomas born in 1966. Renee Mary Theroux graduated from Mt. Iron High School in 1972. In 1976 she will graduate from the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing.

Jean Marie Zins graduated from Lafayette High School in 1948. She was



Irene and Ed Zins

employed as a bookkeeper at the Thief River Falls Paint and Glass until 1949 when she married Arthur Storhaug of Thief River Falls. Art is now a County Engineer in Rice County and they reside in Faribault. Five boys were born to them: Brent Arthur in 1950; Gregory Edward 1954; Lee Jonathon 1959; Todd Mathew 1962, and Eric Jason born in 1968. Brent graduated from Benson high school in 1968 and attended the University of Minnesota, Morris for one year then enlisted in the Army for two years. On May 10, 1975 Brent married Ann Marie Arens at Moorhead. He will graduate from Moorhead State College in December 1975 with a Bachelors degree in Accounting. Gregory is in the Navy.

Ed and Irene Zins moved to Red Lake Falls in 1948 and in 1956 purchased the former Otto Zaiser-John Bendel-Steve Kanyusik home in the Hollow. Ed continued farming and also worked as a janitor at Lafayette High School until ill health forced his retirement in 1961. Edward Zins died on July 17, 1968.

Irene Zins continues to enjoy her leisure years with relatives and friends. She busies herself with the farm which she still owns and which is rented by Francis Schmitz.

JOE ZINS FAMILY

Joe Zins, born in Nicollet County, Minnesota, was a widower with a teenage son, Richard, when he married Mary Weinhandl, a childhood immigrant from Austria, in St. Paul. They settled in Red Lake Falls, first in the vicinity of the Charley Kruse home, later near St. Mary's Church, both on the North Side, and still later on a farm east of town which Joe and Richard had opened for farming. Meanwhile, Mr. Zins was a well-driller, at first using horses for power, later graduating to a Fordson tractor which Richard and Roman used for some years to continue drilling wells.

The first child, Antionette, was stillborn, in 1914. She was followed by Flora born in 1915 before the family moved near the church. Roman was next, then Louise, Laura, and Ben. Rita, Francis, and Theresa (who died at 7 months) were born in the farmhouse built by father and son a mile east of town. There was only a trail along the river for the older children to plod along on their way to Washington school, after to St. Joseph's school in town. Later Highway 32 came in and horse transportation gave way to the Model T, then a Model A Ford. Eventually a phone was installed, and much later electricity replaced kerosene lamps and a gasoline lantern. Flora graduated from Lafayette high school.

Laura contracted polio at the age of 4, during the epidemic. Gillette hospital and two devoted St. Paul aunts restored partial mobility but she remained an invalid and the only one not to marry and raise a family. Mr. Zins died in 1932 followed by his wife in 1934. Flora had just completed Teachers Training and taught in county schools eight years before marrying a serviceman, Frank Allison, and living in various parts of the country for several years. Roman became a furnace and refrigeration man out of Crookston; Louise married a farmer near Greenbush; Laura, Ben and Francis settled in the Twin Cities where the brothers operated street cars and later buses, before becoming maintenance men in city schools. Rita married and moved to Moorhead, Richard died suddenly in 1970, Flora moved to Thief River Falls with her two small children, working at the Times and later in the public library. She married Ben Hagglund in 1972 and is now a widow.

CHARLES ZUTZ FAMILY

Charles Zutz was the second son of Michael and Christina (Schultz) Zutz who came to the United States with his parents and his brother, John, in 1853 from Prussia, Germany, where he had been born in 1852. They settled at Buffalo, New York, and later moved to Manitowac, Wisconsin, where seven more children were born. Of these Charles, Henry, Adolph and William were Red Lake County Pioneers.

Charles came in 1880 by ox and horse team and settled on a homestead on what is now Wylie Township. He built a one-room log house and lived in it for several years. His first friends were Indians who stopped in on their way to Crookston, then the county seat. He broke up his land with an ox and horse and did hunting and fishing, for at that time there was much wild game, such as prairie chickens, partridges and ducks. The woods were full of wild fruit and nuts and strawberries in the meadows. We caught fish in the Black River that passed thru the homestead. There were many snakes and birds who controlled the insects and other pests.

In 1883 Charles returned to Wisconsin where he married Pauline Drager of Collins. They came back to the Red Lake County homestead and lived in the log house until they built a frame dwelling. When it burned down in 1900, the family moved into a granary and woodshed until a house of six rooms, a pantry and washroom was erected. This still stands today. A family of nine grew up on the homestead, one-and half miles from the Wylie Village where they sold farm produce and bought groceries and staple clothing. Besides grain, the Zutzes raised colts, calves, pigs, lambs, chickens, ducks and bees. Each son was promised a team of horses if he helped with farm work until the age of twenty-one. Walter, Arnold and Louis earned their rewards.

Adeline, the first daughter, was married to the Rev. Val Kern, then pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church located two miles south of Wylie. Charles was a charter member of this congregation and held various offices on the council and also served on town and school boards.

Theodore, the first son, enlisted in the United States Army at an early age and served for six years. After marriage, he settled in California.

Carl, the third child learned cheese making with relatives in Wisconsin. He returned to Wylie where he was manager and operator of the Wylie cheese factory.

Walter, remained on the home farm until 1920 when he went to Yakima, Washington, to work for a telephone Company. After his marriage, he maintained a fruit ranch.

Arnold was born in 1892 and remained on the farm until his marriage in 1914 to



Lydia Gerlach. Then he was employed on the Daniel Gerlach farm until 1916, when they moved to Red Lake Falls, and he was bartender for Knoll and Miller until prohibition in 1919. After a season on the William Krueger farm, they returned to Red Lake Falls where Arnold was employed as maintenance man for the Minnesota Highway Department from 1921 to 1934, at which time he was employed by Red Lake Falls Liquor Supply.

In March 1946 they moved to Richland, Washington where he worked for General Electric until age sixty-five and retired. They returned to Red Lake Falls where both have been active in community affairs. He served as foreman of the mainstream crew which planted evergreens about town and did various other jobs. Lydia has been active in her church and with community programs helping with the formation of the local garden club and senior citizen group.

The Arnold Zutz children are Willard, Verna and Faith all born in Red Lake Falls and graduates of Lafayette High School. Willard served in United States Air Corps during World War II. He was engaged in farm equipment sales in Red Lake Falls until 1957 when he began selling insurance. He now owns a farm in Emardville Township and farms with his sons Marvin and Daniel.

Verna, was a telephone operator for Garden Valley under Charles Kundert. She was married to Duane Fellman in 1940 and resides at Richland, Washington, where Duane is employed as a sheet metal mechanic.

Faith, born 1926, graduated from Lafayette and completed a nursing program at Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was married to Allen Huot in 1947. They had six children: Thomas, Steven, Brenda, Jeffrey, Carol and Ann.

Allen died in 1966, and the family moved to Moorhead where Faith was employed as nurse supervisor of the Americana Nursing Home. In 1973 she married Jorgen Knutson, a progressive Red Lake county farmer.

Clara Vera, the second daughter of Charles Zutz, was born 1894 and was married to Rudoph Helm in 1919. He was a World War 1 Veteran and for many years was a painter and decorator in Red Lake Falls with his father, Nick Helm. He served as alderman on the city council for fourteen years.

Elsie was married to William Housman and farmed near Delhi, Minnesota, where he was accidentally killed by a falling branch while he was chopping wood.

Mathilda was married to John Busse and lived at Virginia and Duluth, where John was employed by Bell Telephone Company.

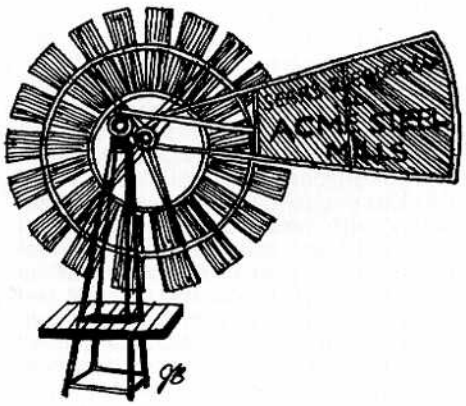
Louis the youngest son farmed the homestead after his parents' death. He was married to Frieda Busse in 1928. They have eight children all raised on the old farm home and graduated from Red Lake Falls High School. Louis was engaged in trucking for many years and served as town clerk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The preparation of this history of Red Lake County required the cooperation of many persons. We are indebted to the many people throughout the county who contributed their time and talents in securing information and pictures for this book. The volunteers who canvassed their towns and townships, interviewing people and scouring old records, those who worked on family histories, rewriting and editing, and the typists who "polished" the material to make it ready for the publisher. All cared enough to give, without compensation, many hours of their time in order to preserve the history of our county and its people. We thank them.

If this book leaves with you the feeling that you know your forefathers better and you can say "I'm glad to have this record", then our purpose will be fulfilled.

Anne Healy
Sherry Kankel
co-editors



Art work contributed by Jolene Bonde

Aakhus, Miles, 134
Aakhus, Talak, 259
Aaknes, Anna, 55
Aaknes, B. D., 54
Aaknes, O. D., 54
Aaknes, Tellef, 55
Aalbu, Vic, 352
Aanenson, Norman, 154
Aasmund, Margette, 171
Aastad, District President, 61
Abbot, Daisy, 37
Abel, Mrs. Bob, 250
Abeld, Mary, 271
Abell, Mr. & Mrs. August, 264
Acker, Muriel, 163
Ackerman, Betty, 208
Adams, Mrs. Rick, 293
Adams, S. F., 53
Adams, S. M., 53
Adelman, Margaret, 134
Adler, Anita, 293
Adler, Cara, 152
Adler, Edward & Margaret, 181
Adler, Edward, 152, 293
Adler, Lucille, 152
Adler, Mae, 152, 181, 272
Adler, Martha, 152, 193
Adler, Mr. & Mrs. Richard, 193
Adler, Nieland, Nita, 106, 152
Adler, Richard, 105, 152, 364
Adrian, Julias, 45
Albrechtson, Mrs. Emil, 225
Aldrich, A., 41
Aldrich, Mrs Adolph, 46
Allard, Addis (Longtin), 152, 272
Allard, Agnes (Paul), 152, 303
Allard, Amilia (Miller), 152, 288, 291
Allard, Delia (Minor), 152
Allard, Elizabeth (Boileau), 152
Allard, Joseph M., 152
Allard, Margaret (Patnode), 152
Allard, Maria (Patnode), 152
Allard, Molly (Buse), 152, 173
Allard, Mose & Modeste, 303
Allard, Moses, 67,152, 272
Allard, Samuel, 67, 152
Allard, Thomas, 144
Allen, Leona, 139
Allison, Frank, 373
Almond, Mrs. George, 251
Almquist, Laura, 139
Almquist, Mrs Woodrow, 196
Alsted, John, 105
Altendorf, Mrs. Theodore, 169
Altepeter, Dorothy, 123
Altepeter, Michael, 95
Altepeter, Richard, 95
Am End, Rev. Herman, 121
Amdahl, Lauren H., 116, 117
Ames, Bros., 144
Ames, Hannibal, 143
Ames, Mary M., 144
Amiot, Adrian, 152, 153
Amiot, Albert, 152
Amiot, Albina, 152
Amiot, Alda, 152, 153
Amiot, Allen, 153
Amiot, Alma, 153
Amiot, Anna, 152
Amiot, Armand, 152, 153
Amiot, Arthur, 152
Amiot, Bernice, 153
Amiot, Bert, 153
Amiot, Bonita, 153
Amiot, Celina, 152, 153
Amiot, Clarence, 153
Amiot, Curtis, 153
Amiot, Darlene, 153
Amiot, David, 153
Amiot, Debra, 153
Amiot, Delia, 152
Amiot, Delima, 152
Amiot, Denny, 153
Amiot, Dewey, 153
Amiot, Domina, 152, 328
Amiot, Dona, 152
Amiot, Donald, 153, 263
Amiot, Doria, 152
Amiot, Edgar, 152, 153
Amiot, Elaine, 153
Amiot, Eli, 153
Amiot, Floreani, 152
Amiot, Francis, 152, 153
Amiot, Fred, 153
Amiot, Genevieve 'Jean', 153, 334
Amiot, Georgianna, 153
Amiot, Gidia, 152
Amiot, Gordon, 153
Amiot, Gresielia, 152
Amiot, Harry, 153
Amiot, Henrietta, 153, 156
Amiot, Homer, 153
Amiot, Irene, 152
Amiot, Isadore, 152, 153, 334
Amiot, Jean, 333
Amiot, Jerome, 153
Amiot, John Baptiste, 152, 153
Amiot, Joseph, 152
Amiot, Kevin, 153
Amiot, Leah, 153
Amiot, Leo, 152
Amiot, Leodore, 153
Amiot, Lloyd, 153
Amiot, Lorraine, 153
Amiot, Louis, 153
Amiot, Mabel, 156
Amiot, Mable, 152
Amiot, Madeline, 153, 318
Amiot, Madonna, 153
Amiot, Marcella, 153
Amiot, Marilyn, 153
Amiot, Marvin, 153
Amiot, Mary Jean, 276
Amiot, Meddie, 152
Amiot, Meriza, 152
Amiot, Michael, 153
Amiot, Mrs. Rene, 316
Amiot, Napoleon, 152
Amiot, Noah, 152
Amiot, Olivine, 152
Amiot, Oscar, 152, 153
Amiot, Patricia, 334
Amiot, Patrick, 153
Amiot, Philip, 360
Amiot, Reina, 152
Amiot, Richard, 153
Amiot, Rolalie, 153
Amiot, Roland, 153
Amiot, Romona, 153
Amiot, Rosana, 152
Amiot, Rosina, 152
Amiot, Theodore, 152
Amiot, Theresa, 153
Amiot, Thomas, 153
Amiot, Ursula, 153
Amiot, Victor, 153
Amiot, Victoria, 153
Amiot, Viola, 153
Amiot, Virginia, 152
Amiot, William, 153
Amiot-Fortier, Corina, 152
Amiot-Peltier, Corina, 152
Amundson, Al, 293
Amundson, Alvin & Barbara, 153
Amundson, Heidi Lynn, 154
Amundson, Lynette, 154
Amundson, Mr. & Mrs. Otto, 369
Amundson, Mrs. Austa, 309
Amundson, Paul, 154
Amundson, Rev. Robert, 47
Amundson, Verna, 340
Anda, Alfred, 298
Anda, Leonard, 298
Anda, Lorraine, 298
Anda, Morland, 298
Anda, Stanley, 298
Andersen, Eleanora, 325
Andersoen, H. F., 143
Anderson, A. S., 138
Anderson, Adele, 154
Anderson, Adella M., 206
Anderson, Agnes, 154, 345
Anderson, Andrew, 55
Anderson, Anton, 147, 148
Anderson, Bella, 324
Anderson, Bertine, 268, 346
Anderson, Christina, 87
Anderson, Earl, 134
Anderson, Ed., 59, 60, 240
Anderson, Eddie, 283
Anderson, Elizabeth, 215
Anderson, Eloise, 45
Anderson, Emil, 25
Anderson, Esther, 154
Anderson, Frank, 206
Anderson, Fred, 37
Anderson, Gloria, 280
Anderson, Glorian, 281
Anderson, Godfrey, 154
Anderson, Gordon, 328
Anderson, Goro & Ole, 268
Anderson, Gustaf, 154
Anderson, Hannah, 154, 219
Anderson, Harry, 68, 154
Anderson, Ida, 208
Anderson, Jodi Lynn, 283
Anderson, Johanna, 362
Anderson, John, 144
Anderson, Knute R., 46, 60, 240
Anderson, L. M., 53
Anderson, Marlys, 117
Anderson, Mary, 240
Anderson, Mavis, 234, 256
Anderson, Mrs Hulda, 49, 154
Anderson, Mrs. Charles, 196
Anderson, Mrs. Christie, 309
Anderson, Mrs. Douglas, 367
Anderson, Mrs. Linda, 202
Anderson, Mrs. Paul, 352
Anderson, Mrs. Vincent, 344
Anderson, Nancy, 46
Anderson, Ole, 35, 38
Anderson, Olga, 55
Anderson, Otto Fred, 154
Anderson, Paul, 139
Anderson, Peter, 35
Anderson, Robert, 56
Anderson, Ruth, 352
Anderson, Segrid, 154, 355
Anderson, Signe, 55
Anderson, Stener, 53
Anderson, Swan, 10, 11, 18

Anderson, Tilda, 37
Anderson, Valla, 55
Anderson, Victor, 154
Anderson-Tillman, Sigrud, 277
Andrea, Sr., 122
Andreasen, Ragna, 204
Andreason, Donald, 280
Andreason, Inga, 280
Andreason, Patricia, 280
Andreason, Verne, 280
Andrews, Kathy, 287
Andrews, Kris, 287
Andrews, Monte, 287
Andrews, Ray, 287
Andrews, Sherri, 287
Andvik, Mrs. Mike, 208
Arcand, Mildred, 198
Archambault, Father L., 75
Archambault, Father, J., 84
Archambault, Mrs. Leo, 298
Archambeault, Eli, 144
Archer, Father Donald, 119
Arel, Marion, 310
Arel, Mrs Vitcoria, 195
Arens, Ann Marie, 373
Argue, Dr. John, 236
Arlt, Alice, 154, 252
Arlt, Arnold, 154
Arlt, Arthur, 154
Arlt, August, 154, 219
Arlt, Ben, 154
Arlt, Elenora, 154
Arlt, Evelyn, 154, 359
Arlt, Gary, 154
Arlt, Gladys, 154
Arlt, Hattie, 355
Arlt, Herbert, 219
Arlt, Irvin, 154
Arlt, Leslie, 154
Arlt, Lloyd, 154
Arlt, Lowell, 154
Arlt, Mr. & Mrs. August, 154
Arlt, Mrs. Arnold, 215
Arlt, Nora, 355
Arlt, Rebecca, 154
Arlt, Rosemary, 154
Arneson, Ole, 255
Arntson, Edward, 45, 46
Arntson, Mr & Mrs Edward, 49
Arpin, Father L., 84
Arpin, Father S., 75. 119
Arvenson, Ida, 218
Arvesen, Mrs. Carl, 306
Arveson, Albin, 53
Arveson, Alex, 53
Arveson, Swen, 60
Arveson, Verner, 25
Arvidson, Bruce, 155
Arvidson, Janelle, 155
Arvidson, Mark, 155
Arvidson, Mavis, 123, 155
Arvidson, Mr. & Mrs. Arnold, 154
Arvidson, Mrs. Roger, 340
Arvidson, Roger & Mavis, 154
Arvidson, Roger, 116, 155
Asbjornson, Gunder, 60
Asklund, Anna, 204
Asp, Charles, 35, 37
Aspevig, Mrs. Roger, 366
Asselin, Adeline, 231, 332
Asselin, Amanda, 232
Asselin, Bernice, 155
Asselin, Celene, 155
Asselin, Cleophas (Clifford), 76, 155, 232
Asselin, Cora, 155
Asselin, Cyprien Jr., 232
Asselin, Cyprien, 155, 193, 231, 232
Asselin, Donald, 292
Asselin, Eliza, 232
Asselin, Elmire, 232
Asselin, Elzima, 76
Asselin, Harvey, 155
Asselin, James, 292
Asselin, Joseph, 155, 232, 292
Asselin, Kenneth, 292
Asselin, Lucille, 155
Asselin, Malvina, 175, 193, 232, 272
Asselin, Mary, 232, 291
Asselin, Mayme, 155
Asselin, Monica, 291
Asselin, Mr., 77
Asselin, Mrs. Joe, 88
Asselin, Mrs. Stephen, 291
Asselin, Onezime 'Pete', 155
Asselin, Onezime, 76, 232
Asselin, Parmelia, 76, 155
Asselin, Robert, 292
Asselin, Rose, 155, 267
Asselin, Rosilda, 170, 231, 232, 288
Asselin, Thomas, 155
Asselin, Victoria, 232
Asselin, Walter, 88, 155
Astor, John Jacob, 7
Atchison, Rev. Glenn, 49, 122
Athier, Arther, 268
Audette, Adeline, 156
Audette, Clifford, 156
Audette, Colleen, 155, 277, 278
Audette, Daniel, 155
Audette, Dean, 177
Audette, Diana, 155
Audette, Elaine, 287
Audette, Eli, 156
Audette, Elizabeth, 153
Audette, Florence, 156
Audette, Gerald, 242, 278
Audette, Gregory, 177
Audette, James, 242
Audette, Jason, 155
Audette, Jerry, 155
Audette, Jimmy, 155
Audette, John, 97, 155, 242
Audette, Judy, 155
Audette, Karen, 155, 217
Audette, Laurie, 155
Audette, Lawrence, 155, 365
Audette, Leon, 236
Audette, Leonard, 156
Audette, Leroy, 134, 155
Audette, Lester, 156
Audette, Lou Ann, 155
Audette, Mary Jo, 155
Audette, Michele, 155
Audette, Michelle, 242
Audette, Mike, 177
Audette, Monica, 155, 242
Audette, Mr. & Mrs. Norman, 242
Audette, Mr. & Mrs.,Paul, 155, 287
Audette, Mrs. Ephrame, 284
Audette, Mrs. Exzeua, 284
Audette, Mrs. Lawrence, 262
Audette, Mrs. Pat, 321
Audette, Mrs. Raoul, 361
Audette, Mrs. Walter, 23
Audette, Mrs. Zotique, 169
Audette, Noella, 26
Audette, Norman & Nora, 155, 278
Audette, Pauline, 156
Audette, Peter, 236
Audette, Pierre, 109, 156
Audette, Rebecca, 155
Audette, Reese, 155
Audette, Reynold, 155
Audette, Scott, 155
Audette, Stephen, 155
Audette, Terry, 155
Audette, Theresa 'Terry', 365, 366
Audette, Wilfred, 156
Audette, Zotique, 156
Audler, Aneta, 31
Aulneau, Father, 313
Austad, G. O., 53
Austad, Gunder G., 81, 124, 125
Austad, Rev. I. T., 46
Ayotte, Theresa, 338
Azelson, Martha, 344
Baatz, Donna, 299
Babb, Ruth, 248
Bach, Everett H., 271
Bachand, Alfred, 156, 157
Bachand, Anatole, 156
Bachand, Anthony, 157
Bachand, Antonio and Vitaline, 231
Bachand, Antonio, 76, 156, 157
Bachand, Bella, 156
Bachand, Charles, 157
Bachand, David, 157
Bachand, Dennis, 157, 298
Bachand, Elizabeth, 157
Bachand, Emma, 157, 231
Bachand, Germain, 156
Bachand, Karin, 157
Bachand, Kimberly, 157
Bachand, Laura, 157
Bachand, Margaret, 157
Bachand, Mary, 157
Bachand, Maybelle, 157
Bachand, Michael, 157, 167
Bachand, Michele, 157
Bachand, Onezime, 156, 157
Bachand, Vitaline, 76, 157
Bachand, Wilfrid, 156
Bachand, Zelia Martin, 76
Bache, Arnold, 157, 201
Bache, Nellie, 273
Bachman, Herb, 170
Backlund, Darleen, 359
Bade, Pastor Immanuel, 48, 121, 250
Bagan, Grace, 143
Bahner, Mrs. Ed., 232
Bakalyar, Stephen, 117
Baker, Alice, 106
Baker, Darlene, 157
Baker, Dorothy, 157
Baker, Emma, 258
Baker, Joseph Jr., 157
Baker, Joseph, 157
Baker, Lorena & Enos, 351
Baker, Miss, 45
Baker, Mrs. Alice, 371, 372
Baker, William, 157
Bakke, Alma, 207
Bakke, Mr & Mrs Herbert, 89
Bakke, Myrna, 89
Baldwin, Florence, 307
Baldwin, Marie, 15
Balkins, Mrs. Florence, 316
Balluff, Rev. Ignatius, 112, 119
Balmer, James, 191
Balstad, Jens, 54
Balstad, Mrs., 54
Baluarte, Mrs. Jorge, 343

Bambenek, Mrs. Michael, 303
Bammerud, Beatrice, 55
Bammerud, Elvin, 61
Bammerud, Emma, 55
Bammerud, Johnm, 60
Bangs, Sadie Bangs, 127
Banson, David, 162
Barackman, Rev. R. L., 49
Barber, Mrs. H. L., 295
Barendse, Mike, 223
Baril, Adrian, 157
Baril, Art & Mayme, 158
Baril, Arthur, 188, 217, 278
Baril, Barbara, 158
Baril, Bonnie, 158
Baril, Cecelia, 157, 205
Baril, Dale, 158
Baril, Diana, 157
Baril, Diane, 181
Baril, Doria, 157, 205, 350
Baril, Elizabeth, 318
Baril, Ildage 73, 105, 157, 158, 181, 278
Baril, Jack, 158
Baril, James, 158
Baril, John, 158
Baril, Kathie, 158
Baril, Kent, 158
Baril, Mary, 157, 278
Baril, Mona, 158
Baril, Mrs. Mary, 210
Baril, Mrs. Richard, 353
Baril, Myrtle, 190
Baril, Norbert, 318
Baril, Odile, 158
Baril, Pauline, 158, 217
Baril, Phoebe, 158
Baril, Richard, 158
Baril, Susan, 158, 319
Baril, Theophile & Myrtle, 158, 319
Baril, Tim, 158
Baril, Valerie, 178
Barnes, Mary Jane, 340, 371
Barr, Dr. R. N., 122
Barras, Rev. J. M., 142
Barrette, Elise, 194
Barrette, Louis Henry, 132
Barrette, Mary Dina, 132
Barrette, Norbert & Josephine, 133
Barrow, Frances, 295
Barrow, Mrs. Merle, 314
Barrow, Mrs. Ralph, 331
Barsness, Adolph, 158, 159
Barsness, Clarence, 158
Barsness, Lovina, 159
Barsness, Melvin, 158
Barsness, Mr. & Mrs., 159
Barsness, Mrs. Peder, 62
Barsness, Myrtle, 158, 204
Barsness, Peder, 158
Bartholemew, Cecile, 223
Bartholomay, Fern, 207
Bartholomew, Cecill, 159
Bartholomew, Eva, 159
Bartholomew, Harold, 159, 223
Bartholomew, Mary, 159, 223
Bartholomew, Truman, 159, 223
Bartolone, Mrs. Steve, 310
Baseman, Hazel, 44, 45
Bassett, E. V., 181
Bassinger, Allen, 367
Battenfeld, Jessie, 45
Baumgartner, Mr., 180
Baune, Norman, 41
Bausch, Pete, 73
Beadles, Harry, 26
Beatles, Norma, 116
Beauchamp, Philangie, 318
Beauchane, Alice, 160
Beauchane, Alton, 125, 160
Beauchane, Dorine, 337, 338
Beauchane, Felix, 91, 159, 160, 360
Beauchane, Joseph, 159
Beauchane, Leo, 160
Beauchane, Medy, 160, 215, 338
Beauchane, Mrs. Medy, 195
Beauchane, Napoleon, 159
Beauchane, Octave, 91, 94, 159, 160
Beauchane, Omer, 160
Beauchane, Rose, 160
Beauchane, Victor, 160
Beauchane, Viola, 160, 360
Beauchane, Yvonne, 160
Beauchene, Athanase, 91, 94
Beauchene, Mrs. Francis, 289
Beauchene, Victoria, 143
Beaudet, Marie Louise, 359
Beaudin, Cyrille, 144
Beaudin, Joseph, 144
Beaudin, Mr. & Mrs. Cyril, 263
Beaudoin, Joseph, 76
Beaudoin, Marie, 298
Beaudoin, Mrs. Joseph, 258
Beaudoin, Virginia, 76
Beaudro, Anne, 261
Beaudro, Joseph & Sarah, 133
Beaudro, Lillie Ellen, 132
Beaudrow, Joe, 109
Beaudry, Bertha, 153
Beaudry, Euclid, 25
Beaudry, Florida, 142
Beaudry, J. C., 71
Beaudry, J. L., 71
Beaudry, Mrs. Violette, 162
Beaulieu, Father Arthur, 75, 84, 100, 178
Beaulieu, Father Stanislaus, 75, 84
Beauregard, Alexis, 341
Beauregard, Mary, 306
Beausoleil, Angelina, 144
Becker, Lester, 248
Bedard, Michelle, 250
Bedard, Mrs. Horace, 370
Bedard, Renee, 250
Bedard, Robert, 250
Bedard, Sheila, 250
Bedard, Sheri, 250
Beherens, Rev., 54
Behn, Augusta, 160
Behn, Bertha, 160
Behn, Fred Jr., 160
Behn, Fred, 160, 342
Behn, Gustaf, 160
Behn, Hanna, 277
Behn, Lena, 160
Behn, Marie, 160
Behn, Rudie, 160
Beinke, Bonita, 323
Beito, George, 321
Beito, Mrs. George, 37
Belair, Joseph, 18, 60, 105, 109, 160
Belair, Lillian, 160
Belair, Thomas, 105, 109
Belairi, Camil, 60
Belairi, Joe, 60
Belange, Soulange, 175
Bell, Iver, 346
Bellaire, Rose, 132
Bellaire, Thomas Jr. & Sophia, 133
Belland, Arthur, 76
Belland, Caroline, 163, 258
Belland, Delphine, 75, 84
Belland, Francis, 76
Belland, Gerald, 333
Belland, Joe, 76, 77
Belland, John, 84
Belland, Lisa, 333
Belland, Lora, 333
Belland, Pierre, 75, 84
Belle, Iver, 60
Bello, Lucia, 207
Bemis, Cecyl, 37
Bendel, Balsey, 160, 161
Bendel, Barbara, 161
Bendel, Carl Jr., 161
Bendel, Carl, 160, 161
Bendel, Clara, 160, 161
Bendel, Clarence, 160, 161
Bendel, Florence, 160, 161, 288
Bendel, Frances, 161, 182
Bendel, Francis, 160
Bendel, Jerry, 161
Bendel, John & Mary, 182
Bendel, John Sr., 160, 161
Bendel, John, 125, 373
Bendel, Joseph, 160, 161
Bendel, Josephine, 134
Bendel, Leo & Josephine, 161
Bendel, Leo, 134, 161
Bendel, Mary, 160, 161
Bendel, Mrs. John Sr., 161
Bendel, Robert, 161
Bendel, Sabina, 160, 161
Bender, Alice, 161
Bender, Alpha, 161
Bender, Frank, 53, 161
Bender, Fred, 53
Bender, George, 53
Bender-Rahier Families, 161
Bendickson, Mrs O. L., 54
Benita, Sr., 122
Benjaminson, Paul & Olive, 219
Benkusky, Mrs. Bruce, 288
Bennett, Sister, 157, 158
Benoit, Agnes, 221
Benoit, Aime, 162
Benoit, Albert, 161
Benoit, Aldina, 312
Benoit, Armond N., 161, 162
Benoit, Arthur, 161, 237
Benoit, Audry, 266
Benoit, Beverly, 162
Benoit, Cecile, 162
Benoit, Charles, 161
Benoit, Clement, 162
Benoit, Coronna, 161
Benoit, Dale, 278
Benoit, Delima, 222
Benoit, Donna, 162
Benoit, Duane, 162
Benoit, Elizabeth, 162
Benoit, Emma Rose, 237
Benoit, Emma, 161
Benoit, Ernest, 161
Benoit, Francis, 162
Benoit, Geneva, 161
Benoit, Joseph Charles, 161, 162, 237
Benoit, Larry, 266
Benoit, Lorina, 161, 162
Benoit, Lucy, 177
Benoit, Lydia, 162
Benoit, Martin, 162
Benoit, Mary Jane, 125
Benoit, Mary, 278

Benoit, Maurice, 162
Benoit, Medore, 125, 161, 162
Benoit, Mr & Mrs Maurice, 7
Benoit, Mr. & Mrs. Charles, 221
Benoit, Mrs. Joseph, 256, 278
Benoit, Mrs. Med, 266
Benoit, Mrs. Nels, 299
Benoit, Ralph 'Sonny', 266
Benoit, Regina, 161
Benoit, Rick, 266
Benoit, Robert, 162
Benoit, Sandra, 162
Benoit, Sharon, 162, 237
Benoit, Sophie, 278
Benoit, Virgil, 5, 7, 162
Benson, Dave & Betty, 136
Benson, Garfield, 135, 254
Benson, Glenn & Ruby, 162
Benson, Melanie, 162
Benson, Mr. & Mrs. Garfield, 332
Benson, Severt, 283
Benson, Stephen, 162
Benson, Trent, 162
Bentley, John, 51
Berard, Curtis, 67
Berberich, Fred M., 24, 25, 100, 101
Berberich, Leander, 155
Berberich, Vernon, 23
Berend, Dana, 163
Berend, Dawn, 163
Berend, Dean, 163
Berend, Dori, 163
Berend, Monte, 20, 29, 162
Berg, Bernice J., 266
Berg, Carole, 46
Berg, Clara, 22, 37, 142, 281
Berg, Donald, 163
Berg, Josephine, 161
Berg, Martin, 50
Berg, Mrs. Nels, 335
Berg, Nellie, 142
Berg, Ole A., 281
Berg, Ralph R., 27, 75, 163
Berg, Rev. & Mrs A. E., 120
Berg, Roger, 163
Berg, Vernon, 163
Berg, Wilhelm 'Bill', 189
Berger, Carol, 163
Berger, Duane & Marlene, 136
Berger, Helen Jeanne, 163
Berger, Herman I., 45, 163, 309
Berger, Levurne, 165
Berger, Ruth Marie, 163
Bergeron, Albert J., 163, 167, 205
Bergeron, Alex, 77
Bergeron, Alexine, 163
Bergeron, Alphonse, 163
Bergeron, Anna, 247
Bergeron, Antoinette Cormier, 163, 167
Bergeron, Arthur, 164, 277
Bergeron, Bernadine, 163
Bergeron, Blanche, 163, 167, 258
Bergeron, Carol, 164
Bergeron, Cecelia, 81, 163
Bergeron, Charlene, 164
Bergeron, Clara Gagnon, 163, 167
Bergeron, Connie, 163
Bergeron, Dale, 163
Bergeron, Dennis, 163
Bergeron, Donald, 163
Bergeron, Duane, 163
Bergeron, Eleanore, 302
Bergeron, Elmer, 163
Bergeron, Ernist, 164
Bergeron, Eugenie 'Jane', 163, 164
Bergeron, Evelyn, 163
Bergeron, Francis, 164
Bergeron, Francois & Dina, 163
Bergeron, Harlan, 163
Bergeron, Irene Cecilia, 164
Bergeron, James, 163
Bergeron, Jane, 163, 164
Bergeron, JoAnn, 164
Bergeron, Joseph, 84, 163, 164
Bergeron, Kevin, 164
Bergeron, Laura, 163
Bergeron, Leona, 163, 167
Bergeron, Leva, 156
Bergeron, Lloyd, 163
Bergeron, Louis, 163, 167
Bergeron, Mae Genevieve, 164
Bergeron, Marie Rose, 163
Bergeron, Mary Kathlene, 164
Bergeron, Mary Louise, 168
Bergeron, Mary, 76, 163, 167
Bergeron, Matesh, 167
Bergeron, Morris, 163
Bergeron, Mr & Mrs Joe, 77
Bergeron, Mr. & Mrs. Peter, 88
Bergeron, Mrs. Joseph, 258
Bergeron, Mrs. Vern, 353
Bergeron, Mrs. Willard, 285
Bergeron, Napoleon, Vern, 164
Bergeron, Peter, 9, 80, 81, 83, 163, 164, 167
Bergeron, Randy, 163
Bergeron, Rena, 163
Bergeron, Renee, 164
Bergeron, Revina, 163
Bergeron, Rose, 167
Bergeron, Todd, 163
Bergeron, Urgele, 76, 163, 164, 167, 258
Bergeron, Willard, 163
Bergeron, Xavier, 76
Bergerson, Clarence, 57
Bergerson, Mrs, Simon, 294
Bergerson, William, 259
Berget, Albert & Tillie, 165
Berget, Albert, 197, 317
Berget, Mrs Tilda, 54
Berget, Mrs. Albert, 317
Bergevin, Sylvin, 75
Bergh, Martin, 60
Bergh, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred, 344
Bergh, Thea, 294
Bergin, Eileen, 164
Bergstrom, Ardyth, 284
Berland, Anne, 372
Bernier, Albert, 357
Bernier, Alvida, 357
Bernier, Celina, 77
Bernier, Clara, 357
Bernier, Darlene, 353
Bernier, Delia, 357
Bernier, Ed., 165
Bernier, Edmund & Cecelia, 353
Bernier, Emma, 165
Bernier, Fred, 49, 357
Bernier, Leah, 357
Bernier, Leo, 165
Bernier, Louis, 165, 357
Bernier, Lucy, 357
Bernier, Marie, 165
Bernier, Mr & Mrs Jerome, 49
Bernier, Mrs Jerome, 51
Bernier, Rachelle, 357
Bernier, Roger, 49
Bernier, Simon, 77, 156, 165, 357
Bernier, Zelia, 165
Bernskoetter, Juanita, 182
Berry, A. D., 10, 91
Berry, Adelore, 165
Berry, Albert, 165
Berry, Alfred M., 100, 238
Berry, Alphonse, 165
Berry, Cilena, 357
Berry, Clarintha, 279
Berry, Joseph, 165
Berry, Louis, 100, 284
Berry, Mrs. John, 316
Berry, Mrs. Robert, 217
Berry, Orel, 165
Berry, Viola, 224, 284
Berthiaume, Blanche, 15, 99, 106
Berthiaume, Catherine, 15, 73, 100
Berthiaume, D., 77
Berthiaume, Katherine, 143, 174
Berthiaume, Louise, 15, 131
Berthiaume, Mathilda, 265
Berthiaume, O., 144
Bertilrud, Allen & Sandra, 165
Berton, L. P., 228
Bevolden, Sylvia, 205
Beyer, Barbara, 166
Beyer, Chester 'Chip', 166
Beyer, Chester Jr., 166
Beyer, Chester T., 92
Beyer, Chester Thane, 166
Beyer, Chester W., 24, 25, 165
Beyer, Chester, 194
Beyer, Christine, 166
Beyer, Curtis, 166
Beyer, Debra, 166
Beyer, Fred, 166
Beyer, Gregory & Celeste, 166
Beyer, Irving & Adeline, 246
Beyer, Irving W. , 18, 19, 26, 94, 166, 220, 237, 249
Beyer, Jean, 94, 166
Beyer, Jennifer, 166
Beyer, Julia, 166
Beyer, Lori, 166
Beyer, Mrs. C. W., 222
Beyer, Mrs. Edward, 162
Beyer, Mrs. Irving, 365
Beyer, Nancy Jo, 166, 220
Beyer, Neil, 166
Beyer, Patricia, 166, 237
Beyer, Robin, 166
Beyer, Sara, 166
Beyer, Steven, 166
Beyer, Tanya, 166
Beyer, Thane, 94, 166
Beyer, Timothy, 166
Beyer, Vicki, 166
Beyne, Father August, 119
Biederman, Rose, 232
Biendara, Dorothy 'Bonnie', 229
Biever, Joseph, 191
Bilbrough, Mrs R. E., 86
Biliske, Louise, 232
Billadeau, Anna, 222
Birkeland, E. Dale, 117, 289
Birkeland, Erik, 289
Birkeland, Harold, 46
Birkeland, Mrs. Steen, 241
Birkeland, Ole S., 54
Birkeland, Sarah, 289
Bishop, Bonnie, 158
Bishop, W. S., 54
Bison, Emma, 265
Bisson, Adelard, 166
Bisson, Albina, 166

Bisson, Alphonse, 144
Bisson, Andre, 166, 179
Bisson, Arthur, 166
Bisson, Elzear, 166
Bisson, Emma, 162
Bisson, Ephrem, 166
Bisson, Marie, 179
Bitsura, Michael, 344
Bjerk, Mrs. Walter, 252
Bjerke, A. M., 235, 354
Bjorgan, Gayleen, 166
Bjorgan, Lynelle, 166
Bjorgan, Maureen, 166
Bjorgan, Maurice, 166
Bjorgan, Michelle, 166
Bjorge, Ida, 142
Bjorgum, Valborg, 317
Bjork, Martha, 181
Bjornaraa, Bjorguluv, 89
Bjornson, Homer, 45
Bjornson, Mr., 163
Black, Blanche, 208
Blackwood, Mrs. Hannah, 238
Blair, Edna, 238
Blake, George, 207
Blanchard, Mary, 319
Blandina, Mother, 122
Blaska, Gertrude, 106
Blondid, Euphorates, 205
Blondin, Emma, 142
Blondin, Maggie, 142
Bluemke, Lucille, 322
Bluemke, Robert, 53, 83
Bobear, Henry, 35
Bodie, Mrs Mary, 53
Boe, Mrs. Anne, 218
Boerger, Amber, 344
Boerger, Pastor Robert, 48, 121
Boileau, Clifford, 174
Boileau, Louis, 174
Boileau, Marie, 143
Boirier, Robert, 117
Boissonneau, Francoise, 142
Boisvert, Avina, 76
Boisvert, Michael, 75, 76
Boivert, Delima, 181, 307
Boivert, Michel, 84
Bolstad, Barbara, 274
Bolstad, J. L., 54
Bolstad, Rev. O. L., 120
Bombardier, Beth Ann, 178
Bombardier, Bradley, 178
Bombardier, Harvey, 72
Bombardier, Kenneth, 178
Bombardier, Leo, 307
Bondy, Brothers, 55
Bondy, Caroline, 323
Bonnain, Virginia, 262
Booth, Mrs. Sam, 345
Boraas, Martin, 60, 61
Borchers, Fred, 210
Borchers, William, 143
Borchert, Jay, 342
Borden, Lucy Hart, 235
Borden, R. N., 105
Borden-Hunt, Lucy, 236
Boreson, Astrid, 267
Borg, Harold, 123
Borgen, Allyce, 328
Borgen, Chris, 148
Borleau, Louis, 175
Borstad, Gjertrude, 275
Bossus, Father Ernest, 93, 94
Bossus, Rev. C., 142
Bostrom, A., 53
Bottineau, Agnes Virginie, 132
Bottineau, Agnes, 15
Bottineau, Charles, 15, 341
Bottineau, Daniel, 15
Bottineau, Emilie, 15
Bottineau, Genevieve, 15
Bottineau, George, 15, 73
Bottineau, Henry, 15
Bottineau, Jean Baptiste, 109, 113
Bottineau, Jenny, 15, 76, 88
Bottineau, John & Mary, 256
Bottineau, John, 15
Bottineau, Laura, 15
Bottineau, Marie, 15
Bottineau, Martha, 15
Bottineau, Noah, 15
Bottineau, Norman, 15
Bottineau, Peter & Martha, 133
Bottineau, Peter, 105
Bottineau, Pierre II, 15
Bottineau, Pierre, 5, 7, 9, 15, 16, 26, 67, 88, 109, 112, 113, 137, 185, 190, 212, 228, 229, 290, 311, 319, 341, 346, 371
Bottineau, Sidney, 15
Bottineau, William, 15, 41
Bottom, Larry, 194
Bouchard, Father Alex, 93
Bouchard, Father Stanley, 48
Bouchard, Rev. Father, 236, 307, 320, 321
Bouchard, Rev. Samuel, 142
Bouchart, Roy, 128
Boucher, Adelard, 77
Boucher, Adelore, 165
Boucher, Aldia, 168
Boucher, Aristide, 167
Boucher, Armidas, 167
Boucher, Armidas, 75
Boucher, Azelia, 175, 178
Boucher, Carol Jean, 157, 167
Boucher, Cesarie, 258
Boucher, Clarence, 167
Boucher, David, 323
Boucher, Deane, 188
Boucher, Delia, 167
Boucher, Diane, 368
Boucher, Doris, 167
Boucher, Dorothy, 167, 258
Boucher, Elizabeth, 177
Boucher, Eunice, 167
Boucher, Harvey, 167
Boucher, Henry, 167
Boucher, Joanne Marie, 167
Boucher, Joe, 75, 76
Boucher, Joseph Ed, 167, 168, 258
Boucher, Joyce, 323
Boucher, Lawrence, 167, 359
Boucher, Leonard E., 26, 167, 310, 368
Boucher, Lewellyn, 359
Boucher, Lillie, 183
Boucher, Louise, 76
Boucher, Mabel, 167
Boucher, Mae, 167
Boucher, Marie, 76, 167
Boucher, Marion, 258
Boucher, Mark, 359
Boucher, Mary, 167
Boucher, Maurice, 167
Boucher, Max, 362
Boucher, Melvin, 157, 167
Boucher, Melvina, 322
Boucher, Michael James, 167
Boucher, Mrs. Diana, 318
Boucher, Mrs. Marie, 299
Boucher, Mrs. Melvin, 322
Boucher, Mrs. Norman, 322
Boucher, Mrs. Sam, 331
Boucher, Norman, 167
Boucher, Omer, 168
Boucher, Patti, 359
Boucher, Paul, 168
Boucher, Peter & Mary Louise, 168
Boucher, Peter, 76, 77
Boucher, Roger, 359
Boucher, Simon, 77, 156
Boucher, Vitaline, 156
Boucher, Wallace, 167
Boucher, Wilbrod, 167
Boucher, Wilfrod, 165
Boucher, Yvonne, 359
Boucher-Lambert, 167
Bouffeur, Hazel, 341
Bouffeur, Mr. & Mrs. Fred, 341
Bouffeur---Sebenaler, 341
Bouffler, Virgil, 188
Bouffleur, Mattie, 325
Boughton, Barbara, 168
Boughton, Charles E. Jr., 168, 304
Boughton, Charles E., 168
Boughton, Charles III, 168
Boughton, Charles, Sr., 9, 11, 13, 18, 25, 35, 111, 124, 134, 239, 262
Boughton, Eleanor, 168
Boughton, Elizabeth 'Betty', 168
Boughton, Leona, 239
Boughton, Mrs. Charles E. Jr, 124
Boughton, Mrs. Elizabeth, 125
Bourassa, Father Stanley, 199
Bourdage, Daniel, 240
Bourdon, Alice, 169
Bourdon, Charles Henry, 169
Bourdon, Charles N., 10, 41, 132, 148, 168, 329
Bourdon, Charles, 121, 169, 315
Bourdon, Ethel Jane, 169
Bourdon, George Robert, 101, 169
Bourdon, Hazel Elizabeth, 169
Bourdon, John, 168
Bourdon, Joseph, 168
Bourdon, Lyle & Pat, 270
Bourdon, Lyle, 271
Bourdon, Martha Jeanette, 169
Bourdon, Mrs. Charles, 121
Bourdon, Mrs. George, 124, 372
Bourdon, Peter & Carry, 133
Bourdon, Robert, 168
Bourdon, William Ralph, 169
Bourdon Narcissus, 168
Bourier, Sam, 142
Bourque, August, 15, 82, 88, 311
Bourque, Ferdinand, 15, 88
Bourque, Fortuna, 76
Bourque, Jennings, 15, 88
Bourque, Mrs Jenny, 81, 88
Bousquet, Corinne, 325
Boutain, Albert, 169
Boutain, Alice, 328
Boutain, Amie, 169
Boutain, Donald, 117, 194
Boutain, Eli, 169
Boutain, Frank, 169
Boutain, George, 169
Boutain, Herman, 194
Boutain, Jacob, 156, 169
Boutain, Jacque, 169
Boutain, James D., 135, 311
Boutain, Joe, 222
Boutain, Josephine, 169
Boutain, Julie, 358

Boutain, Louis, 169
Boutain, Marlys, 336
Boutain, Mrs. Dale, 332
Boutain, Nellie, 156, 169
Boutain, Olive, 176
Boutain, Philomen, 169
Boutain, Pierre, 176
Boutain, Priscella, 169
Boutain, Shirley, 163
Boutain, William, 169
Bouthillier, Celina, 152, 153
Bouthillier, Joseph & Alerie, 152
Bouvier, Emmerie, 242
Bower, Mrs. John, 353
Boxted, Herman, 273
Boyd, Josephine, 240
Boyd, Marcia, 283
Boyd, Milton C., 283
Boyd, Milton Jr., 283
Boyd, Rev. James, 120
Boyer, Charles, 117
Boyer, Philomene, 305
Boyum, Mrs. Ole, 355
Boyum, Roxanne, 323
Braaten, Bergit, 345
Braaten, Delphine, 204
Braaten, Gloria, 204
Braaten, Jean, 204
Braaten, Merle, 204, 208
Braaten, Mr. & Mrs. L. O., 204
Braaten, Oscar & Louise, 208
Bradle, Leo, 289
Bradshaw, Russell, 207
Brady, Charles, 169, 170
Brady, Ellen, 169, 170
Brady, Frank, 169, 170
Brady, Jamaes Jr., 169, 170
Brady, James, 121, 152, 169, 289, 256
Brady, John, 169
Brady, Ken, 134
Brady, Lillian, 169, 170
Brady, Margaret, 152, 170
Brady, Mary, 169, 170, 289, 329
Brady, Viola, 169, 170
Brady, William, 169, 170
Braiden, Clara, 257
Braker, Mrs.Delbert, 234
Branconnier, Father Robert, 286
Branden, Alice, 205
Branden, Louise, 205
Brandt, Alfred, 170, 232
Brandt, Arvilla, 170
Brandt, Beth, 170
Brandt, Eleanore, 170
Brandt, Emma, 170
Brandt, Gene, 170, 232
Brandt, John, 170, 232
Brandt, Judith, 232
Brandt, Judy, 170
Brandt, Marie, 170
Brandt, May Beth, 232
Brandt, Richard, 170, 232
Brandt, Robert, 170, 232
Brandt, Rosalyn, 170, 232
Brandt, William, 170, 232
Brantl, Gary, 46
Brasharell, Eugenie, 359
Bratvold, Mrs. Lena, 295
Brault, Alice, 326
Brault, Louis, 326
Brault, Mary, 257
Brault, Mr. & Mrs. Robert, 72
Bray, Alfred, 322
Bray, Anetta, 322
Bray, Cecille, 322
Bray, Damose, 7
Bray, Gilbert, 322
Bray, J. E., 130
Bray, J. M., 10
Bray, Madelene, 322
Bray, Marie, 322
Bray, Maurice, 123
Bray, Morris, 322
Bray, Mose, 307
Bray, Mrs. Henry, 322
Bray, Paul, 37
Brecto, Betty, 116
Bredeson, Frieda, 36, 37, 55
Bredeson, Julia, 46
Bredeson, Mr. & Mrs. Sig, 370
Bredeson, Mrs. S. J., 223
Bredeson, S. J., 43
Bredson, John L., 49
Breen, Marie, 281
Bregier, Alice, 170
Bregier, Brian, 170
Bregier, Cecilia, 131, 170, 290
Bregier, Debbie, 170
Bregier, Delores, 170
Bregier, Eugene, 170
Bregier, George Jr., 170
Bregier, George, 170
Bregier, Gerald, 170
Bregier, Heidi, 170
Bregier, Jane, 170
Bregier, Jason, 248
Bregier, Joseph, 170
Bregier, Linda, 170
Bregier, Marie, 170, 310
Bregier, Michael, 170
Bregier, Mr. & Mrs. George, 248
Bregier, Paul, 170
Bregier, Robert, 170
Bregier, Rose, 170
Bregier, Scott, 170
Bregier, Vernon, 170, 248
Bregier, Zepherin, 170, 278, 290
Breivold, Albert, 55
Breivold, Clara, 37
Breivold, Olav (Ole), 54, 55
Brekke, A. W., 53, 54
Brekke, Aasmund, 170, 171
Brekke, Alice, 171
Brekke, Arlie, 55, 89, 171, 173
Brekke, Bobby, 171
Brekke, Dale, 171
Brekke, Elmer, 170, 171
Brekke, Elsie, 170, 171
Brekke, John, 37, 50
Brekke, LeRoy, 277
Brekke, Mrs. A. W., 54
Brekke, Mrs. Joseph, 230
Brekke, Olaf J., 40
Brekke, Randy, 171
Brekke, Raymond, 171
Brekke, Renae, 171
Brekke, Saave, 170
Brekke, Selmer, 170, 171
Brekke, Signa, 170, 171
Brekke, Stieiner, 170, 171
Brekke, Thorvald, 170, 171
Brekke, Willie, 54, 170, 171
Breland, Aamund, 252
Breland, Clara, 252
Bren, Joyce, 216
Brevik, Kent, 171
Brevik, Kevin, 171
Brevik, Merle & Fern, 171
Brevik, Merle, 135
Brewer, Opal, 165
Briden, Ruth, 160
Brinkman, Mrs. Dennie, 202
Bristow, Billy, 234
Broholm, Malena, 346
Broit, Rev., 122
Bronken, Barbara, 171, 283
Bronken, Beth Elise, 171
Bronken, Holly, 171
Bronken, James, 171
Bronken, Margaret, 171
Bronken, Marvin, 83, 171
Bronken, Mr & Mrs Marvin, 83
Bronken, Peter, 171
Bronken, Richard, 171
Brooke, Selma, 359
Brooker, Mr & Mrs Arthur, 49
Brooks, Jack, 301
Brooks, James, 301
Brooks, Jeffrey, 301
Brooks, Katie, 291
Brooks, Robert, 301
Brooks, Suzanne, 301
Brouilette, Cenat, 144
Brouilette, Michel, 109
Brouillette, Jules, 144
Broussard, Iris, 287
Brovald, Mrs. Walter, 171
Brovold, Elmer, 205
Brower, Effie, 360
Brower, Mrs. Glen, 299
Brower, Wilbur, 360
Brown, Criss & Mary, 171
Brown, Criss, 172
Brown, D. W. 'Dan', 53, 173
Brown, Dolly, 172
Brown, Dorothy, 349
Brown, Earl, 165
Brown, Felix, 172
Brown, Franklin, 41
Brown, Grace, 172
Brown, Janet, 357
Brown, Jim, 357
Brown, Orra, 172
Brown, Oscar, 50
Brown, Sedate M., 115, 247
Brown, Tyler, 172
Brown, W. G., 41
Bruggeman, George, 86
Bruggeman, Harriet, 211
Bruggeman, Helen, 295
Bruggeman, Mrs. Henry, 211
Brule, Adolph, 153
Brule, Adrian M., 19, 21, 172
Brule, Amie, 172
Brule, Baby, 153
Brule, Beatrice, 153
Brule, Dale, 172
Brule, Delia, 172
Brule, Doris, 153
Brule, Elmer, 153
Brule, Evelyn, 172
Brule, Gerald, 172
Brule, Henry, 153
Brule, JoAnne, 172
Brule, Julie, 193
Brule, Leonard, 153
Brule, Melvina, 172
Brule, Mr. & Mrs. Henry, 155
Brule, Mr. & Mrs. Noel, 331
Brule, Mrs. Adrian, 318
Brule, Mrs. Leo, 272
Brule, Noel, 172

Brule, Nora, 153, 155
Brule, Philias, 172
Brule, Rita, 153
Brule, Roland, 117, 196, 319
Brule, Stella, 153
Brummer, Cindy, 172
Brummer, Jeff, 172
Brummer, John, 95, 172
Brummer, Kristi, 172
Brummer, Lucille, 116
Brummer, Mary Kay, 172
Brummer, Scott, 95, 172
Brummer, William, 172
Brumwell, Mr. & Mrs. Milson, 250
Brumwell, Violet, 250
Bruneau, Onezime, 144
Bruneau, Paul, 72
Bruneau, Zephirin, 144
Bruneau, Zoe, 331
Brunelle, Alfred, 216
Brunelle, Arthur, 172
Brunelle, Blanche, 216
Brunelle, Butch, 129, 131
Brunelle, Clem, 127, 131, 225
Brunelle, Daniel, 172
Brunelle, Dannie, 95
Brunelle, Diana, 95, 172
Brunelle, Elaine, 172
Brunelle, Enthyme, 216
Brunelle, Erma, 339
Brunelle, Florida, 216
Brunelle, George & M. J., 133
Brunelle, George, 71, 105, 305
Brunelle, Gloria, 326
Brunelle, Henry, 216
Brunelle, Joseph K., 132
Brunelle, Joseph, 25, 172
Brunelle, Lawrence, 216
Brunelle, Lena, 172
Brunelle, Mary Jo, 172
Brunelle, Mary, 95
Brunelle, Michael, 95, 172
Brunelle, Mrs Joe, 95
Brunelle, Mrs. C. E., 124
Brunelle, Mrs. Willard, 95
Brunelle, Pamela, 95, 172
Brunelle, Pat, 216
Brunelle, Sophie, 256
Brunelle, Virginia, 216
Brunelle, Wilfred, 25
Brunelle, Willard, 172
Brunelle-Bray, Rebecca, 322
Brush, C. H., 224, 286
Buchmeier, Valdin, 153
Buckley, Alice, 283
Buckley, John, 283
Buckley, Leo, 283
Buckley, Rose Mary, 283
Bucklin, Norma, 259
Budzinski, John, 45
Buehler, Mrs. Rudolph, 254
Bugge, Agnes, 194
Buhl, Sue, 323
Buird, Mrs. Alex, 193
Bullert, Lydia, 232
Burckhard, Don, 281
Burgard, Mary, 323
Burgdorf, Pastor Paul, 48, 121, 359
Burman, Alvin, 173
Burman, Anna, 172
Burman, Axel, 171, 172
Burman, Bert, 172
Burman, Bertha, 173
Burman, Betty, 173
Burman, Carl & Marie, 172
Burman, Debbie, 173
Burman, Esther, 172
Burman, Ethel, 173, 240
Burman, Faith, 173
Burman, Frank, 172
Burman, Hulda, 172
Burman, John, 172
Burman, Lewis, 172
Burman, Lin De Ann, 173
Burman, Louise, 172, 204
Burman, Lynn, 173
Burman, Marie, 173
Burman, Marvin, 173
Burman, Mavis, 171, 173
Burman, Wendie, 173
Burman, Wilma, 172
Burmeister, Elinor, 157
Burns, Mrs. Gisela, 229
Burroughs, Elizabeth, 315
Burstad, Henry, 139
Burstad, Herman, 139
Busch, Terry, 251
Buse, Al, 26, 137, 152, 173, 185, 339
Buse, Alice (Lewis), 114, 173
Buse, Carl Fredrick, 114, 173
Buse, Eliza, 114
Buse, Ernest E. Jr., 113, 114
Buse, Ernest G., 127, 173, 339
Buse, Ernest Theodore, 173
Buse, Ernest, 9, 10, 105, 110, 114, 125, 242, 339
Buse, Ernie, 129
Buse, Ernst, 137
Buse, Jane, 173, 311
Buse, Karl, 113
Buse, Lillian (Healy), 114, 173
Buse, Louisa, 114
Buse, Louise (Witt), 173
Buse, May (Converse), 114, 173, 182, 223
Buse, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest, 311
Buse, Nicole, 173
Buse, Olga, 114, 173
Buse, Otto F., 114
Buse, Pauline (Behnsen), 114, 173
Buse, Teresa, 114, 173
Buse, Todd, 173
Buse, Vance, 173
Buse, Walter, 114, 173
Bush, J. L., 53
Bushee, Barb, 135
Buskirk, J. E., 25, 41, 53, 57, 99, 173
Buskirk, Mr. & Mrs. J. E., 173
Buskirk, Nina, 215
Busse, Adolph, 173
Busse, Albert, 31, 173
Busse, Alma, 31
Busse, Freida, 31
Busse, Frieda, 373
Busse, George, 31, 173
Busse, Geraldine, 201
Busse, Harold, 26, 173
Busse, Henry, 173
Busse, John, 31, 173, 373
Busse, Lucille, 265
Busse, Marie, 265
Busse, Mrs. Albert, 249
Busse, Sophie, 31, 356
Bye, Carl, 45
Byklom, Knut, O., 53
Byklum, E., 61
Byklum, Knut & Margit, 261
Byllesby, H. M., 24
Cadieux, Armandine, 174
Cadieux, Blanche, 174
Cadieux, Cleophas, 174, 306
Cadieux, Clifford, 174
Cadieux, Doria, 174
Cadieux, Edmund, 174, 175
Cadieux, Florence, 174
Cadieux, Florestine, 174
Cadieux, Germaine, 174
Cadieux, Godeline, 174
Cadieux, Godelyn, 262
Cadieux, Laura, 174
Cadieux, Leboire, 174
Cadieux, Louis & Domitille, 174, 357
Cadieux, Louis, 142, 144
Cadieux, Lucille, 174
Cadieux, Marie, 174
Cadieux, Theodorine, 174
Cadieux, Winnifred, 174, 357
Cadieux, Zotique, 174
Cadotte, Jean Baptiste Jr. 6
Cadotte, Jean Baptiste, 5
Caillier, Anette, 205
Callery, Mrs. Leo, 237
Callier, Ed., 72
Callier, Linda, 251
Callier, Mrs. Lawrence, 255
Cameron, John, 54
Camp, Goldie, 289
Campbell, Doris, 117, 175
Campbell, John Jr., 175
Campbell, John, 175
Campbell, Mrs. Pat, 307
Campbell, Scot, 175
Cantin, Adolph, 144
Cantwell, Duane, 249
Cardin, Father Paul A., 48, 84, 93, 119, 176, 295, 358
Cardin, Father Victor, 93, 100, 119
Cardin, Msg. Victor, 122
Cardinal, Alice, 175
Cardinal, Arthur & Alice, 192
Cardinal, Arthur Jr., 175
Cardinal, Arthur, 175
Cardinal, Brenda, 192
Cardinal, Eleanor, 175, 192
Cardinal, Elmer, 175
Cardinal, Ernest, 175
Cardinal, Ethel, 175
Cardinal, George, 175
Cardinal, Herbert, 175
Cardinal, Hubert, 71
Cardinal, Lucille, 175
Cardinal, Mary, 279
Cardinal, Mr. & Mrs. Elmer, 189
Cardinal, Mrs. Arthur, 279
Cardinal, Mrs. Ernest, 370
Cardinal, Mrs. Hubert, 259
Cardinal, Mrs. Roger, 279
Cardinal, Noella, 175
Cardinal, Norman, 175
Cardinal, Paul, 175
Cardinal, Philip, 175
Cardinal, Roger, 189
Cardinal, Tracy Lynn, 189
Cardinal, Tracy, 279
Cardinal, Wade, 189,279
Cariveau, Jean, 292
Carl, Betty, 125
Carleton, Fanny, 144
Carlson, Arthur, 41
Carlson, Carl, 48
Carlson, Carolyn, 46
Carlson, Ida, 314
Carlson, John, 50, 110
Carlson, Merlin, 46

Carlson, Mrs. Thomas G., 238, 271
Carlson, Oscar, 41, 89
Carmody, Mary Jo, 106
Caron, Mrs. J. B., 232
Carpenter, Adolph, 37
Carpenter, Eugene, 51
Carpenter, Lawrence, 50, 51
Carrier, Joseph, 37
Carriere, Alexina, 175
Carriere, Alfred, 175
Carriere, Amie, 175, 330
Carriere, Anne, 175
Carriere, Arthur L., 185
Carriere, Aurelia, 175
Carriere, Carol, 185
Carriere, Celestin, 175
Carriere, Celina, 330
Carriere, Clarice, 272, 330
Carriere, Cyrille, 175
Carriere, Delima, 175, 178
Carriere, Dore, 175
Carriere, Doria, 175
Carriere, Edmond, 175
Carriere, Elise, 175
Carriere, Eugene & Jane, 176
Carriere, Eugene, 175
Carriere, Eva, 330
Carriere, Father Henry, 49, 100, 103
Carriere, Filicite, 175
Carriere, Florence, 310, 330
Carriere, George, 175
Carriere, James, 185
Carriere, Jerome, 185
Carriere, John, 185
Carriere, Joseph Jr., 175
Carriere, Joseph, 175, 242, 330
Carriere, Lawrence, 175
Carriere, Leah, 330
Carriere, Leo, 136
Carriere, Marie, 330
Carriere, Martha, 185
Carriere, Mrs. Ernest, 226
Carriere, Mrs. Fred, 299
Carriere, Noeme, 316
Carriere, Octave, 175
Carriere, Parmelia, 175
Carriere, Pearl, 330
Carriere, Philommene, 175
Carriere, Rev. Henry, 142, 176
Carriere, Rose, 185
Carriere, Sister Marie Adeline, 330
Carriere, Soulange, 175
Carriere, Stanislaus, 175, 178
Carriere, Steven, 185
Carriere, T. E. & Jane, 185
Carriere, Vincent, 185
Carriere, William, 175
Carriere-Dessellier, 175
Carriveau, Angel, 208
Carriveau, Celia, 165
Carroll, Jim, 281
Cartford, Paster Olaf C., 47
Cartier, Cash, 24, 182
Cartier, Leo, 222
Cartier, Mrs. Cash, 214
Casavan, Arthur, 176
Casavan, Boline, 176
Casavan, Bonnie, 177
Casavan, Brenda Lee, 177
Casavan, Carol, 177, 243
Casavan, Cecile, 176
Casavan, Cora, 176, 223
Casavan, Cyprien Henry, 176
Casavan, Darrell, 177, 337
Casavan, Delphis, 176
Casavan, Doris, 176
Casavan, Elodia, 176
Casavan, Eva Anna, 176
Casavan, Gary, 177
Casavan, Gladys, 176
Casavan, Gloria, 189
Casavan, Harley, 135
Casavan, Harvey, 148, 177
Casavan, Henry, 176
Casavan, Joseph Wilfred, 176
Casavan, Laura Mary, 176
Casavan, Lawrence 'Blackie' & Eleanor, 176
Casavan, Lawrence 'Blackie', 135, 243, 318
Casavan, Leonard & Demarise, 177
Casavan, Lilly, 176, 223
Casavan, Linda, 177, 359
Casavan, Lois, 177, 318, 359
Casavan, Mabel, 176
Casavan, Marc, 177, 339
Casavan, Marie Eugenie, 176
Casavan, Marie Louise, 176
Casavan, Marie, 176
Casavan, Monte, 177
Casavan, Mr. & Mrs. Jessie, 189
Casavan, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence, 359
Casavan, Mrs. Harvey, 365
Casavan, Mrs. Lawrence, 369
Casavan, Mrs. Mark, 339
Casavan, Mrs. Olive, 176
Casavan, Nicole, 177, 339
Casavan, Odelon, 176
Casavan, Paul, 176
Casavan, Scott Anthony, 177
Casavan, Tracey, 177
Casavan, Victor Mose, 176, 177, 256
Casavan, Wilfred, 176
Casavan, Zeb, 176
Casey, Edna, 142
Casey, James & Edna, 177
Casey, James Donald, 26, 177, 325
Casey, Joseph L., 177
Casey, Shirley, 177
Casmey, Howard, 45
Cassatt, Mrs. Tom, 287
Cassavant, Bill, 177
Cassavant, Brent, 177
Cassavant, Harry, 92
Cassavant, Lawrence, 177
Cassavant, Linda, 177
Cassavant, Lucy Benoit, 162
Cassavant, Mr. & Mrs. Napoleon, 177
Cassavant, William, 26, 177
Cassavent, Shirley, 223
Cassette, J. L., 144
Castello, B. H., 54
Causin, Ella, 37
Cease, Kary, 197
Cease, Kelly, 197
Cease, Kent, 197
Cease, Kevin, 197
Cease, Kurt, 197
Cease, Mrs. Wayne, 197
Chaffee, Andrew, 177
Chaffee, Brian, 177
Chaffee, Norman J., 177
Chaffee, Sarah Sue, 177
Chamberlain, E. W., 117
Champagne, Albert, 177
Champagne, Amedie, 177, 178
Champagne, Anna, 177
Champagne, Arthur, 177
Champagne, Cora, 177
Champagne, Delia, 177
Champagne, Dorene (Cote), 178
Champagne, Doria, 177
Champagne, Eliza, 177
Champagne, Elizabeth, 285
Champagne, Elmer, 178
Champagne, Florence, 177
Champagne, Ida, 177
Champagne, Leon, 177
Champagne, Lorene (Westman), 178
Champagne, Louise, 163, 177, 285
Champagne, Lowella (Bushaw), 178
Champagne, Marie, 310
Champagne, Marion (Martell), 178
Champagne, Michel, 144
Champagne, Mr. & Mrs. Peter, 285
Champagne, Mrs. Armond, 295
Champagne, Mrs. Onezime, 299
Champagne, Mrs. Peter, 102
Champagne, Onezime, 178
Champagne, P. B., 144
Champagne, Pearl, 177, 307
Champagne, Peter, 100, 177, 178
Champagne, Rev. Pierre Beaugrand, 7, 9, 75, 84, 93, 119, 142, 187, 304
Champagne, Rose Alba, 177
Champagne, Severt, 177
Champagne, Wallace, 98
Champagne, Walter, 177
Champagne, William, 178
Champagne, Willie, 177
Champeau, Alida Claire, 230
Champeau, Andrew, 178
Champeau, Anna, 178
Champeau, Anthony, 178
Champeau, Daniel, 178
Champeau, Dolphus, 144, 178
Champeau, Dona, 178
Champeau, Dora, 178
Champeau, Gloria Mae, 178
Champeau, Ida (Alida), 178
Champeau, Joseph, 178
Champeau, Leo, 178
Champeau, Leoma, 178
Champeau, Louis, 178
Champeau, Osis, 178
Champeau, Paulette, 178
Champeau, Remi, 178
Champeau, Ulric, 178
Champoux, Adolere, 132, 178
Champoux, Adolph & Mary, 133
Champoux, Mrs. Dan, 259
Champoux, Mrs. Harvey, 258
Chapiewski, Mrs. C. J., 211
Chapman, Earl V., 49
Chaput, Marie, 72
Charest, Frank, 179
Charest, Alvina, 179
Charest, Anne (Sister Zita), 179
Charest, Camille, 178
Charest, Cindy, 179
Charest, Darrell, 179
Charest, David, 179
Charest, Doreen, 179
Charest, Eugenie, 179, 195
Charest, Eva, 178, 179
Charest, Exilia, 178
Charest, Florence, 179
Charest, Floyd, 179
Charest, Francois, 178
Charest, Fred, 178
Charest, George Jr., 179
Charest, George Sr., 76, 77, 178, 195
Charest, Ida, 178, 179
Charest, Jeus, 178

Charest, Larry, 179
Charest, Louise, 179
Charest, Mary Anne, 179
Charest, Michael, 179
Charest, Napoleon, 178
Charest, Olivine, 76
Charest, Rose, 179, 306
Charest, Sister Borgia, 179
Charest, Sister Eucharia, 179
Charest, Stephen, 179
Charest, Theophile, 178, 179
Charest, Timmy, 179
Charest, Valeda, 179
Charest, Vernon, 179
Charest, Walter, 179
Charest, Zoe, 178
Charigo, Victor, 318
Charitas, Sr., 122
Charlson, Karen, 339
Chase, Mathilda, 272
Chaser, Domatil, 326
Chatel, Clemence, 166, 179
Chatel, Delia, 161
Chatel, Edna, 309
Chatel, Elmer, 309
Chatel, Ephram, 179, 214
Chatel, Eugenie, 309
Chatel, Eva, 309
Chatel, Exena, 179, 354
Chatel, Exerie, 179, 309
Chatel, Frizelda, 179
Chatel, Leah, 179, 249, 309
Chatel, Marie, 179
Chatel, Mary Louise, 179, 354
Chatel, Narsis, 179
Chatel, Pariecit, 179
Chatel, Peter, 179
Chatel, Rose, 308
Chatel, Roseanna, 179, 354
Chatel, Wilfred, 179
Chervestad, Karen, 281
Chervestad, Mrs. Kory, 346
Chouart, Medard, sieur de Groseilliers, 5
Christensen, Johanna & Hans, 183
Christensen, Kristena, 183
Christensen, Mrs. Elizabeth, 222
Christenson, Charles, 154, 179, 215
Christenson, Clifford, 179
Christenson, Doreas, 233
Christenson, Elida, 179
Christenson, Mrs. Clifford, 297
Christian, Elizabeth, 314
Christiansen, Lydia, 233
Christianson, Anne, 277
Christianson, Cal, 222
Christianson, Clarence, 46
Christianson, Eleanor, 216
Christianson, Henry, 249
Christianson, Ken, 351
Christianson, Levi, 224
Christianson, Maren, 297
Christianson, Mrs Clifford, 37
Christianson, Mrs. C., 237
Christianson, Mrs. Charles, 224, 286
Christianson, Ted, 350
Christie, George Jr., 134, 179
Christie, George W., 26, 116, 134, 179, 185, 226, 241
Christie, Lillian, 179, 241
Christie, Mr. & Mrs. George W., 129, 179
Christie, Mrs. George Sr., 122, 134
Christie, Susan, 179
Christipherson, Mrs. Gust, 224
Christofferson, Ole, 110
Christonsen, Reier, 204
Christopherson, Arthur L. 19
Christopherson, Mrs. Gust, 286
Church, Bill, 164
Church, Tim, 164
Clark, George Rogers, 213
Clarmont, Caroline, 284
Clearmoe, Joe, 60
Clement, Adelord, 180
Clement, Allen, 181
Clement, Amanda, 180, 322
Clement, Bertha, 180
Clement, Clariet, 181
Clement, Daniel, 181, 220
Clement, Darlene, 181
Clement, Dolphis, 326
Clement, Ed., 144
Clement, Harmidas, 141, 144, 180, 209
Clement, Harry, 180
Clement, Honara, 178
Clement, James, 181
Clement, John, 144
Clement, Leo, 180
Clement, Lila, 180
Clement, Loumena, 180
Clement, Ludger, 180
Clement, Mae, 143
Clement, Mayme Marie, 158, 217
Clement, Mrs. Xavier, 316
Clement, Philomene, 158
Clement, Roman, 180, 307
Clement, Shirley, 181
Clement, Theo 'Ted', 117, 180, 327, 368
Clement, Xavier, 158
Clements, Dave, 20
Clementson, Adelaide, 292
Clisenue, Annie, 335
Closson, Mrs. Alice, 324
Clough, Gov D. M., 10, 11, 18
Coblentz, Lewis A., 351
Cockerill, Alice, 116, 117, 245, 246
Cockerill, Wm. H., 246
Coderre, Amos, 156
Coe, David, 91
Coe, Walter, 222
Coffin, Mrs. Stephen, 179, 241
Colbank, Esther, 37
Coleman, Catherine, 232
Collette, A. D., 231
Collette, Philomen, 263
Collier, Bertha, 329
Collins, Charles, 283
Collins, Mrs. Cecil, 263
Columbus, Alice, 181, 272, 345
Columbus, Barbara, 182
Columbus, Bernard, 125, 181
Columbus, Bernard, 125, 181, 182
Columbus, Bruce, 182
Columbus, Christie, 182
Columbus, Christopher, 181
Columbus, Debra, 182, 306
Columbus, Donald, 181
Columbus, Earl, 181
Columbus, Edward A. & Florestine, 345
Columbus, Edward, 71, 144, 181, 290
Columbus, Etta, 181
Columbus, Florence, 73, 143, 174, 181, 290
Columbus, G. I., 144
Columbus, Gladys, 181
Columbus, John, 182
Columbus, Joseph, 181
Columbus, Kenneth, 181
Columbus, Lois, 181
Columbus, Louis, 181
Columbus, Luanne, 181
Columbus, Mae Adler, 160
Columbus, Marion, 181
Columbus, Michael, 182
Columbus, Mrs. Don, 226
Columbus, Mrs. Earl, 157
Columbus, Mrs.Walter, 152
Columbus, Nancy, 182
Columbus, Nathalie, 125
Columbus, Phyllis, 182
Columbus, Roger & Marian, 181
Columbus, Ronald, 182
Columbus, Walter & Mae, 182
Columbus, Walter, 181, 188, 272
Compton, Frank, 53
Compton, Henry, 53
Compton, Mr., 88
Connerty, Bridgetta, 263
Constant, Anna, 182
Constant, Edward, 161, 182
Constant, Frances, 125
Constant, Josephine, 37, 182
Constant, Lloyd, 161, 182
Constant, Marian, 161, 182, 223
Constant, Mrs. William, 161
Constant, Napoleon & Sophie, 182
Constant, Willard, 161, 182, 365
Constant, William, 161, 182, , 250, 338
Converse, Amasa 'Bud', 182
Converse, Dean, 182, 183
Converse, Elizabeth Ann, 183
Converse, Ethel, 182
Converse, Gladys, 118, 182, 311
Converse, I. D. & Sarah, 182
Converse, John Amasa, 183
Converse, Milton, 161, 182
Converse, Mrs. Milton A., 244
Converse, Paul, 183
Converse, Ralph, 182
Converse, Thomas Milton, 183
Converse, Vera, 182
Cooke, Edward I., 247
Cooler, L. A., 60
Coop, V. E., 25
Cooper, Mrs. Charles, 361
Copeland, Verle, 179
Corbeil, Florida, 161, 162, 237
Corbeil, Francis, 161
Corbeil, Horace, 76
Corbeil, Minde, 76
Corbett, Bishop Timothy, 84, 93, 303
Corbett, Douglas, 316
Corbid, John, 26, 55, 87
Corbid, Roberta, 87
Corbin, David, 109
Corbin, Liza, 153
Cords, Mrs. Ruth, 246
Corman, Mrs. John, 303
Cornell, Opal, 106
Cornell-Belden, Mrs. Ella, 297
Corno, Roselyn, 210
Costello, Julie, 327
Cota, Adelore & Lucille, 134, 183
Cota, Adelore, 183
Cota, Alan, 183
Cota, Alice, 183
Cota, Arthur, 183
Cota, Carol, 183, 247
Cota, Edward, 183
Cota, Esther, 135
Cota, Ethel (Sr. Marie Raphael), 183
Cota, Harvey, 183
Cota, Henry, 183
Cota, Jerome, 183

Cota, Leda, 183
Cota, Leo, 183
Cota, Louie, 183
Cota, Lyzum, 183
Cota, Mabel, 183, 285
Cota, Medi, 183
Cota, Melina, 300
Cota, Mike, 183
Cota, Mildred, 183
Cota, Mrs. Adelore, 279
Cota, Myrtle, (Sr. Marie Imilda), 183
Cota, Paul Napoleon, 183
Cota, Shirley, 183, 342
Cota, Viola, 183
Cote, Alma (Lemay), 183
Cote, Anna (Bruggeman), 183
Cote, Blanche (Bonnet), 183
Cote, Delia, 256
Cote, Emma, 167
Cote, Estelle (Bourgeois), 183
Cote, George, 183
Cote, Henry, 167
Cote, Irene, 175
Cote, Joseph, 144, 175
Cote, Laura (Forets), 183
Cote, Mabel (Soltis), 183
Cote, Maurice, 142
Cote, Mrs. Aristide, 353
Cote, Mrs. Joseph, 258
Cote, Remi, 144, 183
Cote, Velore, 183
Cournia, Jean, 323
Cournia, Louis, 196
Cousin, Elsie, 255
Crady, Sandy, 179
Craft, Arthur, 183
Craft, Claira, 183
Craft, Clara, 224, 286
Craft, Clarence, 183
Craft, Daniel & Claira, 183
Craft, Erik & Kristena, 183
Craft, Ernest, 183
Craft, George, 183
Craft, Gust, 183
Craft, Herry, 183
Craft, Hulda, 359
Craft, Lilyn, 183
Craft, Mable, 183
Craft, Myrtel, 183
Craft, Nora, 183
Craft, Oscar, 183
Craite, Mary, 291
Crandall, May E., 185
Crawford, Mrs. Roger, 287
Cretin, Father Joseph, 7
Crompe, Delia, 307
Crompe, Marie, 31, 106
Crompe, Thomas, 144
Cronkite, Luella, 363
Crosby, Bessie, 293
Cuillerier, Olympe, 320
Culhane, James, 116
Culkins, Janice, 23
Cummins, Clyde, 346
Cummins, Maryann, 187
Cunningham, Anne V., 247
Cuno, Bill, 342
Cuno, David, 185
Cuno, Dean, 185
Cuno, Debbie, 185
Cuno, Edward, 123, 185, 337
Cuno, Gertrude, 185
Cuno, Heinrich, 184
Cuno, Mary, 184
Cuno, Nancy J., 185
Cuno, Peggy, 185
Cuno, Phil & Marilyn, 185
Cuno, Philip, 22, 112, 125, 185, 337
Cuno, Teresa A., 185
Cuno, Theresia, 184
Cuno, Thomas J., 185
Cuno, Vickie, 185
Cuno, William, 138, 184, 185
Cuno-Carriere, Mary, 185
Curlette, Barbara, 22
Currie, Mrs. Steve, 288
Curtis, Vera, 117
Curtiss, Bernard, 45
Cutten, Horace W. & May E., 179, 185
Cutten, Horace W. 'Bill', 26, 134, 185
Cutten, Wilma R., 185
Cwikla, Polly, 163
Cyr, 'Little' Joe, 109
Cyr, Agnes, 186, 187
Cyr, Alex, 186, 187
Cyr, Allen, 273, 297
Cyr, Amie, 186, 187
Cyr, Anna, 186, 187
Cyr, Annie, 132
Cyr, Ben, 262
Cyr, Benoit & Christine, 133
Cyr, Bill, 185, 186
Cyr, Charles, 97, 144
Cyr, Clara, 186, 187
Cyr, Clementine, 185
Cyr, David, 123, 186, 187
Cyr, Elie, 109, 326
Cyr, Elise, 361
Cyr, Elize, 257
Cyr, Ella, 186, 217
Cyr, Elodi, 185
Cyr, Elzear, 185, 186, 228
Cyr, Florence, 125, 142
Cyr, Frank, 9, 168, 185
Cyr, Fred E., 16, 17
Cyr, Fred, 185, 186, 229, 309
Cyr, George & Ann, 195
Cyr, George, 186, 229
Cyr, Henry, 186, 187
Cyr, James, 187
Cyr, Janet, 186
Cyr, Joseph, 185, 186, 228, 273
Cyr, Laura, 186, 228
Cyr, Leah, 186, 187
Cyr, Louis, 186, 299
Cyr, Louise, 186
Cyr, Lucille, 186
Cyr, Lydia, 262
Cyr, Margaret, 297
Cyr, Mr. & Mrs. Elzear, 187
Cyr, Mrs. Romeo, 361
Cyr, Mrs. Vernon, 209
Cyr, Norman, 186, 229
Cyr, Olive Philion, 186
Cyr, Patrick, 186, 187
Cyr, Paul Jr., 186, 187
Cyr, Paul, 105, 109, 185, 186, 187, 213
Cyr, Philip, 187
Cyr, Romeo Jr., 187
Cyr, Romeo, 186, 187
Cyr, Rose, 186, 187
Cyr, Sadie, 186
Cyr, Sarah, 186
Cyr, Sophie, 262
Cyr, Susan, 257, 326
Cyr, W. F., 91
Cyr, William, 186, 229
Cyr-Gervais, Sarah, 229
Cyr-Gruel, Jeanette, 229
Cyr-Guillemette, Ella, 229
Czech, Alois & Tracy, 187
Czech, Bill, 187
Czech, Diane, 187
Czech, Kathy, 187
Czech, Nancy, 187
Czech, Oliver & Diantha, 187
Czech, Susan, 187
Czech, Traci, 187
Dahl, Gudrun, 282
Dahl, Halvor, 56
Dahl, Inga, 283
Dahl, Marvin, 326
Dahl, Otto, 55, 323
Dahl, Peggy, 230
Dahle, Alma, 55
Dahle, Edward, 116
Dahle, George, 55
Dahle, John, 55
Dahlen, Olga, 317
Dahlstrom, Larry & Connie, 120
Dailey, Clarence A., 187, 346
Dailey, Clifford, 187
Dailey, Clinton, 187
Dailey, Ellen, 187
Dailey, F. B., 190
Dailey, George, 187
Dailey, Joyce, 187
Dailey, Mae, 187
Dailey, Millard, 24, 25, 187, 241
Dailey, Mr. & Mrs. Frank B., 187
Dailey, Mrs. Clarence, 346
Dailey, Robert, 187
Dailey, Thelma, 106
Dailey, Vivian, 187
Dale, Dr. L. N., 122
Dale, Gunder, 372
Dale, Mrs. Alfred, 359
Dale, Mrs. Newell, 372
Dale, Mrs. Roy, 372
Dale, Roy Jr., 372
Daley, Tillie, 371
Dalton, Donna, 214
Dalton, Floyd, 100
Daly, J. E., 53
Danduran, Cheryl, 288
Danduran, Homer Jr., 288
Danduran, Homer, 288
Danduran, Larry, 288
Danduran, Mona, 288
Dandurand, Ed., 327
Dandurand, Rose, 353
Danielson, Knut, 60
Danzl, Janet, 187
Danzl, Jimmy, 187
Danzl, Jon, 187
Danzl, Julie, 187
Danzl, Mrs. James, 187
Daoust, Georgianna, 359
Daoust, Leandre, 144
Daoust, Mr., 156
Daoust, Mrs Horace, 209
Daoust-Jewett, Mrs. Leah, 284
Dardis, Roger, 201
Dargan, Duane, 29
Dargan, Harriet, 223
Dargan, Hazel, 223
Dargan, Jacob, 223
Dargan, Louis, 223
Dargan, Mae, 223
Dargan, Marie, 223
Dargan, Mary Dady, 223
Dargan, Maurice P., 223

Dargan, Maurice, 148, 223
Dargan, Mollie, 223
Dargon, Mrs. John, 196
Darr, Della, 229
Daugherty, Bertha, 202
David, Mr. & Mrs., Bert, 172
Davidson, Debbie, 187
Davidson, Mrs. Donald, 187, 258
Davidson, Mrs. Norman, 310
Davidson, Steven, 187
Davidson, Valerie, 187
Davies, F. R., 49
Davies, Mary, 174
Davies, Mr & Mrs F. R., 49
Davis, Ann Rae, 187
Davis, Carol, 211
Davis, Carolyn, 187
Davis, Clarcy, 172
Davis, J. Edson, 182
Davis, Mel & Ethel, 187
Davis, Mrs. J. Edson, 182
Davis, Mrs. Richard, 298
Dawson, Amelia, 272
Day, Walter, 362
Deaver, Andrew, 301
Deaver, Jay, 301
Deaver, Julie, 301
Deaver, Lamont, 301
Deaver, Mark, 301
DeCatelina, Gabrielle, 139
Deforge, Alban E., 31
DeForge, Albany, 143, 281
DeHaan, Anthony, 188
DeHaan, Brian, 188
DeHaan, Catherine, 188
DeHaan, David, 188
DeHaan, Elaine, 188
DeHaan, Gerard, 188
DeHaan, Jacob, 188
DeHaan, John & Gertrude, 188
DeHaan, John Jr., 188
DeHaan, Joseph, 188
DeHaan, Margaret, 188
DeHaan, Martin & Bernadette, 188
DeHaan, Martin, 73, 159, 181, 188, 223, 262
DeHaan, Mary, 188
DeHaan, Nancy, 188
DeHaan, Pauline, 188
DeHaan, Robert, 188
DeHaan, Steven, 188
Deizel, Lois, 329
Deizel, Ruth, 329
Delage, Dick, 98
Delage, Marcrina, 191
Delage, Mrs. Harvey, 346
Delage, Mrs. William, 175
Dellaire, Alphonse, 175
Dellaire, Anne, 175
Dellaire, Appolinaire, 175
Dellaire, Edward, 175
Dellaire, Gilbert, 175
Dellaire, Louis, 175
Dellaire, Napoleon, 175
Dellaire, Pierre, 175
Dellaire, Roman, 175
Dellaire, Romuald, 175
Dellaire, Rosanne, 175
Dellaire, Zoe, 175
DeLong, Leo, 117
Delorme, Adelard, 188, 189
Delorme, Ambroise & Marie, 188, 189
Delorme, Bernadette, 189
Delorme, Donavan, 189
Delorme, Fabianna, 189
Delorme, George, 189
Delorme, Joe, 72
Delorme, June Rae, 189
Delorme, Kathy Jean, 189, 279
Delorme, Michael, 189, 279
Delorme, Mrs Marie Ann, 72
Delorme, Mrs. Dave, 361
Delorme, Mrs. Theodore, 279
Delorme, Napoleon, 195
Delorme, Omer, 73
Delorme, Patricia Ann, 189
Delorme, Patty, 279
Delorme, Raymond, 189, 279
Delorme, Rosario 'Roe', 189, 346
Delorme, Sally, 189, 279
Delorme, Theodore & Elizabeth, 279
Delorme, Theodore 'Ted', 189
Delorme, Thomas, 189, 279
Delude, Olivia, 94
Demann, Caroline, 273
Demann, Charles, 189
Demann, Edythe M., 37, 189, 339
DeMann, Emma, 142
Demann, Johanna, 273
Demann, Mr. & Mrs. W. C. L., 339
Demann, Myrtle, 37, 158, 189
Demann, Rose, 189, 332
Demann, William & Hattie, 158
Demann, William C. Sr., 11, 18, 189
Demarais, Anna, 19
Demarais, Arthur, 190
Demarais, Daniel, 323
Demarais, Delia, 190
Demarais, Donna, 301
Demarais, Duane, 190
Demarais, Dulice, 328
Demarais, George & Marie, 190
Demarais, Harriet, 190
Demarais, Henry, 190
Demarais, James, 323
Demarais, Janet, 323
Demarais, John B. & Delima, 133
Demarais, John B., 109, 190
Demarais, John, 190
Demarais, Joseph, 190
Demarais, LaVerne, 190
Demarais, Lee, 323
Demarais, Leonard & Dora, 301
Demarais, Louis, 190, 323
Demarais, Mary Martha, 132
Demarais, Mary, 190
Demarais, Medore, 190
Demarais, Mrs. Phillippe, 259
Demarais, Mrs. Steve, 241
Demarais, Omer, 190
Demarais, Pearl, 190
Demarais, Philip, 190, 328
Demarais, Ray, 190
Demarais, Steve, 229
Demarais, Suzanne, 323
Demarais, Walter, 190
Demarais, Willard, 190
Demarais, William, 190
Demarais-Lemieux, Leah, 190
Demarais-Lizotte, Emily, 190
Demarais-Ragsdale, 190
Demarais-Rossignol, Edna, 190
Demarais-St Marie, Dulice, 190
Demarais-Theroux, Agnes, 190
Demers, Arthur, 105
Deming, Frank, 67
Dempsey, Eddie, 61
Dempsey, John, 60
Dempsey, Lizzie, 61
Dempsey, Mary, 61
Dempsey, Robert, 61
Dempsey, Willie, 61
Dennis, Joe, 134
Dennistoun, Dr. Rollin M., 190
Dennistoun, Mrs. Tom, 22, 23
Dennistoun, Robert Thomas, 190
Dennistoun, Rollin James, 190
Dennistoun, T. M., 190
Dentz, Julia, 309
Depta, Roy, 165
DeRemer, Samuel Deel, 122
Dereouin, John, 192
DeRoche, Elenore, 231
DeRosier, Mrs. Lyle, 172
Derosier, Amy, 192
Derosier, Andrew, 192, 366
Derosier, Arthur, 191
Derosier, Bernan, 143
Derosier, Bruneau, 144
Derosier, Bruno & Sophie, 192
Derosier, Bruno, 180, 191
Derosier, Cassandra, 192
Derosier, Daniel 'Dan', 191, 192
Derosier, Dolphis, 191
Derosier, Douglas Ferment, 192
Derosier, Ella Mae, 191
Derosier, Ernest & Ella Mae, 191
Derosier, Ernest, 22, 191
Derosier, Ferment, 191, 192, 322
Derosier, George & JoAnn, 191
Derosier, George, 101, 191, 337
Derosier, Gregory 'Greg', 191, 192
Derosier, Harold, 67
Derosier, Jamie Andrew, 191, 192
Derosier, Janet, 192
Derosier, John, 192
Derosier, Joseph, 191
Derosier, Karen, 192
Derosier, Lawrence, 192
Derosier, Leo J., 192
Derosier, Louis, 100, 191, 192
Derosier, Lucille, 191
Derosier, Lucy, 192
Derosier, Madonna, 191
Derosier, Marsha, 192
Derosier, Mary Rose, 191
Derosier, Maurice & Sybil, 192
Derosier, Maurice, 191, 276
Derosier, Michael, 192
Derosier, Morris, 192
Derosier, Mrs. Bruno, 331
Derosier, Mrs. Clarence, 272
Derosier, Mrs. Maurice, 327
Derosier, Mrs. Roy, 209
Derosier, Nancy, 192
Derosier, Paul, 191
Derosier, Pierre & Marie, 190
Derosier, Robert, 192
Derosier, Susan, 192
Derosier, Sybil, 72
Derosier, Terence 'Terry', 191, 192
Derosier, Timothy 'Tim', 191, 192
Derosier, Tracy, 192
Derosier, Vital, 191
Derosier, Wayne, 191
Derouin, Alphonse & Arelie, 319
Derouin, Alphonse, 192
Derouin, Charles, 192
Derouin, Daniel, 192
Derouin, Elyiar, 91
Derouin, Emelie, 319, 320
Derouin, Emily, 279
Derouin, Ena, 192

Derouin, Francis, 192
Derouin, Gilbert, 192
Derouin, Jeanne, 192
Derouin, John & Eleanor, 192
Derouin, Judy, 192
Derouin, Lawrence, 192
Derouin, Louie, 192
Derouin, Mary, 192
Derouin, Mrs. John, 175
Derouin, Olive, 192
Derouin, Raymond, 192
Derouin, Remi & Hermine, 192
Derouin, Severe, 91
Derouin, Stephen, 192
Derouin, Theophile, 192
Derouin, Thomas, 192
Derrick, Madonna Mae, 349
Dery, Anna, 298
Dery, Hughes Sr., 77
Desautel, Celina, 144
Desautel, Mrs. Louis, 321
Desautel, Theresa, 291
Desautel (Bourgeois), Mrs Lilly, 101
Deschene, Mrs. Leo, 193
Deschenes, Jeanne, 225
Deschense, Elizabeth, 322
Deshales, Father Charles J., 48
Deshene, Carol, 208
Deshene, Elizabeth, 208
Deshene, Leo, 208
Deshene, Lloyd, 208
Deshene, Roland, 208
Desjaoes. Fatjer C. J., 100
Desmarais, Charlotte
Desotell, Angelina, 142
Desotell, Ernest, 142
Desotell, Henry Sr., 193
Desotell, Lona, 142
Desotell, Mamie, 193
Desotell, Maurice, 337
Despotova, Josette, 229
DesRoches, Bernard, 231
Desrosier, Francis, 191
Desrosier, Mrs. Delbert, 336
Desrosier, Mrs. Francis, 331
Dessellier, Albina, 175, 193
Dessellier, Alex, 175
Dessellier, Andrew, 175, 193
Dessellier, Angel Mae, 175
Dessellier, Angeline, 175, 193
Dessellier, Audrey, 175
Dessellier, Carol, 175
Dessellier, Cecelia, 175
Dessellier, Celina, 175, 193
Dessellier, Cyprien, 175, 193
Dessellier, David, 175
Dessellier, Delia, 175, 193
Dessellier, Diane,, 175
Dessellier, Dola, 175
Dessellier, Dorine, 175
Dessellier, Doris, 175
Dessellier, Elizabeth, 175
Dessellier, Eugene, 175, 176, 193
Dessellier, Gedeon, 175, 193
Dessellier, George, 175
Dessellier, Geraldine, 175
Dessellier, Gideon, 76, 272
Dessellier, James, 175
Dessellier, Josephine, 175, 193
Dessellier, Joyce, 175
Dessellier, Linda, 175
Dessellier, Louis, 175
Dessellier, Ludger, 175, 293
Dessellier, Malvina, 76
Dessellier, Marie, 175
Dessellier, Marlin Ernest, 175
Dessellier, Mary, 175, 193
Dessellier, Michael, 175
Dessellier, Moseph, 193
Dessellier, Onezime, 175
Dessellier, Paul, 175
Dessellier, Rosalie, 175
Dessellier, Rosina, 175, 198, 272
Dessellier, Shirley, 175
Dessellier, Vincent, 175
Detling, Henriette & Francis, 329
Dettling, Val, 129
Deutschman, John, 193, 345
Deutschman, Martha, 152
Deutschman, Richard, 193
Deutschman, Rose, 193
Deutschman, Walter, 193
Deutschman-Brodeerick, Margaret, 193
Dewey-Marlan, Ida, 186
Deymonaz, Bros., 99
Deymonaz, Frank, 99, 100, 156
Deymonaz, Gust, 77
Deziel, Marie Ann, 209
Dickerson, Martha, 312
Diers, Otilie, 225
Dietze, Rev. Max, 47
Dinges, Carol, 240
Dingley, Linda, 192
Dingman, Father, 48
Dishman, Dr. Jess, 283
Doaust, E., 157
Doaust, Horace, 285
Dobie, Jenny, 202
Dobrozsi, Mrs. Stephen, 214
Dobson, Anna, 31
Dobson, Fernly, 31
Dodds, Bob, 355
Dodds, Dorothymae, 26
Dodds, Laura Leslie 'Lori', 193
Dodds, Michael Robert, 193
Dodds, Robert & Dorothymae, 193
Dodds, Robert, 135
Doebele, Bob, 309
Doeden, George, 229
Doherty, Diane, 273
Dokken, Patrice, 365
Dokken, Sandra, 165
Dolbec, Benjamin, 193
Dolbec, Benjamin, 91, 94
Domke, Pastor E. E., 120
Dona, Frank & Celina, 133
Dona, Mary Jessie, 132
Donahue, J. J., 53, 350
Donahue, James, 366
Donahue, Kate Agnes, 350
Donahue, Margaret, 366
Donarski, Frances, 337
Donarski, Mrs. Adolph, 236
Donarski, Mrs. Ronald, 236
Dondoneau, Bertheline, 193
Dondoneau, Cora, 193, 319
Dondoneau, Elizabeth, 162
Dondoneau, Emma, 193
Dondoneau, Leah, 193
Dondoneau, Louis, 193
Dondoneau, Mary Louise, 330, 331
Dondoneau, Mrs. Steve, 226
Dondoneau, Narciss, 331
Dondoneau, Steven, 193
Dondonneau, J., 144
Dondonneau, Louis, 144
Doneau, Emerance, 205
Doran, Duane, 194
Doran, Elmer, 45, 46, 50
Doran, Mrs. David, 288
Doran, Phil, 194
Dorn, Elmer, 100
Dosmann, Catherine, 355
Doucet, Louis, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80
Doucet, Mary, 76
Dougherty, Bill, 163
Doughty, Elaine, 125
Doutre, Alfred, 38
Dovre, Donna, 353
Dowswell, Jim, 271
Doyea, Louis, 214
Doyea, Mary, 237
Doyle, Mrs. Wm., 254
Draeger, Jack, 194
Draeger, Joe, 193, 194
Draeger, Lena, 194
Draeger, Leona, 194
Draeger, Michael, 193
Draeger, Mrs. Joe, 196
Draeger-Bennett, Helena, 194
Drager, Pauline, 373
Dragon, A. G., 174
Drangsholt, Gunder, 61
Drangsholt, Inger, 61
Drangsholt, Oscar, 61
Drees, Bumie, 194
Drees, Chris & Mary, 135
Drees, Chris, 194
Drees, Christ, 194
Drees, Darlene, 194
Drees, Elizabeth, 194
Drees, Family, 194
Drees, Gemma, 194
Drees, Gen, 194
Drees, Gertrude, 194
Drees, Gloria, 94, 194
Drees, Hillie, 194
Drees, Jack, 288
Drees, John, 194
Drees, Julie Ann, 194
Drees, Lena, 194
Drees, M. W., 94
Drees, Margaret, 194
Drees, Marvin, 194
Drees, Mary Whalen, 106
Drees, Mary, 19, 22, 125, 194, 288
Drees, Matt, 194
Drees, Michael, 288
Drees, Mrs. Matt, 194, 340
Drees, Mrs, Nick, 249, 340
Drees, Mrs. Chris, 367
Drees, Mrs. Minnie, 340
Drees, Nick, 166, 194
Drees, Nickie, 194
Drees, Pete, 194, 288, 318
Drees, Rosalie 'Patchy', 194, 288
Drees, William, 194
Drees, Yvonne, 288
Dreilan, And. 147
Drews, Gust, 122
Drews, Rev. G., 120, 121
Drielan, Tom, 148
Drier, John, 272
Drotts, Phyllis, 268
Dube, Rev. C., 142
Dubois, Ulelle, 259
Dubue, Sophia, 178
Dubuque, Doris, 214
Dubuque, Lucille B., 196
Dubuque, Mrs. Louis, 361
Dubuque, Mrs. Richard, 299
Dubuque, Ozana, 73

Duchamp, Candice, 195
Duchamp, Cathy, 195
Duchamp, Christopher, 195
DuChamp, Debbie, 22
Duchamp, James, 20, 195
Duchamp, Jana, 195
Duchamp, Jesse S., 29, 49, 51, 194
Duchamp, Joe, 13, 14
Duchamp, Leonard, 194
Duchamp, Wallace, 51, 194
Ducharmd, Albert, 195
Ducharme, Dave, 195
Ducharme, Ida, 273
Ducharme, J. B. & Rose, 195
Ducharme, Jerome, 195, 216
Ducharme, Joseph & Philomene, 133
Ducharme, Joseph N., 132, 144
Ducharme, Leo, 195
Ducharme, Mary Ellen, 132
Ducharme, Mose, 143, 195
Ducharme, Mrs. Mose, 322
Ducharme, Mrs. Tom, 322
Ducharme, Onezime & Catharine, 133
Ducharme, Onezime, 71
Ducharme, Rudolph, 195
Ducharme, Theo M., 123, 195
Ducharme, Tom, 195
Duesing, Anna, 216
Duesing, Auguste Emilie Anna, 216
Duesing, Ferdinand, 216
Dufault, Art, 163
Dufault, Caroline, 172
Dufault, Daniel, 153
Dufault, Donald, 195
Dufault, E. S., 105
Dufault, Florence, 195
Dufault, Francis, 231
Dufault, Joe, 83
Dufault, John Baptiste, 25, 195
Dufault, Kathleen, 153
Dufault, Laura Marie, 195, 290
Dufault, Laurence, 195
Dufault, Leonard, 195
Dufault, Mrs. Damas, 193
Dufault, Mrs. Lloyd, 326
Dufault, Mrs. Peter, 284
Dufault, Norman, 25, 195
Dufault, Odelia, 158
Dufault, Odile, 157, 181, 278
Dufault, Pauline, 326
Dufault, Philip, 205
Dufault, Richard, 276
Dufault, Rose, 160, 195, 338
Duff-McPherson, Linda, 230
Duffy, Bernard, 365
Duffy, Evelyn, 254
Duffy, John A., 10, 127, 195
Duffy, Mrs. Adeline, 253
Dufresne, Arthur, 144
Dugal, Father G. L., 84, 142
Dugan, Father G. S., 75
Dunn, Bud, 282
Dupont, Alaric, 195
Dupont, Albert, 196
DuPont, Allen, 196
Dupont, Archie, 195, 196
Dupont, Archie, 73
DuPont, Barbara, 196
Dupont, Charles, 196
Dupont, Dean, 195
Dupont, Donald, 195
DuPont, Emma, 196
DuPont, Estelle, 196
Dupont, Eucharist, 195, 196
Dupont, Gary, 195
DuPont, George, 162, 174, 196, 241
Dupont, Glorianne, 195
Dupont, Harold, 125, 196
Dupont, Irene, 195
Dupont, Jos., 144
Dupont, Joyce, 162
DuPont, Jude, 196
DuPont, June, 196
Dupont, Karen, 195, 251
DuPont, Kermit, 196
Dupont, Leroy, 162
DuPont, Madonna, 196
DuPont, Mae, 196
Dupont, Majoric, 196
DuPont, Marie, 196
Dupont, Mary, 216
DuPont, Mildred, 196
DuPont, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph, 196
Dupont, Mr., 143
Dupont, Mrs Anna, 19
DuPont, Mrs. Allen, 363
Dupont, Mrs. Archie, 179
Dupont, Mrs. Jude, 314
Dupont, Mrs. Ralph, 306
Dupont, Norma, 195
Dupont, Pat, 170
Dupont, Patricia, 162
DuPont, Patsy, 196
Dupont, Philip Jr., 162
Dupont, Philip, 162, 318
Dupont, Ralph, 195
DuPont, Romona, 196
Dupont, Ronnie, 195
DuPont, Sharon, 196
Dupont, Sister Agatha, 196
Dupont, Walter, 143
Dupont, William, 242
Dupont-Grenier, Mary, 196
Dupont-Huot, Hermine, 222
Dupont-LaCoursiere, Doria, 196
Durand, Mary, 309
Durheim, Charles, 147
DuRocher, Emma, 213
Dusaky, Dorothy, 360
Dwyer, John, 105, 106
Dyer, Mrs. W. B., 278
Dyrud, Emil, 25
Dziengel, Michael, 334
Dziengel, Roger, 334
Dziengel, Wendy, 334
Eagen, Jack, 207
Eagen, Mark, 207
Eagleton, Ida, 335
Eastman, Johanna A., 314
Eaton, Lynn, 250
Ebersviller, Nicole, 338
Ebersviller, Vern, 338
Eckblad, Amanda, 44
Eckstein, August, 196
Eckstein, Caroline 'Lena', 193, 196
Eckstein, Charles, 196
Eckstein, Clara, 196
Eckstein, Fred, 196
Eckstein, Henry, 196
Eckstein, Jill, 197
Eckstein, Larry, 20, 136
Eckstein, Lena, 193, 196
Eckstein, Marion, 196
Eckstein, Mr. & Mrs. Nick, 147
Eckstein, Mrs. Nick, 194
Eckstein, Natalie, 197
Eckstein, Nicholas, 147, 193, 196
Eckstein, Nick, 196
Eckstein, Otto, 196
Eckstein, Phyllis, 196
Eckstein, Robert, 196
Eckstein, Roger, 112, 134, 196, 355
Eckstein, Scott, 197
Eckstein, Tena, 196
Eckstein, Terry, 197
Eckstein, Verda, 196
Eckstein, Virgil, 196
Eckstein, William, 196
Edren, C. J., 117
Edwards, Einer, 25
Efta, Mr. & Mrs. J. B., 360
Efta, Theresa, 360
Egan, Leonora J., 195
Egeland, Nels, 54
Eggers, Geerald, 117
Ehmke, August, 117
Ehrnst, A. R., 116, 117
Eichleay, Roy, 351
Eickhof, Otto J., 122
Eifert, Dr. Edward J., 356
Eifert, Fred, 356
Eifert, Mary, 356
Eisenhower, Dwight D., 28, 102
Elard, Valeria, 165
Ellefson, Clyde, 123, 197
Ellefson, Darlene, 197
Ellefson, Randy, 197
Ellefson, Rhonda, 197
Ellefson, Ryan, 197
Ellefson, Shelly, 197
Ellefson, Valerie, 197
Ellefson, Virginia, 197
Ellestad, Rev., 61
Ellickson, Arlene, 197
Ellickson, Clarence, 197
Ellickson, Edward, 197
Ellickson, Gloria, 197, 284
Ellickson, Linda, 197
Ellickson, Roger, 197
Ellingson, L. J., 50
Elliot, Gladys, 369
Emard, Alphosine, 302
Emard, Basil, 67
Emard, Ely, 302
Emard, Frederick, 67, 250
Emard, Mose, 302
Emard, Ovid, 302
Emard, Pierre II, 302
Emard, Pierre, 7, 9, 35, 38, 67, 105, 119, 302
Emard, Sylvanie 'Minnie', 302
Emard-Lemieux, Rose, 302
Emard-Majeres, Nathalie, 302
Emard-Mayhew, Dina, 302
Emard-Patnode, Ellen, 302
Emard-Porter, Philomine, 302
Emery, Phyllis, 166
Emmer, Mrs. Bud, 161
Enderle, Henry J., 9, 41, 43, 51
Enders, Catherine, 222
Enerson, Joelle, 197
Enerson, Kevin, 197
Enerson, LaVonne, 197
Enerson, Lowell, 165, 197, 204, 317
Enerson, Marvin & Marian, 197
Enevolson, Jim, 277
Engebretson, Mrs Conrad, 62
Engeldinger, Lucille, 45
Engelstad, Mons, 25
Engen, Christ, 25
Engen, Gunhild, 269
Engesther, Gerald, 308
Engesther, June, 308

Engesther, LeRoy, 308
Engesther, Marvin, 308
Engesther, Robert, 308
Engesther, Sharon, 308
Engl, Mrs. Vern, 212
Enright, Ed, 31
Epper, Adam, 372
Epper, Clara, 372
Erdmann, Fred S., 139, 342, 359
Erdmann, Helena, 342
Erdmann, Maria, 342
Ericksdotter, Ida, 206
Ericksdotter, Kajsa, 206
Erickson, Andy, 13
Erickson, Bertha, 44, 45, 46
Erickson, Christina, 206
Erickson, E. O., 85
Erickson, Edna, 243
Erickson, Edward O., 54, 77, 78, 88, 197
Erickson, Eldora, 300
Erickson, Emma, 326
Erickson, Erik, 61
Erickson, Ida, 77
Erickson, Isabelle, 197
Erickson, Lars & Martha, 268
Erickson, Leif C., 53, 261
Erickson, Leonard, 25
Erickson, Marianne, 208
Erickson, Marie, 44, 45
Erickson, Mary, 46
Erickson, Mr & Mrs E. O., 85
Erickson, Mr. & I., 87
Erickson, Mrs. Edward, 85, 293
Erickson, Pamela, 117
Erickson, Peder & Kajsa, 206, 207
Erickson, Rev. Clinton, 120
Erickson, T. A. 'Dad', 23
Erickson, Waivel, 359
Erickson, Alpha, 170
Erickson-Leonard, Josephine, 197
Eskeli, Aini, 198
Eskeli, Bruce, 243
Eskeli, Edward, 198
Eskeli, Evelyn, 243
Eskeli, Glenyce, 22, 243
Eskeli, Helen, 198
Eskeli, Leo, 51, 198
Eskeli, Leonard, 198
Eskeli, Martin, 198
Eskeli, Melvin, 35, 46, 198
Eskeli, Mrs Amelia, 51
Eskeli, Nick, 36, 198
Eskeli, Rodney, 243
Eskeli, Wilma, 198, 237
Eskeli, Woodrow Ray, 198, 243
Espen, Annie, 283
Ethier, Adelor, 60
Ethier, Ernest, 61
Ethier, Eva, 61
Ethier, Fred, 60
Ethier, Henry, 60
Ethier, Lea, 61
Etter, Wallace, 46
Etterman, Beverly, 198
Etterman, Edwin & Irene, 198
Etterman, Edwin, 25, 112, 355
Etterman, Kenneth, 198
Ettner, Verna, 139
Eugenia, Sister, 157, 158
Eukel, Stanley, 243
Eukel, William, 68
Evans, W. S., 122
Evanson, Debbie, 155
Evenson, Charles, 369
Evenson, Gilbert, 61
Everding, Betty, 188
Ewing, Carole, 283
Ewing, Dr. James Weir, 283
Ewing, Roland, 283
Faille, Edward, 144
Fairbanks, Mrs. Harold, 263
Falardeau, (Lindquist) Ruth, 100
Falardeau, Annette, 198
Falardeau, Celeste, 198
Falardeau, Cherie, 198
Falardeau, Danny, 198
Falardeau, Henry, 76, 81, 198
Falardeau, Joseph, 76, 77, 198
Falardeau, Keith, 198
Falardeau, Leo, 198
Falardeau, Louis, 59, 60, 62, 75, 76, 79
Falardeau, Lucille, 199
Falardeau, Mary, 198
Falardeau, Mrs. Henry, 307
Falardeau, Renae, 198
Falardeau, Roger, 198
Falardeau, Rose Marie, 198
Falardeau, Tom, 198
Falardeau, Walter, 198
Falardeau, William, 198
Falardeau-Lindquist, Ruth, 198
Falardeau-Martinson, Irene, 198
Falardeau-Ruebke, 198
Fallen, M. J., 163
Fallon, Joseph, 35, 49, 50, 51
Fallon, Mary I., 116, 117
Fandal, Kathy, 251
Fargett, Chas., 144
Farmer, Georgia N., 287
Farning, R. E., 45
Farrington, Daisy, 55
Farrington, LaVern, 55
Farrington, Leo, 55
Farrington, Richard, 289
Fasch, Father, 321
Faust, Mrs. Lee, 326
Fay, Alan, 199
Fay, Mrs. Stanley, 353
Fay, Stanley S., 199
Fay, Vicky, 199
Fayolle, Father, 118, 291, 314
Febro, Lenora, 118
Febro, Mrs. Pat, 219
Fecteau, Agnes, 239
Fedcke, Rev. O. C., 48
Fehr, Cindy, 199, 319
Fehr, George, 199
Fehr, Jeffery, 199, 319
Fehr, Leo, 199
Fehr, Leonard, 199
Fehr, Mrs. Leonard, 319
Feige, Father Louis, 84
Feige, Rev. Louis, 142
Felion, Father Jerome, 49, 119
Felling, Mrs. Luverne, 321
Fellman, Annie, 174, 199
Fellman, Bob, 369
Fellman, Charles & Alma, 199
Fellman, Charles, 186, 199
Fellman, Craig, 199
Fellman, Donald, 125, 199
Fellman, Dr. James D., 199
Fellman, Dr. Thomas, 199
Fellman, Duane, 199, 373
Fellman, Eleanore, 200
Fellman, Glen, 122, 199, 200, 304, 350
Fellman, Jill, 199
Fellman, Joan, 199
Fellman, Julie, 199
Fellman, Maurine, 199, 265
Fellman, Mrs. Glen, 278
Fellman, Robert, 116, 199
Fellman, Valarie, 199
Fellman, Vernon, 199
Fellman, Violet, 199, 266
Fellman-Grise, Myrtle, 199
Fellman-Higinbotham, Lois, 199, 230
Fellman-Johnson, Alice, 68, 199
Femrite, Karen, 171
Fenstad, Mrs. E., 212
Feragen, Edith, 366
Ferden, Mrs. Maynard, 216
Fering, Clyde, 95
Fering, Rodney, 95
Ferland, Valerie, 318
Fertig, Mrs. Lawrence, 210
Festler, Fred, 344
Fetzer, John, 371
Feyereisen, Joan, 276
Fidelis, Sr., 122
Field, Nellie, 294
Fiest, Mrs. Pius, 288
Figge, Ann, 173
Figge, Barbara, 173
Figge, K. J., 173
Figge, Lisa, 173
Figge, Mrs. Kenneth, 311
Filipi, Mrs. Dallas, 295
Filipinski, Mrs. Larry, 155
Findeisen, Carl, 200
Findeisen, Eleanore Lillian, 200
Findeisen, Fred, 200
Findeisen, Herb, 127, 188, 200, 229, 276, 297, 341
Findeisen, Marie, 200
Findeisen, Maude C., 200, 235
Findeisen, Mrs. Marie, 121
Findeisen, Mrs. Wm., 129
Findeisen, William & Margaret, 200
Findeisen, Wm., 10
Finkenbinder, Pauline, 313
Finkenbinder, Ralph, 313
Finrow, Al, 51
Finrow, H. H., 38, 41, 49
Finstad, H. I., 25
Fischbach, Mrs. Michael, 179
Fisher, Gladys, 242
Fisher, Mrs. Don, 174
Fitzgerald, Ida, 307
Fitzgerald, John C., 78
Fitzgerald, Lucy, 208
Fitzgerald, Mrs Roy, 307
Fitzgerald, Mrs. John, 161
Fitzgerald, Mrs. Tom, 322
Fitzimmons, Mrs. Earl, 183
Fjeldt, Bob, 326
Fjelstad, Dr., 120
Fjelstad, Rev O., 85
Flaa, Marjorie, 45
Flaat, Ole, 233
Fladmark, Rev., 54, 55
Flage, Albert, 200
Flage, Anthony 'Chuck', 201
Flage, Clarence, 200
Flage, Debbie, 201
Flage, Delores, 201
Flage, John, 201
Flage, Julia, 200
Flage, Lars O., 200
Flage, Leslie, 22, 26, 67, 201
Flage, Lester, 26, 201
Flage, Lon, 201
Flage, Lucille, 201

Flage, Mr. & Mrs. Lester, 201
Flage, Mr. & Mrs. Oliver, 201
Flage, Mrs. Lester, 173
Flage, Oliver, 26, 200, 201, 355
Flage, Pamela, 201
Flage, Penny, 201
Flaherty, Andrew Paul, 178
Flaherty, Francis, 178
Flanders, Beverly, 271
Flannagan, John, 105
Flateland, Byron, 89, 201
Flateland, Myles, 201
Flateland, Oscar & Helen, 201
Flateland, Oscar, 89
Flatgaard, Annie, 227
Flatgard, Elaine, 281
Flatgard, Ervin, 59
Flatgard, Hunda & John, 265
Fletcher, Lulu, 63
Fletcher, Lydia, 67, 138
Fletcher, Mildred, 160
Fletcher, Mr., 68
Flink, Mrs. Fred, 169
Flink, Mrs. Lillian Brady, 170
Flynn, J. P., 119
Foldoe, Ada, 202
Foldoe, Alfred, 62, 63, 201, 293
Foldoe, Audrey, 202
Foldoe, Belle, 227
Foldoe, Carl, 62, 201
Foldoe, Eunice, 202
Foldoe, Glen, 202
Foldoe, Gustaf A., 50, 60, 62, 63, 202
Foldoe, Joe, 63
Foldoe, Leslie, 26, 141, 202
Foldoe, Martin E., 50, 60, 62, 63
Foldoe, Maurice, 202
Foldoe, Mavis, 202
Foldoe, Mr. & Mrs. Martin, 201
Foldoe, Mrs Gust, 62
Foldoe, Mrs. Hannah, 202
Foldoe, Mrs. M., 62
Foldoe, Russell, 202
Foldoe, Wilma, 202
Foley, Father, Gerald, 26, 93
Folvig, Erickson, 37
Fontaine, Mary Louise, 208
Fontaine-Gervais, Louise, 307
Fonteur (Fortier), Bernadette, 153
Fonteur (Fortier), Cecile, 152
Fonteur (Fortier), Lorette, 152
Fonteur (Fortier), Maurice, 152
Fonteur (Fortier), Paul, 152
Fonteur (Fortier), Tines (Stanislas), 152
Ford, (Bonnett) Mary, 100
Ford, Alice, 31, 37
Ford, Anna, 203
Ford, Beverly, 203
Ford, Beverly, 337, 339
Ford, Bryan, 202
Ford, Buddy, 31
Ford, Celia, 203
Ford, Charles, 202, 203
Ford, Clarence, 202
Ford, David, 202
Ford, Earl, 202
Ford, Elizabeth, 203
Ford, Emma, 203
Ford, Frank, 202
Ford, Guy, 202
Ford, Harold, 202
Ford, Helen, 31
Ford, James, 9, 41, 202, 303
Ford, Jenny, 203
Ford, Joan, 242
Ford, John, 202
Ford, Joseph, 202
Ford, Kathy, 202, 249
Ford, Kristi, 202
Ford, Laurie, 202
Ford, Leonard & Elma, 202
Ford, Leonard, 251
Ford, Linda, 202
Ford, Martin, 202, 203
Ford, Michael, 202, 356
Ford, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard, 339
Ford, Mrs. Harold, 286
Ford, Mrs. James, 297, 311, 335
Ford, Mrs. Leonard, 257
Ford, Mrs. Martin, 297
Ford, Mrs. Robert, 335
Ford, Mrs.William, 226
Ford, Patrick, 202, 203
Ford, Robert, 203
Ford, Steven, 202
Ford, Terry, 360
Ford, Verna, 203
Ford, William, 372
Ford, Yvonne, 203, 251
Ford-Kalbakdalen, Joan, 202
Ford-McGinnity, Nell, 202
Ford-Smith, Carol, 202
Ford-Spencer, Catherine, 202
Ford-Sullivan, Olive, 202
Ford-Zeller, Delia, 202
Fore, Adline, 204
Fore, Agnes, 204
Fore, Alden, 203, 204
Fore, Alice, 204
Fore, Alma, 171, 204
Fore, Alvin (Lillo), 26, 204, 205
Fore, Andrew & Laura, 203
Fore, Andrew, 204, 271
Fore, Arlie, 204, 323
Fore, Barbara, 204
Fore, Delano, 204
Fore, Delilah, 203, 204
Fore, Donne, 55
Fore, Dorine, 204
Fore, Edwin, 204
Fore, Elmer, 204, 323
Fore, Eunice, 204
Fore, Ida, 56
Fore, James, 204, 323
Fore, Jens, 54, 204, 323
Fore, Joyce, 204
Fore, Judy, 204
Fore, Lars, 203, 204
Fore, Lillian, 204
Fore, Lillian, 55, 204
Fore, Mavis (Anderson), 55, 204
Fore, Milo, 204, 323
Fore, Mrs Aase, 54
Fore, Mrs Ida, 54
Fore, Mrs Rasmus, 56, 217
Fore, Mrs. Andrew, 317
Fore, Nels, 203, 204, 344
Fore, Orville, 204, 323
Fore, Phyllis, 204
Fore, Rasmus N., 53, 203, 204, 217
Fore, Roger, 203, 204
Fore, Ronald, 204
Fore, Roy, 204, 323
Fore, Russell, 204
Fore, Russell, 54, 55
Fore, Virgil, 55, 204
Forea, Lucy, 161
Fore-Lillo, Alma, 323
Fore-Smuthers, Agnes, 323
Fore-Todd, Alice, 323
Forness, Adam, 166
Forness, Amy, 166
Forness, Ken, 166
Forsberg, Mrs. Neil, 294
Forsgaard, Annie, 60
Fortier, Agnes, 152
Fortier, Andrew, 152
Fortier, Florence, 152
Fortier, Irene, 152
Fortier, Lawrence, 152
Fortier, Louis, 152
Fortier, Madeline, 152
Fortier, Marcelline, 169
Fortier, Mary Jean, 152
Fortier, Mrs. Adrian, 256
Fortier, Mrs. G., 258
Fortier, Mrs. Maurice, 255
Fortier, Olive, 152
Fortier, Remi, 208
Fortier, Rock, 97
Foss, Estelle, 348
Foss, Inez, 293
Foss, Olga, 243
Fossgaard, Anna, 362
Fossum, Alf, 172, 204
Fossum, Arlene, 204
Fossum, Arthur, 55, 204, 205
Fossum, Asta, 204
Fossum, Bjarne, 205
Fossum, Donna, 204, 352
Fossum, Evelyn, 204
Fossum, Gary, 204
Fossum, Gene, 204
Fossum, George & Hazel, 197
Fossum, George, 55, 204, 205
Fossum, Gladys, 55, 203, 205
Fossum, James, 204
Fossum, Johanna, 204
Fossum, Larry, 204
Fossum, LaVonne, 197, 204
Fossum, Magne, 204
Fossum, Michael, 204
Fossum, Millie, 205
Fossum, Mr. & Mrs. John, 204
Fossum, Ole, 204, 205
Fossum, Oscar, 204
Fossum, Ralph, 205
Fossum, Reier, 54, 204
Fossum, Richard, 204
Fossum, Robert, 204
Foster, Les, 207
Foulkes, Elizabeth, 207
Foulkes, Fred, 207
Foulkes, Lisa, 207
Fournier, Adrian, 205, 353
Fournier, Agnes, 205
Fournier, Albert, 205
Fournier, Alexis Sr., 205
Fournier, Alexis, Jr. 144, 205
Fournier, Alfred 'Fritz', 205
Fournier, Alma, 205
Fournier, Amanda, 205, 263
Fournier, Andrea, 280
Fournier, Ann Marie, 205
Fournier, Anna, 205
Fournier, Art, 295
Fournier, Azilda, 299
Fournier, Bernice, 205
Fournier, Blanche, 205
Fournier, Clarice, 280
Fournier, D. E., 285
Fournier, David, 205

Fournier, David, 205
Fournier, Donald, 250
Fournier, Frank, 77
Fournier, Fritz & Cecilia, 205
Fournier, Frossie, 208
Fournier, Isaac, 144, 163, 205
Fournier, J. B., 67, 144
Fournier, Laura, 167, 322
Fournier, Lawrence, 26, 280
Fournier, Leah, 205
Fournier, Leo, 205
Fournier, LeRoy, 205
Fournier, Lester, 280
Fournier, Louis, 205
Fournier, Lumina, 205
Fournier, Mayme, 205
Fournier, Mr. & Mrs. Isaac, 263
Fournier, Mrs. Alfred, 157
Fournier, Mrs. George, 259
Fournier, Mrs. Wallace, 209, 284
Fournier, Nancy, 205
Fournier, Ramon, 205
Fournier, Rev. L. J., 142
Fournier, Richard (Father Denis), 205
Fournier, Rose, 353
Fournier, Ruby, 280
Fournier, Theophile 'Ted', 71, 148, 205, 256, 280
Fournier, Thomas, 205
Fournier, Toussaint, 322
Fournier, Valida, 163, 205
Fournier, Vern, 205, 280
Fournier, Vivian, 205
Fournier, Walter, 205
Fournier, Zelia, 205
Fournier-LaPlante, Eva Rose, 263
Fourtin, Michael, 71
Fowler, Mrs. Chester, 210
Fox, Deanna, 309
Fox, Donald, 46
Foye, Charley, 60
Franken, Mrs. Bill, 326
Franklin, Ernie & Dorothy, 237
Franklin, Luverne & David, 283
Franklund, Ray, 41
Franz, Christine, 211
Franz, Louise, 212
Frederick, Roselia, 370
Frederickson, Mrs. F. R., 223
Fredrickson, Chester M., 46, 206
Fredrickson, Clarice, 206
Fredrickson, Emil, 238
Fredrickson, Floyd, 206
Fredrickson, Helen, 206
Fredrickson, Hjalmar H., 206
Fredrickson, Merlyn, 206
Fredrickson-Borshiem, Gladys, 206
Freer, Aileen, 286
Freitag, Jerry, 46
Fremling, Mrs Charles, 198
French, Agnes Marie, 206
French, Betty, 206
French, Connie, 206, 360
French, Debbie, 206
French, Douglas, (Brother Paul), 206
French, Lorenzo & Agnes, 206
French, Margaret, 242
French, Margie, 206
French, Michael, 206
French, Mr. & Mrs. Lorenzo, 360
French, Peter, 328
French, Philip, 206
French, Richard, 202
Frennette, Charles, 132
Frennette, George & Delima, 133
Frennette, George, 71
Freund, Fayette, 288
Freund, Fernando, 288
Freund, Franz F., 130
Freund, Susan, 288
Friedenback, Dave, 359
Frigel, Lorraine, 238
Frigstad, Orpha, 205
Fristad, Berget, 248
Fritz, Herb Jr., 193
Froehle, Mrs. Kenneth, 353
Froiland, Albert, 207
Froiland, Alma, 207
Froiland, Ann, 207
Froiland, Arthur, 207, 345
Froiland, Ben, 207
Froiland, Bertha, 207
Froiland, Clara, 207, 283
Froiland, Francis, 37
Froiland, Helmer, 207
Froiland, Henry, 207
Froiland, Johann, 207
Froiland, John, 362
Froiland, Mabel, 207
Froiland, Marie, 207
Froiland, Mr. & Mrs. Richard, 206
Froiland, Mrs Avis, 46
Froiland, Pete, 207
Froiland, Richard, 206, 207
Froiland, William, 207
Froseth, James, 41
Fuller, Irvin, 277
Funk, Mrs. Carl, 278
Funk, Rev. John P., 120
Funnesdahl, John, 25
Funte, Lydia, 342, 343
Furuseth, Amy, 227
Furuseth, Benjamin, 227
Furuseth, Mrs. Peder, 227
Gaass, Carol Jean, 207
Gaass, Dirk William, 207
Gaass, Fern B., 207
Gaass, Gerrit, 207
Gaass, Harold, 207
Gaass, Herman, 207
Gaass, Janet Elizabeth, 207
Gaass, Johan Heinrig, 207
Gaass, Peter Bello, 207, 214, 223, 225
Gaass, Pieter, 207
Gaass, Sharla Rae, 207
Gaass, Wallace, 207
Gaass, Wanda, 207
Gabor, Victor, 26, 148
Gacksetter, Lynette, 207
Gacksetter, Melani, 207
Gacksetter, Randal, 207
Gacksetter, Shelly, 207
Gacksetter, Winton & Ruth, 207
Gackstetter, Shelley, 347
Gackstetter, Winton, 117
Gadbois, Mrs. Leon, 186
Gagner, Albert, 25, 143, 208
Gagner, Alma, 208
Gagner, Amede, 205, 208
Gagner, Angela, 209
Gagner, Anna, 208
Gagner, Arshield, 208
Gagner, Arthur, 209
Gagner, Barbara, 209
Gagner, Bruce, 208
Gagner, C. R., 98
Gagner, Carolyn, 208
Gagner, Chuck, 208
Gagner, Clara, 208, 216, 307
Gagner, Clarence R., 100, 208, 209
Gagner, Danny, 271
Gagner, Debra, 208
Gagner, Donald, 18, 19, 208
Gagner, Duane, 208
Gagner, Eda Perreault, 208
Gagner, Emma (Sr. Marie Denise), 209
Gagner, Emma Rock, 208
Gagner, Erma, 271
Gagner, Evelyn, 209
Gagner, Florence, 209
Gagner, Freddie, 209
Gagner, George, 208, 209
Gagner, Harvey, 208
Gagner, Henry, 208
Gagner, Herby, 208
Gagner, Hilaire, 208
Gagner, Jacqueline, 208
Gagner, Jerome, 209
Gagner, John Leon, 208
Gagner, Julia, 208
Gagner, Laurent, 208
Gagner, Lawrence, 208
Gagner, Leo Thomas, 208, 271, 307
Gagner, Leonard, 209
Gagner, Louis, 208, 209
Gagner, Mae, 209, 367, 368
Gagner, Marie, 209
Gagner, Mary Lou, 209
Gagner, Maurice, 208
Gagner, Medore, 209
Gagner, Melvin, 208
Gagner, Mike, 209
Gagner, Mrs Rebecca, 101
Gagner, Mrs. Clarence, 217
Gagner, Mrs. Elmer, 298
Gagner, Mrs. Leonard, 298
Gagner, Mrs. Robert, 284
Gagner, Napoleon, 208
Gagner, Octave, 180, 208, 209
Gagner, Phileomon, 208
Gagner, Richie 'Poncho', 209
Gagner, Robert & Rose, 208
Gagner, Robert (Joseph Roby), 209
Gagner, Robert Jr., 209
Gagner, Robert, 209, 368
Gagner, Roland, 209
Gagner, Ronald, 208
Gagner, Roseanne Gervais, 208
Gagner, Soufernie, 208
Gagner, Stephanie Ann, 208
Gagner, Theo., 208
Gagner, Thomas, 141, 208
Gagner, Timothy Ray, 208
Gagner, Tom, 26
Gagner, Vicky, 208
Gagner, Zephyr, 208, 271, 307
Gagner Octave, 208
Gagney, Achille, 300
Gagney, Rose, 300
Gagney-Paradis, Rose, 300
Gagnon, Aloha, 209
Gagnon, Ernest, 209
Gagnon, Feleca, 192, 209
Gagnon, Gedeon, 180, 209
Gagnon, George, 145, 209
Gagnon, Harvey, 209
Gagnon, Laura, 209
Gagnon, Lloyd, 209
Gagnon, Louis, 209
Gagnon, Lumena, 209
Gagnon, Lynette, 210
Gagnon, Mrs. Ernest, 372
Gagnon, Mrs. George, 23

Gagnon, Mrs. Ralph, 367
Gagnon, Mrs. Regis, 145
Gagnon, Raymond, 209
Gagnon, Regis, 144, 145, 180, 209
Gagnon, Robert, 209
Gagnon, Sister Lillian, 209
Gagnon, Tim, 210
Gagnon, Tony, 210
Gagnon, Vernon, 209
Gagnon (Strand), Val, 101
Gale, Florence, 210
Gale, Lawrence, 210, 250
Gale, Lillian, 210, 250
Gale, Mildred, 106, 210
Gall, Francis & Ellen, 285
Galland, Bruce, 251
Gallant, Clem, 329
Gallant, Emanuel, 329
Galtier, Reverend Lucian, 7
Gamache, Father Clement, 93
Gamache, Francis, 263
Gamache, Joe, 263
Garceau, 'Big' Ed. 210
Garceau, 'Little' Ed., 210
Garceau, Etta, 210, 226
Garceau, Harry, 210
Garceau, Lenora, 210
Garceau, Lester, 210
Garceau, Marie, 210
Garceau, Russell, 210
Garceau, Theo. G., 10, 131, 180, 210, 226, 263
Garceau, Walter, 210
Gardner, James, 247
Gardner, John, 247
Gardner, Joseph, 247
Gardner, Ria, 247
Garfne, Sandra, 261
Garman, John, 276
Garnes, Margaret, 250
Gary, Mrs. R. G., 172
Gauchee, Clara, 176
Gaudette, Neree, 144
Gaultier de Varennes, Pierre, sieur de la Verendrye, 5
Gauthier, Alice, 68, 138, 210
Gauthier, Arlene, 312
Gauthier, Chester, 26, 210
Gauthier, Clifford, 68, 210
Gauthier, Clodemers, 103
Gauthier, Doris, 208
Gauthier, Eileen, 210
Gauthier, Emil, 37
Gauthier, J. E., 144
Gauthier, John & Mary, 310
Gauthier, John R., 138, 210
Gauthier, Laura, 310
Gauthier, Leonel, 103
Gauthier, Mrs. Philip, 193
Gauthier, Mrs. Roselyn, 138
Gauthier, Mrs. Roy, 258
Gauthier, Odilon, 35, 37
Gauthier, Philip, 138, 210, 332
Gauthier, Roy, 68, 210
Gauthier, Wilmer, 210
Gauthier, Zepherin, 37
Gaven, John Jr., 122
Gaven, Mrs. James, 196
Gaven, Mrs. John, 312
Gaylord, John, 109
Gebert, Mina, 365
Gedde, Elizabeth, 326
Geddie, Anna, 342
Geddie, Christ, 226, 342
Geddie, Otto, 342
Geddie, Rosetta, 226
Geenagle, Eliza, 114
Geiger, Mrs Arnold, 252
Geisman, Rev. Ronald, 49
Geisman, Ronald, 122, 210
Genereax, Delina, 300
Genereux, Gilbert, 97
Genereux, Lee, 201
Genereux, Patricia, 201
Genereux, Sam, 201
Generoux, Delima, 208
Generoux, Napoleon, 144
Gerardy, Agnes, 211
Gerardy, Barbie, 211
Gerardy, Charles, 211
Gerardy, David, 211
Gerardy, Doris, 211
Gerardy, Florence, 211
Gerardy, Gerald, 211
Gerardy, Helen, 211
Gerardy, Jerry, 46, 50, 211
Gerardy, John, 211
Gerardy, Kevin, 211
Gerardy, Louella, 211
Gerardy, Marion, 211, 245
Gerardy, Matt F., 211
Gerardy, Matt, 25, 360
Gerardy, Nancy, 211
Gerardy, Noreen, 211
Gerardy, Peter, 35, 211
Gerardy, Peter, 211
Gerardy, Ron, 211
Gerardy, Tammy, 211
Gerardy, Tony, 211
Gerardy, Walter, 211
Gerereux, Tom, 201
Gergevin, Sylvin, 76
Gerlach, Adolph, 212
Gerlach, Albert, 212
Gerlach, Anna, 211
Gerlach, August, 212
Gerlach, Augusta, 211
Gerlach, Bertha, 212
Gerlach, C. G., 147
Gerlach, Carl Jr., 211, 212
Gerlach, Carl, 105, 211, 212
Gerlach, Clara, 212
Gerlach, Daniel Jr., 212
Gerlach, Daniel, 211, 212, 373
Gerlach, Edward, 212
Gerlach, Emil, 212
Gerlach, Emma, 212
Gerlach, Ernest, 212
Gerlach, Ferd, 212
Gerlach, Freda, 212
Gerlach, Gary, 212
Gerlach, George, 212
Gerlach, Gottlieb, 211, 212
Gerlach, Gustav, 212, 321
Gerlach, Henry & Gustav, 212
Gerlach, Henry, 211, 212
Gerlach, Herman, 211, 212
Gerlach, Ida, 212, 265
Gerlach, John & Sons, 211
Gerlach, John Jr., 211
Gerlach, Louise, 212, 253
Gerlach, Lydia, 31, 116, 212, 373
Gerlach, Mattie, 212
Gerlach, Minnie, 212
Gerlach, Mrs. Gustave, 238
Gerlach, Pauline C., 312
Gerlach, Walter, 212
Gerlach, Wanda, 212
Gerlach, William, 212
Germo, Thomas, 200
Gerster, Mrs. Al, 263
Gerszewski, Mrs. Anthony, 220
Gervais, Annie Celeste, 132
Gervais, Benj., 109
Gervais, Benjamin & Henrietta, 133
Gervais, Candid, 180
Gervais, Carol, 279
Gervais, Charles Isaiah, 212
Gervais, Edgar, 307
Gervais, Emelia, 144
Gervais, Emily Semper, 213
Gervais, George Sydney, 212
Gervais, George William, 212
Gervais, Henry & Maria, 133
Gervais, Horace Emmett, 105, 212
Gervais, Isaiah, 67, 105, 109, 119, 212, 311
Gervais, Isaie, 7
Gervais, Jeanette Delphine, 212, 311, 327
Gervais, Jessie Addie, 212, 278
Gervais, Josephine, 311
Gervais, L. H., 105
Gervais, L. W., 105
Gervais, Leo, 205
Gervais, Loretta, 205
Gervais, Louis Harry, 132
Gervais, Louis Henry & Sarah, 133
Gervais, Louis Henry, 212
Gervais, Marie, 302
Gervais, Martha Emily, 15, 212
Gervais, Mary Josephine, 212
Gervais, Mary Vitaline, 132
Gervais, Mary, 330
Gervais, Modest, 329
Gervais, Mrs Sylvina, 186
Gervais, Mrs. Horace E., 311
Gervais, Norman Rueben, 212
Gervais, Ovilla, 67
Gervais, Rose Ann, 208
Gervais, Wilfred Joseph, 141, 212
Geske, Augusta, 196
Gesswein, Fred, 10
Gibault, Father Pierre, 213
Gibeau, Agnes, 357
Gibeau, Aldia, 357
Gibeau, Alexine, 213
Gibeau, Antoinette, 357
Gibeau, Art, 357
Gibeau, Catherine Mayland, 214
Gibeau, David, Wesley, 214
Gibeau, Dawn Mignonne Mary, 213
Gibeau, Ed., 163, 357
Gibeau, Elmire, 76, 213, 291
Gibeau, Florestine, 181
Gibeau, George DuRocher David, 213
Gibeau, George Joseph, 213
Gibeau, Israel & Elmire, 213
Gibeau, Israel, 291
Gibeau, Laura, 357
Gibeau, Leo, 357
Gibeau, Leona, 157, 357
Gibeau, Mary Ellen, 214
Gibeau, Mose, 357
Gibeau, Omar, 357
Gibeau, Philip, 76, 213, 291, 357
Gibeau, Rosalie, 213, 291
Gibeau, Rose, 163, 357
Gibeau, Samuel, 11, 18, 19, 76, 129, 163, 213 291, 355, 357
Gibeau, Willie, 357
Gibson, Mrs. Steve, 162
Giere, Henry, 50
Giere, Mrs. Irving, 63
Giese, Ludollph, 238

Gilbert, Mrs Isabelle, 115
Gilbertson, Andrew, 53
Gilbertson, Barbara, 214, 233
Gilbertson, Bessie, 19
Gilbertson, Bev., 123
Gilbertson, James & Beverly, 174, 214
Gilbertson, James 'Jim', 214, 224, 233, 286
Gilbertson, Katherine, 214
Gilbertson, M. N., 53
Gilbertson, Mabel, 163
Gilbertson, Mary Beth, 214
Gilbertson, O. N., 53
Gilbertson, Sheryl, 214
Gilbertson, **Hans T.** 214
Giles, Albert, 45
Gilmour, Patricia, 286
Gilmour, Tom, 286
Gilmour, William, 286
Gimson, Jessica, 371
Girard, Julius, 144
Gitter, Anna, 333, 336
Gjeldaker, Iver, 59, 61, 62
Gjeldaker, Knut, 60
Gjerberg, Fred, 201
Gjerberg, Gertie, 37, 67
Gjerdingen, Kris, 214
Gjerdingen, Lori, 22, 134
Gjerdingen, Mr. & Mrs. O. P., 214
Gjerdingen, O. B., 134, 214, 241
Gjerdingen, O. P. 'Bud', 134, 214, 241
Gjerdingen, Robert, 214
Gjernes, Adolph, 85
Gjernes, Carl, 85
Gjernes, E. K., 59, 60, 61, 62, 79
Gjernes, Gina, 85
Gjernes, Iver, 86, 351
Gjernes, Lillian, 85
Gjernes, Mr & Mrs Ellef, 85
Gjesdahl, Fred & Dorothy, 73
Gjesdal, Chris, 87
Glaser, Bertha, 347, 348
Glass, Darin, 214
Glass, Darrell, 214
Glass, David, 214
Glass, Deann, 214
Glass, Devin, 214
Glass, Dora, 370
Glass, Earl, 214
Glass, Glen, 214
Glass, Grace Helen, 214
Glass, John H. & Ellen, 370
Glass, John Henry, 22, 26, 72, 207, 214
Glass, Judy, 214
Glass, Leland, 214
Glass, Leonard, 214
Glass, Marie, 214
Glass, Marilyn, 214
Glass, Mr. & Mrs. John Henry, 214
Glass, Mrs. John, 23
Glass, Myrtle, 214
Glass, Nettie, 207
Glass, Peggy, 214
Glass, Ralph, 214
Glass, Randall, 214
Glass, Raymond, 214
Glass, Rodney, 214
Glass, Roland, 214
Glass, Roy, 214
Glass, Sharon, 170
Glass, Virgil, 214
Glassner, Anna, 336
Glenn, Bishop Laurence, 93
Glewve, August, 43
Glockzin, Emma, 232
Gluemke, Mrs. Robert, 322
Glum, George, 45, 46
Gobeil, Angelic, 155, 231
Gobeil, Marie, 231
Godbout, Louis, 144
Goefer, Yvonne, 339
Goelz, Sophia, 313
Goerke, Bill & Cora, 224
Goetz, Pat, 155
Gofius, Gordon, 238
Gommal, Carl, 68
Gommal, Freida, 68
Gommal, Henry, 68
Gomoll, Carl, 68
Gomoll, Freda, 68
Gomoll, Henry, 68
Gondringer, Monica, 182
Gonsior, Mrs. Pat, 257
Gooding, Mrs., 121
Goodman, Janet Y., 292
Gooler, Azelia, 247
Goosen, Mrs, Fred, 340
Gordon, Raymond, 56
Gorndahl, Freda, 200
Gorte, Emma, 162
Gorvik, Helmine, 238
Gosen, Mrs. Fred, 249
Gosline, C., 35
Goss, Mrs. Wallace, 180
Gother, Dorothea, 212
Gother, Elaine, 212
Gother, Emil, 212
Gother, Ferd, 147, 369
Gother, Mr. & Mrs. Emil, 212
Gother, Richard, 147, 148
Goulet, Delina, 214
Goulet, Delvina, 214
Goulet, Francis, 214
Goulet, John, 214
Goulet, Laura, 125
Goulet, Lawrence, 237
Goulet, Leon, 262
Goulet, Lorraine, 289
Goulet, Marance, 214, 215
Goulet, Marie, 164, 215, 328
Goulet, Mary, 163, 167, 214, 258, 262
Goulet, Mrs. Lawrence, 237
Goulet, Mrs. Leonard, 262
Goulet, Obeline, 214
Goulet, Olivine H., 214, 223, 259
Goulet, Rose, 214
Goulet, Theophile, 214
Goulete, Joe, 60
Grabanski, Joe, 94
Grady, Msgr. A. B., 322
Graff, Mrs. Julia, 317
Graham, Caroline, 44, 45
Grahek, Joseph, 164
Grahn, Arch, 26
Gramer, Daniel, 301
Gramer, Earl, 301
Gramer, Geraldine, 301
Gramer, Richard, 301
Gramer, Robert, 301
Gramer, Ronald, 301
Gramer, Theresa, 301
Gramer, William, 301
Grams, Harold, 45
Grandbois, Allen, 259
Grandbois, Annie Jane, 132
Grandbois, Dale, 259
Grandbois, Doria Mae, 259
Grandbois, Felix, 67
Grandbois, Harvey, 259
Grandbois, Jerry, 259
Grandbois, Joyce, 259
Grandbois, Mrs. Lizzie, 342
Grandbois, Mrs. Paul, 220
Grandbois, Paul, 26, 31
Grandbois, Prosper & Jane, 133
Grandboise, Alice, 326
Grandboise, Felix, 326
Granger, Ed, 37
Granger, Laurent, 144
Granholm, Mrs. Jack, 237
Grant, James, 122
Granum, Lorence, 51
Granum, Mark, 195
Gray, Ednah, 215, 244
Gray, Gordon, 215
Gray, Joseph F., 215
Gray, Mrs. H. G., 124
Gray, Pearl, 215
Gray, Robert, 215
Greek, Gerald, 296
Green, Florence, 215
Green, Grace, 295
Green, LeRoy, 360
Green, Lloyd, 19, 215
Green, Lou, 44, 45, 143
Green, R. H., 53
Green, Ralph, 215, 267
Green Karen, 248
Greenholgh, Kenneth, 179
Green-Shuttle, Mrs. Florence, 297
Greenwald, Dorothy, 215
Greenwald, Ed., 38, 174, 204, 215
Greenwald, Howard, 41, 51
Greenwald, John, 36, 50, 204, 215, 277
Greenwald, Mr. & Mrs. Ed., 154, 215
Greenwald, Mr. & Mrs. John, 163
Greenwald, Mrs Ed, 173
Greenwald, Myrtle, 277
Greenwald, Nina, 174
Greenwald, Pat, 38, 215
Greenwald, Wilma, 154, 204, 215
Greenwood, Virginia, 303
Gregoire, Esther, 328
Gregoire, Velena, 322
Grenier, Anne, 216
Grenier, Betty, 216
Grenier, Carol, 216
Grenier, Cecile, 216
Grenier, Celina, 216, 228
Grenier, Charles, 216
Grenier, Desire, 215
Grenier, Donald, 216
Grenier, Donavan, 216
Grenier, Eileen, 216
Grenier, Eugene, 26, 216
Grenier, France, 91
Grenier, Francois 'Frank' & Marie, 215
Grenier, Frank P., 92, 215, 216, 262, 324
Grenier, Gail, 216
Grenier, Gary, 216
Grenier, George, 216
Grenier, Gloria (Sr. M. Henri), 216
Grenier, Henry, 105, 216, 224
Grenier, Jeffrey, 216
Grenier, John 'Bob', 216
Grenier, John Robert, 216
Grenier, Mary, 216
Grenier, Melina, 216
Grenier, Mrs. Henry, 254
Grenier, Ombeline, 216, 262
Grenier, Paul, 216
Grenier, Raymond, 216
Grenier, Rose, 216

Grenier, Roseanne, 216
Grenier, Stephen, 216
Grenier, Susan, 216
Grenier, Willard, 216
Greysolon, Daniel, sieur du Luth, 5
Griepel, Rosemarie, 254
Grieser, Sue, 250
Grieves, Mrs. Ray, 369
Griffey, Robert, 167
Griffin, Eugene, 367
Griglac, Bill, 368
Grimm, Albert, 216
Grimm, Alma, 216
Grimm, Alvina, 216
Grimm, Beverly, 216
Grimm, Carrie, 216
Grimm, Cory, 216
Grimm, Doris, 216
Grimm, Elsie, 216
Grimm, Erlyss, 216
Grimm, Evelyn, 216
Grimm, Gust, 216
Grimm, Jeffrey, 216
Grimm, Larry, 216
Grimm, LaVern, 216
Grimm, Louis & Victore, 219
Grimm, Lydia, 216
Grimm, Orville, 216
Grimm, Rose, 216
Grimm, Therese, 219
Grimm, Violet, 216
Grimm, Wilhelm Max, 216
Grimm, William, 216
Grimm, Willie II, 216
Grimonprez, Father Edward, 93, 119
Grise, Myrtle, 199
Groberg, Wally, 344
Grobert, Wally, 351
Grohs, Judy, 199
Grorud, Rev. A. N., 89
Grorud, Rev. Milton, 47, 85
Gross, Mrs. George, 193
Grothe, Sever, 54
Grove, Mrs. Darrel, 170
Groven, Halver, 217
Grovom, G. O., 54
Gruel, Mrs. Gregory, 186
Grueneich, E. A., 122
Grundahl, Karen, 323
Gruneich, Rev. 49
Grunnagler, Elsa, 173
Grussenidorf, C., 113
Guerard, Delina, 330
Guerard, Leonard, 336
Guerard, Marceline, 272, 295
Guerin, Dan, 277
Guerin, George, 277
Guillaume, Father L., 75, 84
Guillemette, Alma, 99
Guillemette, Art, 194
Guillemette, Arthur & Pauline, 216
Guillemette, Chloe, 185
Guillemette, Elmer, 123
Guillemette, Ernest, 217
Guillemette, Gail, 217
Guillemette, Jan, 217
Guillemette, Jay, 29, 156, 217
Guillemette, Lori, 217
Guillemette, Marc, 217
Guillemette, Mrs. Arthur, 158
Guillemette, Mrs. Ernest, 186
Guillemette, Mrs. R. L., 367
Guillemette, Omer, 123
Guillemette, Patricia, 51
Guillemette, Paul, 217
Guillemette, Robert, 229
Guillemette, Scott, 156
Guillemette, Tim, 217
Guillemette, Ula, 106
Gulbrandson, Harold C., 117
Gulbranson, Bernhardt, 214
Gulbranson, Christine, 214
Gulbranson, Elmer, 214
Gulbranson, Gilbert, 214
Gulbranson, Hans T., 214, 233
Gulbranson, Helma, 214
Gulbranson, James, 214
Gulbranson, John, 214
Gulbranson, Theodore, 214
Gull, Dr. Hymie, 283
Gull, James, 283
Gull, Peter, 283
Gullickson, Donald, 239
Gullickson, Leonard, 89
Gullickson, Mrs. Don, 236
Gullickson, Ole, 89
Gullickson, Swen, 54
Gullingsrud, Lena, 44
Gunderson, Alma, 85
Gunderson, Andrew, 9, 41
Gunderson, Annie, 61
Gunderson, Arlene, 217
Gunderson, Aslak, Daley, 372
Gunderson, Clara, 85
Gunderson, Clarence, 85
Gunderson, David, 217
Gunderson, Dianne, 208, 217
Gunderson, Elizabeth, 217
Gunderson, Emma, 217
Gunderson, Gladys, 55, 217, 234
Gunderson, Gunder, 55, 217
Gunderson, Gunhild, 54, 55, 217, 271
Gunderson, John, 217
Gunderson, Josephine, 372
Gunderson, Julia, 85
Gunderson, Julian, 89
Gunderson, Kari, 280
Gunderson, Lars, 280
Gunderson, Mary, 217
Gunderson, Mr & Mrs John, 85
Gunderson, Mrs Mary, 54
Gunderson, Mrs. Torkel, 234
Gunderson, Olaf, 60
Gunderson, Oscar, 85
Gunderson, Paul, 217
Gunderson, Rev. Charles A., 85
Gunderson, Rev. Charles L., 217
Gunderson, Rudy, 231
Gunderson, Sam & Mary, 271
Gunderson, Sam & Torkel, 217
Gunderson, Sam, 53, 234
Gunderson, Sheryl, 217
Gunderson, Thomas, 54
Gunderson, Thora, 217
Gunderson, Torger, 271
Gunderson, Torkel & Ragna, 208
Gunderson, Torkel, 56, 217
Gundrson, Mr & Mrs Sam, 54
Gundy, Hobart, 26
Gunerault, A., 91
Gunn, Annie, 229
Gunnestenson, Gunnuf, 25
Gunstenson, Adeline, 218
Gunstenson, Alfred, 218
Gunstenson, Anella, 218
Gunstenson, Anna, 218
Gunstenson, Audrey, 218
Gunstenson, Beverly, 218
Gunstenson, Ed., 218
Gunstenson, Emma, 218
Gunstenson, Erlys, 218
Gunstenson, Gene, 218
Gunstenson, Gunder, 61
Gunstenson, Gunsten, 218
Gunstenson, Gust, 89
Gunstenson, Kjersti, 218
Gunstenson, Mrs. Gunder, 293
Gunstenson, Mrs. Margaret, 241
Gunstenson, Olaf, 218
Gunstenson, Ole, 218
Gunstenson, Sam, 218, 298
Gunstenson, Tharald, 218
Gunstenson, Thor, 54, 60, 61, 217
Gunstenson, Torger & Berit Boe, 218
Gunstenson, Verna, 218
Gust, Mrs. Russell, 23
Gustafson, Barry, 46
Gustafson, Carl, 139, 219
Gustafson, Carol, 219
Gustafson, Cathy, 219
Gustafson, Charles, 219
Gustafson, Edith, 219
Gustafson, Elmer, 219
Gustafson, Frank, 219
Gustafson, Hannah, 67
Gustafson, Henry, 219
Gustafson, Jeanne, 219
Gustafson, Jodi, 219
Gustafson, John, 225
Gustafson, Kyle, 219
Gustafson, Mattie, 67, 154, 219
Gustafson, Merle, 219
Gustafson, P. G., 139
Gustafson, Peter J. & Christine, 219
Gustafson, Raymond, 219
Gustafson, Rick, 219
Gustafson, Russell, 219
Gustafson, Walter, 139
Gustofson, Eleanor, 202
Guzek, Alton, 304
Guzek, Mrs. Albin, 183
Gwin-Slininger, Lola, 225
Haakanson, Hjalmer, 61
Haakonson, Charly, 60
Haakonson, John, 60
Haakonson, K., 60
Haakonson, Nels, 60
Haaland, Oscar & Anna, 328
Haaland, Zola, 328
Haaven, Elsie, 60, 79
Haaven, Haakon, 60, 61, 346
Haaven, Hans, 60
Haaven, Kenneth M., 49, 51
Haaven, Lothard, 61
Haaven, Matt, 63
Haaven, Mrs Kenneth, 51
Haaven, Mrs Loraine, 49
Haaven, Olaf (Ole), 62, 81, 158
Haaven, Olga, 60
Haaven, Randi, 346
Hacket, Fred, 116
Hackett, Mae, 324
Haga, B. C., 38
Haga, Lars, 41
Haga, Mr & Mrs Lars, 51
Haga, Mrs. Lars, 37
Hagan, B. C., 35
Hagan, Ole G., 35
Hagen, Agnes, 264
Hagen, Dick, 20
Hagen, Ella, 219
Hagen, Emma, 219

Hagen, Gina, 219
Hagen, Gudor, 219
Hagen, Harold C., 102
Hagen, Hazel, 46
Hagen, Ida, 219
Hagen, Inger, 219
Hagen, Jennie, 219
Hagen, John G., 219
Hagen, John M., 219
Hagen, John, 50, 362
Hagen, Marthea, 219
Hagen, Mina, 37, 219
Hagen, Mrs John, 46
Hagen, Mrs. Mary, 273
Hagen, Sina, 219
Hagen, Tom, 241
Hagg, Ole, 37
Hagge, Arthur, 101
Haggerty, Margaret, 169, 289
Hagglund, Ben, 373
Hagglund, P. O., 18
Hagl, Clare, 219
Hagl, Delores, 219, 334
Hagl, Donald, 219
Hagl, Frank & Theresa, 313
Hagl, Frank, 219
Hagl, Franz (Frank), 219
Hagl, George, 219
Hagl, Helen, 219
Hagl, Josephine, 188
Hagl, Ken, 113, 135
Hagl, Laura, 219, 315, 358, 359
Hagl, Lawrence, 219
Hagl, Leo, 219
Hagl, Louis, 200, 219, 264
Hagl, Marianne, 219
Hagl, Marion, 334
Hagl, Mark, 266
Hagl, Mary, 219
Hagl, Mrs. Duane, 266
Hagl, Mrs. Frank, 370
Hagl, Pat, 125
Hagl, Paul, 219
Hagl, Steve, 266
Haglund, Dennis E., 220
Haglund, Mrs. Dennis, 166
Haglund, Sara Sunshine, 166, 220
Haglund, Steven Edward, 166, 220
Haglund, Susanne Marie, 166, 220
Hahn, George, 296
Hahner, Beverly, 220
Hahner, Clara, Mrs Morris, 32
Hahner, Judy, 220
Hahner, Morris, 220
Hahner-Clament, Judy, 296
Hahner-Varrie, 296
Hall, C. D., 53
Hall, Clarence D., 220
Hall, Esther, 220
Hall, Harriet, 220
Hall, Kenneth, 220
Hall, Maren, 335
Hall, Mrs. Ida, 220, 266
Hall, Omer, 129, 131, 180, 225, 220
Hallamack, William, 279
Hallameck, Adele, 216
Hallameck, Mrs. William, 320
Hallameck, Thomas, 216
Hallas, Irene, 348
Hallas, Mr. & Mrs. Ira, 348
Hallas, Mrs. Ira, 310
Hallas, Roy, 233
Haller, Agnes, 220
Haller, Dennis, 220, 221
Haller, J. H., 117, 220
Haller, Lyle, 220
Haller, Sean, 221
Haller, Wendy, 221
Halseth, Dagny, 297
Halseth, Idella, 309
Halseth, Laura, 44, 45
Halstensgaard, Inga, 323
Halstrom, Marie, 232
Halum, Ole, 255
Halverson, Anton, 355
Halverson, Theodore, 50
Halvorsen, Soren & Johanna, 345
Halvorson, Albert, 135, 358
Halvorson, Caroline Sophie, 267
Halvorson, Edward, 289
Halvorson, Elling, 59, 60, 61
Halvorson, Gertrude, 197
Halvorson, Louis, 37
Halvorson, Ole, 267
Halvorson, Soren, 60
Hambleton, Mrs. Herbert, 264
Hamel, Cerisa, 312
Hamel, Raphael, 178
Hamel, William, 312
Hamery, Ed, 19
Hamett, Bryan, 153
Hamett, Dennis, 153
Hamett, Roy, 153
Hamett, Synthia, 153
Hamm, Mrs. Emil, 307
Hammer, Julius, 60
Hammer, Marlin, 205
Hammond, Scott, 45
Hamphill, Mertie Steele, 235
Hamrum, A. I., 98
Hamrum, Art, 221
Hamrum, Arthur, 46, 101
Hamrum, Beatrice, 23, 221
Hamrum, Ida, 221
Hamrum, Iver & Anna, 221
Hamrum, Oscar, 221
Hamry, Effie, 37
Hams, Arlie, 221
Hams, Kathy, 221
Hams, Mr. & Mrs. Delbert, 221
Hams, Mrs. Arlie, 365
Hance, Adolph, 222
Hance, Alfred, 92, 221, 222, 328
Hance, Alice, 222
Hance, Annie, 222
Hance, Cecelia, 222
Hance, Dolores, 221, 328
Hance, Edward, 221, 222, 328
Hance, Emma, 222, 299
Hance, Eva, 222
Hance, Grace, 222
Hance, Hanice, 222
Hance, Irene & Robert, 253
Hance, James, 92, 194, 221, 222, 299, 328
Hance, Joan, 221, 328
Hance, JoAnn, 222
Hance, JoAnn, 253, 353
Hance, Joseph & Delima, 288
Hance, Joseph, 222, 230
Hance, L. L., 94, 247
Hance, Leland, 221, 328
Hance, Lorena, 222
Hance, Louis Christopher, 222
Hance, Mae, 222
Hance, Mary, 222
Hance, Mr. & Mrs. Louis, 221
Hance, Mrs. James, 259
Hance, Mrs. Robert, 253
Hance, Reme & Sophie, 222
Hance, Reme, 222
Hance, Rena, 222, 344
Hance, Robert & Irene, 222
Hance, Robert Jr., 222
Hance, Robert, 105, 177, 222, 353
Hance, Rose, 37
Hance, Selina, 222
Hance, Thomas, 221, 328
Hangsleben, Richard, 223
Hansel, John, 222
Hansel, Louis, 148
Hansel, Marie, 178
Hansel, May K., 173
Hansel, Peter, 148, 222
Hanson, Aagot, 45
Hanson, Al & Jean, 223
Hanson, Al, 135
Hanson, Albert O., 141
Hanson, Andrew, 344
Hanson, Angeline, 223
Hanson, Anne, 125
Hanson, Anton, 223
Hanson, Ardith, 372
Hanson, Charlotte, 265
Hanson, Clarence, 223
Hanson, Cynthia, 233
Hanson, Dr. A. E., 85, 120
Hanson, E. A., 47
Hanson, Earl, 301
Hanson, Edith, 106
Hanson, Edward H., 223, 292
Hanson, Eleanor, 117
Hanson, Elizabeth Christine, 168
Hanson, Eric, 323
Hanson, Eunice & Goodwin, 135
Hanson, Fred & Kathy, 292
Hanson, George F. 'Tom', 223
Hanson, George, 159, 223
Hanson, Gilbert, 223
Hanson, Gloria, 301
Hanson, Hans P. 'Shorty', 233
Hanson, Harlan, 323
Hanson, Harold, 223
Hanson, Hulda, 117
Hanson, Jill, 223
Hanson, John Jr., 223
Hanson, John O., 53, 92, 223
Hanson, Joseph, 223
Hanson, Karl M., 11, 18, 19
Hanson, Kathy Jeanne, 292
Hanson, Lloyd R., 51, 223
Hanson, Lynn, 323
Hanson, Marie & Severt, 223
Hanson, Mark, 223
Hanson, Martin O., 240
Hanson, Mr & Mrs Al, 120
Hanson, Mrs Aaron, 196
Hanson, Mrs. Earl, 181
Hanson, Mrs. Elmer, 23, 346
Hanson, Myrtle, 223
Hanson, Nils, 50
Hanson, Ole, 61
Hanson, Patrick, 223, 319
Hanson, Paul, 223
Hanson, Peder & Kari, 223
Hanson, Regina, 61
Hanson, Royal, 223
Hanson, Selma, 223
Hanson, Severin, 41, 223
Hanson, Thomas Charles, 168
Hanson, Todd, 323
Hanson, Warren T., 168
Hanson-Miller, Jeanette, 369

Harbalen, Agnes, 224
Harbalen, Anton, 224
Harbalen, Carrie, 224
Harbalen, Joannes, 224
Harbalen, Johanna, 224
Harbalen, Martha, 224
Harbalen, Michael, 224
Harbalen, Nels, 224
Harbalen, Sivert, 224
Harbalen, Sjur, 224
Harbott, Adena, 196
Harbott, Albert, 31
Harbott, Dena, 31
Harbott, Emil, 31
Harder, Gertrude, 348
Harmoning, Arlan, 225
Harmoning, Beth, 224
Harmoning, Calvin, 26, 106, 224, 225, 284
Harmoning, Carl, 105
Harmoning, Clarence, 224, 225
Harmoning, Dennis, 225
Harmoning, Harlan, 225
Harmoning, Harry, 225
Harmoning, Henry, 225
Harmoning, Howard, 225
Harmoning, Joel, 224
Harmoning, Josephine, 225
Harmoning, Kurt, 224
Harmoning, Leona, 225
Harmoning, Michael, 225
Harmoning, Mrs. Clarence, 343
Harmoning, Mrs. Roger, 26
Harmoning, Mrs. Rueban, 343
Harmoning, Renae, 225
Harmoning, Reuben & Lucille, 225
Harmoning, Reuben, 225
Harmoning, Robert, 26, 225
Harmoning, Roger, 225
Harmoning, Ruth, 225
Harold, Mrs. Joe, 214
Harold, Mrs. Patrick, 161
Harren, Bill, 225
Harren, Dick, 225
Harren, Jacqueline, 225
Harren, Jeannette, 225
Harren, Joe, 129, 131
Harren, John P., 95, 225
Harren, Joseph A., 225
Harren, Joseph P., 225
Harren, Judge J. A., 225
Harren, Mark, 225
Harren, Mrs. Mary, 124
Harren, Paulette, 225
Harren, Peter, 225, 299
Harren, Rose, 225
Harren, Sheila, 225
Harren, Susan, 225
Harrie, Mrs Jack, 185
Harrie, Mrs. Leon, 181
Harris, Charlotte, 369
Harris, Dr. & Mrs. John W., 226
Harris, Dr. Robert, 226
Harris, Jack G., D.D.S., 115, 226
Harris, Jill, 226
Harris, John Michael, 226
Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Art, 345
Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur, 369
Harris, Robby, 226
Harrison, Benjamin, 161
Harrison, Mrs. Ron, 170
Harron, J. A., 29
Hart, Cecilia, 106
Hart, Mrs. Edward, 288
Hart, Rita, 23
Hart, William, 76
Hartje, John, 342
Hartje, Lizzie, 342
Hartjex, John, 342
Hartman, Lola, 225
Hasbrouck, Kimberly Erin, 214
Hasbrouck, Mrs. R. M., 214
Hastad, Bertha, 37
Hastetter, Douglas, 266
Hastetter, Kelly Jean, 266
Hastetter, Mrs. Bob, 266
Hastetter, Tammy, 266
Hatton, M. A., 18
Hatton, W. A., 142
Haug, Agnes, 282
Hauge, Ottis A., 89
Hauge, R. L., 138
Haugen, David, 50
Haugen, Elmer, 46
Haugen, Glen, 139
Haugen, Mrs. Dennis, 311
Haugen, Thora, 364
Haupt, Agnes, 226
Haupt, Cecilia, 139, 226
Haupt, Clara, 226
Haupt, Clarice, 337, 338
Haupt, Edward & Eunice, 338
Haupt, Edward, 226
Haupt, Elizabeth, 226
Haupt, George, 139, 226
Haupt, Hubert & George, 226
Haupt, Ida, 226
Haupt, John, 139, 226
Haupt, Katherine, 226
Haupt, Louis, 226
Haupt, Martin, 226
Haupt, Mary, 226
Haupt, Mrs. Ed., 258
Haupt, Peter, 226
Hauschop, Gertrude, 329
Hauser, F. W., 122
Hausman, Mrs. Minnie, 160
Haven, Eugenie, 309
Haven, Peter, 309
Havik, Edward & Inga, 87, 261
Havik, Edward E., 53, 56, 218
Havlak, Florence, 348
Havlick, Joseph, 51
Hawkinson, Mrs Lowell, 46
Hawkinson, Nancy, 323
Hawks, Rev. James, 120
Hayton, Mrs. Joe, 253
Head, Mrs. Kenneth, 238
Healy, Alan, 227
Healy, Anne, 2, 26, 374
Healy, Charles, 227
Healy, Donald, 227
Healy, Edward L., 121, 130, 226, 227, 297, 342
Healy, Elder Ed, 49
Healy, Harry, 226, 227
Healy, Hazel, 226
Healy, Jane, 227
Healy, L. E., 127
Healy, Lee, 130, 131, 227
Healy, Leland, 226
Healy, Lucius Maltby, 226
Healy, Mark, 227
Healy, Martin & Anne, 135
Healy, Martin, 224, 226, 227
Healy, Mary, 227
Healy, Mr. & Mrs. L. E., 129
Healy, Mrs. Belle, 235
Healy, Mrs. Leland E., 210
Healy, Mrs. Martin, 345
Healy, Pamela, 227
Healy, Patricia, 227
Healy, Ralph, 226, 227
Healy, Vernon, 130, 226, 227, 304
Healy-Best, Eva, 227
Healy-Carlson, Marcia, 227
Hebert, Alice, 208
Hebert, J. B., 10
Heen, Mrs. C. C., 223
Hegg, Audrey, 369
Heggar, Elmer, 227
Heggar, Gjermund & Kari, 261
Heggar, Gjermund T., 53, 227, 249
Heggar, Gladys, 227
Heggar, Mildred, 227
Heggar, Mr. & Mrs. Elmer, 369
Hegge, Clifford, 217
Hegge, Gene, 265
Hegland, Bergit O., 280
Hegland, Bessie, 218
Hegland, Gilman, 88
Hegland, Jorgen, 60
Hegland, Mrs. Gilman, 62
Hegland-Gunderson, Kari, 280
Hegtvedt, Mrs. Gunder, 275
Heiden, Maria, 308
Heiermann, Nickolai, 355
Heiermann, Pastor Nickolai, 362
Heigen, Mrs. Clifford, 238
Heiker, Antoinette 'Nettie', 318
Heimer, Mrs. Ron, 250
Heinault, Lydia, 180
Heirenbruck, Mrs. Dave, 175
Heitter, Mrs. Vern (Beulah), 263
Helgeson, Henry, 67
Helgeson, Vera, 56
Helle, D. J., 53
Helle, Mr & Mrs Daniel, 54
Helly, Tilley, 61
Helm, Clara, 229
Helm, Elizabeth, 229
Helm, Emil, 229
Helm, Ernest, 238
Helm, Frank J., 227, 228
Helm, Gisela, 229
Helm, Ione M., 161, 228
Helm, J. Cyrus, 228, 229
Helm, John N., 216, 227, 228
Helm, John Sr., 314
Helm, Joseph J., 67, 112, 228, 229, 241, 253, 263, 264, 342
Helm, Joseph, 130, 180, 227, 228, 229
Helm, Laura Cyr, 228
Helm, Lois M., 135, 228, 229, 321
Helm, Maria, 238
Helm, Marie, 229
Helm, Mildred, 68, 229, 249, 303
Helm, Mr. & Mrs. Jos. J., 129
Helm, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph, 227
Helm, Mrs. Joe, 186
Helm, Mrs. Nick, 124
Helm, Mrs. Rudolph, 124
Helm, Nicholas, 229, 303, 373
Helm, Oscar, 127, 174, 228
Helm, Ralph M., 228, 229
Helm, Robert F., 227
Helm, Roman, 229
Helm, Rudolph, 228, 229, 373
Helm, Sylvester, 228
Helm, Vivian M., 228
Helm, Walter Gerald, 227
Helm, Wilbur J., 181, 228, 229
Helm-Bendel, Ione, 229
Helm-Joyce, Rose, 228

Helm-Kirkpatrick, Isabelle, 228
Helm-Soland, Vivian, 229
Helm-Spenser, Marian, 227
Hemly, Andor, 335
Hemly, Andrew, 308, 335
Hemly, Betsy, 335
Hemly, Jens, 335
Hemly, Kristian, 335
Hemly, Linda, 51
Hemly, Mrs Ole, 49
Hemly, Ole, 49, 53, 238, 335
Hemly, Otila, 46
Hemme, Otto, 229
Hemstad, A. J., 36, 50, 214
Hemstad, John, 51
Hemstad, S. J., 50
Henderson, Annie, 37
Henderson, Mrs Knute, 46
Hendrickson, Johanna, 281
Hendrickson, John, 350
Hendrickson, Mrs. John, 124
Hendrix, Bob, 229, 241
Hendrix, Jane, 229, 241
Hendrix, John C., 229, 241, 355
Hendrix, Laura, 229
Hendrix, Laurie, 241
Hendrix, Mary, 229, 241
Hendrix, Mike, 229, 241
Hendrix, Sally Marie, 323
Hendrix, Tom, 229, 241
Heng, Darla Marie, 229
Heng, Jasper, 229
Heng, Marcia Ann, 229
Heng, Paul & Dorothy, 229
Heng, Paul, 125
Heng, Rebecca Lee, 229
Heng, Steven Paul, 229
Henke, Clarence Jr., 230
Henke, Clarence Sr. & Della, 229
Henke, Clarence Sr., 369
Henke, Della, 125
Henke, Emma, 207
Henke, Henry, 229
Henke, Herman, 207
Henke, Marilyn, 230, 369
Hennemuth, Henry, 71, 143
Hennen, Mrs. Myron, 312
Hennepin, Father Louis, 5
Hennig, Erich, 245
Hennig, Mrs. Volker, 245
Hennings, George, 147
Henri, Celina, 155, 231, 232
Henrichs, Ida, 366
Henricks, Dennis, 20
Henry, Alexander, 5, 6
Herjuson, Gunner, 54
Herjuson, Torjei, 54
Herold, (Larson) Bernice, 100
Herold, Bernadette, 159, 188, 223
Herold, Bernice, 223, 259
Herold, Clemence, 223
Herold, Constance, 223
Herold, Eva, 159, 223
Herold, Henry, 159, 223
Herold, Jacqueline, 223
Herold, Jake, 223
Herold, James, 223
Herold, John & Evangeline, 159
Herold, John H., 223
Herold, Joseph H., 223, 259
Herold, May, 223
Herold, Minnie, 223
Herold, Patrick, 182, 223
Herold, Rollin & Mary, 162
Herold, Rollin, 136, 223, 224
Herold, Royal, 223
Herold, Virginia, 223
Herold—Hanson, 223
Herzog, Bill, 328
Hess, Bertha, 248
Hesse, Bonnie, 368
Hesse, Brenda, 230
Hesse, Dan, 230
Hesse, Dean, 230
Hesse, Donald, 51
Hesse, Doris, 277
Hesse, Ernst, 248
Hesse, Floyd, 51, 277, 368
Hesse, George & Alma, 230
Hesse, George, 48, 139
Hesse, Henry, 248
Hesse, Jeanne, 337
Hesse, Marcie, 230
Hesse, Mary, 223
Hesse, Mathilda, 199
Hesse, Melvin, 230
Hesse, Mr. & Mrs. Lambert, 199
Hesse, Mrs. Florian, 37
Hesse, Mrs. Ray, 258
Hesse, William, 139
Hetu, Louis, 35
Hickman, Inez, 322
Higinbotham, Birdine, 230
Higinbotham, Bruce, 125, 230
Higinbotham, Clifford, 230
Higinbotham, Jessie, 230
Higinbotham, Maurice, 230
Higinbotham, Paul & Medora, 230
Higinbotham, Victor M., 230, 293
Hill, Arlene, 230
Hill, Charles, 345
Hill, Dellys, 317
Hill, E. E., 25, 230, 345
Hill, Hjalmer, 37
Hill, James J., 8, 145, 263
Hill, James, 230
Hill, Jim, 168
Hill, Judy, 201
Hill, Marguerite, 230
Hill, Mr. & Mrs. Earl E., 230
Hill, Mrs. Emmett, 157, 158
Hill, Rachel, 230
Hill, Victor C., 82, 83
Hill, Waino, 201
Hilleboe, Alida, 178
Hilleboe, Dr. Herman, 178, 230
Hilleboe, Herman Ertresvaag, 230
Hilleboe, Herman Jr., 231
Hilleboe, Joyce, 231
Hilleboe, Paul, 230
Hilleboe, Peter, 230
Hilleboe, Theresa, 231
Hillestad, Clara, 54
Hilse, Amelia, 231
Hilse, Ernest F., 231, 365
Hilse, Ernest Jr., 231
Hilse, Fred, 231
Hilse, Henry, 231
Hilse, Mary, 177, 231, 365
Hilse, Rose, 231
Hilse, Sophie, 231
Himes, Mrs. Thomas, 278
Himes, Nathalie, 182
Hince, Adeline, 231
Hince, Adeline, 76, 358
Hince, Adelore, 76, 232
Hince, Albert, 232
Hince, Angelina, 76
Hince, Anne, 232
Hince, Arthur, 232
Hince, Bonnie, 231, 232
Hince, Carolyn, 231
Hince, Cecile, 231, 232
Hince, Celina, 231, 273, 344
Hince, Donald, 231, 232
Hince, Elenore, 231
Hince, Elizabeth, 231
Hince, Elmer, 82, 231, 232, 243
Hince, Elmire, 213, 232, 357
Hince, Emma, 170, 232
Hince, Evelyn, 231
Hince, Hermenegile, 76, 231
Hince, Joan, 231, 232
Hince, JoAnne, 231
Hince, Joseph & Emma, 231
Hince, Joseph, 157, 231, 232
Hince, Kathleen, 231, 232
Hince, Laura Jean, 231
Hince, LeeRoy, 231
Hince, Leonard, 231
Hince, Louis Jr., 231
Hince, Louis, 76, 155, 231
Hince, Louise, 231
Hince, Madonna, 231
Hince, Margaret, 231, 232
Hince, Marie, 231
Hince, Mary Lou, 231, 232
Hince, Mary, 76, 232
Hince, Michael, 232
Hince, Mrs. Elmer, 369
Hince, Napoleon, 232
Hince, Odelle, 232
Hince, Odile, 231
Hince, Peter Jr., 232
Hince, Peter, 76, 79, 170, 231, 232, 288
Hince, Richard, 231
Hince, Robert, 231, 232
Hince, Ronald, 98
Hince, Rose, 232, 288
Hince, Rosilda, 76
Hince, Sherry, 231, 232, 243
Hince, Thorsten, 231
Hince, Wilfred, 232
Hince, Yvonne Elizabeth, 231, 232
Hince, Zephirin, 232
Hince-Asselin, Parmelia, 155, 232
Hinkley, Harry, 355
Hinrichs, Alfred, 23
Hinrichs, August, 68, 232
Hinrichs, Claus, 232, 342
Hinrichs, Delores, 23
Hinrichs, Emman, 68
Hinrichs, Ernest, 232
Hinrichs, Henry, 232
Hinrichs, Hubert, 68, 232
Hinrichs, Ida, 342
Hinrichs, Lizzie, 342
Hinrichs, Lydia, 68
Hinrichs, Mr. & Mrs Claus, 232
Hinrichs, Mrs. August, 210
Hinrichs, Rose, 68
Hinrichs, Sarah, 68
Hintz, Pauline, 170
Hiroux, John B., 132
Hiroux, Joseph & Felicite, 133
Hirsch, Agnes, 232
Hirsch, Conrad, 232
Hirsch, Felix, 232
Hirsch, Frances, 232
Hirsch, George, 232
Hirsch, Gertrude, 106, 232
Hirsch, Joe, 206

Hirsch, John, 105, 232
Hirsch, Joseph, 232
Hirsch, Katherine, 232
Hirsch, Louis, 232
Hirsch, Sarah, 232
Hirsch, Sister Mary, OSB, 232
Hirsch, Sophie, 232
Hirsch, Theresa, 106, 232
Hirsch, Thomas, 232
Hjeldness, Harriet, 304
Hjelmhaug, Carl, 232
Hjelmhaug, Sally Ann, 232
Hjelmhaug, Selmer, 232
Hjort, Bonnie, 358
Hnilicka, Mrs. Ed, 259
Hoas, Martin, 158
Hobbs, Larri, 266
Hobbs, Mrs. Dick, 266
Hobbs, Rickie, 266
Hodgson, E. J., 144
Hoefer, Christopher, 233
Hoefer, Duane, 233
Hoefer, Genevieve, 233
Hoefer, Gerald, 233
Hoefer, Henry, 233
Hoefer, John & Gertrude, 232
Hoefer, Katherine, 233
Hoefer, Leah, 233
Hoefer, Leo, 72, 232, 333
Hoefer, Leona, 338
Hoefer, Mary, 232
Hoefer, Matthew, 233
Hoefer, Philomen, 243
Hoefer, Russell, 233
Hoefer, Timothy, 233
Hoefer, Yvonne, 233
Hoernig, Maagdalene, 339
Hoffman, Margaret, 364
Hofius, Bessie, 214, 233
Hofius, Bill, 233
Hofius, Chuck, 287
Hofius, Dalton & Leona, 135
Hofius, Dalton, 23, 233, 287
Hofius, Dave, 287
Hofius, Donna, 233, 297
Hofius, Edward, 233
Hofius, Fred & Lydia, 214
Hofius, Fred, 233
Hofius, Gail, 233, 329
Hofius, Gary, 233
Hofius, George, 233
Hofius, Gordon, 194, 233, 297
Hofius, Harold, 233
Hofius, Howard, 233, 287
Hofius, Ida, 233
Hofius, Jacqueline, 233
Hofius, Jim, 95, 287
Hofius, John, 233
Hofius, Laura, 233
Hofius, Lester, 233
Hofius, Linda, 287
Hofius, Lois, 233
Hofius, Lula, 233
Hofius, Marvin, 233
Hofius, Milo, 233
Hofius, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon, 329
Hofius, Myrtle, 233
Hofius, Naomi, 233
Hofius, Olin, 233
Hofius, Patti Joe, 287
Hofius, Ron, 287
Hofstad, Adolph, 55, 234
Hofstad, Anne, 55, 351, 234
Hofstad, Carol, 234
Hofstad, Doris, 234
Hofstad, Elaine, 234
Hofstad, Gayle, 234
Hofstad, Gene, 234
Hofstad, Gladys, 233
Hofstad, Grudy, 234
Hofstad, Gunder, 55, 233
Hofstad, Iven, 234
Hofstad, J. T., 54
Hofstad, Keith, 234
Hofstad, Leslie, 46, 234
Hofstad, Lois, 233
Hofstad, Martin, 234
Hofstad, Mavis, 234
Hofstad, Merlyce, 234
Hofstad, Mrs Anna, 54
Hofstad, Mrs. Osmund, 62
Hofstad, Mrs. Paul, 217
Hofstad, Mrs. Rene, 257
Hofstad, Myrtle, 54, 55, 234
Hofstad, Ole, 233
Hofstad, Oliver, 233
Hofstad, Orlando, 233
Hofstad, Osmund, 55, 233
Hofstad, Paul, 234
Hofstad, Ragna, 217, 234
Hofstad, Raymond, 234
Hofstad, Rene, 234
Hofstad, Rolf, 57, 234
Hofstad, Sarah, 233
Hofstad, Selmer, 233
Hofstad, Stanley, 233, 234
Hofstad, Thilda, 234
Hofstad, Thomas, 233, 234
Hofstad-Wildmo, Thomina, 233
Hoga, Lars, 163
Hogquist, John, 139
Holappa, John, 37
Holder, Mrs. David, 258
Holen, James, 27
Holland, Mae, 369
Holland, Mary, 116
Holmes, and Brown, 144
Holmes, Audrey, 238
Holmes, J. B., 125, 134
Holmes, James B., 105, 110
Holmes, Olie & Jim, 371
Holmes, Olie, 134
Holmes, Oliver, 137
Holten, Mrs. Hans, 264
Holten & Nelson, 41
Holtz, Etta, 354
Holum, Andrew, 55
Holum, Gunlik, 80
Holum, Ole, 55
Holum, Thom, 55
Holzknecht, Anna, 340
Holzknecht, Earl, 340
Holzknecht, Fred, 329
Holzknecht, Goldie, 340
Holzknecht, Lucille, 340
Holzknecht, Paul, 340
Holzman, Rudolph, 355
Homme, Knut, 54
Homme, Olaf A, 83
Honwaldt, F. A., 99
Hoole, Ben, 37
Hoole, Mrs. Hilda, 268
Hoppe, Edna A., 190
Hopperstad, O., 54
Horak, Christopher, 199
Horak, Michael, 199
Horak, Steven, 199
Horak, Thomas, 199
Horak, W. B., 199
Horak Becky, 199
Horgen, Mary, 259
Horstman, Lou, 53
Horstman, Louis, 81
Horton, Philip, 271
Hosea, Mrs. Robert N., 320
Hosftad, John, 234
Hoss, Nick, 242
Hotreedl, Carol, 361
Houle, Mary, 169
Houle, Omer, 19, 25
Housman, William, 373
Hova, E., 53
Hova, Ingebret & Marthea, 261
Hoveland, Gilbert, 56
Hovet, Ardith, 345
Hovet, Mr. & Mrs. Arnold, 345
Howard, Alpha, 234
Howard, Charles T., 234
Howard, Dwight, 234
Howard, Elizabeth, 46
Howard, Florence, 234, 275
Howard, Floyd, 51
Howard, Ina, 173
Howard, James, 234
Howard, Laurence, 234
Howard, Lloyd, 234
Howe, Dr. Patrick, 301
Howe, Joseph, 301
Howe, Michael, 301
Howe, Nancy, 301
Howe, Timothy, 301
Hudson, Kent, 283
Huff, Raymond, 165
Huffman, Vivian, 45, 207
Huggett, Hans, 41
Hughes, J. A., 26, 235, 116, 117, 220, 245, 248, 344
Hughes, J. D., 62
Hughes, Jean, 235
Hughes, Lewis T., 122
Hughes, Lillie, 61
Hughes, Loretta, 232
Hughes, Mrs. J. A. (Belle) 63, 124
Hughes, Sadie, 61
Hulst, Charles, 230
Hultin, Mary, 326
Hundertmark, Karl, 105, 106, 288
Hundredtmark-Miller, Minnie, 288
Hunsinger, Mrs. Robert, 195
Hunstenson, Eivind, 60
Hunt, Bill Jr., 236
Hunt, Bill, 222
Hunt, Elizabeth Stuart, 236
Hunt, Elizabeth, 115
Hunt, Frank E., 10, 11, 110, 255, 339
Hunt, Frank Edward 'Ted', 236
Hunt, Frank Ellery, 235
Hunt, Frank, 105, 137, 196, 229
Hunt, Lois, 236, 239
Hunt, Margaret 'Peggy', 239
Hunt, Miss Rebecca, 129
Hunt, Mrs. Millard, 322
Hunt, Mrs. Sam E., 255
Hunt, Peggy, 236
Hunt, Rebecca Frame, 236
Hunt, Sam E., 24, 25, 122, 200, 235, 372
Hunt, Samuel E. Jr., 235
Hunt, Samuel Ellery, 235
Hunt, Thomas C., 95
Hunt, William 'Bill', 235, 239, 358
Hunt, William Jr. 'Billy', 239
Hunt, William Oliver, 236

Hunter, Mary O., 247
Hunter, Mrs. L. W., 308
Huot, Allen, 237, 373
Huot, Ann, 373
Huot, Arthur, 91, 237
Huot, Bella, 183
Huot, Benjamin Grant, 166, 237
Huot, Bernetta, 236
Huot, Brenda, 373
Huot, Carol, 373
Huot, Charles, 92, 237
Huot, Darlene, 236
Huot, DeLima, 280
Huot, Dolores, 236
Huot, Donald, 148, 236
Huot, Dorothy, 247, 323
Huot, Edward & Delima, 237
Huot, Edward, 91, 236, 280
Huot, Elaine, 236
Huot, Emma, 125
Huot, Ernest Isadore, 161, 237
Huot, Ernest Jr., 237
Huot, Eucharist & Rose, 183
Huot, Eucharist, 236
Huot, Eugene, 237
Huot, Eva, 183, 236, 279
Huot, Florence, 328
Huot, Genevieve, 236
Huot, Gilbert, 123
Huot, Godias, 237
Huot, Henry P., 183, 237, 255
Huot, Homer, 236
Huot, Hubert, 201, 236
Huot, Imilda, 183
Huot, Jean, 166
Huot, Jeffrey, 373
Huot, Joachin, 236
Huot, John B., 237
Huot, Joseph, 183
Huot, Leah, 183
Huot, Leon Jr., 236
Huot, Leon, 147
Huot, Leon, 147, 236, 279, 320
Huot, Leonard, 236
Huot, Leonore, 237
Huot, Lerose, 183
Huot, Lilian, 237
Huot, Lillian, 94, 216
Huot, Lillie P., 236, 237
Huot, Lorena, 236
Huot, Louis, 7, 91, 93, 109, 193, 236, 237, 279
Huot, Louise, 222, 280
Huot, Lucille, 236
Huot, Marie, 183, 236
Huot, Mary Jean, 236
Huot, Mary, 193, 280
Huot, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest, 166
Huot, Mrs Emma, 92
Huot, Mrs. Art, 311
Huot, Mrs. Gilbert, 124
Huot, Mrs. Hubert, 340
Huot, Mrs. J. B., 316
Huot, Mrs. Regis, 169
Huot, Mrs. Steven, 166
Huot, Onezime, 236, 237
Huot, Orore, 236, 320
Huot, Regis, 183, 236
Huot, Rene, 183
Huot, Rose, 236, 237
Huot, Sam, 127
Huot, Stella, 236
Huot, Steven & Patricia, 237
Huot, Steven, 373
Huot, Theodore, 236, 320
Huot, Thomas, 237, 373
Huot, Vivian, 237
Huot, Warren, 116
Huot, Wilfred, 236
Huot, Zepherin, 280
Huotari, Ann, 237
Huotari, Antti, 237
Huotari, Cynthia, 238
Huotari, DeeAnn, 238
Huotari, Lillian, 237
Huotari, Marie, 237
Huotari, Mrs. Tom, 198
Huotari, Neil Allen, 238
Huotari, Ray, 237
Huotari, Russell, 18, 19, 50, 237, 308
Huotari, Tom, 59, 237
Huotari-Christianson, Helen, 237
Huot-Belair, Delima, 237
Huot-Beyer, Jean, 237
Huot-Braun, Kathleen, 350
Huot-Brostrom, Mrs. Louise, 372
Huot-Dolbec, Mary, 237
Huot-Garon, Emily, 237
Huot-Gjerstad, Mae, 237
Huot-Glass, Dolores, 237
Huot-Grenier, Lillian, 237
Huot-Hagl, Rita, 237
Huot-Patnode, Philomene, 237
Huot-Pepin, Rose, 237
Huot-Ruth, Patricia, 237
Hurley, Mrs. Herbert, 253
Husby, Gunnar, 53
Husby, Ingvald, 59, 60, 240
Husby, Marit, 53
Husby, Peter, 79
Hutchings, Helen Allison, 234
Hutson, Kathleen, 323
Hyde, Dawn, 238
Hyde, Dennis, 238
Hyde, Gerald (Karel), 238
Hyde, Mervin, 238
Hyde, Mrs. Melvin, 23
Hyde, Roger, 238
Hyde, Sharon Kay, 238
Hyde, Stacey, 238
Hyde, Stephanie, 238
Hyde, Tammie, 238
Hygaar, Anne, 234
Hyland, Margette, 170
Iglchi, Mutsuko, 194
Inga, Assa, 204
Ingber, Max, 135, 190, 193, 250, 321, 325
Irvin, A. L., 37
Isaacson, John, 25
Ittner, Freda, 143
Ittner, William 'Bill', 116
Iverson, Bell, 61
Iverson, Benjamin, 61
Iverson, Edvin, 61
Iverson, Erick, 41, 59, 60
Iverson, Gust, 59
Iverson, Hilmer, 57
Iverson, Maude, 61
Iverson, Mrs A., 53
Iverson, Sharon, 273
Jablinski, W., 49
Jacabson, Mrs. Edwin H., 335
Jackson, C. C., 235
Jackson, Clara, 118
Jackson, Donna, 239
Jackson, James, 51
Jackson, Kevin, 238
Jackson, Koni, 238
Jackson, Mae, 49
Jackson, Mrs James, 51
Jackson, R. H., 123
Jackson, William, 117, 118, 238
Jacobson, Bena, 186
Jacobson, E. T., 83
Jacobson, Edwin & Loise, 238
Jacobson, Edwin H., 47, 49, 50, 99, 223, 238
Jacobson, Julia Hestvik, 223, 271
Jacobson, LeeRoy, 271
Jacobson, Lynell, 271
Jacobson, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin H., 271
Jacobson, Mrs. Milt, 181
Jacobson, Mrs. Walter, 363
Jacobson, Norman, 238
Jacobson, Roy, 238, 271
Jaeger, Barbara, 211
Jaeger, Eunice, 51
Jaeger, Mrs Ann, 49
Jaeger, Nick, 51
Jahnke, Arthur, 238
Jahnke, Carl, 238
Jahnke, Carolyn, 238
Jahnke, Don, 238
Jahnke, Dona, 238
Jahnke, Elizabeth, 238
Jahnke, Elvina, 238
Jahnke, Ferd, 238
Jahnke, Ferdinand, 105
Jahnke, Gary, 238
Jahnke, George, L., 238
Jahnke, Gertrude, 238
Jahnke, Gustave, 238
Jahnke, Hannah, 238
Jahnke, Henry, 238
Jahnke, Herman, 238
Jahnke, Hugo, 238
Jahnke, John, 238
Jahnke, Joyce, 26
Jahnke, Leroy, 238
Jahnke, Ludolph H. Jr., 238
Jahnke, Ludolph H., 238, 324
Jahnke, Luella, 212, 238
Jahnke, Margaret, 236, 239
Jahnke, Myrtle, 238
Jahnke, Olga, 238
Jahnke, Pearl, 238
Jahnke, Russel, 238
Jahnke, Shawn, 239
Jahnke, Shirley, 238
Jahnke, Walter, 238
Jahnke, Wilbur, 238
Jahnke, Wilfred, 238, 239
Jallon, M. J., 48
James, Jesse, 32
Jansen, Alvin, 81
Jaquin, Pat, 188
Jarchow, Rhoda, 225
Jasnoch, Christopher, 349
Jasnoch, Jennifer, 349
Jasnoch, Michelle, 349
Jasnoch, Mrs. Stanley, 349
Jeffers, Frank, 18, 129, 134, 141, 154, 210, 239, 242
Jeffers, Michael & Mary, 239
Jeffers, Mike, 10
Jeffers, Mrs. Marry, 67, 154
Jefferson, Elsie, 337
Jeffery, Rev. Francis, 89
Jensen, Anne E., 245, 246
Jensen, Henry, 200
Jensen, Hope, 363
Jensen, Julian, 281
Jensen, Lauritz, 363
Jensen, Matthias & Olive, 245

Jensen, Mrs. Earl, 19
Jensen, Theo Jane, 346
Jenson, Mr & Mrs Chas., 57
Jesperson, H. C., 50
Jochim, Mrs. Tony, 306
Johanneck, Agnes, 106, 239
Johanneck, Carol, 155
Johanneck, Clem, 239
Johanneck, Daniel, 239
Johanneck, Donald, 239
Johanneck, Dorothy, 19
Johanneck, Edward, 234, 239
Johanneck, Eleanore, 239
Johanneck, Evelyn, 26, 239
Johanneck, Frances, 239, 279
Johanneck, Gertrude, 239
Johanneck, Herb, 112, 134, 239, 278
Johanneck, John Jr., 239
Johanneck, John Sr., 239, 279
Johanneck, Leona, 239
Johanneck, Mrs. John, 372
Johanneck, Ray & Gladys, 239
Johanneck, Raymond, 155, 239
Johanneck, Sylvester, 26, 31, 239
Johanneck, Tammy, 239
Johannes, Ingeborg, 224, 286
Johannsen, Mrs. Elfreida, 309
Johanson, Anna, 369
Johanson, Ben & Gertie, 134
Johnaon, Walter & Mary, 229
Johnneck, John, 105
Johnson, Aase Margie, 283
Johnson, Alvin, 51
Johnson, Andrew, 38
Johnson, Anna, 158, 341
Johnson, Anne, 252
Johnson, Arlene, 365
Johnson, Arthur, 240
Johnson, Axel, 139
Johnson, B. M., 37
Johnson, Belle, 324
Johnson, Bennie, 37
Johnson, Bernice, 229, 241
Johnson, Betty Lou, 240
Johnson, Bishop Cecil, 47
Johnson, Brenda Jo, 240
Johnson, Charlie Allen, 240
Johnson, Charly, 60, 240, 260, 269, 278
Johnson, Christie, 179, 241
Johnson, Christina, 352
Johnson, Clarence, 240, 278
Johnson, Curtis, 240
Johnson, David, 349
Johnson, Edmund, 179, 241
Johnson, Edward, 41, 365
Johnson, Elmer, 83
Johnson, Elon, 45
Johnson, Erik, 89
Johnson, Ethel, 45
Johnson, Fern, 359
Johnson, Fred, 359
Johnson, George, 120
Johnson, Gladys, 31, 240
Johnson, Gordon, 278
Johnson, Grandma, 158
Johnson, Hon. Marcus, 11
Johnson, Inga Adina, 269
Johnson, Inga, 240, 268, 269
Johnson, Ingeborg, 267
Johnson, Irvin, 222
Johnson, Jerome, 283
Johnson, John, 275
Johnson, Johnny, 240
Johnson, Josephine, 240
Johnson, Judy, 349
Johnson, Julian, 26
Johnson, Julie, 179, 241
Johnson, Katherine, 223
Johnson, Lenore, 120
Johnson, Leonard, 240, 349
Johnson, Leslie, 179, 241
Johnson, Lillian, 264, 280
Johnson, Linda, 216
Johnson, Luain, 20
Johnson, Luella, 347
Johnson, Lyla, 240
Johnson, Lyndon B., 187
Johnson, Magnus, 56, 57, 171
Johnson, Marcus, 24
Johnson, Margaret, 353, 356
Johnson, Marie, 233
Johnson, Marilyn, 366
Johnson, Marlene Joy, 240
Johnson, Mary Robyn, 240
Johnson, Mary, 240, 260
Johnson, Maurine, 283
Johnson, Mayme, 278
Johnson, Melvin L., 240, 324
Johnson, Melvin R. Jr., 75
Johnson, Mildred, 308
Johnson, Minnie, 362
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Carl, 347
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin, 347
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Harold, 366
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Luaine, 264
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Walter, 179
Johnson, Mrs Roger, 293
Johnson, Mrs. Albert, 222
Johnson, Mrs. Archie, 253
Johnson, Mrs. Arnold, 171, 365
Johnson, Mrs. Bernice, 26, 346
Johnson, Mrs. Clarence, 275
Johnson, Mrs. Clyde, 202
Johnson, Mrs. Erik, 89
Johnson, Mrs. Kenny, 195
Johnson, Mrs. Laura, 236
Johnson, Mrs. Leonard, 62
Johnson, Mrs. Melvin, 62, 216
Johnson, Mrs. Merle, 211
Johnson, Mrs. Walter, 306
Johnson, Nadine, 49
Johnson, Nena, 273
Johnson, Ole J., 11, 18, 49, 158
Johnson, Olga, 252
Johnson, Oscar, 172
Johnson, Otto, 173, 240
Johnson, Phillip R., 246
Johnson, Robert, 251
Johnson, S. P., 79
Johnson, Sandra, 264
Johnson, Selma, 240
Johnson, Sharon, 324
Johnson, Thom, 59, 60
Johnson, Travis Kiland, 246
Johnson, Walter, 137
Johnson, Walter, 137, 241, 310, 321, 270
Johnston, Cleo 'Cookie', 241
Johnston, Florence, 241
Johnston, Frank & Alice, 241
Johnston, Howard, 123, 125, 135, 241, 347, 354
Johnston, Lucille, 241
Johnston, Sandra, 241
Joki, Estelle, 283
Jolliet, Louis, 5
Jolly, Alma, 195
Jolly, Herb, 222
Jolly, Telesphore, 144,195
Jolly, Ursula, 302
Jolly-Sauve, Anna, 143
Jones, Hettie, 233, 297
Jones, J. B., 37, 91
Jones, James, 143
Jones, Tricia, 326
Jonish, Arley, 116
Joppru, Mrs. Sandy, 252
Jordan, Dr. William A., 226
Jordan, Mrs. James, 278
Jorde, Louis, 366
Jore, Hage, 53
Jore, Ole, 53, 171
Jorgenson, Annie, 55, 241
Jorgenson, George, 54, 55
Jorgenson, Gladys, 43
Jorgenson, Gunstein & Signe, 241
Jorgenson, Jorgen, 241
Jorgenson, Lloyd, 310
Jorgenson, Margaret, 55, 241
Jorgenson, Marguerite, 310
Jorgenson, Mrs. Mel, 372
Jorgenson, Ole, 55, 241
Jorgenson, Patti, 310
Jorgenson, Paul, 55, 241
Jorgenson, Susan, 310
Jorgenson, Thilda, 241
Jose, Mrs. F. L., 232
Joyce, Jessie, 37
Joyce, Mrs. Rose, 228
Juhl, Chris, 143
Juhl, Daniel, 95
Juhl, Joseph, 72, 73
Julin, Alma Alida, 199
Julin, Johan Peter, 199
Juneau, Alcime Jr., 242
Juneau, Alcime, 242
Juneau, Antime, 241
Juneau, Aristide, 242
Juneau, Azelda, 321
Juneau, Clara, 242
Juneau, Dorothy, 242
Juneau, Edward Sr., 144, 241, 242
Juneau, Francois, 84
Juneau, Isadore, 242
Juneau, John, 242
Juneau, Joseph, 60, 75, 84, 242
Juneau, Marie (Sister Bertha), 242
Juneau, Mathilda, 242
Juneau, Mrs. Edward, 242
Juneau, Olive, 76
Juneau, Olivine, 322
Juneau, Ozilda, 322
Juneau, Rosealba, 241, 242
Juneau, Roseanna, 242
Juneau, Thomas, 75, 84, 142
Juneau, Victoria, 242
Juneau, William, 242
Juneau, Xavier, 76
Juneau, Zelia, 241
Junker, Father N. P., 48
Jurgens, Judy, 117
Just, Cora, 68
Just, Herman, 68
Just, Lillie, 68
Just, Lonie, 68
Kaakkonen, August, 237
Kadlec, Jane, 296
Kahkonen, Peter, 237
Kahle, Taalak, 60
Kakkonen, Peter, 37
Kalal, Mrs. Jim, 288
Kalbakdalen, 242
Kalbakdalen, Daniel, 202, 242
Kalbakdalen, David, 206, 242

Kalbakdalen, Dean, 242
Kalbakdalen, Debra, 202, 242
Kalbakdalen, Gail, 202, 242
Kalbakdalen, James, 242
Kalbakdalen, Janelle, 206, 242
Kalbakdalen, Jean, 242
Kalbakdalen, Jeffrey, 202, 242
Kalbakdalen, Kathy, 242
Kalbakdalen, Kimberly, 206, 242
Kalbakdalen, Laurie, 242
Kalbakdalen, Lins, 242
Kalbakdalen, Lisa, 202
Kalbakdalen, Lowell, 206, 242
Kalbakdalen, Marlys, 155, 242
Kalbakdalen, Maynard, 202, 242
Kalbakdalen, Melvin, 143, 242
Kalbakdalen, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin, 206
Kalbakdalen, Robert, 202
Kalbakdalen, Scott, 206, 242
Kalbakdalen, Timothy, 242
Kalinoski, Leo, 264
Kalinoski, Paulette, 223
Kaltenberg, Mrs. Jerald, 308
Kamberg, Kerstin, 206
Kamberg, Nils & Karen, 206
Kangas, Gust, 37
Kangas, Susan, 177
Kankel, Arabella, 242, 243
Kankel, Carl A. & Esther, 243
Kankel, Carl, 28, 73, 129, 243, 248, 304, 312
Kankel, Carol Jo, 243
Kankel, Charles F., 143
Kankel, Charles Otto, 28, 143, 235, 242, 243, 327
Kankel, Charles Walcott, 243
Kankel, David, 18, 28, 29, 231, 243
Kankel, Donald, 243
Kankel, Elizabeth, 243
Kankel, Erika, 243
Kankel, Esther, 20, 224
Kankel, George, 243
Kankel, Gustaf, 242
Kankel, Karl A., 143, 243
Kankel, Kent, 243
Kankel, Kristen, 243
Kankel, Lillian, 243
Kankel, Nancy, 243
Kankel, Otto E., 143
Kankel, Otto, 9, 110, 113, 125, 242, 243
Kankel, Ralph, 243
Kankel, Rochelle, 243
Kankel, Sherry, 2, 26
Kankel, Tonia, 243
Kankel, Tracy, 144, 243
Kankel, William, 242
Kantola, John, 198
Kanyusik, Steve, 369, 373
Kappas, Hugh, 45
Karel, Bobbie, 238
Karel, Lanis, 25
Kargel, Mrs. Darrell, 195
Karr, Wilfred, 51
Karver, Bette, 205
Kasprowicz, Frank, 338
Kaster, Mrs. James, 303
Katscke, Mr. & Mrs. Walter, 154
Kaufer, H. J., 10
Kaufer, Philip A., 134
Kauffman, Francis, 45
Kaufman, Bernadette, 337
Kaufman, L., 342
Kauppila, Arvo Iver, 243
Kauppila, Cindy, 243
Kauppila, DyAnn, 243
Kauppila, Edna, 243
Kauppila, Elmer Ahti, 243
Kauppila, Eugene, 243
Kauppila, George Leander, 243
Kauppila, Gloria, 243
Kauppila, Gordon, 243
Kauppila, Gregory, 243
Kauppila, Jacob, 243
Kauppila, Jancie, 243
Kauppila, John Emil, 243
Kauppila, Karen, 243
Kauppila, Laina Marie, 243
Kauppila, Lila, 243
Kauppila, Martha Louise, 243
Kauppila, Olaf Jacob, 243
Kauppila, Robert, 243
Kauppila, Ruth, 243
Kauppila, Sharon, 243
Kauppila, Wiljo Albert, 243
Kaus, Henry, 364
Kaus, Josephine, 73, 115
Kaushagen, Mary Jane, 300
Kazmierczak, Anthony, 338
Keating, I., 333
Keating, Michael, 229
Keating, Mrs Mike, 241
Keefe, Father William, 48, 118, 120, 294
Keenan, C. J., 367
Kees, Anna, 244
Kees, Bernard, 244
Kees, Bradley, 177, 244
Kees, Diane, 337
Kees, Diane, 338
Kees, Douglas, 95, 177, 243
Kees, Florence, 106
Kees, John, 106, 244
Kees, Joseph, 244, 333
Kees, Lawrence, 239, 243
Kees, Magdalene, 244
Kees, Michael, 105, 244
Kees, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence, 338
Kees, Mrs. John, 272
Kees, Tricia, 177, 244
Keeville, Dora, 301
Kefauver, Estes, 28
Keifenheim, Bruce, 245
Keifenheim, Carol, 245
Keifenheim, Charles, 245
Keifenheim, Donald, 245
Keifenheim, Ed, 215, 244, 358
Keifenheim, Edward Lynn, 245
Keifenheim, Frances, 31, 244, 281, 282
Keifenheim, Francis, 106
Keifenheim, Gary, 245
Keifenheim, Helen, 244
Keifenheim, Jim, 245
Keifenheim, Jodephine, 244
Keifenheim, John R. Jr., 244
Keifenheim, John Sr., 244
Keifenheim, Josephine, 31, 270
Keifenheim, Lester, 25, 244
Keifenheim, Lynn, 244, 245
Keifenheim, Marion O., 20
Keifenheim, Mary, 182, 244
Keifenheim, Mr. & Mrs. John P., 281, 182
Keifenheim, Mrs. Ed. J., 215
Keifenheim, Mrs. John, 307, 331
Keifenheim, Mrs. Lynn, 211
Keifenheim, Patrice, 245
Keifenheim, Ruth, 244
Keifenheim, Telesphore, 244
Keifenheim, Vern, 244, 358
Keifenheim, William, 245
Keifenheim-Sullivan, Marjorie, 245
Keifenheim-Walach, Shirley, 245
Keim, Florence, 68, 363
Keim, Frank, 363
Keim, Mrs. Frank, 333
Kela, S. J., 265
Kelley, Mrs. Stella R., 115
Kelley, Mrs. William, 162
Kelley, Rev. S. M., 49
Kelley, Sam, 174
Kellogg, Hazel, 68
Kellogg, Mrs. Fred, 201
Kellogg, Sen. Frank B., 201
Kelly, Arlene, 51
Kelly, Edna, 289
Kelly, Mrs. Harley H., 223
Kelly, Mrs. Stella, 328
Kelly, S. M., 122
Kelly, Walter, 45
Kennedy, Mrs. Ronald, 236
Kennedy, Ronnie, 217
Kepfeldsberger, Ursula, 339
Kern, Rev. Val, 120, 121, 249, 342, 373
Kettner, Viola, 369
Kienest, Mr. & Mrs. William, 264
Kieselback, Father Joseph, 119
Kiesling, Bill, 332
Kiesling, Mrs. John, 332
Kiewel, Benjamin J., 301
Kiewel, Constance, 301
Kiewel, Mrs. Edward B., 301
Kiland, Alice, 118
Kiland, Edward T., 246
Kiland, Edwin F., 25, 116, 117, 245, 246
Kiland, Mary Lou, 245
Kiland, Mrs E. F., 116
Kiland, Ole, 245
Kilburg, Clara, 160, 247
Kilburg, Mary, 32
Kilburg, Mrs. Peter Sr., 334
Kilburg, Peter Jr., 247
Kilburg, Peter, 222, 246, 334
Kile, J. F., 53
Kind, Johanna, 212
Kindseth, Astrid, 82
King, Alan, 247
King, Bonnie Gail, 247, 251
King, Brian, 247
King, Elizabeth, 203
King, Esther, 247
King, Jacqueline, 247
King, Jerry, 247
King, John E., 239
King, John F., 247
King, Kathy, 247
King, Lawrence Paul 'Ned', 247
King, Mary Jo, 247
King, Mrs. Tom, 183
King, Nancy, 247
King, Thomas, 247
King, Wilfred, 247
Kingsland, Ruth Mildred, 296
Kingsley, Walter, 129
Kinney, Mrs. James, 312
Kirk, Dorothy Ann, 247
Kirk, Ernest, 247
Kirk, Freddie, 247
Kirk, Harvey, 247
Kirk, James, 247
Kirk, Jeffrey, 247, 323
Kirk, Jennifer, 247
Kirk, Sidney E., 19, 247
Kirkeby, Marit, 282
Kirkeby, Mrs Margaret, 297
Kirschman, Earl W., 105, 129, 225
Kirschman, Evelyn, 337

Kirschman, Mrs. Lyle, 244
Kitchener, Mrs. Harry, 230
Kittson, Norman W., 7
Kitzrow, Charles, 248
Kitzrow, Elvira, 248
Kitzrow, Hildegarde, 248
Kitzrow, Jerome, 248
Kitzrow, LaReine, 248
Kitzrow, Raymond, 248
Kitzrow, Terry, 248
Kitzrow, Waldemar, 248
Kitzrow, William, 248
Kjaer, Curtis, 248
Kjaer, David, 249
Kjaer, Harry & Carol, 135, 248
Kjaer, Harry, 125
Kjaer, Julane, 248
Kjaer, Kristy, 248
Kjaer, Shirley, 170, 248
Klein, Nora, 176
Klein, Viola, 255
Kleven, Arthur, 249
Kleven, Charles, 25, 249
Kleven, Courtney, 249
Kleven, Gjermund, 249
Kleven, Hannah, 249
Kleven, John, 249
Kleven, Lt. & Mrs. Corky, 249
Kleven, Lucille, 249
Kleven, Margaret, 249
Kleven, Mrs. Courtney, 202
Kleven, Mrs. T. G., 62
Kleven, Olaf, 249
Kleven, Oscar, 249
Kleven, Scott, 249
Kleven, Selma, 249
Kleven, Thorvald, 249
Kleven, Tollef & Ingebjorg, 249, 261
Kleven, Tollef G., 53, 61, 249
Klipping, Eldon, 270, 326
Kluth, Maria, 189
Knaack, Albert, 249
Knaack, Alex, 249
Knaack, Bertha, 249
Knaack, Bonita, 250
Knaack, Ferdinand, 249
Knaack, Florens, 249
Knaack, Kim, 250
Knaack, Leslie, 250
Knaack, Lillian 'Lilly', 249
Knaack, Lyle, 20, 250
Knaack, Mr. & Mrs. Alex, 250
Knaack, Mrs. Alex, 340
Knaack, Neil, 250
Knaack, Sharon, 250
Knaack, Todd, 250
Knaack, Verna, 250
Knaack, Vernon, 249, 250, 318
Knaus, Mrs. Joe, 295
Kneist, Mrs. Gerald, 221
Knight, J. T., 10
Knott, Agnes, 251
Knott, Alice, 251
Knott, Amy, 247
Knott, Andrew, 247, 251
Knott, Anthony, 251
Knott, Beth, 250
Knott, Beverly, 251
Knott, Bonnie, 251
Knott, Cecilia, 251
Knott, Charles & Gertrude, 250
Knott, Daniel, 251
Knott, Denise, 250
Knott, Donald, 201, 337
Knott, Donna, 251
Knott, Dora, 250
Knott, Dorine, 250
Knott, Duane, 251, 332
Knott, Elizabeth, 191, 250, 334, 337, 349
Knott, Eugene, 251
Knott, Evelyn, 250
Knott, Francis, 250
Knott, Frank Jr., 251
Knott, Frank, 250, 251
Knott, Frederick, 250
Knott, Gary, 251
Knott, Gecella, 250
Knott, Gerald, 20, 251
Knott, Gertrude M., 250, 337
Knott, Glen, 251
Knott, Gordon, 161
Knott, Gregory, 250
Knott, Gust, 68, 250, 251
Knott, Gustave, 250
Knott, Harvey, 105, 250
Knott, Henry Jr. & Yvonne, 251
Knott, Henry Jr., 251
Knott, Henry P., 26, 250, 251, 332, 337
Knott, Henry W., 332
Knott, Jacqueline, 251
Knott, James, 251
Knott, Jay, 233
Knott, Jeffrey, 251
Knott, Jodi, 251
Knott, John, 68, 250
Knott, Joyce, 251
Knott, Julie, 251
Knott, Karla, 251
Knott, Kathy, 46
Knott, Keith, 251
Knott, Lavern, 26, 251, 337, 367
Knott, Lawrence, 251
Knott, Leo & Margaret, 337
Knott, Leo, 250
Knott, Leslie, 250
Knott, Lester, 250
Knott, Lorraine, 251
Knott, Marjorie, 251
Knott, Mary, 250
Knott, Matt, 250
Knott, Merle, 251
Knott, Mrs Douglas, 158
Knott, Mrs Frank Jr., 195
Knott, Mrs. Frank, 343
Knott, Mrs. Harvey, 210
Knott, Mrs. Henry Jr., 203
Knott, Mrs. Henry, 343
Knott, Nancy, 251
Knott, Orville, 26, 210, 233
Knott, Patricia, 251
Knott, Paul, 251
Knott, Paulette, 251
Knott, Philip, 251
Knott, Randy, 233
Knott, Richard, 113, 247, 251
Knott, Rodney, 250
Knott, Rosalie, 250
Knott, Selma, 251
Knott, Sharon, 251
Knott, Sheila, 233
Knott, Virgil, 250
Knott, Virginia, 251
Knott, Vivian, 250
Knox, Herbert, 122
Knudsen, Dr Helen L., 122
Knudson, Gusta, 245
Knudson, Mrs. G., 324
Knudtson, Nancy, 204
Knutson, Andrew, 55, 87
Knutson, Carol, 252
Knutson, Coya, 87
Knutson, Delores, 252
Knutson, Faith, 212
Knutson, Gorgen, 105
Knutson, Grundy, 54
Knutson, Halvor, 325
Knutson, Jackie Lee, 87
Knutson, Jason Randolph, 87
Knutson, John, 252
Knutson, Jorgen, 106, 187, 278, 287, 311, 373
Knutson, Karen, 216
Knutson, Kermit, 20, 29
Knutson, Knut & Berte, 356
Knutson, Lillie, 252
Knutson, Margit, 356
Knutson, Mrs Coya, 81
Knutson, Mrs. Dave (Henriette), 263
Knutson, Mrs. Terry, 257
Knutson, Ole, 55
Knutson, Sherman, 252
Knutson, Terry, 87
Knutson, Torkel, 55
Knutson, Violet, 252
Koetzle, LaShelli, 185
Koetzle, Mrs Richard, 185
Koivisto, Rickey, 46
Koke, Bernard, 329
Koke, Frances, 329
Koke, Henry, 329
Koke, Ida, 148, 329, 330
Koke, Joseph, 329
Koke-Salley, Ida, 332
Kolkauski, Mrs. Adam, 288
Kolshus, Harry, 55
Kolstoe, Clara, 61, 252
Kolstoe, Ellen, 64, 252
Kolstoe, Gulovna, 252
Kolstoe, John, 59, 269
Kolstoe, Klara, 37. 64
Kolstoe, Margaret, 252
Kolstoe, Martha & Soren, 252
Kolstoe, Martha, 64, 252
Kolstoe, Martin, 64
Kolstoe, Mrs Meta, 64
Kolstoe, Olaf (Ole), 60, 61, 64, 65
Kolstoe, Rev. Ole, 54, 57, 61, 62, 63, 88, 159, 224, 252, 261, 276, 287, 362
Kolstoe, Severin, 64
Kolstoe, Severine, 252
Kolstoe, Villars, 64
Konickson, (Cormican), Alice, 154
Konickson, Alvin, 252
Konickson, August, 252
Konickson, Carol, 252
Konickson, Clarence, 139, 252
Konickson, Don, 192
Konickson, Doris, 252
Konickson, Gust, 139, 252
Konickson, Henry, 139, 252
Konickson, John, 138, 252
Konickson, Lyle, 252
Konickson, Mable, 252
Konickson, Mr. & Mrs., John, 139
Konickson, Mrs. Clarence, 252
Konickson, Neil, 252
Konickson, Per & Marta, 252
Konickson, Roger, 252
Konickson, Steve, 23
Konickson, Vernon, 252
Konickson, Wendy, 192
Koos, L. B., 116, 117
Kopp, E. B., 41, 46

Kopp, Lou Ann, 23
Korvela, Alfred & Alica, 252
Korvela, Alyce, 252
Koskela, Arlan, 46, 255
Koskela, Dean, 255
Koskela, Debbie, 255
Koskela, Dixie, 255
Kostboth, A. E. & Beryl, 275
Kostboth, Mary Jean, 275
Kostrqewski, Diane, 204
Kotlan, Anna, 209
Kotschevar, Anna, 253
Kotschevar, John, 252
Kraemer, John, 324
Kraemer, William, 324
Kraft, Brian, 311
Kraft, Dean, 311
Kraft, Harold 'Pinky', 116, 344
Kraft, Mrs. Harold, 311
Kraft, Rose, 337
Krahn, Minnie, 211
Kranz, Margaret, 356
Kranz, Mr. & Mrs. Valentine, 356
Kranz-Rossmeisel, Catherine, 356
Krause, Augusta, 253
Krause, Bill, 207
Krauthahn, Reverend, 228
Kreidt, Rev. Emil, 48
Kremser, Dr. V. C., 183
Kretschmar, Charles, 371
Kretzschmar, Carl, 9, 110, 112, 125, 130, 137
Kretzschmar, John, 339
Krieger, Robert, 219
Krim, Christ, 57
Krogh, Anne, 335
Krohn, Ami H., 236
Kroll, Mrs. Johanna, 160
Kropp, L. E., 94
Krossen, Bergit, 55
Krossen, K. O., 54
Krossen, Mary, 55
Krossen, Ole, 55
Krostue, Salve, 60, 61
Krostue, Sig, 61
Krueger, Albert, 253
Krueger, August, 253
Krueger, Bette Lou, 253, 281
Krueger, Bill, 123
Krueger, Carl, 253
Krueger, Clara, 253, 316
Krueger, Ella, 253
Krueger, Friedrich, 253
Krueger, G. A., 49
Krueger, Herman, 253
Krueger, Ida, 253
Krueger, Irene, 222, 253, 353
Krueger, Leora, 68, 118, 249, 253
Krueger, Mrs. William, 212
Krueger, William & Marian, 135
Krueger, William, 222, 253, 373
Krueger & Taggert, 41
Kruse, Betty, 249, 253
Kruse, Charles Jr., 253
Kruse, Charles, 253, 373
Kruse, Elizabeth, 106
Kruse, Frank, 253
Kruse, Helen, 253
Kruse, Keith, 50
Kruse, Larry, 253
Kruse, Marie, 253
Kruse, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sr., 253
Kruse, Mrs. Frank, 312
Kruse, Pauline, 253
Kruse, Steven, 253
Kruta, Carrie Jean, 254
Kruta, Jaroslav, 25, 134, 253, 254, 258
Kubic, June, 311
Kubin, Marie, 232
Kuchan, Anne, 223
Kuehn, William, 152, 248
Kuiper, Gary, 254
Kuiper, John, 25, 254
Kuiper, Marion, 254
Kuiper, Mrs. John, 365
Kuiper, Ted, 254
Kuiper, Tim, 254
Kuld, Anton, 254
Kuld, Charles, 254
Kuld, Florida, 125
Kuld, Frank, 254
Kuld, John, 105, 216, 254
Kuld, Joseph, 254
Kuld, Kate, 254
Kuld, Leonard, 254
Kuld, Mary, 216, 254
Kuld, Mr. & Mrs. Anton, 254
Kuld, William, 254
Kundert, Charles L., 235, 254, 273
Kundert, Dwight, 255
Kundert, Gwendolyn, 255
Kundert, Marcia, 235, 255
Kundert, Marjorie, 255
Kundert, Mrs. Pearl, 26, 254
Kuoppala, Esther, 37
Kuring, Rev. A., 121
Kurtzweg, Clara, 293
Kurtzweg, Ottilie Clara, 372
Kuznia, Clarence, 338
Kval, Edvin, 45
Kvallen, Gunhild, 317
Kvasager, Anne, 255
Kvasager, Annie, 255
Kvasager, Arne, 255
Kvasager, Bjarne, 255
Kvasager, Einar, 53, 255
Kvasager, Girda, 255
Kvasager, Goodwin, 20, 255
Kvasager, Helga, 255
Kvasager, Janet, 255
Kvasager, Jeffrey, 255
Kvasager, Joel, 255
Kvasager, Julie, 255
Kvasager, Kathrine, 255
Kvasager, Lori, 255
Kvasager, Mark, 255
Kvasager, Mrs Goodwin, 46
Kvasager, Ole Jr., 255
Kvasager, Olav, 255
Kvasager, Otto, 255
Kvasager, Steven, 255
Kvasager, Terry, 255
Kveste, Ben, 54
Kyllo, Olga, 275
L'Hivers, Father, 119
La Fleur, Joe, 283
La Fleur, Norah, 283
La Verendrye, 8
LaBelle, Blanche, 167
LaBelle, John, 167
LaBelle, Sarah, 237
LaBissoniere, Erin, 255
LaBissoniere, Francis, 105, 144
LaBissoniere, George, 7, 105, 144
LaBissoniere, Mrs. Thomas, 259
LaBissoniere, Theo, 129, 131, 154, 255, 341, 356
Labissonniere, Francis & Adeline, 133
Labissonniere, Mary J., 132
LaBlanc, Pearl, 209
LaBlanc, Ada, 37
LaBonte, Agnes, 353
LaBonte, John, 294
LaBonte, Marie, 255
LaBonte, Mr. & Mrs. Francis, 353
LaBonte, Mrs.,James, 158
LaBore, Carol, 323
LaBore, Dale, 323
LaBore, Debra, 323
LaBore, Diane, 323
LaBore, Lloyd, 323
LaBore, Marie, 323
LaBore, Mark, 323
LaBore, Michelle, 323
LaBore, Sharon, 323
LaBore, Susan, 323
LaBore, William, 323
LaBree, Edward, 109
LaBree, Tillie, 14
LaBrie, Adolph & Emma, 133
LaBrie, John B. & Sarah, 133
LaBrie, Mary M., 132
LaBrie, William A., 132
LaChance, Albert, 255
LaChance, Antoine & Marie, 255
LaChance, Antoinette, 125
LaChance, Armand, 255
LaChance, Beatrice, 255
LaChance, Bernard, 256
Lachance, Celestine, 255
LaChance, Cerisa (Sr. Therese), 255
LaChance, Damas, 255
LaChance, Dean, 95, 255
LaChance, Donna, 256
LaChance, Earl, 255
LaChance, Elmer, 255
LaChance, Elsie, 68
LaChance, Emery, 255
Lachance, Eva, 255
LaChance, Harry, 255
Lachance, Joseph, 84
LaChance, Larry, 255
LaChance, Lester, 255
LaChance, Marilyn, 255
LaChance, Medore, 255
LaChance, Mike, 255
LaChance, Mrs. George, 295
LaChance, Mrs. Joe, 322
LaChance, Patricia, 256
LaChance, Peter, 92, 255
LaChance, Philip, 255
LaChance, Richard, 256
LaChance, Ronald, 256
Lachance, Roselba, 255
LaChance, Russell, 256
Lacoe, Lottie, 94
LaCoe, Mrs. David, 214
LaComb, Alphonse, 60
Lacombe, Altons, 144
LaCourse, Albert, 143
LaCourse, Arthur, 239
LaCourse, Henry, 194
LaCourse, Leo, 180
LaCourse, Mrs. Albert, 143
LaCoursiere, Abraham, 76, 77
LaCoursiere, Agnes, 361
LaCoursiere, Alice, 328, 344
LaCoursiere, Alvina, 256, 311
LaCoursiere, Arthur, 256, 257, 312
LaCoursiere, Beulah, 257
LaCoursiere, Clara, 361
LaCoursiere, Clarice, 256, 354
LaCoursiere, Delia, 256
LaCoursiere, Dennis, 256

Lacoursiere, Desirean, 71
LaCoursiere, Dora 'Sr. Baptisee', 257, 361
LaCoursiere, Edward, 256
LaCoursiere, Elma, 202, 251, 257
LaCoursiere, Emery J., 98, 215, 256, 257, 308
LaCoursiere, Emil, 256
LaCoursiere, Emma, 272, 361
LaCoursiere, Ernest, 257
LaCoursiere, Eugene, 256
LaCoursiere, Exzila, 256
LaCoursiere, Flavia 'Sr. Cuthbert', 257
LaCoursiere, Francois, 284
LaCoursiere, Gary, 256
LaCoursiere, Georgianna, 284
LaCoursiere, Gerald, 215
LaCoursiere, Godias, 256
LaCoursiere, Hector, 143, 256
LaCoursiere, Helen, 256
LaCoursiere, Ida, 256
LaCoursiere, Inez, 271
LaCoursiere, Iolas, 311
LaCoursiere, James, 215
LaCoursiere, Jane, 256
LaCoursiere, Jos. C., 123, 129
LaCoursiere, Larry, 163
LaCoursiere, Leonard, 256
LaCoursiere, Lorena, 26, 257
LaCoursiere, Louis, 256
LaCoursiere, Marie, 163, 205, 256
LaCoursiere, Merle, 256
LaCoursiere, Michael, 95
LaCoursiere, Mike, 215
LaCoursiere, Mr. & Mrs. Joe, 311
LaCoursiere, Mr. & Mrs. Octave, 361
LaCoursiere, Mrs Omer, 193
LaCoursiere, Mrs. Alphonsine, 222
LaCoursiere, Mrs. Godias, 259
LaCoursiere, Mrs. Joe, 124
LaCoursiere, Mrs. Michael, 158
LaCoursiere, Mrs. Paul, 361
LaCoursiere, Mrs. Ted, 258
LaCoursiere, Mrs. Vernon, 209
LaCoursiere, Nap, 271
LaCoursiere, Octave, 256
LaCoursiere, Olive 'Sr. Joan', 257
LaCoursiere, Paul, 257, 361
LaCoursiere, Rita, 215, 308
LaCoursiere, Rolland, 215
LaCoursiere, Rose 'Sr. Gabriel', 257, 361
LaCoursiere, Rose, 256
LaCoursiere, Teresa, 208
LaCoursiere, Theodore, 50, 257, 361
LaCoursiere, Victor, 257
LaCoursiere, Viola, 257
LaCoursiere, Vitaline, 76
LaCoursiere-Patnode, Odena, 302
LaCoursiere-Reopelle, Clara, 257
LaCoursiere-St. Michel, Alice, 270
LaCoursiere-Violette, Agnes, 257
LaCrosse, Aleda, 257
LaCrosse, Alice, 257
LaCrosse, Ann, 257
LaCrosse, Anthony, 257
LaCrosse, Cynthia, 257
LaCrosse, Francis, 257
LaCrosse, Henry, 257
LaCrosse, Jack, 278
LaCrosse, Jenetta, 257
LaCrosse, John 'Jack', 257
LaCrosse, John, 195, 257, 325
LaCrosse, Joseph, 257
LaCrosse, Josephine, 270
LaCrosse, Keith, 257
LaCrosse, Laura, 257
LaCrosse, Louis, 257, 277
LaCrosse, Marie, 257
LaCrosse, Mark, 257
LaCrosse, Mary, 257
LaCrosse, Maurice, 257
LaCrosse, May, 257
LaCrosse, Mrs. Henry, 372
LaCrosse, Mrs. Jack, 286
LaDeaux, Zoe, 307
Lafaivre, Addie, 209, 285
LaFaivre, George, 41
Lafaivre, Mrs. Octave, 166
LaFave, Mrs Alice, 193
LaFave, Mrs. Fred, 361
Lafayette, Gladys, 37
LaFayette, Loren, 46
LaFayette, Mr. & Mrs. James, 233
LaFayette, Mrs Helen, 46
LaFayette, Orville, 314
Lafleche, Mgr. Louis Francois, 7
LaFontaine, Agna, 22, 142, 143
LaFontaine, Amanda, 142
LaFontaine, Mrs. Jay, 264
Laforce, Azilda, 266
LaFramboise, Doria, 174, 306
LaFramboise, Laura, 174
LaFramboise, Marie Louise, 174
LaFramboise, Roman, 174, 306
LaFriniere, Julia, 326
LaGrave, Mrs. Jeanne, 103
LaHaise, Joanne, 254
LaHaise, Mrs. Harold, 353
LaJambe, Adeline, 76
LaJambe, Ardis, 257
LaJambe, Barbara, 257
LaJambe, Betty, 257
LaJambe, Casper, 76
LaJambe, Ed, 257
LaJambe, Gaspard & Adeline, 257
LaJambe, Jon, 257
LaJambe, LaVonne, 257
LaJambe, Mr. & Mrs. Ed, 257
LaJambe, Mrs. Norman, 331
LaJambe, Robert, 257
LaJesse, Mrs. Marcel, 326
LaJuenesse, Mrs. Charles, 143, 256
Laliberte, Alyda, 216
Laliberte, Mrs. Ken, 211
Laliberte Aurelie, 192
Lamay, Patrice, 75
Lamberson, Arden, 258
Lamberson, Arnold, 253, 258
Lamberson, Curtis, 258
Lamberson, David, 258
Lamberson, Iva, 253, 258
Lambert, Adeline, 76
Lambert, Agnes, 125, 258
Lambert, Alexine, 258
Lambert, Alice, 256
Lambert, Alphonse F., 76, 167, 258
Lambert, Antoine, 75, 76, 77, 84
Lambert, Antony, 167
Lambert, Aristide, 258
Lambert, Armidas, 76, 77, 163, 167, 258
Lambert, Arthur, 99, 232, 258
Lambert, Azelie, 258
Lambert, Blanche, 76
Lambert, Bonnie, 167
Lambert, Celina, 258, 330
Lambert, Ciseri, 76
Lambert, Dean, 167
Lambert, Dennis, 258
Lambert, Dewey, 55, 167, 258
Lambert, Donna, 167
Lambert, Dora, 258
Lambert, Dorie, 167
Lambert, Dorothy, 167
Lambert, Edward, 258
Lambert, Emma, 258
Lambert, Eugene, 84
Lambert, Eunice, 258
Lambert, Francois, 75, 77, 84, 163, 258
Lambert, Goust, 76
Lambert, Irene, 232
Lambert, Jane, 258
Lambert, Joseph A., 75, 76, 84, 167, 178, 179, 258
Lambert, Josephine, 76
Lambert, Lawrence, 167, 258
Lambert, Leo, 258
Lambert, Leona, 167, 258
Lambert, Leonard, 167, 258
Lambert, Lester, 167, 258
Lambert, Mae, 258
Lambert, Margaret, 163, 164, 167
Lambert, Marguerite, 258
Lambert, Marie Louise, 258
Lambert, Mary Louise, 76, 179
Lambert, Matulde, 76
Lambert, Michael & Sarah, 133
Lambert, Michael, 167
Lambert, Oliva, 258
Lambert, Phillip, 132
Lambert, Rebecca, 179
Lambert, Regina, 167, 258
Lambert, Reinold, 167
Lambert, Rose, 258
Lambert, Terry, 167
Lambert, Thomas, 258
Lambert, Urgele, 76, 258
Lambert, Vern, 258
Lambert, Virginia, 76
Lambert, Virginie, 258
Lambert, Walter, 167, 258
Lambert, Xavier A, 75, 76, 167, 258, 346
Lambert, Zelia, 167
Lambert, Zepherin, 77, 84
Lambert Haupt, Eunice, 106
Lamkin, Bill, 173
Lampi, Beatrice G., 165
Lamy, Father A. P., 93
Lanager, E. B., 41
Lanager, Irene, 37, 44
Lanager, Laura, 37, 51
Lanager, Mrs E. B., 46
Lanager, P. B., 41
Lanctot, Matthew, 185
Lanctot, Mederic, 144
Lanctot, Mrs. Rodney, 185
Lanctot, Mrs. Roland, 336
Land, Bernice, 55
Land, Ferdinand, 55
Land, Gilmore, 55
Land, Oral, 55
Land, Tolvine, 55
Landa, Albert, 147
Lande, Halver, 54
Lande, Mary, 217
Lande, Mr. & Mrs. Torkel, 217
Lande, Ole, 217
Landecena, James, 153
Landerville, Mrs. Gabe, 298
Landman, Janice, 125
Landman, Mrs. Fred, 286
Landt, Mrs. Russel, 255
Lane, Anne, 258
Lane, Cheri, 258
Lane, Ellen, 258
Lane, Halsey B., 122, 135, 258

Lane, Mrs. H. B., 124
Langen, Odin T., 46, 54
Langer, Elling Bjorn, 9, 51
Langer, Halver, 51
Langerak, Anne, 217
Langerak, Evind, 60, 259
Langerak, Sigrid, 293
Langerak, Toni, 259
Langerud, Tilda, 89
Langevin, Chas, 10
Langie, Gertie, 280
Langie, Mrs. Oliver, 62, 346
Langie, Oline, 280
Langie, Signe, 241
Langie, Tarjie, 280
Langlie, Edwin, 49
Langlie, O. H., 41
Langlie, O. T., 9
Langlois, Adeline, 76, 167
Langlois, Antonia, 205
Langlois, Leah, 167
Langlois, Mary, 167
Langlois, Moise, 205
Langlois, Rose, 167
Langlois, William & Angeline, 167
Langlois, William Jr., 167
Langlois, William, 76
Langved, Donna, 255
Laniel, Arthur, 99, 100
Laniel, Lora Jean, 240
Laniel, Mrs. Arthur, 141
Laniel, Pearl A., 100
Laniel, Ralph, 100
Laniel, Sarah, 242
Lantz, H. E., 99
LaPierre, Esther, 175
LaPlant, H. B., 37
LaPlante, Adele, 190
LaPlante, Agnes, 175, 259
LaPlante, Alphonsine, 259
LaPlante, Amanda Lyn, 221
LaPlante, Amilie, 178
LaPlante, Arthur, 259
LaPlante, Bonnie, 153
LaPlante, Cathy, 153
LaPlante, Darryle, 259
LaPlante, Delia, 259
LaPlante, Dora, 259
LaPlante, Doyle, 153
LaPlante, Elmire, 213, 291
LaPlante, Emelie, 259
LaPlante, Frank, 259
LaPlante, Fred, 259
LaPlante, George, 153
LaPlante, James, 259
LaPlante, Janice, 153
LaPlante, Joseph, 136, 259
LaPlante, Leo, 259
LaPlante, Maurice, 135, 259
LaPlante, Medore, 259
LaPlante, Merle, 259
LaPlante, Michael, 221
LaPlante, Mrs. Joe, 322
LaPlante, Pam, 153
LaPlante, Paul Jason, 221
LaPlante, Roland, 153
LaPlante, Sally, 259
LaPlante, Stephanie, 259
LaPlante, Udelia, 259
LaPlante, Velina, 259
LaPlante, Vital, 259
LaPlante, Walter, 259, 367
LaPlante, Willard, 124, 172, 259
LaPlante, Willie, 259
LaPlante Raymond, 259
LaPlante Vdelia, 190
LaPlante-Perreault, Erma, 345
LaRence, Jennie, 15
Largis, Dallas, 266
LaRoche, Anne, 161
Larson, A. F., 37
Larson, Adam, 164
Larson, Andrew S., 259
Larson, Beatrice, 134
Larson, Bernard A., 271
Larson, Bertha, 261, 265
Larson, Burdell, 265
Larson, Carl, 259, 260
Larson, Caroline, 261
Larson, Chester & Mabel, 246
Larson, Clarence O. & Bertha, 260
Larson, Clayton, 35, 47, 260
Larson, David, 260
Larson, Derek, 199
Larson, Diane, 260
Larson, Drew, 223, 259
Larson, Edith, 260
Larson, Edwin, 259
Larson, Emil, 41
Larson, Engvald, 59
Larson, Gary, 223
Larson, George, 259, 260
Larson, Gjermund, 53, 62
Larson, Grant, 199
Larson, Gunda, 261
Larson, Gunsten, 261
Larson, Gust, 64, 139
Larson, Helen, 259
Larson, Helga, 261
Larson, Hilda, 268
Larson, Janis, 161
Larson, Jessie, 265
Larson, John & Mary, 260
Larson, John, 54, 60, 64, 65, 164, 261
Larson, Jon, 199
Larson, Karen, 223
Larson, Karin, 259
Larson, Kenneth, 116
Larson, Kent, 199
Larson, L. Peder, 260
Larson, L. W., 19
Larson, Lars M., 25, 261, 265
Larson, LaVern & Irene, 260
Larson, Leonard, 265
Larson, Louis E., 259, 260
Larson, Lowell D., 117
Larson, Lynn, 223, 259
Larson, Marilyn, 260
Larson, Mark, 261
Larson, Mikkel, 53, 61, 255, 260
Larson, Mildred, 265
Larson, Milo & Pat, 261
Larson, Milo, 98
Larson, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Joseph, 260
Larson, Mrs. Arthur, 288
Larson, Mrs. Ben, 62
Larson, Mrs. Clayton, 362
Larson, Mrs. Henry, 346
Larson, Mrs. James, 326
Larson, Mrs. Lowell, 122
Larson, Mrs. Peter, 238
Larson, Mrs. R., 324
Larson, Oscar, 259
Larson, Paul, 261
Larson, Peder, 260
Larson, Petra, 252, 261
Larson, Rev., 54
Larson, Robert, 92, 95, 223, 259
Larson, Roswall, 260
Larson, Stanley, 261
Larson, Thor & Ingeborg, 261
Larson, Thor, 53, 61, 268
Larson, Torjus, 255
Larson, Wallace, 260
Larson, William, 260
Larum, Noella, 329
Larvick, Elbert, 26, 45
Lasha, Annie, 261
Lasha, Caroline, 261
Lasha, Clement, 262
Lasha, Cora, 261
Lasha, Doris, 262
Lasha, Edna, 261
Lasha, Eli, 105, 109, 261
Lasha, Elie & Annie, 133
Lasha, Ella, 262
Lasha, Emery, 261, 262
Lasha, Emma, 262
Lasha, Henry Jewl, 132
Lasha, Joan, 262
Lasha, John, 261
Lasha, Jule Henry, 261
Lasha, Jule, 261
Lasha, Larry, 262
Lasha, Leo, 174, 262
Lasha, Leon, 262
Lasha, Lonnie, 262
Lasha, Mabel, 261
Lasha, Mamie, 261, 262
Lasha, Moise, 261
Lasha, Mrs. Robert, 257
Lasha, Nettie, 261
Lasha, Noella, 155, 262, 365
Lasha, Phyllis 'Sr. Laurian', 262
Lasha, Raymond, 262
Lasha, Robert, 262
Lasha, Roy, 262
Lasha, Sara, 261
Lasha, Stella, 261
Lasha, Walter, 262
Lasher, Kimberley Anne, 371
Lasher, Mrs. Carolynn, 371
LaSond, Ed., 214
LaSond, Marie, 214
Latendresse, Aime, 262
Latendresse, Alodie, 262
Latendresse, Cizzarine, 262
Latendresse, Dan, 262
Latendresse, Dave, 216, 263
Latendresse, Francis 'Frank', 262
Latendresse, Henry, 123
Latendresse, Hildage, 262
Latendresse, Joe, 262
Latendresse, Leah, 262
Latendresse, Leo, 208, 216, 263
Latendresse, Majoric, 216, 262, 263, 270, 326
Latendresse, Marian, 263
Latendresse, Mona, 263
Latendresse, Mose H., 123
Latendresse, Mrs. Mose H., 124
Latendresse, Vina, 216, 263
Latham, Josephine, 286
Latham, Mr. & Mrs. Wilbuer, 286
Latham, Vernon, 286
Latta, Charles A., 49
Latta, Charles T., 41
Lauer, Leo, 45
Laumback, Mary, 322
Laundreville, LaVern, 73
Laundry, Albina, 263
Laundry, Alma, 263
Laundry, Anna, 263

Laundry, Antonio, 258
Laundry, Arthur, 263
Laundry, Bonnie, 263
Laundry, Cecelia, 263
Laundry, Dora, 263, 298, 299
Laundry, Eileen, 263
Laundry, Ella, 263
Laundry, Elodia, 263, 306
Laundry, Joseph, 143, 263
Laundry, Louis, 263, 327
Laundry, Luma, 263
Laundry, Marc, 263
Laundry, Mrs. Pete, 331
Laundry, Peter, 263
Laundry, William, 263
Laundry, Woodrow, 263
Laurant, Dona, 162
Laurant, Lydia, 161, 162
Laurent, Adelard, 144
Laurent, Adelore, 307, 314, 332
Laurent, Arize, 209, 326, 327
Laurent, Cecelia, 264
Laurent, Delphise, 264
Laurent, Deree, 264
Laurent, Eliza, 264
Laurent, Fedora, 314, 333
Laurent, Florence, 264
Laurent, Henry, 264
Laurent, Homer, 264
Laurent, Horace, 264
Laurent, Joseph, 67, 142, 143, 144, 145, 180, 263
Laurent, Leon, 142, 144
Laurent, Madeline, 264
Laurent, Marie, 178
Laurent, Mathilda, 264
Laurent, Mr. & Mrs. Theodore, 263
Laurent, Regina, 264
Laurent, Theodore, 144, 264
Laury, Reverend, 174
Lavaque, J., 262
Lavigne, Mrs. Peter, 307
LaVoie, Mrs Paul, 23
Lawman, Kathy, 199
Lea, Connie, 225
Leas, Glen, 359
LeBlanc, Alexine, 213
LeBlanc, John (Cead), 213
Leblanc, Jos. Jr., 144
Leblanc, Mrs Aime, 192
LeBlanc, Rose Ann, 208
LeBlanche, Joseph, 76
Leckner, Dona, 250
LeDoux, Luverne, 188
Lee, A. O., 37
Lee, Agnes, 61
Lee, Alice, 264
Lee, Anton & Elmer, 264
Lee, Anton, 36, 37, 50
Lee, David, 264
Lee, Elphie, 264
Lee, Gary, 264
Lee, George & Dorothy, 264
Lee, George, 83
Lee, Gina M., 60
Lee, Herman, 264
Lee, Kathryn, 264
Lee, Lance, 83
Lee, Lora, 83
Lee, Lorentz, 35, 37
Lee, Marian, 264
Lee, Mark, 264
Lee, Marvin, 264
Lee, Mickey, 264
Lee, Mildred, 185, 226
Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Ole O., 261
Lee, Mrs. Ole, 62
Lee, O. K., 9, 78
Lee, Ole G. 59, 60, 61
Lee, Ole O., 54, 265
Lee, Oriet, 343
Lee, Ralph H., 25
Lee, Ruth, 37, 264
LeFaive, George, 68
Lefaivre, Addie, 284
Lefaivre, David, 265
Lefaivre, George, 162, 265
Lefaivre, Georgianna, 162, 242, 265
Lefaivre, Lena, 265
Lefaivre, Louis, 265
Lefaivre, Lucy, 162, 265
Lefaivre, Mrs. Octave, 265
Lefaivre, Octave, 60, 63, 162, 265
Lefaivre, Paul, 162, 265
Lefaivre, Peter, 265, 284
Lefaivre, Pierre, 162, 265
Lefaivre, Vincent, 265
Lefebvre, Marilyn, 350
Lefebvre, Mrs. Alvida, 179
Lefeive, Adline, 76
Lefeive, Isadore, 76
LeFloch, Father Paul, 48, 142
Leger, Pierre, 261
Legvald, Bertine, 233
Legvold, Emma, 203
Legvold, Mrs Sire, 54
Legvold, Osmund O., 53, 54
Legwold, Mr & Mrs, 57
Lehmkuhl, Freda, 106
Lehr, Ann, 32
Lehrer, Andrew, 31, 265
Lehrer, Arnold & Marie, 199
Lehrer, Arnold, 212, 265
Lehrer, Augusta Gerlach, 212
Lehrer, Brian, 265
Lehrer, Carl, 212, 342
Lehrer, Carol, 342
Lehrer, Charolette, 238
Lehrer, Ida Gerlach, 212
Lehrer, Jeanette, 199, 265
Lehrer, Joel, 342
Lehrer, John, 199, 265
Lehrer, Karen, 265
Lehrer, Karin, 199
Lehrer, Mark, 265
Lehrer, Michael, 265
Lehrer, Mrs. Andrew Michael, 272
Lehrer, Mrs. Arnold, 173
Lehrer, Mrs. Joel, 183
Lehrer, Mrs. Ruben, 173
Lehrer, Ronald, 199, 265
Lehrer, Ruben, 31, 212, 248, 265
Lehrer, Sharon, 342
Lehrer, Terry, 342
Lehrer, Wayne, 342
Lehrer, William, 265
Leiberman, Mrs. Sidney, 266
Leighton, Mrs. Bayford, 181
Lein, Oliver, 259
Leining, Arthur Jr., 266
Leining, Arthur, 265
Leining, Beth, 266
Leining, Carole, 266
Leining, Debbie, 266
Leining, Francis, 265, 266
Leining, Jeffrey, 266
Leining, Kelly Jo, 266
Leining, Lori, 266
Leining, Lyndon, 266
Leining, Melinda, 266
Leining, Sara, 266
Leining, Scott, 266
Leining, Wayne, 266
Leiran, Heather Colleen, 240
Leiran, Milton, 240
Leirfallom, Rev., 54, 240
Leiske, Edward, 289
Lemay, Annie, 314, 353
LeMay, Arthur, 213
Lemay, Patrice, 7
Lemen, W. F., 119
Lemieux, Adelore, 266
Lemieux, Albert, 79, 266
Lemieux, Albina, 212, 266
Lemieux, Alice, 266
Lemieux, Andre, 35, 38
Lemieux, Andrew, 59, 60, 266
Lemieux, Bobby Jesn, 266
Lemieux, Cora, 266
Lemieux, Crissy, 266
Lemieux, Dr. & Mrs. I., 129
Lemieux, Dr. H. J., 35
Lemieux, Dr. Israel, 9, 59, 71, 114, 127, 212, 266
Lemieux, Edna, 266
Lemieux, Edward, 266
Lemieux, Henry & Sarah, 266
Lemieux, Ida, 220, 266
Lemieux, Isaac, 62
Lemieux, Jackie, 266
Lemieux, Jan, 266
Lemieux, Joseph, 266
Lemieux, Julie, 266
Lemieux, Keough, 266
Lemieux, Lea, 170
Lemieux, Lorraine, 266
Lemieux, Marcie, 266
Lemieux, Mr. & Mrs. Tennis, 310
Lemieux, Napoleon, 266
Lemieux, Orilla, 310
Lemieux, Rosalba, 266
Lemieux, Ted, 266
Lemieux, Teddy, 266
Lemieux, Violette, 266
Lemieux, Wilfred, 266
Lemire, Father Arthur, 93
Lemire, Father Eli, 93
Lemire, Father Eugene, 119, 213
Lemire, Lucille, 172
Lemkuehl, John, 160
Lemly, Mrs. William, 234
Lemon, Irene, 233
Lenhart, Verna, 310
Lennon, Alyce, 340
Lennon, William, 340
Lentz, Russell, 201
Leppert, Fred, 148
Leppert, Sam, 148
Lerohl, Agnes, 266
Lerohl, Arthur, 266
Lerohl, Carl, 82
Lerohl, Carol, 266
Lerohl, Edgar, 266
Lerohl, Edith, 266
Lerohl, George, 266
Lerohl, Grace, 266, 286
Lerohl, Harold, 266
Lerohl, Rev. J. K., 46, 61, 85, 224, 240, 268
Lerohl, Rev. & Mrs. J. K., 266, 286
Lerohl, Robert, 266
Lerohl, Rugt, 267
Lerohl, Ruth, 266
Lerohl, Virginia, 350
Leroux, Paul, 99

Lessard, Annette, 267
Lessard, Barbara, 267
Lessard, Charles, 155, 267
Lessard, Delores, 267
Lessard, Don, 267
Lessard, Edward, 76, 165, 267
Lessard, Elaine, 267
Lessard, Fred, 76
Lessard, George, 267
Lessard, Gerald, 267
Lessard, Harold, 267
Lessard, James, 267
Lessard, John, 267
Lessard, Ken, 267
Lessard, Lucy, 76
Lessard, Marcella, 267
Lessard, Marie, 267
Lessard, Maurice, 267
Lessard, Parmelia, 165
Lessard, Raymond, 75, 258, 267
Lessard, Sharon, 267
Lessard, Theresa, 267
Lessard, Valeria, 76
Lessard, Vern, 267
Lessard, Walt, 267
Lessard, Yvonne, 267
Letendre, Delvina, 301
Lethart, Rev. Ambrose, 120
Letvig, Andrew, 148, 371
LeVander, Mrs Harold, 95
Levine, Anne, 205
Lewis, Audrey, 346
Lewis, Erma, 117
Lewis, Gaylene, 338
Libak, Per, 60
Liden, Verna, 207
Lie, A. K., 54
Liebak, Evind, 54
Liebak, P., 54
Lieberman, Charlene, 266
Lieberman, Mark, 266
Lieberman, Nancy, 266
Lien, Dana Rae, 231
Lien, Leslie, 231
Lien, Mrs. T. O., 62
Lien, Norman, 259
Lien, Oliver, 89
Lien, T. O., 259
Lilleguard, Rev., 54
Lillo, Alfred, 267
Lillo, Alvin, 203
Lillo, Ardith, 203
Lillo, August, 53, 267
Lillo, Clara 'Elvira', 54, 267
Lillo, Eldore, 55, 203
Lillo, Evelyn, 317
Lillo, Herman, 203, 267
Lillo, Ida, 53, 203, 204, 267
Lillo, Ingeborg, 53, 54, 56, 171
Lillo, Leona, 203
Lillo, Magnus & Ingeborg, 267
Lillo, Magnus J., 53
Lillo, Maurice, 203, 204
Lillo, Milo, 203
Lillo, Mina, 267
Lillo, Mr & Mrs Magnus, 53
Lillo, Mrs Magnus, 53
Lillo, Mrs. Oscar, 203
Lillo, Norman, 55, 203
Lillo, Obert, 203
Lillo, Oscar, 53, 267
Lillo, Renaldo, 203
Lind, Edith, 362
Lind, Helmer, 25
Lindberg, Adeline, 282
Lindberg, Alma, 267
Lindberg, Carl, 267
Lindberg, Christian O., 62, 157, 267
Lindberg, Edgar, 267
Lindberg, Esther, 157, 267
Lindberg, Hannah, 267
Lindberg, Kenneth, 282
Lindberg, Marie, 89, 267
Lindberg, Marvin, 282
Lindberg, Merle, 282
Lindberg, Mrs. Walter, 280
Lindberg, N. C., 282
Lindberg, Oscar, 267
Lindberg, Veleda, 267
Lindberg, William, 267
Lindbergh, Charles A., 179, 372
Lindbergh, Col. & Mrs. Charles, 129
Lindbergh, Eva, 179
Lindbert, Marvin & Margie, 282
Lindbert, Sarah, 267
Linder, Alvin, 268
Linder, Ann Marie, 268
Linder, Anna, 202, 268
Linder, Dennis, 268
Linder, Elaine, 268
Linder, Frank, 240, 268
Linder, Galen, 268
Linder, Gust & Bertine, 269
Linder, Gust, 60, 268, 346
Linder, Helen, 268, 346
Linder, Helmer, 268
Linder, Inga, 46, 240
Linder, James, 268
Linder, Jane, 269
Linder, Jennifer, 268
Linder, Louis, 268
Linder, Mabel, 202, 268
Linder, Marcia, 268
Linder, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar, 240
Linder, Mrs. Helmer (Mabel), 63
Linder, Mrs. Oscar, 62
Linder, Orrin, 18, 19, 268, 269, 346
Linder, Oscar, 268, 269
Linder, Ronald, 59, 268
Linder, Steven, 268
Linder, Theodore, 268
Lindholm, Rev. Henry, 122, 369
Lindly, Fern, 44
Lindow, Emilie, 216
Lindquist, Adella, 88, 269
Lindquist, Alice, 88, 269
Lindquist, Ann, 164
Lindquist, August Nils, 269
Lindquist, Diane, 328
Lindquist, Dr. H. T., 83
Lindquist, Dr. Max, 157
Lindquist, Gayeline, 198
Lindquist, Harold, 269, 284
Lindquist, Jeron, 164
Lindquist, Joyce, 199
Lindquist, Mauritz, 269
Lindquist, Mrs. Ruth, 269
Lindquist, Raymond, 82, 269
Lindquist, Robert, 164, 198
Lindquist, Susan, 285, 328
Lindquist, Tom, 164
Lindquist, Vern, 198, 269, 328
Lindquist, Willard, 269
Lindquist-Sheets, Mrs. Marvel, 269
Lindquist-Sweet, Mrs. Norma, 269
Lindsay, Mrs. Fred, 365
Lindsay, Sophie, 222
Lindtveit, Ole, 53
Lindwick, Mrs. Leighton 'Butch', 256
Lines, Mrs. Charles, 233
Linnertz, Anna, 106
Linnertz, Annie, 106, 269, 332
Linnertz, George, 269
Linnertz, Hilda, 232
Linnertz, Hubert, 269
Linnertz, Jacob, 105, 269
Linnertz, John Jr., 269
Linnertz, John Sr., 105
Linnertz, John, 269, 332
Linnertz, Josephine, 106,269
Linnertz, Louise, 106
Linnertz, Mary, 269
Linnertz, Maryann, 334
Linnertz, Mrs. Hubert, 244
Linnertz, Peter, 123, 269
Linnihan, Bernice, 269, 270
Linnihan, Bill & Josie, 271
Linnihan, Daniel & Mathilda, 271
Linnihan, Daniel, 269, 270, 271
Linnihan, Erma, 270
Linnihan, Gladys, 270
Linnihan, Glenn, 270, 271
Linnihan, Ina, 142, 269, 270
Linnihan, Josephine, 125
Linnihan, Joyce, 270, 271
Linnihan, Mae, 270
Linnihan, Marie, 270, 271
Linnihan, Mayme, 269
Linnihan, Mrs. Ray, 124
Linnihan, Mrs. William, 244
Linnihan, Patricia, 270, 271
Linnihan, Ray, 137, 230, 269, 271, 305
Linnihan, Ruth, 208, 270, 271
Linnihan, Terrence, 270, 271
Linnihan, William 'Bill', 208, 269, 270
Lintvedt, Mabel, 55
Lintvet, Amund & Gunhild, 238
Lintvet, Amund, 271
Lintvet, Amy, 238
Lintvet, Gunder, 271
Lintvet, Julie, 238
Lintvet, Knute, 271
Lintvet, Lee Roy, 238
Lintvet, Lisa, 238
Lintvet, Lyn Nell, 238
Lintvet, Mabel, 238, 271
Lintvet, Mrs. Amund, 217
Lintvet, Ole T., 271
Lintvet, Orlo, 27, 53, 55, 271
Lintvet, Tallak, 271
Lisce, George, 143
Little, Lizzie, 97
Livermore, Mary, 266
Lizee, Giles, 144
Lizee, Roch, 7
Lizotte, Alvina, 73, 311
Lizotte, Andrea, 271
Lizotte, Anthony, 311
Lizotte, D. O., 92
Lizotte, Damas, 311
Lizotte, Denis, 71, 311
Lizotte, Douglas, 271
Lizotte, Elsie, 311, 331
Lizotte, Euphemie, 311
Lizotte, Francis & Sharon, 135
Lizotte, Frederick, 311
Lizotte, Henri, 311
Lizotte, Jules, 311
Lizotte, Leonard, 134, 271, 272
Lizotte, Marie, 160, 360
Lizotte, Melissa, 271
Lizotte, Mrs. Dan, 256

Lizotte, Mrs. Fred, 256
Lizotte, Mrs. Leonard, 365
Lizotte, Mrs. Rene, 353
Lizotte, Paul, 127, 272
Lizotte, Rene, 272
Lizotte, Rosanna, 287, 326
Lizotte, Susanne, 311
Lizotte, Valerie, 256
Lizotte, Verna Mae, 272
Lizotte, Viann, 289
Lizotte, Vital, 272, 311, 326
Loeffler, Harriet, 125
Loeffler, Mrs. Joseph, 210
Loeffleur, Joe, 264
Loffelmaker, Richard, 46
Lofthus, Jorger, 60
Lofthus, T. O., 61
Logan, Roy, 25
Lohman, Louie, 219
Loiland, Nels O., 54
Loiland, Ole, 61
Lommen, E. E., 10
Lonergan, Walter, 49
Long, Maj. Stephen H, 8
Longtin, Clarence, 272
Longtin, Clifford, 26, 105, 272
Longtin, Dale, 272
Longtin, Donald, 272
Longtin, Doris, 272
Longtin, Eloise, 272
Longtin, Eraine, 272
Longtin, Essie, 272
Longtin, Evelyn, 68, 106
Longtin, Florida, 272
Longtin, George, 272
Longtin, Harry, 272
Longtin, Ida, 106, 272
Longtin, Jerome, 67, 68, 272
Longtin, Karen, 265, 272
Longtin, Leo Jr., 272
Longtin, Leo, 68, 272
Longtin, Leone, 272
Longtin, Linnae Joy, 253
Longtin, Lorraine, 310
Longtin, Louis, 125, 272
Longtin, Ludger, 272
Longtin, Lyle, 123, 272
Longtin, Mark 'Butch', 272
Longtin, Martha, 272
Longtin, Mrs Leo, 193
Longtin, Mrs. Louis, 181
Longtin, Mrs. Lyle, 253
Longtin, Rosina, 125
Longtin, Tatum Shay, 253
Longtin, Viola, 143, 272
Longtin-Kees, Ida, 270
Longville, Edmire, 310
Loras, Bishop, 7
Lorentson, John, 54
Lotzer, Gertrude, 244, 270
Lou, Fredericka, 249
Lovaas, Cora, 272
Lovaas, Minda, 272
Lovaas, Mr. & Mrs. Sam, 272
Lovaas, Mrs. Oscar, 26, 275
Lovaas, Oscar, 25, 26, 272
Lovaas, Samuel, 26, 272
Lovaas, Selma, 272
Lozert, Mary, 334
Lubitz, William, 366
Lucian, A. E., 123
Ludan, Amund, 271
Ludtke, Larith, 233
Ludwig, Fred, 332
Ludwig, Lois, 246
Ludwig, Wilhemina 'Minnie', 332
Lueders, Friederika, 196
Luetticke, Father Emil, 48
Luft, Catherine Marie, 332
Luke, Mrs. John, 311
Lumker, Henry, 94
Lund, Arthur, 298
Lund, Carl, 172
Lund, Daryl, 298
Lund, Mrs. Clifford, 265
Lund, Ronald, 298
Lundan, gunsten, 53
Lundblad, John J., 53
Lunde, Lewis, 53
Lunde, Mikkel T., 53
Lunde, Pastor, 61
Lunde, Signe, 349
Lundeen, Adella, 157
Lundeen, Richard, 207
Lundel, Amund G., 271
Lundell, John, 53, 61
Lundquist, Ida, 368
Lundquist, Nels, 368
Lunke, Mrs. Oscar, 26
Lussier, Albert 'Bro Maurant', 272
Lussier, Amie, 272
Lussier, Armond, 272
Lussier, Art, 370
Lussier, Arthur, 25, 272
Lussier, Bryan, 323
Lussier, Cyrille, 97, 100, 272, 295
Lussier, Delima, 272
Lussier, Edward, 272
Lussier, Gary, 323
Lussier, Gregory, 323
Lussier, Jay, 323
Lussier, Joseph, 272
Lussier, Laura, 272, 295
Lussier, Leah, 272
Lussier, Leo, 272
Lussier, Lynette, 323
Lussier, Mary, 272
Lussier, Medore, 323
Lussier, Paul, 272
Lussier, Randy, 323
Lussier, Rose, 272
Lussier, Walter, 272
Lussier, Wayne Allen, 323
Lutjen, Verna, 247
Lutz, Rev. Bernard, 48
Luxemberg, Lillian, 346
Luxenberg, Hazel, 143
Luxenburg, Alex, 273
Luxenburg, Annie, 273
Luxenburg, Art & Mildred, 273
Luxenburg, Dean, 273
Luxenburg, Diane, 273
Luxenburg, Dorothy, 273
Luxenburg, Edith, 273
Luxenburg, Elsie, 273
Luxenburg, Emma, 273
Luxenburg, George Jr., 273
Luxenburg, George, 72, 272
Luxenburg, Hazel, 295
Luxenburg, Jessie, 273
Luxenburg, John, 273
Luxenburg, Margaret, 273
Luxenburg, Michael, 273
Luxenburg, Mr. & Mrs. George, 157
Luxenburg, Nellie, 157
Luxenburg, Ralph, 308
Luxenburg, Robert, 157, 273
Luxenburg, Rose, 273
Luxenburg, Samuel, 72, 195, 273
Luxenburg, Sharon, 273
Luxenburg, Sophie, 273
Luxenburg, Thomas, 157
Luxenburg, William, 273
Lykken, Donald, 105
Lykken, Lorraine, 289
Lyman, Doris & Gerald, 283
Lynch, Bernadine, 273
Lynch, Clarence, 53, 81, 273, 298
Lynch, Curtis, 273, 298
Lynch, D. J., 53
Lynch, Dan, 273
Lynch, Dave, 273
Lynch, Dorothy Mae, 273
Lynch, Ethel, 273
Lynch, Frank, 273, 298
Lynch, Genevieve, 273, 286, 298
Lynch, Irene, 205, 273, 298
Lynch, J. W., 53
Lynch, John & Mary Ann, 273
Lynch, John, 273
Lynch, Katie, 273
Lynch, Kenneth, 273, 298
Lynch, Leonal, 273
Lynch, LeRoy, 273
Lynch, Leslie, 273, 298
Lynch, Malcom, 273
Lynch, Marcella, 273, 298
Lynch, Marie, 273, 298
Lynch, May, 273
Lynch, Ray, 273, 298
Lynch, Vivian, 273, 298
Lynch, Wallace, 273, 298
Lynch, Wayne, 273
Lynch, Will, 273
Lyng, Ed. J., 359
Lyngaas, Carl & Trine, 264
Lynne, Angela, 365
Lynne, Richard, 365
Lyons, Father Patrick, 48
Maaren, Benny, 274
Maaren, George, 274
Maaren, Hans, 274
Maaren, Ida, 274
Maaren, Inga, 274
Maaren, Jenny, 274
Maaren, Lewis, 274
Maaren, Mina, 274, 282
Maaren, Muriel, 274
Maaren, Olaf, 274
Maaren, Otto, 274
Maaren, Selma, 274
Maaren, Severt, 54, 61, 274
Maaren, William, 274
Maas, Olive, 99
Maatila, Thomas, 237
MacDonald, Alexander, 315
MacDonald, Archie, 315
MacDougal, Mrs. Leonard (Rita), 363
Mack, Alice, 49
Mack, Eleanor, 274
Mack, Frank, 49, 274
Mack, James, 274
Mack, Joseph, 274
Mack, Julia, 274
Mack, Theresa, 274
Mack, Thomas, 274
MacKichan, J, B., 25
MacNamara, Mike, 168
Madden, Mike, 60
Mageau, Josephine, 144
Magers, Cindy, 154
Magnan, Abe, 216

Magnan, David, 216
Magnell, Amanda, 275
Magnell, Annette, 275
Magnell, Beatrice, 275
Magnell, Carl & Betsy, 240
Magnell, Carl, 275
Magnell, Charles, 275
Magnell, Clarence, 275
Magnell, Dennis, 275
Magnell, Dora, 272, 275
Magnell, Gladys, 240
Magnell, Jason, 275
Magnell, Joseph, 275
Magnell, Leah, 240, 275
Magnell, Mr. & Mrs. Carl, 354
Magnell, Ole, 275
Magnell, Otto, 275
Magnell, Randy, 275
Magnell, Werner, 275
Magnell, Wesley, 275
Magnon, Delina, 190
Magnuson, Dr. Gregory, 134, 275
Magnuson, John F., 53
Magnuson, Jon David, 275
Magnuson, Marc Alan, 275
Magnuson, Morris & Edith, 275
Magoon, Mrs Paul, 180
Mahla, Arnold, 234, 275
Mahla, Bennie, 275
Mahla, Bernice, 275
Mahla, Gertrude, 234, 275
Mahla, Gladys, 275
Mahla, Helmer, 234, 275
Mahla, John, 275
Mahla, Judith, 275
Mahla, Lucille, 255, 275
Maier, John, 121
Maier, Mrs. Harold, 294
Main, Mrs. Richard L., 226
Majeres, Anna, 297
Majeres, Barbara, 276
Majeres, Cecilia, Mrs. Mike, 32, 338
Majeres, Donavan, 276
Majeres, Jerry, 276
Majeres, Mary, 269, 332
Majeres, Michael & Cecelia, 276
Majeres, Michael, 276
Majeres, Mike, 123
Majeres, Theo, 144, 276
Majeres, Yvonne, 276
Major, Vital, 91
Maland, Adelia, 213
Malerich, Mrs. Joseph, 303
Malette, Elizabeth, 144
Malette, Theophile, 144
Malinousky, J., 45
Malwitz, Alma, 276
Malwitz, Bill, 222
Malwitz, Charles, 276
Malwitz, Crystal, 277
Malwitz, Doris, 48
Malwitz, Emil & Myrtle, 278
Malwitz, Emil, 41, 276, 277, 278
Malwitz, Erna, 276, 277
Malwitz, Fern, 277
Malwitz, Huldah, 276
Malwitz, Jean, 158
Malwitz, John, 156, 277, 278
Malwitz, Karl, 277
Malwitz, Kenneth, 277, 278
Malwitz, Lila, 277
Malwitz, Lorraine, 164, 277
Malwitz, Melanie, 156, 278
Malwitz, Mr. & Mrs. Charles, 277
Malwitz, Mr. & Mrs. Ferdinand, 276
Malwitz, Mr. & Mrs. William, 158
Malwitz, Mrs Emil, 51
Malwitz, Scott, 277
Malwitz, Warren, 156, 278
Malwitz, Willard, 156, 277, 278
Malwitz, William, 26, 344
Malwitz, Willie, 276
Manders, A., 59
Manders, Max, 61
Mandlin, Leah Mae, 234
Mandt, Kathrine, 255
Mandt, Lyle, 261
Mandt, Mrs. Maynard, 161
Mandt, Tarjie, 234
Maney, Douglas, 51
Manger, I. O., 79
Mann, Horace, 36
Manning, Jean, 328
Manning, Michael, 289
Mantheir, David, 255
Mantheir, Diane, 255
Mantheir, Milton, 255
Mantheir, Suzanne, 255
Mantheir, Todd, 255
Marchall, Joe, 60
Marchand, George, 71, 77, 105, 305
Marchand, L., 144
Marchand, Napoleon, 144
Marchildon, Anne, 278
Marchildon, Bella, 278
Marchildon, Donavan, 278
Marchildon, Duane, 278
Marchildon, Eleanore, 199, 278
Marchildon, Euseb, 278
Marchildon, Felix, 278
Marchildon, Frieda, 278
Marchildon, Genevieve, 278
Marchildon, George, 278
Marchildon, Gilbert & Mary, 199
Marchildon, Gilbert, 181, 278
Marchildon, Janine Ann, 372
Marchildon, Jay, 270
Marchildon, Joseph, 105, 170, 278
Marchildon, Laura Jean, 372
Marchildon, Lea, 170, 270, 278, 290
Marchildon, Lenore, 278
Marchildon, Leo, 189, 270, 278, 311
Marchildon, Loretta, 278
Marchildon, Lorraine, 278
Marchildon, Louis, 123, 278
Marchildon, Marian, 278
Marchildon, Mark Thomas, 372
Marchildon, Martha Jean, 372
Marchildon, Mayme, 278
Marchildon, Michael John, 372
Marchildon, Mrs. Gilbert, 157
Marchildon, Mrs. Mary, 157
Marchildon, Mrs. Sid, 222
Marchildon, Nora, 278
Marchildon, Odilia, 278
Marchildon, Ralph, 278
Marchildon, Robert, 278
Marchildon, Sidney, 127, 278
Marchildon, Stella, 278
Marchildon, Valerian, 278, 372
Marcil, Father J. H., 119, 142
Marcille, Father, 257
Marcotte, Andrew, 279
Marcotte, Archie, 222, 278
Marcotte, Clarence, 125, 249, 278
Marcotte, Cynthia, 279
Marcotte, Duane, 20, 279
Marcotte, Elizabeth, 189, 279
Marcotte, Frances, 125, 239
Marcotte, George, 279
Marcotte, Glen, 279
Marcotte, James, 279
Marcotte, Joseph, 91, 279
Marcotte, June, 279
Marcotte, LeRoy, 279
Marcotte, Lorraine, 208
Marcotte, Mr. & Mrs. George, 189
Marcotte, Mrs. George, 165
Marcotte, Mrs. Wayne, 354
Marcotte, Nancy, 279
Marcotte, Raymond, 279
Marcotte, Willard, 279
Marcotte, Willie, 279
Marcoux, Edward, 72, 73, 312
Mares, Annie, 335
Marleau, Albert, 279
Marleau, Alice, 175, 279
Marleau, Arthur, 183, 279
Marleau, Catherine, 279
Marleau, Delia, 279
Marleau, Elmer, 279
Marleau, Eugene, 279
Marleau, Frances, 106
Marleau, John, 105, 106
Marleau, Kenneth, 279
Marleau, Lawrence, 279
Marleau, Leo, 279
Marleau, Lucille, 183, 279
Marleau, Michel, 144
Marleau, Mrs. Art, 236
Marleau, Mrs. Lawrence, 257
Marleau, Mrs. William Sr., 320
Marleau, Theodore, 279
Marleau, William Jr., 279
Marleau, William Sr., 72, 175, 279
Marlleau, Louis, 279
Marlow, James, 199
Marlow, Michel, 144
Marmorine, Alpha, 234
Marohn, Arlene, 295
Marquis, Mitchell, 217
Marsh, Gregory, 153
Marsh, Leon, 153
Marsh, Margo, 227
Marsh, Michelle, 227
Marsh, Mrs. Darrell, 227
Marsh, Steven, 153
Marshall, J. D., 121
Marshall, Denise, 309
Marshall, Emma, 137
Marshall, J. D., 10
Marshall, Kimberly, 309
Marshall, Mrs Emma, 126
Marshall, Mrs. E. F., 24, 129
Marshall, Mrs. J. D., 121
Marshall, William, 309
Marsonette, Ensill, 76
Marsonette, Joseph, 76, 144
Marsonette, Leon, 38
Marsonette-Engesther, Bernice, 308
Martel, Jos., 144
Martel, Julius, 144
Martell, Benedict, 153
Martell, Daniel, 153
Martell, Ellen, 153
Martell, Francis, 153, 277
Martell, Henry, 153
Martell, Louis, 323
Martell, Mary, 154
Martell, Mr. & Mrs. Francis, 154
Martin, Albert, 41, 50, 215
Martin, Erika, 231

Martin, Mary, 206
Martin, Minnie, 255
Martin, Rev. 122
Martin, Sophie, 311
Martin, Zelia, 156
Martin Olai Mathson, 280
Martinez, Mrs. Joe, 251
Martini, Larry, 359
Martinson, Carlos, 345
Martinson, Norman, 199
Marttila, Ilmi, 198
Marty, Charlene, 252
Marwitz, Ella, 355
Marwitz, Florence, 232
Marwitz, William, 72
Masey, Dorothy, 326
Matheny, Mrs. Marlan, 354
Mathews, Alfred, 116
Mathews, Clifford James Jr., 280
Mathews, Clifford, 280
Mathews, Cora, 280
Mathews, Elizabeth 'Bess', 280
Mathews, Eugene, 279
Mathews, Filbert, 279, 280
Mathews, Fred, 280
Mathews, Mayme 'Mae', 280
Mathews, Napoleon, 279
Mathews, Obeline, 280
Mathews, Odelon, 280
Mathews, Paul, 279
Mathews, Roses, 280
Mathews, W. J., 123
Mathews, Walter, 280
Mathews, William, 280
Mathews-Fox, Sharon, 280
Mathias, Pete, 342
Mathias, Tillie, 37
Mathieux, Perpetule, 236
Mathson, Anita, 280
Mathson, Cindy Lou, 280
Mathson, Clarence, 280, 281
Mathson, Darryl, 280, 281
Mathson, Guy Matthew, 280
Mathson, Inga, 280
Mathson, John, 280
Mathson, Linda, 281
Mathson, Loren, 281
Mathson, Lorie, 280
Mathson, Louis, 53, 280
Mathson, LuAnn, 280
Mathson, Luverne, 280, 281
Mathson, LuWayne, 280
Mathson, Martin, 280
Mathson, Melvin, 280
Mathson, Mrs M. O., 62
Mathson, Richard, 281
Mathson, Ronald, 280
Mathson, Sharon, 281
Matt, Hubert, 51
Matt, Mrs Hubert, 51
Mattala, Mrs. John, 321
Mattanes, John C., 35
Matties, Peter, 200
Mattison, Eddie, 363
Mattison, Janice, 51
Mattison, Martha, 363
Mattison, Ollie, 51
Mattson, Mary, 241
Matz, Ina, 37
Matzke, Cheryl, 116, 117
Mauer, Nick, 147
Maurolier, Ernestine, 170
May, Cecilia, 106
May, Mrs. Larry, 287
May-dwa-gun-on-ind, Chief, 8
Mayernick, Tom, 88
Mayernik, Michael, 281
Mayernik, Patrick, 281
Mayernik, Thomas & Marie, 281
Mayhew, Anna, 156
McAleer, Mon. John, 301
McAndress, Eva, 367
McAnulty, Charlie, 281
McAnulty, Donald, 281
McAnulty, Henry & Clara, 281
McAnulty, Henry, 142, 143
McAnulty, James, 281
McAnulty, Jim, 281
McAnulty, Katherine, 281, 333
McAnulty, Mary, 281
McAnulty, Mrs. Donald, 253
McAnulty, Robert, 281
McAnulty, Thomas, 281
McAnulty, Will, 281
McBroom, Henry, 250
McBryde, Eleanor, 239
McCall, J. L., 53
McCall, John, 323
McCall, Joyce Ann, 323
McCall, T. M., 26
McCarnack, J. S., 122
McCartney, James, 122
McCaul, A. L., 250
McCaul, Cathy, 250
McCaul, Corrine, 250
McCaul, Gerald, 250
McCaul, James, 250
McCaul, Maria, 250
McCaul, Paula, 250
McClatchie, M. A. 'Henry', 235
McConnell, James, 116
McConnell, Sarah Jane, 214
McCook, Mr. & Mrs. Richard, 369
McCord, Katie, 142
McCormick, John, 72
McCormick, Mary, 72
McCrady, Mrs Josephine, 51
McDonald, Chad, 231
McDonald, Jodi, 231
McDonald, Mrs. J. R., 291
McDonald, Mrs. Kenneth, 362
McDonald, William, 231
McDonnell, Elizabeth, 162
McDougal, Julie, 309
McFarland, Elmer, 293
McGeary, Dana Michelle, 268
McGeary, Dennis, 268
McGeary, Paul, 268
McGolrick, Bishop James, 84
McGolrick, Rev. James, 142
McGrand, Clifford, 273
McGrand, Luvern, 273
McGrath, Mrs John, 176
McIntyre, Judy, 340
McIntyre, Mrs. Chester, 232
McKasy, Tom, 367
McKee, Mrs Jacob, 355
McKeever, Mrs. John, 366
McLaughlin, Helen, 330
McLaughlin, Mrs. Eugene, 295
McLeod, Martin, 15
McManus, Grace, 88
McNally, P. T., 115, 117
McNamara, Josie, 344
McNamara, Mary Ann, 366
McNeal, J. W., 117
McNerthney, Elizabeth, 115
McPherson, Mrs. Wm., 348
Mead, Brent Jay, 282
Mead, Carsten & Frances, 282
Mead, Carsten 'Spike', 127, 228, 281, 282, 354
Mead, Chad Carsten, 282
Mead, Charles, 281
Mead, John & Maxine, 282
Mead, John, 26
Mead, Marilyn, 282
Mead, Megan Margaret, 282
Mead, Mrs. Carsten, 124, 244
Mead, Tania, 282
Measner, Albert, 255
Medchill, Alice, 283
Medchill, Amanda, 282, 283
Medchill, Bertha, 282, 283
Medchill, Clara, 282
Medchill, Clarice, 283
Medchill, Gertrude, 282
Medchill, Idella, 283
Medchill, John, 274
Medchill, John, 282
Medchill, Lois, 274
Medchill, Margaret, 282
Medchill, Martin, 282
Medchill, Melvin & Bergetta, 282
Medchill, Ole, 282
Medchill, Paul Melvin, 282
Medchill, Peder & Marit, 282
Medchill, Peder Sivert, 50, 282
Medchill, Victor, 24, 25, 163, 207, 282, 283
Mehrkens, Father William, 294
Meikle, D., 79
Meilleur, Thad, 35
Meinsinger, Catherine, 355
Melby, Aase Margie, 283
Melby, Alice, 283
Melby, Allan, 284
Melby, Alma, 283
Melby, Andor, 85, 284
Melby, Arthur, 283
Melby, Brian, 283
Melby, Carolyn, 284
Melby, Clifton, 171, 283
Melby, David, 284
Melby, Gladys, 283
Melby, Harold, 283
Melby, Inga, 283
Melby, Ingebrat, 283
Melby, Isaac, 171, 283
Melby, J. O., 9, 26, 87
Melby, Jacob, 171, 283
Melby, Jeanette, 283
Melby, Jill, 197
Melby, John O., 81, 283, 284
Melby, Karen, 283
Melby, Katherine, 283
Melby, Mark, 283
Melby, Mary, 283, 284
Melby, Michael, 284
Melby, Mildred, 19
Melby, Mr & Mrs Ole, 88
Melby, Mr & Mrs Thomas, 85
Melby, Mrs. David, 197
Melby, Mrs. Tom, 344
Melby, Norah, 283
Melby, Ole, 79, 80, 81, 83, 283, 284, 288
Melby, Olga, 284
Melby, Orlo, 26, 88, 283, 284
Melby, Orrin, 82, 85, 224, 284
Melby, Rev. O. A., 267
Melby, Richard, 284
Melby, Robert, 284
Melby, Stuart, 283
Melby, Sue, 283

Melby, Susan, 224, 225, 284
Melby, Thomas, 168, 283
Melby, Tim, 197
Melby, Tom O., 26, 79, 80, 88, 89, 283, 284
Melby, Tommy Jay, 283
Melby, Verna, 283
Melby, Wanda Mae, 283
Melby, Wilton, 85, 284
Melby Brothers, 9
Melbye, Mrs. Erling, 175
Melcer, S. J., 37
Melgaard, Marcia, 308
Melhy, Olga, 85
Melin, Leonard, 25
Mellor, Mrs. George, 259
Mercier, Louis, 144
Mercier, Augustin, 358
Mercier, Peter, 105
Mercil, Addie, 285
Mercil, Aime & Delia, 285
Mercil, Aime, 256
Mercil, Alex, 152
Mercil, Caroline, 284
Mercil, Darrell, 285, 328
Mercil, David, 152
Mercil, Dellas, 285, 300
Mercil, Dianne, 285
Mercil, Donald, 285
Mercil, Donna Mae, 163, 285
Mercil, Dr. & Mrs. W. F., 248
Mercil, Eli, 284
Mercil, Elizabeth, 284
Mercil, Euclid, 208
Mercil, Everell, 285
Mercil, Father H., 75, 84
Mercil, Gerald, 285
Mercil, Harvey, 135, 221, 285
Mercil, Jacqueline, 251
Mercil, Jennifer Leslie, 248
Mercil, Joseph, 209, 284, 285
Mercil, L. M., 98
Mercil, Leah, 209, 284, 285
Mercil, Leon, 205, 209, 284, 285
Mercil, Lloyd, 100, 101, 285
Mercil, Louis, 152, 163, 209, 284, 285
Mercil, Madeline, 285
Mercil, Maebelle, 255, 256
Mercil, Mary Louise, 284, 285
Mercil, Mary, 209, 251
Mercil, Med, 285
Mercil, Medard Jr., 284
Mercil, Medard Sr., 284
Mercil, Medor, 284, 285
Mercil, Medore, 101, 209
Mercil, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey, 328
Mercil, Mrs. Harvey, 183
Mercil, Mrs. LeRoy, 291
Mercil, Nicole Marie, 248
Mercil, Oliver, 284
Mercil, Philanese, 284
Mercil, Ralph, 209, 284, 285
Mercil, Robert F., 248
Mercil, Rose Anna, 209, 284, 285
Mercil, Rose, 368
Mercil, Virgil, 285
Mercil, Wayne, 285
Mercil, Wilfred, 209, 284, 285
Mercil, Yvonne, 285, 291
Merecil, Wendy, 285
Mericl, Gloria, 250
Merrick, Irene, 251
Merrill, Rev. Thos. G., 120, 304
Mersy, Barbara, 286
Mersy, Bill, 286
Mersy, David & Pat, 275
Mersy, Dr. David, 122, 134, 286
Mersy, Hubert, 286
Mersy, John, 286
Mersy, Michael & Velora, 286
Mersy, Patricia, 117
Mersy, Ruth, 286
Mersy, Scott, 286
Merth, Father John, 48, 330
Meuier, Olivier, 97
Meyer, Albert, 238
Meyer, Alpen, 20
Meyer, Anna, 286
Meyer, Anne, 223
Meyer, Annie, 94
Meyer, Clarence & Bertha, 257
Meyer, Clarence, 94, 286
Meyer, Dorothy, 202, 286
Meyer, Elsie, 238
Meyer, Eugene, 219
Meyer, Gladyce, 257, 286
Meyer, Harold, 286
Meyer, Henry, 91, 94
Meyer, John, 286
Meyer, Kenneth, 286
Meyer, Luella, 94, 286
Meyer, Margaret, 117, 238
Meyer, Max, 91
Meyer, Mrs. Sheldon, 320
Michaels, Freda, 369
Michalek, Jean, 221
Michel, Marie, 330
Michelson, Michael, 170
Michelson, S., 50
Mickelson, Agnes, 286
Mickelson, Anton, 45, 286
Mickelson, Carol, 170
Mickelson, Carrie, 286
Mickelson, Eric, 197
Mickelson, Johanna, 286
Mickelson, Johannes, 286
Mickelson, Kara Leah, 371
Mickelson, Martha, 224, 286, 287
Mickelson, Mrs Winton, 197
Mickelson, Mrs. Bob, 322
Mickelson, Mrs. Herbert, 317
Mickelson, Nels, 286
Mickelson, Sivert, 224, 286
Mickelson (Harbalen), Sjur, 286
Milen, Petter, 55
Millard, Dyce, 293
Miller, Ambrose, 232
Miller, Ambrose, 288
Miller, Arnold, 105, 287, 288, 326, 339
Miller, Barbara, 287
Miller, Becky, 289
Miller, Bernard, 287
Miller, Beulah, 288
Miller, Bill, 170, 288
Miller, Bob & Lorraine, 288
Miller, Bob, 287
Miller, Bobbie, 288, 289
Miller, Bruce, 287
Miller, Christopher Jon, 296
Miller, Christopher, 288
Miller, David, 289
Miller, Debbie, 288, 289
Miller, Dennis, 288
Miller, Don, 282
Miller, Dorris & Georgia, 135
Miller, Dorris E., 287
Miller, Ed, 288
Miller, Elsie, 194, 249, 288
Miller, Ernest & Minnie, 287
Miller, Ernest, 288
Miller, Eva L., 291
Miller, Fred, 100, 123, 288, 342
Miller, Gerry, 287
Miller, Gordon, 287
Miller, Greg, 287
Miller, Harry, 105, 288
Miller, Hazel, 232, 288
Miller, Helen, 287, 336, 339
Miller, Ila, 363
Miller, Jackie, 288
Miller, James, 161, 288
Miller, Jeff, 287
Miller, Jennifer, 287
Miller, Jerry, 288
Miller, Joe, 285, 287, 288
Miller, John, 288
Miller, Josie, 289
Miller, Karen, 288
Miller, Kenneth, 232, 288
Miller, Leona, 233, 287
Miller, Levi, 288
Miller, Lillian, 288
Miller, Linda Lee, 287
Miller, Lisa, 287
Miller, Lori, 287
Miller, Louella, 232, 288
Miller, Lucille, 232
Miller, Marilyn, 161, 288
Miller, Martha, 288
Miller, Mary, 287
Miller, Maurice, 232, 288
Miller, Mitzi, 288
Miller, Mr & Mrs Nap, 88
Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Ray S., 288
Miller, Mrs Nap, 79
Miller, Mrs. Charles, 332
Miller, Mrs. Don, 296
Miller, Mrs. Gust, 332
Miller, Mrs. Jack, 259
Miller, Mrs. Robert, 26
Miller, Mrs. Sam, 124
Miller, Nan, 288
Miller, Napoleon L., 79, 80, 81, 231, 232, 288
Miller, Natalie, 287
Miller, Pam, 287, 288
Miller, Patti, 289
Miller, Percy, 288
Miller, Peter, 288
Miller, Ralph, 194, 288
Miller, Ray, 287
Miller, Ricky, 287
Miller, Robert G., 117
Miller, Robert, 222, 224, 287, 288
Miller, Roberta, 358
Miller, Rose, 360
Miller, Russell, 288, 348
Miller, Sam, 67, 68, 288, 291
Miller, Scott, 287, 289
Miller, Shirley, 287
Miller, Stephen, 296
Miller, Steven Earl, 287
Miller, Terry, 287
Miller, Tom, 287
Miller, Vernon, 287
Miller, Wallace 'Pete', 136, 161, 288
Miller, Yvonne, 288
Milligan, Blanche, 289
Milligan, Charlotte, 289
Milligan, Elinor, 289
Milligan, Ellsworth, 289, 313
Milligan, Eva, 289
Milligan, John L., 289
Milligan, Lillie, 289

Mills, Ted, 154
Miron, Zoe, 328
Mitchell, Gary, 83
Moberg, Vilhelm, 314
Moe, Manvel, 25
Moe, Nels, 60
Moe, Norma, 259
Moen, Elmer, 61
Moen, L. K., 59, 62
Moen, Michael, 116
Moen, Mrs. Clayton, 233
Moler, Charles, 143
Molitor, Gertrude, 239
Moltrecht, Mrs. K. H., 185
Monahan, Dorothy Eda, 208
Monpetit, Agne, 76
Monroe, Father Henry, 119
Mons-o-Mo (Moosedung), 8
Monson, Russell, 116, 192
Monterial, William, 189
Montpettit, Walter, 73
Montplaisir, Edward, 279
Montplaisir, Kelli Joann, 279
Montplaisir, Patrick, 279
Montplaisir, Steven, 279
Montreuil, Chas., 144
Montreuil, Joseph, 205
Montreuil, Mary Louise, 176
Montreuil, Mrs. Alan, 236
Montreuil, Octave, 91, 176
Montreuil, Willie, 327
Moonen, Henry, 51
Moonen, Mrs. Mary, 48
Moore, S.J.S., 122
Moran, Alvin D. Jr., 290
Moran, Alvin J. 'Kelly', 289, 304
Moran, Andy, 289
Moran, Arthur, 289
Moran, Brian, 289
Moran, Clayton A., 289
Moran, Dale, 289
Moran, Donna, 289
Moran, Dorothy, 290
Moran, Edward Jr., 289
Moran, Edward, 289, 329
Moran, Elaine Wichterman, 39
Moran, Francis, 289
Moran, Gary, 289
Moran, Grace, 289
Moran, James, 290
Moran, Joane, 289
Moran, John, 289
Moran, Joseph, 289
Moran, Joyce, 289
Moran, Julia, 289
Moran, Kenneth, 289
Moran, Leland, 289
Moran, Llewellyn 'Doc', 289
Moran, Lloyd, 289
Moran, Marion, 289
Moran, Marjorie, 289
Moran, Mary Jo, 289
Moran, Mary, 289
Moran, Michael, 289
Moran, Mrs. Alvin 'Kelly', 170
Moran, Mrs. E. A., 169
Moran, Mrs. J., 278
Moran, Mrs. Kenneth, 367
Moran, Nancy, 289
Moran, Pam, 23
Moran, Pamela, 289
Moran, Perry, 289
Moran, Ray 'Tuffy', 289
Moran, Raymond, 289
Moran, Roger, 289
Moran, Ruth, 289
Moran-Bradle, Grace, 170
Morans, Edward Sr., 289
Moreau, Albert, 99, 102
Moreau, Mr., 143
Moreau, Ovide, 77
Moreland, Mrs. J. C., 335
Morin, A., 100
Morin, Charles, 247
Morin, Jean, 298
Morin, Joseph, 247
Morin, Josephine, 262
Morin, Marguerite, 247
Morin, Mrs. H. J., 122
Morin, Mrs. Sarah, 124
Morin, Paul, 247
Morin, Sarah, 101
Morin, Vinian, 208
Morinville, Alden, 291
Morinville, Arabelle, 291
Morinville, Colleen, 291
Morinville, Donna, 291
Morinville, Dorinda, 291
Morinville, Emmitt, 100, 291
Morinville, Ephraim, 144
Morinville, Gail, 291
Morinville, Gary, 291
Morinville, Genine, 291
Morinville, George, 73, 290, 291
Morinville, Grace, 291
Morinville, Helen, 259
Morinville, Jane, 290, 291
Morinville, Jean, 290
Morinville, Jerry, 290
Morinville, Joe 'Pete', 73, 213, 290, 291, 307
Morinville, Josephine, 290, 291
Morinville, Keith, 291
Morinville, Lawrence, 291
Morinville, Leo, 291
Morinville, Leonard, 291
Morinville, Louis, 290
Morinville, Mae, 307
Morinville, Margaret 'Peg', 290
Morinville, Megan, 291
Morinville, Mike, 290
Morinville, Mrs. Lawrence, 285
Morinville, Mrs. Walter, 195
Morinville, Patricia, 231, 290
Morinville, Paul, 291
Morinville, Perry, 291
Morinville, Phyllis, 284, 291
Morinville, Rita, 291
Morinville, Rod, 291
Morinville, Scott, 291
Morinville, Shana, 291
Morinville, Sharleen, 291
Morinville, Sharon, 291
Morinville, Stephen, 291
Morinville, Sylvia, 291
Morinville, Telesphore, 181, 192, 290, 291, 327
Morinville, Thomas, 291
Morinville, Valerie, 291
Morinville, Vaughn, 291
Morinville, Verla, 291
Morinville, Vern, 291
Morinville, W. J. Jr., 291
Morinville, Walter, 188, 290, 291
Morinville, Wanda, 291
Morinville, William J., 291
Morinville, Zeann, 268
Morinville-Mercil, Gladys, 291
Morinville-Parenteau, Florence, 291
Morinville-Perusse, May, 291
Morken, Allen, 20, 188
Morkham, Mrs. Millie, 293
Morrill, A. C., 8
Morrisette, Isaac, 38
Morrisette, Lucie, 311
Morrison, Mrs. Hugh, 155
Morrison, Mrs. Robert, 299
Morrissette, Alcid, 9, 41, 43, 224, 291, 297
Morrissette, Beulah, 291
Morrissette, Doris, 291
Morrissette, Dorothy, 291
Morrissette, Edward, 291
Morrissette, Eugene, 291
Morrissette, George, 291
Morrissette, Isaac, 291
Morrissette, Isabelle, 291
Morrissette, John, 291
Morrissette, Joseph, 41, 291
Morrissette, Lamie, 291
Morrissette, Louella, 291
Morrissette, Mandy, 291
Morrissette, Marie, 291
Morrissette, Mary, 291
Morrissette, Maurice, 291
Morrissette, Mrs. Lamie, 49
Morrissette, Napoleon, 291
Morrissette, Octave, 291
Morrissette, Peter, 291
Morrissette, Philip, 291
Morrissette, Tennis, 291
Morrissette, Wilfred, 291
Morrissette, Xavier, 291
Mortenson, Andrew, 139
Mortenson, John, 139
Mortenson, Sharon, 222
Morton, Howard, 363
Morton, Mrs. Jim, 255
Morvig, Mr. & Mrs. A., 243
Mosbeck, Mrs Martin (Alice), 297
Moser, Barbara Jean, 292
Moser, Daniel Thomas, 292
Moser, Eugene, 292
Moser, Fred W. & Iva, 292
Moser, Frederick Thomas, 292
Moser, Frederick, 292
Moser, Henry & Lillian, 292
Moser, James, 292
Moser, Karen, 292
Moser, Kimberly, 292
Moser, Marilyn, 292
Moser, Nancy Marie, 292
Moser, Roseanne, 292
Moser, Susan, 292
Moser, Terry Edward, 292
Moser, William, 292
Mossestad, Arlys, 252
Mossestad, Carole, 252
Most, Morris A. Jr., 20
Mostrom, Mabel, 233
Mostrum, John, 59, 60
Moudry, Theofil, 358
Movern, Anna, 252
Mrlby, Rebecca, 284
Mrozek, Peter, 167
Mukand, Dr. Eric, 134, 292
Mukand, John Arun, 292
Mukand, Sushma Esther, 292
Mukand, Tim D., 292
Muldoon, Colin Daniel, 292
Muldoon, William & Janet, 292
Muldoon, William D., 134, 253
Mullarkey, W. T., 18, 19
Mullen, Mrs. Leo, 181
Mulvaney, Kim, 117

Mundinger, Audrey, 182
Mundinger, Gus & Vi, 182
Munn, Patrick, 323
Murphy, Benny, 194
Murphy, Elizabeth, 220
Murphy, Jim, 194
Murphy, John, 194
Murphy, Marcella, 194
Murphy, W. J., 24
Murray, F. E., 228
Murray, George & Carroll, 335
Murray, Karen, 335
Murray, Mrs. George, 295
Musil, Frank, 105
Musil, Kate, 125
Musil, Mrs. Frank, 254
Musil, Mrs. Leo, 303
Musil, Paula, 363
Mussati, Mrs. Richard, 299
Musselman, Mariam, 313
Myhre, Mrs. Sidney, 26
Myhre, Mrs. Wesley, 362
Myhrer, Barbara, 188
Naas, Corrine, 293
Naas, Dale, 293
Naas, Dana, 293
Naas, Daniel, 292
Naas, Gwen, 293
Naas, Mr. & Mrs. Julius, 292
Naas, Ruth, 293
Naas, Sam, 292
Naas, Shurleen, 293
Nadeau, Emile, 157
Naplin, Mark, 354
Narveson, Alfred, 368
Narveson, Mrs. Norvald, 258
Narveson, Olga, 44
Narveson, Shannon, 368
Nash, Agnes, 125
Nash, Kate, 77
Nash, Mathias, 77
Nash, Mrs. Francis, 361
Naylor, LeLon, 46
Nee, Anna, 332
Neek, Lewis, 53
Neibert, Agnes, 32
Neiland, Ron, 135
Neilson, Andrew, 68, 257
Neilson, Mrs. Andrew, 340
Neilson, Wilber, 47
Neison, Mrs. Roger, 252
Neldnar, Dorothea, 211
Nelson, Amelia, 76
Nelson, Andrew, 45, 60
Nelson, Bertha, 171, 172
Nelson, Chester, 55
Nelson, Dave, 135
Nelson, Dean, 334
Nelson, Elenore, 309
Nelson, Elmer, 332
Nelson, George, 105
Nelson, Gerald, 201
Nelson, Harold, 134
Nelson, Henry, 59, 79
Nelson, Jeffrey, 334
Nelson, Joel, 51
Nelson, L. E., 76
Nelson, Leonard & Anna, 254
Nelson, LeRoy, 334
Nelson, Lloyd, 20
Nelson, Mary, 206
Nelson, Merrill, 122
Nelson, Mrs. Dan (Anne), 63
Nelson, Mrs. Lester, 355
Nelson, Mrs. Lloyd, 216
Nelson, Mrs. Nels, 176
Nelson, Mrs. Paul, 299
Nelson, Mrs. Wallace, 234
Nelson, N. A., 139
Nelson, Nels, 59, 62
Nelson, Nora, 216
Nelson, Olaf, 138
Nelson, Ruth Ann, 253
Nelson, Selma, 240
Nelson, Wallace, 167
Nereson, Anna, 293
Nereson, Emma, 293
Nereson, Ingeborg, 268
Nereson, Margit, 293
Nereson, Nels, 60
Nereson, Nere, 293
Nereson, Ole, 60
Nereson, Tarjei & Sigrid, 261
Nereson, Torger, 53, 293
Nesland, Gunhild 'Bunny', 194
Nesland, Oscar, 55
Ness, Edward, 243
Ness, Esther, 28, 243
Ness, Larry & Gaylene, 230
Ness, Larry, 41
Ness, Loren M., 83
Ness, Orrin, 249
Ness, Pat, 360
Nessland, Gertrude, 283
Netteland, George L., 83
Neurerer, Marie, 294
Newbert, August, 48
Newcomer, Clarence, 26
Newland, J. G., 25
Newman, Dr. William, 349
Newman, Elizabeth, 242
Newman, Mrs. Anna, 324
Newman, Russel, 45
Newton, Clara, 142
Neys, Mrs. George, 339
Neys, Renae, 339
Nicola, Ruth, 316
Nieland, Bill, 351
Nieland, Frederick, 293
Nieland, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph, 293
Nieland, Mrs. William, 124, 152
Nieland, Robert, 293
Nieland, Ronald & Janet, 293
Nieland, Vernon, 293
Nieland, William, 123-4, 293
Nielsen, Hazel, 293
Nielsen, Inez, 293
Nielsen, James 'Pete', 293
Nielsen, John, 293
Nielsen, Lee, 97, 293, 294
Nielsen, Pete, 293
Nielsen, Wilber, 293, 294
Nielson, Brian, 323
Nigg, Florian, 144
Nilsson, Sofia Karin, 259
Nimersgern, Elizabeth, 32
Nimesger, William, 294
Nimesgern, J. Nicholas, 112, 294
Nimesgern, Joe, 225
Nimesgern, P. J., 294
Nisbet, John, 247
Nissen, Aron, 255
Nissen, Erik, 255
Nissen, Kristoffer, 255
Nissen, Maurice, 255
Nistler, Agnes, 294
Nistler, Andrew & Marie, 267
Nistler, Andrew, 294
Nistler, Cecelia, 294
Nistler, Father Edward, 199
Nistler, Joseph, 294
Nistler, Leo, 294
Nistler, Mary Ann, 294
Nistler, Maryann, 267
Nistler, Mrs. Leo, 256
Nistler, Paul, 294
Nitti, Mrs. Don, 310
Nixon, H. F., 80
Njus, Rev., 85, 88
Noah, Father Daniel, 49, 119, 332
Noel, Anthony & Exina, 326
Noel, Antoine, 328
Noel, Florence, 326
Noel, Henry, 326
Noel, Joseph, 214, 231
Noel, Onezime, 91
Noel, Philomene, 261
Noesen, Adelaide, 294
Noesen, Father, G. L., 199, 294
Noesen, Louis & Theresa, 294
Nogel, Mary, 242
Nohre, Maxine, 282
Nohre, Melvin & Inga, 282
Nohre, Mrs. Harry, 236
Nomland, Anne, 232
Noper, V. E., 24
Norberg, Carol, 295
Norberg, Daniel, 295
Norberg, David, 295
Norberg, John, 294
Norberg, Jon, 295
Norberg, Judith, 295
Norberg, Leslie, 294
Norberg, Milton, 294
Norberg, Nancee, 295
Norberg, Russell A., 53, 57, 294, 295
Norberg, Russell M., 295
Norberg, Sylvia, 294
Norberg, Ted, 294
Norbert, Adeline, 294
Norbert, Idella, 294
Norbert, Mr. & Mrs. Russell A., 295
Norby, B. O., 83
Norby, Gladys, 45
Norby, John, 38, 215
Norby, Oren, 44
Norby, Rev. H. O., 46
Norby, Tom, 41, 63
Nordby, Anne, 194
Nordby, Bertha, 266
Nordby, David, 194
Nordby, Jennifer, 194
Nordby, Joel, 194
Nordby, Laurie, 194
Nordby, Mrs. W., 367
Nordby, Tiffany, 194
Nordis, Shirley, 354
Nordlinder, Jean, 329
Norgaard, E. K., 54
Norjore, Carl, 89
Norman, Andrew, 68
Norman, Anna, 68
Norman, Annie, 68
Norman, Dr. J. F., 122
Norman, Jennie, 273
Norman, Lillian, 139
Normandeau, Caroll, 295
Normandeau, Dorine, 295
Normandeau, Eusebe & Grace, 335
Normandeau, Eusebe, 295, 339
Normandeau, Florence, 295
Normandeau, Janyce, 295

Normandeau, Mrs Cora, 124
Normandeau, Musetta, 106
Normandeau, Theola, 295
Normandeau, Una, 295
Normandeau, Verla, 295
Normandin, Leah, 156
Normandin, Mrs. Harvey, 156
Norquist, Ernest, 122
Norsetter, Howard Jr., 248
Norsetter, Howard, 248
Norton, Elaine, 233
Novak, Anita, 295
Novak, Donna, 295
Novak, Gerard, 295
Novak, Jerome, 295
Novak, Leonard, 295
Novak, Mary & Frank, 295
Novak, Raymond, 295
Novak, Reinette, 295
Novak, Walter D., 295
Novak, Walter J., 295
Nowak, Mrs. Leo, 195
Noyen, Jacques de, 5
Noyes, Clifford, 97
Noyes, Curtis, 295
Noyes, Eunice, 295
Noyes, Francis, 144
Noyes, Fred, 295
Noyes, Guy, 295
Noyes, Harold, 295
Noyes, Hazel, 295, 305
Noyes, James, 295
Noyes, John, 247, 295
Noyes, Lorraine, 295
Noyes, Mr. & Mrs. John, 305
Noyes, Russell, 295
Noyes, Vernon, 295
Numbers, Walter B., 117
Nurmi, John, 237
Nyland, Adeline, 37
Nyquist, A. W., 88
Nystrom, Norman, 45
O'Brien, Daniel, 371
O'Brien, Dorothy, 273
O'Brien, Kathryn, 368
O'Brien, Shiela, 291
O'Clair, Doris, 298
O'Claire, Walter, 225
O'Connor, Archie B., 171
O'Connor, Joan, 171
O'Neill, Cornelius, 78
O'Neill, Mary, 78
O'Rourke, Margaret, 202
O'Toole, Father John, 93
Oban, Frank, 97, 100
Ober, Mrs. Wayne, 362
Oberpiller, Frank, 345
Odden, Margit, 241
Odegard, Dr. Brent, 265
Odette, Leon & Caroline, 133
Odette, Mary Caroline, 132
Oen, Ruth, 46
Ofstedahl, Mrs., Theodore, 152
Oftedal, Sherman, 45
Ogletree, Laine, 242
Ogletree, Leo, 242
Ogletree, Lyle, 242
Ogletree, Lynn, 242
Ogletree, Valorie, 242
Ohlenkamp, Kris, 348
Ohlenkamp, Kurt, 348
Ohlenkamp, Lisa, 348
Ohlenkamp, Mrs. Robert, 348
Ohlenkamp, Neil, 348
Ohm, Lesseta, 173
Ohm, Richard, 143
Ohm Lisette, 113
Ohnstad, Dora, 86
Ohnstad, Erling, 86
Ohnstad, Harold, 86
Ohnstad, Ingeborg, 86
Ohnstad, Perine, 86
Ohnstad, Peter Rolf, 45
Ohnstad, Rognald, 86
Ohnstad, Theodore, 86
Ohnstad, William, 86
Olafson, Fredrick, 206
Oland, Swen, 53, 60
Oldendorf, Irma, 277
Olesen, Mrs. Anton, 202
Olien, Janet Marie, 293
Olien, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle, 293
Ollie, Ann, 295
Ollie, Elma, 295
Ollie, George, 295, 308
Ollie, Hazel, 46
Ollie, Helen, 295
Ollie, Irene, 295
Ollie, Jacob, 198, 295
Ollie, Mae, 295
Ollie, Mrs. George, 273, 308
Ollie, Wynne, 295
Ollson, O. E., 106
Olsen, Olia, 204
Olson, A. J., 54
Olson, Albin, 287
Olson, Alfred, 296
Olson, Alrick, 38
Olson, Amy, 296
Olson, Andres, 287
Olson, Anne, 296
Olson, Anund, 54
Olson, Bernth, 60
Olson, Chester, 55
Olson, Clara, 296, 362
Olson, Clifford, 296
Olson, Eddie, 296
Olson, Ella, 296
Olson, Emma, 210, 296
Olson, Emmet, 105
Olson, Erling, 296
Olson, Fritz, 296
Olson, George A., 223, 296
Olson, Gov. Floyd B., 168
Olson, Hansine, 296
Olson, Harry, 50
Olson, Henry, 296
Olson, Ingeborg, 354
Olson, Ingvald, 296
Olson, Ione, 157
Olson, Ivy, 296
Olson, James Andrew, 296
Olson, James, 368
Olson, John, 60
Olson, Judy, 98
Olson, Leland, 106
Olson, Lillie, 350
Olson, Magnus, 54
Olson, Marion, 244
Olson, Marlan, 296
Olson, Marvin, 296, 368
Olson, Mathilda, 269
Olson, Mattie, 363
Olson, Mrs Gordon, 294
Olson, Mrs. Charles, 169
Olson, Mrs. Elmer, 265
Olson, Mrs. John, 252
Olson, Mrs. Les, 339
Olson, Mrs. Swan, 62
Olson, Nels, 296
Olson, Norman, 296
Olson, Olaf, 296
Olson, Olger, 117, 296
Olson, Olus H., 59, 60
Olson, Orville, 60
Olson, Osmund, 89
Olson, Otto E., 37
Olson, P. K., 41
Olson, Peder, 296
Olson, Rev. Albin, 224, 287
Olson, Rudolph, 296
Olson, Sharyl, 296
Olson, Sherry, 368
Olson, Sonja, 296
Olson, Stella, 37
Olson, Stephen John, 296
Olson, Steve, 136
Olson, Sylvia, 296
Olson, Tobias, 60
Olson, Torkel & Kari, 356
Oman, Martha, 337
Omann, Louis, 296
Omann, Martha, Mrs. Louis, 32
Omlid, Anne, 307
Onsager, Mrs. Sarah, 241
Opegaard, Rev. A. A., 54, 88, 317
Opheim, A. W., 239
Opher, Christopher, 316
Opher, Curtis, 316
Orbuch, Mrs. Allen, 325
Orr, Bernice, 26, 37, 68, 297
Orr, Clarence, 137, 297, 321
Orr, Edmund, 297
Orr, Elida, 37, 297
Orr, George G., 26, 67, 297
Orr, George H., 297
Orr, George Jr., 67
Orr, Nellie, 363
Ortloff, Heidi, 177
Ortloff, Pearl, 194
Orvik, Clifford, 194
Osendorf, Rev. Ansgar, 120
Oslund, Laura, 310
Oslund, P., 35
Osmundson, John, 53
Ost, Mildred, 285
Ostby, David, 163
Ostendorf, Dr., 297, 305
Ostendorf, Margaret, 297
Ostendorf, Vern, 297
Ostenson, Ernest, 249
Ostgaarden, Agnes, 326
Ostlund, Mrs. Irvin, 236
Ostrander, Marie, 227
Ott, Anna, 32
Ottlas, A. E., 55
Overland, Donald, 313
Overmoen, Orville J., 25
Padden, John, 24
Padden, Mrs. J. J., 339
Paddock, Mrs. Betty, 235
Paesant, Dr. Peter, 206
Page, Albert, 185
Page, Allen, 95
Page, Danny, 290
Page, Eileen, 290
Page, Elaine, 290
Page, Joseph, 195
Page, Lucille, 366
Page, Mary, 290
Page, Mrs. Harvey, 124, 353
Page, Vernon, 290

Pahlen, Anna, 297, 336
Pahlen, Anne, 287
Pahlen, Craig, 297
Pahlen, Darlene, 223
Pahlen, Donna, 19
Pahlen, Doris, 134
Pahlen, Edward, 297
Pahlen, Etta, 297
Pahlen, J. W., 9, 41
Pahlen, Jacob, 297
Pahlen, Jeanne, 297
Pahlen, John W., 'Jack', 297, 312
Pahlen, Joyce, 297
Pahlen, Kathy, 297
Pahlen, Margaret, 297
Pahlen, Mary, 202, 297
Pahlen, Michael, 297
Pahlen, Mrs. Hazel, 223
Pahlen, Mrs. Russell, 233
Pahlen, Mrs. Ted, 176
Pahlen, Nick, 297
Pahlen, Peggy, 223
Pahlen, Penny, 297
Pahlen, Russell, 49, 50, 51, 215, 297
Pahlen, Scott, 297
Pahlen, Theodore, 223, 297, 312
Palm, Rev. S. T., 54, 85, 351
Palmatier, Edith, 366
Palmatier, Frank, 366
Palmer, Erick, 60
Palmer, Karen, 60
Palzinski, Mrs Gertie, 46
Pancratius, Sr. M., 122
Paquet, Joseph, 142
Paquin, Abraham Jr., 298
Paquin, Abraham, 77, 79, 298
Paquin, Adelore, 102
Paquin, Adelore, 102, 298, 299
Paquin, Agnes, 273, 298
Paquin, Alan, 298
Paquin, Aldia, 298
Paquin, Alfred 'Pete', 298
Paquin, Alice, 298
Paquin, Alphonse & Edwardina, 298
Paquin, Alphonse, 75, 77, 79, 298
Paquin, Anna, 77
Paquin, Aristide 'Peto', 298
Paquin, Arthur, 298
Paquin, Bernadette, 298
Paquin, Cecilia, 299
Paquin, Cezerine, 298
Paquin, Ciserie, 198
Paquin, Clara, 298
Paquin, David, 253
Paquin, E. J., 119
Paquin, Edmond, 298
Paquin, Edward, 76, 77, 298
Paquin, Elmina, 157, 298
Paquin, Emma, 298
Paquin, Ernest, 298
Paquin, Evarose, 299
Paquin, Father Ernest J., 84, 208, 230
Paquin, Garry, 298
Paquin, George, 298
Paquin, Henry, 298, 299
Paquin, Isadore, 299
Paquin, Jacqueline, 298
Paquin, James, 299
Paquin, Jani, 344
Paquin, Jean, 298
Paquin, Jerry, 298
Paquin, Joe, 330
Paquin, John, 77
Paquin, Joseph, 75, 77, 298, 299
Paquin, Kate, 298
Paquin, Leah, 298
Paquin, Lisa, 298
Paquin, Louis, 299
Paquin, Louisna, 273, 298
Paquin, Lydia, 298
Paquin, Marguerite, 258
Paquin, Marian, 298
Paquin, Marie, 75, 77, 167, 299
Paquin, Marjorie Jean, 298
Paquin, Mary, 298
Paquin, Matilda, 167
Paquin, Michael, 75, 298
Paquin, Monica, 299
Paquin, Mr. & Mrs. Henry, 348
Paquin, Mrs Henry, 124, 222
Paquin, Mrs. Abe, 344
Paquin, Mrs. Adelore, 299
Paquin, Mrs. Arthur, 253
Paquin, Olive, 195
Paquin, Olivine, 178
Paquin, Pat, 298
Paquin, Pierre, 84, 298
Paquin, Rebecca, 298
Paquin, Rev. Ernest, 142, 299
Paquin, Richard, 253
Paquin, Ronald, 298
Paquin, Rose, 298
Paquin, Rosealba, 299
Paquin, Stella, 298
Paquin, Steve, 167, 298
Paquin, Sylvia, 94, 348
Paquin, Theresa, 298
Paquin, Tim, 298
Paquin, Vern, 298
Paquin, Virginia, 77
Paquin, Wallace, 298
Paquin, Wayne, 298
Paquin, Zelia, 298
Paradis, Adelyne 'Terry', 300
Paradis, Agnes, 300
Paradis, Arnold, 300
Paradis, Bernadette, 299
Paradis, Bernard, 300
Paradis, Betty, 298, 299
Paradis, Bill, 300
Paradis, Brian, 300
Paradis, Bryan, 98
Paradis, Carol, 300
Paradis, Don, 299
Paradis, Donna, 141
Paradis, Ernest, 143, 298, 299, 300
Paradis, Evan, 300
Paradis, Evelyn, 191, 192
Paradis, Freddie, 299
Paradis, Grace, 299
Paradis, Heather, 300
Paradis, Hector, 300
Paradis, Henriette, 299
Paradis, Homer, 300
Paradis, Irene, 299
Paradis, Joe, 300
Paradis, Kenny, 299
Paradis, Lonnie, 300
Paradis, Louis, 299
Paradis, Mark, 299
Paradis, Mrs. Ernest, 263
Paradis, Mrs. Raymond, 263
Paradis, Mrs. Ronald, 285
Paradis, Oliver, 300
Paradis, Patricia, 299
Paradis, R. J., 98
Paradis, Raymond, 300
Paradis, Rene, 300
Paradis, Robert, 299
Paradis, Roger, 300
Paradis, Roman, 300
Paradis, Ronald, 49, 98, 100, 103, 299, 301
Paradis, Ruth, 299
Paradis, Sara, 300
Paradis, Sister Marie Emily, 300
Paradis, Theodore, 300
Paradis, Thomas, 299
Paradis Payment, Rose, 125
Paradis-Beconovich, Eraine, 300
Paradis-Quinlan, Laurette, 300
Paradis-Spedding, Lumina, 300
Paradis-White, Florence, 300
Parent, Godfrey, 169
Parent, Mary, 156, 169
Parent, Mrs. Adolph, 193
Parenteau, 'Kid', 331
Parenteau, A. J., 100, 102, 307, 321
Parenteau, Antoinette, 255
Parenteau, Aurel, 98, 101, 102, 103, 180, 301
Parenteau, Aurelius, 98, 101, 180, 300, 301
Parenteau, Betty, 301
Parenteau, Gary, 301
Parenteau, Gregory Joseph, 301
Parenteau, Harmidas, 301
Parenteau, Homer, 327
Parenteau, Ione, 301
Parenteau, Jeanne, 301
Parenteau, Jill Marie, 301
Parenteau, Joseph, 263, 301
Parenteau, Louie, 180
Parenteau, Louisa, 321
Parenteau, Marc, 102, 180, 301
Parenteau, Mary Lou, 301
Parenteau, Medora, 230
Parenteau, Michael, 301
Parenteau, Mrs. John, 310
Parenteau, Mrs. Omer, 255
Parenteau, Mrs. Steve, 208
Parenteau, Nancy, 301
Parenteau, Pamela Lynn, 301
Parenteau, Patricia, 301
Parenteau, Steven, 301
Parenteau, Thomas, 301
Parenteau, Victoria, 73
Parker, J. C., 16, 186
Parkin, Mrs. Loren, 234
Parnow, Raymond, 25
Parry, Elizabeth, 313
Parsley, Chad, 350
Parsley, Harold, 350
Parsley, Wade, 350
Parsons, Christine, 368
Parsons, Ida, 231, 368
Parsons, Ingeborg, 368
Pasiuk, Mrs. Roger, 312
Passa, Carol, 251
Pastir, Mrs. Jean, 26
Patchell, Mrs. Lance, 244
Patnaude, Cyril & Celina, 133
Patnaude, James, 232
Patnaude, Mary Caroline, 132
Patnaude, Patricia, 232
Patnaude, Rufus, 232
Patnaude, Virginia, 232
Patnode, :Paul, 303
Patnode, Adolphus, 302
Patnode, Agnes, 330
Patnode, Alex, 68, 302
Patnode, Alice, 303
Patnode, Andre, 124
Patnode, Anthony, 328
Patnode, Armand, 132

Patnode, Baptiste, 236
Patnode, Bernadette, 223
Patnode, Carol, 328
Patnode, Charles & Minnie, 303
Patnode, Charles, 155, 278, 302, 328
Patnode, Cyril, 236
Patnode, Demerese, 270, 271
Patnode, Ed., 180
Patnode, Eddie, 302
Patnode, Edmund, 302
Patnode, Father Michael, 49
Patnode, Fred, 153
Patnode, Harmidas, 302
Patnode, Henriette, 237, 328
Patnode, Jerome, 153
Patnode, John, 265
Patnode, Joseph & Margaret, 302
Patnode, Joseph II, 302
Patnode, Joseph, 302
Patnode, Keough, 302
Patnode, Lizene, 109
Patnode, Lydia, 302
Patnode, Marcel & Josephine, 271
Patnode, Marcel, 270
Patnode, Marguerite, 68, 303
Patnode, Marie, 68, 291, 303
Patnode, Mercil, 236
Patnode, Michael, 302
Patnode, Minnie, 118
Patnode, Modess, 152
Patnode, Mose, 236
Patnode, Moses & Philomene, 133
Patnode, Mrs. Edward, 255
Patnode, Mrs. Ernest, 272
Patnode, Mrs. Harmidas, 302
Patnode, Mrs. Marie, 124
Patnode, Olivina, 37
Patnode, Paul, 164, 302
Patnode, Philomene, 316
Patnode, Rebecca, 303
Patnode, Renee, 328
Patnode, Rev. Keough, 84, 303
Patnode, Richard, 328
Patnode, Samona, 153
Patnode, Simon & Philomene, 133
Patnode, Simon, 91, 109, 236
Patnode, Steve, 214
Patnode, Victorine, 37
Patnode, Victor Emanual, 132
Patnode, Virgil, 261, 302
Patnode, Walter, 118, 124
Patnode, William, 302
Patnode Jolly, Uusula, 106
Patnode-Cyr, Grmaline, 302
Patnode—Emard, 302
Patnode-Jolly, Ursula, 302
Patnode-Lafontaine, Cordelia, 302
Patnode-Normandeau, Melvince, 302
Patnose, Dolphis, 67
Patnose, Joseph, 67
Paul, Clayte M., 235, 303, 369
Paul, Dan & Agnes, 303
Paul, Dan, 303
Paul, Fount, 303
Paul, Gloy, 303
Paul, Henry, 25
Paul, Lloyd, 303
Paul, Lorna, 303
Paul, Louis, 109
Paul, Mavis, 303
Paul, Mildred, 194
Paul, Mrs. Clayte, 124, 249
Paul, Mrs. Dan, 124
Paul, Mrs. Mildred, 229
Paul, Simon, 105, 303
Paul, Veo, 303
Paul-Hallsten, Gloy, 303
Pauling, Ron T., 135
Paulsin, Helen, 249
Paulson, Geraldine, 187
Paulson, Hazel, 323
Paulson, Sig, 249
Paupard, Catherine, 183
Pautz, Mrs. Monroe, 210
Payment, Antoine, 144
Payment, Deloise, 321
Payment, Eleanor Anne, 256
Payment, Eli, 300
Payment, Eustache, 91
Payment, Henrietta, 170, 278
Payment, Henry, 144
Payment, Julien, 144
Payment, Miss Louise, 124
Payment, Thomas, 125
Paymont, Antoine, 60
Paymont, Osio, 60
Payne, Mrs. Roger, 311
Pazdernik, Jenipher, 233
Pazdernik, LeRoy, 232
Pazdernik, Mary Kay, 233
Pazdernik, Melanie, 233
Pearce, Diantha, 187
Pearce, Mrs. Sam, 311
Pearce, Vern & Mildred, 187
Pearson, Gwen, 304
Pearson, Keith, 304
Pearson, Lorraine, 272
Pearson, Noel, 113
Pearson, Randall, 304
Pearson, Todd, 304
Pederson, Anton, 223
Pederson, Arthur, 223
Pederson, Dorothy, 46
Pederson, Elmer, 55
Pederson, Ernest, 41, 51
Pederson, Hans, 223
Pederson, Henry, 49
Pederson, Ida, 324
Pederson, Isabel Sophia, 223
Pederson, Mrs. Duane, 346
Pederson, Mrs. Ernest, 273, 365
Pederson, Walter, 55
Peebles, Mary, 225
Pelger, Rev. Henry, 120, 185, 304, 336, 337
Pellerin, Joe, 163
Pellrene, Celena, 193
Peltier, Emery, 152
Peltier, Erwin, 152
Peltier, Raymond, 152
Peltier, Willie, 152
Pennington, Edmund S., 99
Pennington, W. O. S., 99
Penny, Sabrana, 323
Peoples, Mr. & Mrs. John, 168
Pepin, Emily Sophie, 237
Pepin, Ferdinand, 237
Pepin, Theodore, 91
Peppin, Marie R., 223, 292
Perra, Mrs. Louis, 193
Perras, Alma, 305
Perras, Anna, 196
Perras, Antoinette, 304
Perras, Arthur, 304
Perras, Elizabeth, 353
Perras, Esther, 305
Perras, Eva, 304
Perras, Evelyn, 122, 305
Perras, Florence, 305
Perras, Harvey, 304
Perras, Hazel, 19
Perras, Joseph, 304
Perras, Marguerite, 304
Perras, Max & Nellie, 305
Perras, Max II, 305
Perras, Max, 100, 102, 357
Perras, Maximillien, 304
Perras, Mrs. Ray, 295
Perras, Nellie, 304, 305
Perras, Prudent, 304
Perras, Ray & Hazel, 305
Perras, Ray, 134, 137, 305
Perras, Remial, 285
Perras, Romuald, 304
Perras, Rose, 305
Perras, Roseanna, 304
Perras, Vital Jr., 304
Perras, Vital, 304
Perras, Wilfred, 304
Perras-Bichel, Bernice, 328
Perrault, Charle Wilfride, 305
Perrault, Charle, 71, 305, 310
Perrault, Clara, 323
Perrault, Ed, 323
Perrault, Eda, 271
Perrault, Eli, 142
Perrault, Eugenie, 305
Perrault, Henriette, 305
Perrault, Jean Baptist 'Johnny', 305
Perrault, John, 71
Perrault, Joseph Pierre, 305, 348
Perrault, Josephine, 305
Perrault, Louis, 67, 323
Perrault, Marguerite, 305, 310
Perrault, Mary, 305
Perrault, Pheran, 71
Perrault, Rose, 305
Perrault, Zepherin, 71, 305
Perreault, Agnes, 306, 307
Perreault, Alfred, 306
Perreault, Audrey, 306, 307
Perreault, Billy, 306
Perreault, Cecelia, 306
Perreault, Clara, 306
Perreault, David, 98
Perreault, Dora, 306
Perreault, Doreen, 306
Perreault, Doris, 306
Perreault, Eda, 208
Perreault, Edward & Rose, 306
Perreault, Edward, 195, 306, 316
Perreault, Eli, 307
Perreault, Eva, 306, 316
Perreault, Florence, 306
Perreault, Francis, 306
Perreault, George, 306
Perreault, Georgianna, 306
Perreault, Gerald, 306
Perreault, Helen, 306
Perreault, Ildage, 174, 306
Perreault, J. Albert, 306
Perreault, Joseph, 306, 307, 325
Perreault, Judge Joseph, 168
Perreault, Leda, 312
Perreault, Loretta, 306, 307
Perreault, Louis Jr., 306
Perreault, Louis, 67, 143, 306
Perreault, Lucile, 306, 307
Perreault, Madeline, 195, 306
Perreault, Mae, 306
Perreault, Marie, 306
Perreault, Marilyn, 279
Perreault, Marlys, 333

Perreault, Michael, 306
Perreault, Mona, 306
Perreault, Mr. & Mrs. Francis, 264
Perreault, Mrs. Albert, 263
Perreault, Mrs. Edward, 179
Perreault, Mrs. George, 318
Perreault, Mrs. Louis, 102
Perreault, Mrs. Vern, 206
Perreault, Napoleon, 306
Perreault, Omer, 306
Perreault, Ralph, 306
Perreault, Robert Noel, 306
Perreault, Rose Anna, 142
Perreault, Roselba, 306
Perreault, Sister Clariet, 306
Perreault, Sister Sylvia, 306
Perreault, Stella, 306
Perreault, Stephen, 306
Perreault, Vetalin, 306
Perreault, Wallace, 306
Perrin, Gertrude, 188
Perrin-Laurent, Rev. J. H., 142
Perronet, Father L., 48, 84
Perry, Erma, 311
Perry, Jenny, 311
Perry, Mr. & Mrs. E. H., 311
Pershing, Gen. John G., 44
Person, A. O., 307
Person, Aamund, 80
Person, Arnold, 19, 307
Person, Bergit, 307
Person, Elmer, 307
Person, Gladis, 307
Person, Jerry, 290
Person, Mrs. Arnold, 23
Person, Olaf & SoAanend (A. O.), 307
Person, Preston, 289
Person, Ralph, 307
Person, Tammy, 289
Person, Timothy, 289
Person, Tommy, 289
Person, William Jr., 289
Person, William, 289
Perusse, Adenore, 307
Perusse, Alcide, 143, 144, 181, 301, 307, 314, 331
Perusse, Alferie, 144, 307, 331
Perusse, Alice, 307
Perusse, Alma 'Sr. Christopher', 307
Perusse, Alpherie, 307
Perusse, Amelia, 307
Perusse, Angeline, 307
Perusse, Barbara, 308
Perusse, Belzamere, 307
Perusse, Belzimier, 314
Perusse, Dale, 308
Perusse, Della, 101,300, 301, 307, 314
Perusse, Eloudia, 307
Perusse, Emma, 307
Perusse, Eveline, 312
Perusse, Evelyn, 307, 331
Perusse, Grace, 307, 314, 353
Perusse, Greg, 308
Perusse, Ida, 307, 314
Perusse, Joe, 124, 307, 308, 314
Perusse, Josephine, 323
Perusse, Kim, 308
Perusse, Laura, 198, 307
Perusse, Noella, 307, 314
Perusse, Odina, 307, 314
Perusse, Rebecca, 307
Perusse, Rick, 308
Perusse, Rose, 307, 314
Perusse, Rosealma, 307
Perusse, Shelly, 308
Perusse, Thomas, 144, 180, 307
Perusse, Ulric, 307, 308, 314
Perusse, Wallace, 307
Perusse, Walter, 307
Perusse, Zelia, 244, 307, 331
Peters, Phyllis, 279
Petersdorf, Clara, 170
Petersdorf, Lena, 170
Petersdorf, Martha, 170
Petersdorf, Theresa, 170
Peterson, 'Pete', 126
Peterson, Ada, 37
Peterson, Alice, 308
Peterson, Allen, 308
Peterson, Annette, 308
Peterson, Austa, 308
Peterson, Blake & Janice, 308
Peterson, Blake, 21, 22, 29, 123, 289
Peterson, Carl, 308
Peterson, Charlene, 363
Peterson, Christie, 308
Peterson, Debra, 308
Peterson, Edgar, 41, 139, 219
Peterson, Edith, 55
Peterson, Eileen Valerie, 309
Peterson, Elfreida, 308
Peterson, Emma, 308
Peterson, Floyd, 308
Peterson, Fritz, 308
Peterson, Gust C., 308
Peterson, Gustave, 308
Peterson, Hazel, 273, 308
Peterson, Idella, 309
Peterson, Janet, 308
Peterson, Jeffrey, 308
Peterson, Jim, 308
Peterson, Katherine, 166
Peterson, Kenneth, 308
Peterson, Kristi, 166
Peterson, Leonard, 237, 308
Peterson, Lester, 308
Peterson, Lois, 239
Peterson, Lorna, 237, 308
Peterson, Lyla, 162
Peterson, Mabel, 37
Peterson, Marion, 308
Peterson, Martin, 60
Peterson, Melvin, 308
Peterson, Miller, 139
Peterson, Milton, 308
Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Jergen, 308
Peterson, Mrs Walter, 51
Peterson, Mrs. Don, 204
Peterson, Mrs. Donald, 154
Peterson, Mrs. Gary, 166
Peterson, Mrs. Leonard, 216
Peterson, Mrs. Oscar, 238
Peterson, Mrs. Robert, 308
Peterson, Natalee, 308
Peterson, Neil C., 308
Peterson, Paul & Ethel, 136
Peterson, Paul, 120
Peterson, Paula, 166
Peterson, Peggy, 207
Peterson, Renae, 308
Peterson, Reuben, 45
Peterson, Rev., 54
Peterson, Robert L., 308
Peterson, Rose, 308
Peterson, Suzanne, 308
Peterson, Waldemar, 308
Peterson, Walter C., 51, 308, 309
Peterson, William, 22
Peterson-Johanneck, Gladys, 155
Peterssen, Cheri Ann, 208
Petkevich, Dr. F. W., 122
Petsch, Bertha, 276, 277
Petsch, Mr. & Mrs. Gustaf, 276
Petterson, Gust F., 53
Petterson, Jay, 164
Petterson, Joe & Pearl, 295
Petterson, Leslie, 164
Petterson, Marc, 164
Petterson, Mrs. Jay, 177
Petterson, Ralph & Mae, 134
Petterson, Ralph, 164
Pfann, Gary, 309
Pfann, Kathy, 309
Pfann, Lewis, 135
Pfann, Penny, 309
Pfeffer, Nick, 99
Pfeiffer, Mrs. Fred, 190
Phann, Lewis, 156, 309
Phelon, Michall, 60
Phelps, Mrs. John, 158
Philion, Bob, 135
Philion, Darla, 309
Philion, Elenore, 125
Philion, Gerald, 309
Philion, Lawrence, 112, 309
Philion, Leonard, 309
Philion, Lloyd & Eleanor, 198
Philion, Lloyd, 26, 125, 309
Philion, Louis, 309
Philion, Louise, 309
Philion, Lucien, 309
Philion, Mr. & Mrs. Lucien, 186
Philion, Mrs. Lloyd, 23
Philion, Olive, 186, 309
Philion, Rita, 309
Philion, Robert, 309
Philion, Rose, 309
Philion, Sadie, 309
Philion, Sharon, 309
Philion, Steven, 198, 309
Philion, William 'Billie', 309
Philion-Lizotte, Sharon, 309
Philion-Schluter, Michelle, 309
Phillippion, George, 163
Phillips, W. N., 86
Picard, Mrs. Dorothy, 101
Picard, Z. C., 319
Piccalo, Mrs. Joe, 257
Piche, Arthur, 310
Piche, Bennie, 142, 205
Piche, Charles, 310
Piche, Clifford, 205, 310
Piche, Dennis, 205
Piche, E. Hector, 310
Piche, Edwin, 310
Piche, Elmer, 205
Piche, Eugene & Ellen, 310
Piche, Frank, 310
Piche, George, 205
Piche, Helen, 310
Piche, Ida, 310
Piche, Joseph, 310
Piche, Louis, 35
Piche, Louise, 310
Piche, Renae, 205
Piche, Roger, 205
Piche, Rose Marie, 310
Piche, Scott, 205
Piche, Wayne, 205
Piehl, Roger, 45
Pierce, Celeste, 211
Pierce, Ellen, 46
Pigeon, Albert, 310

Pigeon, Delia, 310
Pigeon, Henry, 310
Pigeon, Joseph, 97, 310
Pigeon, Leah, 310
Pigeon, Louis, 310
Pigeon, Mrs. Florence, 330
Pigeon, Veronica, 310
Pigeon, Walter, 310
Piikila, Lempi Helen, 243
Pike, Mrs. Paul, 210
Pikkela, Sam, 45
Pillsbury, Gov. J. S., 16
Pinnsonneault Proulx, Anna, 106
Pinsonneault, Alan, 310
Pinsonneault, Albert 'Bert', 310
Pinsonneault, Ann, 310
Pinsonneault, Cindy, 170
Pinsonneault, Donald, 310
Pinsonneault, Elizabeth, 310
Pinsonneault, James, 310
Pinsonneault, Janet, 310
Pinsonneault, Jean Baptiste, 310
Pinsonneault, Jeff, 170
Pinsonneault, Joseph, 310
Pinsonneault, Judy, 310
Pinsonneault, Lawrence 'Larry', 310
Pinsonneault, Leonard, 310
Pinsonneault, Louis, 170, 310
Pinsonneault, Lucille, 241, 306, 310
Pinsonneault, Marie, 37, 310
Pinsonneault, Mary Beth, 310
Pinsonneault, Michel, 116, 310
Pinsonneault, Mike II, 310
Pinsonneault, Mrs. Joe, Lorraine, 19
Pinsonneault, Mrs. Michel, 305
Pinsonneault, Napoleon 'Nap', 170, 310
Pinsonneault, Paul, 310
Pinsonneault, Pierre & Odile, 310
Pinsonneault, Wayne, 310
Pinsonneault-Mickleson, Carol, 310
Pische, Louis, 38
Plante, Marie, 307
Plante, Ulrich, 67
Platt, Mrs. Joseph, 372
Platt Fernholz, Marcella, 106
Pleth, Julius, 41, 48, 297
Plummer, C. A., 41
Poellot, Rev. Orville C., 48, 120, 121
Poeshell, Ida, 38, 142
Poirier, Angelle, 367
Poirier, Arthur, 310
Poirier, Bob, 129
Poirier, Connie, 311
Poirier, Diane, 153, 334
Poirier, Elryn, 310
Poirier, Gedeon, 367
Poirier, James, 311
Poirier, Jane, 311
Poirier, Lorna, 310
Poirier, Mary, 311
Poirier, Mr. & Mrs. Gideon, 310
Poirier, Mrs. Albert, 263
Poirier, Omer, 310
Poirier, Peggy, 311
Poirier, Robert Jr., 310
Poirier, Robert Sr., 190, 193, 225, 310
Poirier, Robert, 131
Poirier, Rufus, 310
Poirier, Susan, 311
Poirier, Thomas, 311
Pokela, Matt, 37
Pomeroy, Mrs. Gary, 311
Ponthrillant, Pierre, 144
Poole, William, 46
Pope, Hemly, 300
Porter, Jeff, 105
Potter, Charles & Gretel, 354
Potucek, Mrs. Jim, 202
Poulin, Rose Anna, 157, 358
Pouliot, Allier J., 311
Pouliot, Annie, 311
Pouliot, Bernette, 311
Pouliot, Beth, 311
Pouliot, C. J., 182
Pouliot, Cecelia, 279
Pouliot, Celeste, 15, 311
Pouliot, Clarence, 118, 311
Pouliot, Edna, 326, 327
Pouliot, Erba, 31, 143, 174, 311, 327
Pouliot, Florence, 311
Pouliot, Gregg, 311
Pouliot, Jane, 173
Pouliot, Joseph, 311
Pouliot, Josh Michael, 173, 311
Pouliot, Leocadie, 311
Pouliot, Louise, 311
Pouliot, Lucy Delia, 311
Pouliot, Martin, 173, 311, 353
Pouliot, Michael & Judy, 311
Pouliot, Michael, 173, 311
Pouliot, Mrs. Allier, 311
Pouliot, Mrs. C. J., 182
Pouliot, Nan, 311
Pouliot, Napoleon, 153, 327
Pouliot, Nick, 109, 236
Pouliot, Nicola & Napoleon, 311
Pouliot, Peter & Vina, 311
Pouliot, Pierre F. 'Peter', 73, 311
Pouliot, Russel, 311
Pouliot, Sally, 173, 311
Pouliot, Thomas, 311
Pouliot, Vincent, 311
Pouliot, Vivian, 311
Pouliot, Willis, 311
Pouliot, Zepherin, 311
Pouliot-St. Ives, Edna, 311
Pouliotte, Nicholas & Lucy, 133
Poupart, Marie, 327
Povish, Bishop Kenneth, 119, 176, 294
Powers, Celestine, 178
Powliotte, Annie, 132
Pray, Alyce Mae, 312
Pray, Frank, 276
Pray, George W., 312
Pray, Harley E., 276, 312
Pray, Harley Jr., 312
Pray, Mr. & Mrs. George, 276
Pray, Mr. & Mrs. Harley, 253
Pray, Rachel, 253, 312
Pray, Robert F. 'Frank', 312
Pray, Robert, 312
Prenevost, Anna, 353
Prenevost, Arthur, 263, 312
Prenevost, Clarence, 312
Prenevost, Emalyn, 312
Prenevost, Ervie, 312
Prenevost, Frances, 312
Prenevost, Hubert & Arlene, 312
Prenevost, Hubert, 353
Prenevost, Jill, 312
Prenevost, Lex, 312
Prenevost, Lillian, 312
Prenevost, Mark, 312
Prenevost, Mrs. Art, 331
Prenevost, Mrs. George, 279
Prenevost, Neil 'Pete', 134
Prenevost, Neil, 18, 19, 246, 312
Prenevost, Pamela, 312
Presnel, Frank, 125
Prestegaard, Orissa Ione, 340
Prestlien, A. M., 53, 54
Preston, Helen, 49
Preston, Kathryn, 49
Preston, Mr., 197
Preston, Pearl, 49
Preston, R. A., 45
Preus, Rev. A. J. H., 85
Preus, Rev. O., 54
Priebe, Barbara, 233
Priebe, Mr & Mrs Fred, 46
Priebe, Vernice, 46
Prior, Mrs. Ivan, 256
Proulx, Albert, 312
Proulx, Angeline, 312
Proulx, Anne, 72
Proulx, Bill, 312
Proulx, Celeste, 157
Proulx, Celestine, 137
Proulx, Daniel, 73, 310
Proulx, Gene, 312
Proulx, George, 73, 135, 180, 310
Proulx, Jim, 312
Proulx, Joan, 312
Proulx, John, 312
Proulx, Joseph Oliver, 73, 310
Proulx, Marie Jean, 73, 310
Proulx, Maybelle, 156
Proulx, Monica, 312
Proulx, Mrs Louis, 135
Proulx, Mrs. Oliver, 310
Proulx, Noel, 73, 312
Proulx, Oliver, 73, 312
Proulx, Phyllis, 312
Proulx, Rev. Louis, 100, 142, 313
Proulx, Sr. Mary Ellan, 312
Provicouell, Sophia, 191
Provost, Emma, 177
Prudhomme, Andre, 144
Prudhomme, Mrs. Philip, 331
Prudhomme, Paul, 231
Pruesse, Laura, 37
Pryor, Rev. R. S., 49
Pueringer, Mary, 334
Pufahl, Albert, 53, 280
Pugh, Betty Jane, 313
Pugh, Ethel, 289, 313
Pugh, Henry Lloyd, 313
Pugh, Llewelyn Edward, 313
Pugh, Thomas Idris, 313
Pujos, Rev. B., 142
Purath, Anna, 273, 313
Purath, August, 313
Purath, Benjamin, 313
Purath, Darrell, 313
Purath, Douglas, 313
Purath, Ernest II, 313
Purath, Ernest, 313
Purath, Esther, 37, 313
Purath, Fern, 313
Purath, Fred, 195, 313, 332
Purath, Gary, 313
Purath, Janet, 313
Purath, JeAnne, 313
Purath, Pauline, 19
Purath, Russell, 313
Purath, Willard, 23, 117, 246, 313
Purath, Willie, 313
Purath-Luxenburg, Anna, 365
Puschinsky, Ben, 314
Puschinsky, Mrs., 174
Puschinsky, Roland, 314
Pushing, George, 314

Pushing, Leonard, 314
Pushing, Melville, 314
Pushing, Mrs. V. B., 255
Pushing, Vernon, 314
Pushinsky, George, 118
Pushinsky, Vernon, 118
Putz, Erica, 120
Putz, Pastor David, 120
Putz, Rachel, 120
Qiesme;. Lorena, 314
Quackenbush, Carol, 311
Quackenbush, Daniel, 311
Quackenbush, Diane, 311
Quackenbush, Lorna, 311
Quackenbush, Mrs. Howard, 310
Quackenbush, Peter, 311
Quackenbush, Tom, 311
Quale, T. G., 60
Quale, T. J., 61
Qualley, Diana, 46
Qualley, Mrs. Grunde, 317
Quenroe, E. E., 78
Quesnel, Archie, 314
Quesnel, Beulah, 314
Quesnel, Celina, 314
Quesnel, David, 314
Quesnel, Dora, 142
Quesnel, Doria, 314
Quesnel, Edmand, 314
Quesnel, Elizabeth, 144, 301, 307, 314
Quesnel, Elsie, 142, 314
Quesnel, Evangeline, 71
Quesnel, Ezella, 314, 333
Quesnel, Joe, 314
Quesnel, John, 144
Quesnel, Leah, 142, 199, 314, 353
Quesnel, Lizzie, 314
Quesnel, Mabel, 142
Quesnel, Mable, 142, 314
Quesnel, Michael, 143
Quesnel, Michel, 144
Quesnel, Mrs. Sarah, 143
Quesnel, Oliver, 314
Quesnel, Ralph, 142, 314
Quesnel, Robert, 142, 145, 314, 333
Quesnel, Rose, 145, 314
Quesnel, Sarah, 145, 314
Quesnel, Stephen, 142, 145, 314, 353
Quesnel, Tilly, 314
Quesnel, Wallace, 314
Quesnel, William, 314
Quesnell, Caliex, 145
Quesnell, Celina, 145
Quesnell, Elizabeth, 145
Quesnell, Evangelist, 318
Quesnell, Marceline, 145
Quesnell, Mr. & Mrs. Louis, 145
Quesnell, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen, 145
Quesnell, Willie, 145
Quesnelle, Mrs. Louis, 322
Quesnel-Theroux, Leah, 142
Quick, Earl, 224, 287
Quick, G. Emil, 286, 287
Quick, Harold, 224, 287
Quick, Hazel, 224, 287
Quick, Lester, 224, 287
Quick, Mrs. G. Emil, 286
Quick, Mrs. H. Emil, 224
Quick, Mrs. Oneita, 287
Quick, Nona, 224, 287
Quick, Roy, 224, 287
Quick, Russell, 224, 287
Quick, Vernie, 224, 287
Quiggle, Mrs. Robert, 303
Quillierier, Noah, 236
Quillierier, Olympe, 236, 279
Quinlag, Ole, 77
Quist, Carl G., 83, 88, 163, 314
Quist, Carl Jr., 314
Quist, Dian, 315
Quist, Freddy, 315
Quist, John, 315
Quist, Kayla, 315
Quist, Letitia, 315
Quist, Maria, 315
Quist, Paul, 315
Quist, Rodger, 314
Race, Herbert E., 83
Radeke, Danny, 315
Radeke, Douglas, 315
Radeke, Eugene, 134
Radeke, Gene & Betty, 315
Radeke, Jeff, 315
Radeke, Mrs. Betty, 125
Radisson, Pierre d'Esprit, sieur de, 5
Radniecki, John L., 25
Radniecki, Stanley, 25
Radtke, James, 157
Raebel, Cynthia, 315
Raebel, David, 315
Raebel, Jared, 315
Raebel, Phyllis, 315
Raebel, Rev. Roger, 121
Raebel, Roger E., 315
Raebel, Stephen, 315
Rafferty, Charles, 315
Rafferty, Joan, 315
Rafferty, Mary, 315
Rafferty, Patricia, 315
Rafferty, Paul, 315
Rafteseth, H. B., 125
Rahier, Addie, 161
Rahier, Carrie, 161
Rahier, Debbie, 161
Rahier, Earl, 161
Rahier, Ethel, 161
Rahier, Gary, 161
Rahier, Gayle, 161
Rahier, George, 86
Rahier, Joe & Mary, 161
Rahier, LeRoy, 161
Rahier, Mrs. Wilfrd, 161
Rahier, Nancy, 161
Rahier, Ralph, 161
Rahier, Rose, 161
Rahier, Wilfred, 161
Rahier-Olson, Sheryl, 161
Raiche, Charles, 132
Raiche, David & Sophia, 133
Raiche, Marguerite, 237
Ralph, Elizabeth, 315
Ralph, George, 315
Ralph, Margaret, 169
Ralph, Marie, 315
Ralph, Martha, 315
Ralph, Thomas, 315
Ralph, Tom Jr., 315
Ralph, Wm., 168
Ramsey, Alexander, 8
Randorf, Elsie, 31
Randorf, Mathilda, 232
Ranum, Julie, 349
Ranum, Mrs. William, 253
Rasmussen, Ed., 99
Ratchford, Kathryn, 356
Ratteseth, Mrs. Merle, 286
Raundal, Ole O., 61
Rausch, Raymond, 211
Ravertz, Mrs. E., 335
Rawerts, Lambert, 194
Rawertz, Tina, 68
Raymond, Alder, 152
Raymond, Alma, 316
Raymond, Arbelle, 152
Raymond, Carol, 316
Raymond, Celeste, 316
Raymond, Celina, 316
Raymond, Celos, 316
Raymond, Cyprien, 316
Raymond, Diane, 316
Raymond, Dorothy, 316
Raymond, Felix, 222, 316
Raymond, Frank, 316
Raymond, George, 316
Raymond, Henry, 182, 316
Raymond, Jim, 316
Raymond, Joseph, 152, 216, 316
Raymond, Judy, 316
Raymond, Laura, 152
Raymond, Lawrence, 160
Raymond, Marna, 152
Raymond, Mary, 316
Raymond, Michael, 316, 366
Raymond, Mrs. Felix, 306
Raymond, Onezime, 316
Raymond, Philomene, 316
Raymond, Pierre Jr., 316
Raymond, Pierre, 215, 316
Raymond, Silas, 91, 152
Raymond, Theodore, 152
Raymond, Wayne, 316
Raymond, William, 316
Raymond-Desroches, Rosena, 316
Reck, Claudea, 316
Reck, Diane, 316
Reck, Dick & Grace, 316
Reck, Georgene, 316
Reck, Marilee, 316
Reck, Mayo, 316
Reck, Michelle, 316
Reck, Milo, 316
Reck, Milton, 316
Reck, Myron 'Dick', 141, 316
Reck, Susan, 316
Redpath, Mrs. Charles (Cecelia), 263
Reed, Isabella, 61
Reed, Patricia, 216
Reed John M., 41
Reep, Clarence, 22
Regeimbal, Alice, 153
Reger, Dick, 349
Regnier, Father Warren J., 93
Reichel, Leslie, 316
Reichel, Lowell, 316
Reichel, W. A., 130, 316
Reichel, Willard, 316
Reichert, A. L., 137, 258, 282
Reick, Helen, 342
Reidl, Theresia, 184
Reierson, Annie, 85
Reierson, Betsy, 85
Reierson, Dan, 54
Reierson, Molia, 85
Reierson, Mr & Mrs Dan, 85
Reierson, Regina, 85
Reierson, Swen, 85
Reiff, Christine, 211
Reinbold, John, 101
Reindahl, Michael, 54
Reindal, Bennie, 317
Reindal, Emma, 317
Reindal, Gladys, 317

Reindal, Halvor, 165, 317
Reindal, Harold, 317
Reindal, Hulda, 317
Reindal, Julia, 317
Reindal, Kent, 317
Reindal, Laura, 204, 317
Reindal, Leonard, 317
Reindal, Mrs Theodor, 54
Reindal, Sidney, 317
Reindal, Theodore, 317
Reindal, Tillie, 317
Reinhard, Otto, 117
Reinonn, Rosalie, 326
Reinschmidt, Albert, 317
Reinschmidt, Anna, 317
Reinschmidt, August, 317
Reinschmidt, Clarence, 317, 318
Reinschmidt, Doris, 318
Reinschmidt, Edward, 317
Reinschmidt, Frank, 317
Reinschmidt, Fred, 317
Reinschmidt, Gladys, 317, 318
Reinschmidt, Ida, 317
Reinschmidt, John A., 317
Reinschmidt, Mary, 317
Reinschmidt, Mrs. Edward, 232
Reinschmidt, Oscar, 317, 318
Reinschmidt, Otto, 317, 318
Reirson, Dan, 283
Reis, Mary Lou, 250
Reitter, Helen, 201
Remer, William, 51
Remick, Allen, 177, 318, 359
Remick, Andrew, 153
Remick, Barbara, 318
Remick, Bernard, 88, 153, 318
Remick, Betty, 318
Remick, Charles, 318
Remick, Craig, 153
Remick, Dan, 318
Remick, Douglas, 153
Remick, Dwight, 153
Remick, Edward, 318
Remick, George Jr., 318
Remick, George Sr. & Nettie, 172
Remick, George, 24, 25, 250, 318
Remick, Helen, 172
Remick, Janelle, 177, 318
Remick, Joe, 318
Remick, Kenneth, 318, 365
Remick, Kevin, 318
Remick, Mary, 318
Remick, Mrs. Ken, 327
Remick, Mrs. Ronald, 324
Remick, Nettie, 306
Remick, Ronald, 153
Remick, Roy, 161
Remick, Russell, 318
Remick, Suzanne, 153
Remick, Sylvia, 153
Remick-Aho, Marion, 318
Remick-Brule, Helen, 318
Remick-Perreault, Nettie, 318
Remier, Mr. & Mrs. Mos, 264
Rendahl, Carl, 56
Rendahl, Edwin, 54
Rendahl, Knute, 171
Rendahl, Mrs. Theo, 55
Rendal, Emma, 54
Rendal, Gertie, 57
Rendal, H. B., 53, 54
Rendal, Hulda, 54
Rendal, Laura, 54
Rendal, Mr & Mrs H. B., 54
Rendal, Ole B., 53
Rentz, Mrs. William, 176
Reopelle, A. D., 91
Reopelle, Albert, 319
Reopelle, Aurora, 319
Reopelle, Diana, 319
Reopelle, Diane, 167
Reopelle, Dora, 191, 192
Reopelle, Elizabeth & Euclid, 319
Reopelle, Euclid Jr., 319
Reopelle, Euclid Sr., 318
Reopelle, George I, 319
Reopelle, George II, 319
Reopelle, George, 67, 193, 222
Reopelle, Grace, 199, 319
Reopelle, Ildage, 319
Reopelle, Leontine, 319
Reopelle, Maurice, 319
Reopelle, Mr. & Mrs. George, 199
Reopelle, Mrs George, 193
Reopelle, Mrs. Ed, 165
Reopelle, Mrs. Euclid, 259
Reopelle, Mrs. W., 361
Reopelle, Norman, 319
Reopelle, Philip, 319
Reopelle, Rene, 319
Reopelle, Rose, 170
Reopelle, Roseanna, 319
Reopelle, Vern, 319
Reopelle, Victor, 319
Revdahl, Christine, 243
Rewertz, Annie, 68
Rewertz, Tina, 68
Reynolds, Barbara, 319
Reynolds, Cyrus & Lola, 319
Reynolds, Kenneth, 158, 319
Reynolds, Kevin, 319
Reynolds, Kurt, 319
Reynolds, Robert T., 116
Rhode, Rev. O., 121
Rhodegard, Violet, 282
Ricard, Mrs. Bernard, 236
Ricard, Mrs. Larry, 236
Rice, Arlene, 372
Rice, Clarence, 49
Rice, Mrs Ellen, 46
Rice, S. J., 9, 41
Rice, Verdell, 240
Richard, August, 319
Richard, Charles, 67
Richard, Clara, 106, 320
Richard, Daniel, 320
Richard, Donna, 320
Richard, Dorothy Mae, 320
Richard, Edgar, 320
Richard, Edward, 320
Richard, Ernest, 320
Richard, Frank, 320
Richard, Fred, 320
Richard, George, 320
Richard, Grace, 320
Richard, Ida, 320
Richard, John, 320
Richard, Joseph, 320
Richard, Josephine, 320
Richard, Mary, 175, 279, 320
Richard, Mayme, 320
Richard, Patricia, 320
Richard, Raymond, 320
Richard, Rosanna, 132
Richard, Teddy, 279, 319, 320
Richard, Thaddeus, 319, 320
Richard, Thaddy & Emily, 133
Richard, Walter 'Jack', 320
Richards, Daniel, 236
Richards, Dick, 352
Richards, Frank, 256
Richards, Josephine, 231
Richards, Mrs, Fred, 236
Richards, Mrs. Teddy, 345
Richards, Richard D., 86
Richardson, Alma, 349
Richardson, Orvin, 116
Riche, Mrs. Dean, 278
Ricke, Mollie, 289
Rickenberger, Rebecca, 116
Ridge, Delia, 31
Ridge, Donna, 223
Ridge, Festy, 31, 332
Ridge, James 'Sandy', 223
Ridge, James, 31, 159, 223
Ridge, Mary, 31, 332
Ridge, Pat, 31
Riechal, Adolph, 71
Riechel, Will, 253
Riel, Albert, 231, 344
Riel, Bernice, 344
Riel, Bert, 79, 82
Riel, Doris, 257
Riel, John, 344
Riel, Kelly, 344
Riel, Lora Jean, 344
Riel, Mary Jo, 344
Riel, Robert & Winnifred, 257
Riendal, Laura, 203
Riendeau, Aimie, 37
Riendeau, Harvey, 97
Riendeau, Phil, 37
Riis, Gunda Bjornstad, 260
Rindahl, Ben, 172
Rindahl, Don, 284
Rinde, Mrs. Gordon, 230
Ringdahl, Marlys, 217
Rinkenberger, Rebecca, 116
Riopelle, Adolph, 318
Riopelle, Armelene, 318
Riopelle, Delphis, 318
Riopelle, Euclid, 318
Riopelle, Jean, 318
Riopelle, Joseph Jr., 318
Riopelle, Joseph, 318
Riopelle, Louis, 318
Ripple, Aleck, 45
Risch, Rev. C.F.L., 120
Ritchey, Mayron, 271
Ritchie, Mrs Antone, 190
Rivard, Dona, 25
Rivard, Donald, 23
Rivard, Leon, 144
Rivard, Mrs Dona, 209
Rivard, Mrs. Dean, 312
Roadfeldt, Mrs. Sophie, 255
Roark, Ella, 67
Roark, Lillian, 341
Roark, Lucille, 341
Roark, Margaret, 341
Roark, Patrick, 341
Roark, Ruth, 341
Roark, Stephen, 341
Roberge, Alex, 91
Roberts, C. E., 53
Robertson, Dutxh & Florence, 321
Robertson, E. G. 'Dutch, 135, 321
Robertson, Jane, 168
Robertson, Marcy, 154
Robideau, Raphael, 35
Robideaux, Joseph, 77
Robideaux, Rhodena, 77

Robidous, Dwight, 46
Robidoux, Albina, 321
Robidoux, Alice, 322
Robidoux, Amber Michelle, 322
Robidoux, Aurelius, 321
Robidoux, Calixte & Louise, 353
Robidoux, Calixte, 321
Robidoux, Cecilia, 321
Robidoux, Clayton, 321, 322
Robidoux, Dellas, 321
Robidoux, Dwight, 97, 321, 322
Robidoux, Echo, 322
Robidoux, John, 75, 322
Robidoux, Lloyd, 321
Robidoux, Margaret, 322
Robidoux, Maria. 157, 167, 322
Robidoux, Mary, 321
Robidoux, Napoleon, 167, 321, 322
Robidoux, Narcisse Jr., 321
Robidoux, Narcisse, 97, 100, 321, 322
Robidoux, Olivine, 321
Robidoux, Pauline, 321, 353
Robidoux, Peter, 97, 321
Robidoux, Ralph, 321
Robidoux, Robert, 322
Robidoux, Rose, 322
Robidoux, Sandrea, 322
Robidoux, Steven, 322
Robidoux, Triffle, 322
Robidoux, Xavier, 322
Robidoux, Zodi, 322
Robidoux-Bjarnason, Adelaide, 321
Robidoux-Laframboise, Bertha, 321
Robillard, Aristide, 322
Robillard, Clair, 322
Robillard, Clara, 322
Robillard, Desire, 142, 144, 322
Robillard, Donald, 322
Robillard, Doria, 259, 322
Robillard, Eldage, 124, 144
Robillard, Elodia, 255, 322
Robillard, Felicite, 178, 195, 322
Robillard, George, 322
Robillard, Harvey, 178
Robillard, Homer, 322
Robillard, Ildage, 322
Robillard, John, 144
Robillard, Joseph, 322
Robillard, Laura, 271
Robillard, Leo & Amanda, 343
Robillard, Leo, 307, 322
Robillard, Louina, 322
Robillard, Marilyn, 322, 343
Robillard, Mrs. Leo, 180
Robillard, Ovila, 259, 318, 322
Robillard, Renee, 322
Robillard, Telesphore, 73, 322
Robillard, Wallace, 178
Robutal, Zacherie, de la Noue, 5
Rock, Arvilla, 307
Rock, Cecilia, 323
Rock, Charlow, 323
Rock, Dale, 323
Rock, David, 323
Rock, Dona, 323
Rock, Douglas, 323
Rock, Eddie, 323
Rock, Edna, 195, 306, 316, 323
Rock, Elmer, 323
Rock, Emma, 323
Rock, Eraine, 178
Rock, Gary, 323
Rock, Geneva, 323
Rock, George, 143, 323
Rock, Gloria, 323
Rock, Harvey, 323
Rock, John, 323
Rock, Julie, 323
Rock, Laurence Norman, 323
Rock, Lester, 247, 323
Rock, Madonna, 323
Rock, Marcella, 323
Rock, Mary Lou, 323
Rock, Michael, 323
Rock, Mitchell, 323
Rock, Monica, 323
Rock, Mrs. Corrine, 293
Rock, Ovilla, 144, 323
Rock, Pamela, 323
Rock, Peggy, 323
Rock, Richard, 323
Rock, Rodney, 323
Rock, Rosalyn, 247, 323
Rock, Samuel Jr, 144
Rock, Sister Collen, 323
Rock, Thomas, 323
Rock, Valerie, 323
Rock, Vanessa, 323
Rocksvold, E. Palmer, 45, 116, 204
Rockvam, Gwen, 295
Rodahl, Barbara, 291
Rode, Mrs. A., 155
Rodgers, J. W., 110
Rodman, Florence, 55
Rodman, Henry, 77
Rodman, Morris, 55
Rodridey, Mr., 60
Rodriquez, Linda, 206
Roe, Adolphus, 178
Roehl, Charles, 158
Roese, August, 309
Rogers, J. W., 121
Rogers, Mr & Mrs, 77
Rogers, Ralph, 77
Rogge, Alma, 246
Rogge, Linda, 249
Rogge, Mattie, 246
Rogge, Melba, 139
Rogge, Paul, 342
Rogge-Lonson, Esther, 246
Rogge-Rose, Melba, 246
Roghstein, J. A., 41
Rohn, Lisa, 161
Rohn, Mrs. Larry, 161
Roi, Clarintha, 165
Roi, Dr. J. A., 322
Roi, Emilie, 156
Roi, Mrs. Homer, 237
Roi, Odile, 328
Roi, William, 160
Roisland, Corinne, 317
Roisland, Ernest, 231
Roisland, Jan, 231
Roisland, Kerry, 231
Roisland, Keven, 231
Roisland, Liane, 231
Roisland, Mrs Kerry, 234
Roisland, Vicky, 231
Rolandson, A. A., 55, 234
Rolandson, Agnes, 324
Rolandson, Andrew, 323
Rolandson, Annabelle, 54, 204, 323
Rolandson, Arlo, 324
Rolandson, Arthur, 55, 323, 324
Rolandson, Arvid, 324
Rolandson, Beverly, 324
Rolandson, Clifford, 324
Rolandson, Dean, 324
Rolandson, Edward, 323
Rolandson, Ella, 324
Rolandson, Gary, 324
Rolandson, Gayle, 324
Rolandson, Gordon, 323
Rolandson, Jerome, 324
Rolandson, Kenneth, 324
Rolandson, Kermit, 324
Rolandson, Knute, 55, 323
Rolandson, Layne, 323
Rolandson, Lois Ann, 324
Rolandson, Mabel, 55, 324, 344
Rolandson, Melvin, 323
Rolandson, Mr. & Mrs. A. A., 323
Rolandson, Mrs Lena, 54
Rolandson, Mrs. A., 234
Rolandson, Orville, 55, 324
Rolandson, Richard, 323
Rolandson, Rodger, 323
Rolandson-Auld, Clarissa, 324
Rolandson-Freeberg, Delores, 324
Rolandson-Hotvet, Lorraine, 324
Rolette, Joseph, 7
Rolf, Rev. J., 121
Rolfson, Ann, 333
Rolfson, Richard, 157
Rolland, Dan, 283
Rolland, Oscar, 82
Rolle, Mrs. Ed, 272
Roman, Connie, 153
Roman, Debbie, 153
Roman, Denise, 153
Roman, Ed., 153
Roman, Eddie Jr., 153
Roman, Neal, 153
Ronig, Barbara, 243
Roosevelt, Franklin D., 325
Rosch, Anna, 106, 238
Rosch, Annie, 324
Rosch, Ben, 348
Rosch, Dale, 324
Rosch, Dorothy, 324
Rosch, Frank & Anne, 324
Rosch, Frank, 324
Rosch, Helen, 142, 270, 324
Rosch, Henry, 324
Rosch, Herbert, 324
Rosch, Hulda, 216, 324
Rosch, Margaret, 324
Rosch, Marie, 324
Rosch, Moritz & Benedict, 324
Rose, Alexander, 324
Rose, Clarence, 324
Rose, Earl, 278, 324
Rose, Edward, 324
Rose, Gary, 194
Rose, Henry, 362
Rose, John Alexander, 324
Rose, Marcellean, 239
Rose, Ray, 194, 318
Rose, Virginia, 351
Rosen, Bess, 325
Rosen, Faith, 325
Rosen, Harold 'Barney', 325
Rosen, Isadore, 72
Rosen, Jacob, 325
Rosen, Ruth, 325
Rosmos, Brothers, 147
Ross, Alexander, 6
Rossen, Myrtle, 325
Rossen, Nels L., 325
Rossen, Walter, 325
Rossen-Casey, Edna, 325
Rossen-Hall, Anna, 325

Rossignol, Albert, 325
Rossignol, Clarence, 325
Rossignol, Eliza, 325
Rossignol, Felix, 208, 325
Rossignol, John Baptiste, 325
Rossignol, Maggie, 325
Rossignol, Maxcime 'Max', 155, 325
Rossignol, Mrs. Felix, 310
Rossignol, Thomas, 325
Rossignol, William, 325
Rossmeisl, Elmer, 356
Rossmeisl, Frances, 356
Rossmeisl, Marie, 356
Rossmeisl, Mrs. Katy, 356
Rossmeisl, Otillia, 356
Rossmeisl, Val, 356
Rost, Susan, 284
Rosten, Mrs. John, 62
Rosten, Ray, 240
Rousseau. Rev. Henry, 100, 119
Rovang, Ida, 82
Roy, Alice, 287, 326
Roy, Alphonse, 128, 326
Roy, Anthony, 326
Roy, Cecilia, 326
Roy, Charles, 257, 326
Roy, Charley, 326
Roy, Dora, 318
Roy, Dr. J. A., 325, 343
Roy, Eloi, 326
Roy, Eraine, 326
Roy, Eva, 326
Roy, Evelyn, 326
Roy, Father William, 75, 76, 77, 84, 141, 330
Roy, Florentine, 208
Roy, Germaine, 326
Roy, Gloria, 216
Roy, J. S., 138
Roy, Jacqueline, 326
Roy, Jean, 326
Roy, Joe Jr., 326
Roy, John, 326
Roy, Joseph A., 325
Roy, Joseph Sr., 287, 326
Roy, Julia, 326
Roy, Lawrence, 326
Roy, Levi, 326
Roy, Louis Jr., 326
Roy, Louis, 326
Roy, Lucille, 326
Roy, Madeline, 326
Roy, Madonna, 326
Roy, Marie, 326
Roy, Mary, 257, 326, 361
Roy, Maurice, 116, 326
Roy, Mrs. Art, 255
Roy, Mrs. Philias, 256
Roy, Paul, 326
Roy, Philip, 326
Roy, Pierre Sr., 84
Roy, Raymond, 326
Roy, Robert, 326
Roy, Sister Pierre (Cecilia), 326
Roy, Theodore, 326
Roy, Therese, 326
Royer, Iva C., 292
Rubertus, Andy, 210
Rubertus, Zabille, 210
Ruchan, Bernice, 329
Rud, Rocelia, 116
Rude, Arthur C., 25
Rude, Margaret, 116
Ruebke, Ardee, 199
Ruebke, Douglas, 199
Ruebke, Jay Lee, 199
Ruebke, Joette, 199
Ruebke, Kari, 199
Ruebke, Pamela, 199
Ruebke, Patricia, 199
Ruebke, Virginia, 199
Ruffalo, Mrs Archie, 234
Runestad, Rev. & Mrs J. M., 120
Runestad, Rev. J. M., 46, 47, 85, 204
Rupprecht, Barry & Jane, 349
Rupprecht, Debbie, 349
Rupprecht, Jon, 349
Rupprecht, L. E., 349
Rupprecht, Mark, 349
Rupprecht, Shelly, 349
Russell, John, 179
Russell, Mrs. Floyd, 333
Rustad, Alvin, 326
Rustad, Hans, 326
Rustad, Helen, 326
Rustad, Lawrence, 326
Rustad, M. C., 54
Rustad, Mrs. Hans, 355
Rustad, Myrtle, 214
Rustad, P. A., 60
Rustad, Ruth, 358
Rustad, Thelma, 187
Rustad-Daily, Thelma, 270
Rustad---Thoreson, 326
Rustan, Alward, 55
Rustan, Edwin, 55
Rustan, Elmer, 234
Rutherford, Anne, 258
Ruud, Albin, 31
Ruud, Clara, 31
Ryan, Mrs. Bill, 236
Rygg, Cecilia, 370
Rygg, Mrs. Richard, 296
Ryl, Elizabeth, 265
Rynne, Mrs. Joe, 334
Rystad, Alice, 55
Rystad, Myrtle, 350
Rystad, Ole & Pauline, 350
Rystad, Roy, 284
Sabourin, Alexine, 142
Sabourin, Celina, 144
Sabourin, Dora, 142
Sabourin, James, 98
Sabourin, Joseph, 142
Sabourin, S., 144
Sabourin, Walter, 142
Saeter, Rev. A. O., 54
Saethre, Rev., 85
Sagar, Emma, 246
Sagen, Thomas, 289
Saice, Elizabeth, 251
Sall, Charles, 53
Sall, Lewis, 53
Sall brothers, 9
Salley, David, 330
Salley, Donavan, 330
Salley, Joanne, 330
Salley, Joseph, 329, 330
Salley, Mrs. Joe, 148
Salley, Stephen, 330
Sample, Dr., 80
Sampson, Charles, 330
Sampson, David, 330
Sampson, Fred, 330
Sampson, Henry, 330
Sampson, Horace, 330
Sampson, Nelson, 330
Sampson, Oliver, 330
Samuelson, Charles, 283
Samuelson, David, 283
Samuelson, Matthew, 283
Samuelson, Sarah, 283
Sanbak, T., 53
Sanberg, A. P., 138
Sandager, Harold, 174
Sandberg, Axel, 341
Sandberg, Emma Eleanore, 340, 341
Sandberg, Gustav, 341
Sandberg, Knute Fritiof, 341
Sandberg, Knute, & Anna, 341
Sandberg, Selma, 341
Sande, Mrs. Milt, 181
Sandeen, Eleanor, 75
Sandeen, Emil R., 9
Sanden, Barbro (Barbara), 214
Sanders, David, 332
Sanders, Ella, 310
Sanders, Irma, 343
Sanford, Clara May, 234
Sanford, Maria, 44
Sannes, Arne, 54
Sannes, K. K., 79
Sannes, Mrs Mary, 79
Sannes, Ole, 79
Sargent, Bernice, 238
Sater, Simon, 50
Saterlie, Julia, 45
Sather, Mrs. Clarence, 340
Sather, Simon, 60
Saugstad, John, 8
Saunders, George, 45, 50
Sauve, Abraham, 331
Sauve, Alfred, 331
Sauve, Alvina, 191, 331
Sauve, Darrell, 330
Sauve, Eli, 331
Sauve, Emil, 331
Sauve, Emma, 312, 331
Sauve, Ernest, 331
Sauve, Eva, 331
Sauve, Eveline, 144
Sauve, Henry, 331
Sauve, Herman, 331
Sauve, Isaac, 330, 331
Sauve, Jerome A., 20
Sauve, Joseph & Marie, 330
Sauve, Joseph, 144, 330, 331
Sauve, Lucille, 331
Sauve, Marcelline, 241
Sauve, Marrietta, 329
Sauve, Mary Jane, 161, 237
Sauve, Melvin, 330
Sauve, Mrs. Elizabeth, 125
Sauve, Mrs. Elziore, 307
Sauve, Mrs. Erwin, 289
Sauve, Mrs. Henry, 263
Sauve, Noella, 330
Sauve, Palmire, 125
Sauve, Pierre, 330
Sauve, Raymond, 330
Sauve, Regina, 331
Sauve, Richard J., 141, 263
Sauve, Rosalva, 331
Sauve, Rosanna, 331
Sauve, Rose, 143, 331
Sauve, Theophile, 331
Sauve, Viola, 331
Sauve, Virgil, 330
Sauve, Willie, 331
Sauve, Xavier, 180, 307, 312, 331
Sauve-Laundry, Eva, 180
Sauve-Prenevost, Emma, 143
Sauve-Ste. Marie, Eva, 263

Savard, Allarie, 331
Savard, Barbara, 331
Savard, John E., 158, 253, 331
Savard, Lorenzo 'Kaiser', 128, 247, 331, 355
Savard, Michael, 331
Savard, Mrs. John, 311
Savard, Rayome, 331
Savard-Capistran, Bernetta, 331
Savard-Nelson, Cecilia, 331
Schaack, Gertrude, 45
Schaefer, Mrs. Clara, 229
Schaefer, Wm., 121
Schafer, Bob, 134
Schafer, David, 331
Schafer, Eugene 'Jimmy', 332
Schafer, Frank, 68, 332
Schafer, George, 105
Schafer, Glenn, 332
Schafer, John, 331, 332, 334
Schafer, Joseph, 332
Schafer, Larry, 332
Schafer, Laura, 332
Schafer, Louis, 331
Schafer, Margaret, 332
Schafer, Marjorie, 332
Schafer, Michael, 332
Schafer, Mr. & Mrs. George, 332
Schafer, Mrs. George, 254
Schafer, Robert & Judith, 332
Schafer, Stephen, 331
Schafer, Willard, 332
Schafer, William, 331
Schall, Betty, 163
Schantzen, Hollis, 166
Schantzen, Judy, 166
Schantzen, Lois, 343
Schaper, Agnes, 332
Schaper, Art, 251
Schaper, Arthur, 332
Schaper, Emma, 313, 332
Schaper, Mr. & Mrs. William, 343
Schaper, Roland, 332
Schaper, Selma, 332, 342, 343
Schaper, William, 251, 332
Scharboneau, Marie, 359
Scharper, William, 71
Schatzke, Roger, 250
Schauer, Mae E., 363
Schaughnessy, Mary Jane, 323
Schave, Lester, 311
Schehr, Adam, 332
Schehr, Alta, 332
Schehr, Anna, 332
Schehr, Barbara 'Bertha', 332
Schehr, Elizabeth 'Lizzie', 332
Schehr, Henry, 332
Schehr, Jacob, 332
Schehr, Margaret, 332
Schehr, Marie, 332
Schehr, Melvin, 332
Schehr, Minnie, 332
Schehr, Rose, 190
Scheiblauer, Beverly, 345
Scheldrup, Ervin, 276
Schellman, Mary, 216
Schenk, Bishop Francis, 118, 119, 122
Schenk, Vincent, 153
Scherf, James, 297
Scheuring, Bernard Jr., 216
Scheuring, Bernard, 216
Scheuring, Dora, 125
Scheuring, Mrs. Bernard, 263
Scheuring, Nick, 125
Scheuring, Vina, 125
Schidfert, Andrew Jr., 333
Schiefert, Andrew Sr., 333, 336
Schiefert, Angela, 333, 336
Schiefert, Anna, 333
Schiefert, Anthony, 101, 333
Schiefert, Arthur, 250, 333
Schiefert, Bennie, 333
Schiefert, Brent, 333
Schiefert, DeEtte, 333
Schiefert, DeLayne, 333, 338
Schiefert, George & Margaret, 333
Schiefert, Gerald Clair, 333
Schiefert, Joseph, 333
Schiefert, Leo, 333
Schiefert, Lonnie, 333
Schiefert, Margaret, 333
Schiefert, Marla, 333
Schiefert, Marlin, 333, 338
Schiefert, Mrs. Anthony, 314
Schiefert, Roberta, 333
Schiefert, Roxanne, 333
Schiefert, Sara, 333
Schiefert, Stephenie, 333
Schiefert, Steven, 333
Schiefert, Todd, 333
Schindler, Alan, 153, 334
Schindler, Andy, 153
Schindler, Anna Mae, 153, 334
Schindler, Bernard, 333
Schindler, Daniel, 153
Schindler, Darrell, 153
Schindler, Dawn, 334
Schindler, Dorothy, 153, 334
Schindler, Edward, 153, 185, 333, 334
Schindler, Eugene, 153, 306, 333
Schindler, Frieda, 251, 337
Schindler, Germaine, 153, 334
Schindler, Jerome, 334
Schindler, Jerry, 153
Schindler, Jim, 153
Schindler, Joan, 153
Schindler, John & Mary, 232
Schindler, John, 153, 278, 333, 334
Schindler, Josephine, 333
Schindler, Judy, 153, 334
Schindler, Karen, 153
Schindler, Linda, 153
Schindler, Louis, 333
Schindler, Louise, 244, 333
Schindler, Mark, 153
Schindler, Markie, 334
Schindler, Mary Anne, 331, 333
Schindler, Mary Lou, 153, 334
Schindler, Mary, (Mrs John)
Schindler, Mike, 153
Schindler, Mr. & Mrs. John, 332
Schindler, Mrs. Ted, 219
Schindler, Mrs. Val, 219
Schindler, Patty, 153
Schindler, Raymond, 333
Schindler, Roger, 153, 334
Schindler, Theodore, 287, 333
Schindler, Val, 333
Schindler, Vernon, 263, 333
Schindler, Veronica, 232, 333
Schindler, Vivian, 153
Schindler, Will, 333
Schirrick, Agnes, 334
Schirrick, Annie, Sr. Everia, 334
Schirrick, Carol, 334
Schirrick, Cecilia, 334
Schirrick, Daniel, 335
Schirrick, David, 335
Schirrick, Don & Karen, 335
Schirrick, Donald, 334
Schirrick, Frank Sr., 334, 335
Schirrick, Jennifer, 335
Schirrick, John, 334
Schirrick, Joseph, 334
Schirrick, Madonna, 334
Schirrick, Martha, Sr. Francisca, 334
Schirrick, Mary, 334
Schirrick, Mrs Paul, 124, 152
Schirrick, Mrs. Peter, 366
Schirrick, Nick, 334
Schirrick, Paul, 334
Schirrick, Peter Jr., 334
Schirrick, Peter, 334
Schirrick, Thomas, 335
Schjelderup, Andrew, 335
Schjelderup, Ben, 49
Schjelderup, Bennie, 335
Schjelderup, Carl, 335
Schjelderup, Elmer, 335
Schjelderup, Eyvind, 335
Schjelderup, Henry, 335
Schjelderup, Hilda, 46, 238, 335
Schjelderup, Kristafer, 335
Schjelderup, Louise, 335
Schjelderup, Mary, 335
Schjeldrup, Elmer, 44
Schjeldrup, Eyvind, 44, 47, 50
Schlesinger, Marie, 229
Schlichtmann, Gerald, 351
Schmahl, Julius, 129
Schmidt, Andrew, 336
Schmidt, Anna, 336
Schmidt, Annie, 68, 335
Schmidt, Anton, 68, 335
Schmidt, Charles Jr., 335
Schmidt, Charles Sr., 51, 335, 336
Schmidt, Clarissa, 335
Schmidt, Elizabeth 'Betty', 177, 335
Schmidt, Evelyn, 336
Schmidt, Francis 'Bylo', 335
Schmidt, Frank A., 20, 68, 336
Schmidt, Frank Sr., 335, 336
Schmidt, Franz & Charles, 335
Schmidt, Franz, 336
Schmidt, H., 48
Schmidt, Harold, 336
Schmidt, Harriet, 336
Schmidt, Henry, 68, 335, 336
Schmidt, Herman, 68
Schmidt, John, 68, 335, 336
Schmidt, Joseph, 68, 335, 336
Schmidt, Kate, 335, 336
Schmidt, Lena, 335, 336
Schmidt, Margaret, 161, 336
Schmidt, Marrie, 335
Schmidt, Mary, 336
Schmidt, Michael, 336
Schmidt, Mrs Joseph, 232
Schmidt, Mrs. Frank Sr., 333
Schmidt, Peter, 335, 336, 354
Schmidt, Raymond, 125, 336
Schmidt, Susan, 336
Schmidt, Theresa, 336
Schmidt, Tony, 336
Schmidt, Tracy, 335
Schmitx, John III, 33
Schmitz, Adam, 32
Schmitz, Agnes, 31, 32, 33, 250
Schmitz, Allen, 338
Schmitz, Alois, 337, 338, 339
Schmitz, Andrea, 338
Schmitz, Ann Ott, 33
Schmitz, Anthony, 337

Schmitz, Arnold, 338
Schmitz, Arthur, 337
Schmitz, Bernadette, 338
Schmitz, Bernard 'Ben', 31, 32, 33, 177, 191, 334, 337, 338, 339, 349
Schmitz, Bernard Jr., 337, 338
Schmitz, Bonita, 338
Schmitz, Bonnie, 339
Schmitz, Cecelia, 276
Schmitz, Cecilia, 33
Schmitz, Charles, 41
Schmitz, Charlotte, 339
Schmitz, Clara, 33, 220
Schmitz, Clarice, 337
Schmitz, Connie, 339
Schmitz, Coreen, 339
Schmitz, Craig, 339
Schmitz, Crispen 'Crist', 31, 32, 33, 251, 304, 333, 337
Schmitz, Daniel, 338
Schmitz, Darin, 333
Schmitz, Darlene, 338
Schmitz, Darrell, 338
Schmitz, David, 337
Schmitz, Dawn, 337
Schmitz, DeAnna, 333
Schmitz, Delbert, 333, 338
Schmitz, Dolores, 338
Schmitz, Donald, 337
Schmitz, Ed. H., 105
Schmitz, Edward J., 105, 337
Schmitz, Edward Jr., 106, 338
Schmitz, Edward Sr., 26, 32
Schmitz, Elizabeth, 33, 250, 336, 338, 367, 368
Schmitz, Faye, 338
Schmitz, Francis, 257, 337, 373
Schmitz, Gaylene, 338
Schmitz, Gertrude, 32, 33, 250
Schmitz, Henry, 32, 127, 337
Schmitz, Herman, 32, 127
Schmitz, Jacqueline, 338
Schmitz, James, 125, 338
Schmitz, Janelle, 338
Schmitz, Janice, 338
Schmitz, Jeffrey, 338
Schmitz, Jerold, 338
Schmitz, JoAnn, 191, 337
Schmitz, Joe Sr., 193
Schmitz, Joe, 127
Schmitz, Joel, 136
Schmitz, John & Anne, 185
Schmitz, John III, 32
Schmitz, John Jr., 32, 337
Schmitz, John, 32, 33, 127, 185, 239, 250, 287, 336
Schmitz, Joseph & Louise, 220, 250, 276, 296, 336, 337, 338, 367
Schmitz, Joseph, 31, 32, 33, 333, 336, 368
Schmitz, Josephine, 31, 32, 33
Schmitz, Karen, 338
Schmitz, Kerry, 338
Schmitz, Kristi, 338
Schmitz, Larry, 339
Schmitz, Laurie, 338
Schmitz, Lee, 338
Schmitz, Leo, 338
Schmitz, Leon, 337, 338
Schmitz, Leonard, 337
Schmitz, Linus, 337, 339
Schmitz, Lisa, 338
Schmitz, Loretta, 251, 337
Schmitz, Louis, 337
Schmitz, Lucille, 337
Schmitz, Margaret 'Markie', 337
Schmitz, Margaret, 185, 334, 337
Schmitz, Marilyn, 185, 337
Schmitz, Marlen, 338
Schmitz, Marlene, 339
Schmitz, Marlys, 177, 337
Schmitz, Martha, 33, 296
Schmitz, Mary Lynn, 338
Schmitz, Mary, 31, 33, 333
Schmitz, Melanie, 338
Schmitz, Michelle, 338
Schmitz, Mike, 339
Schmitz, Monica, 337, 349
Schmitz, Mr. & Mrs. John, 339
Schmitz, Mrs Urban, 222
Schmitz, Mrs. John, 297
Schmitz, Mrs. Joseph, 334
Schmitz, Mrs. Linus, 203
Schmitz, Neil, 338
Schmitz, Paul, 338
Schmitz, Pauline, 338
Schmitz, Polly, 339
Schmitz, Rachel, 339
Schmitz, Richard, 338
Schmitz, Robert, 338
Schmitz, Rodney, 338
Schmitz, Ronald, 337
Schmitz, Ruth, 333, 338
Schmitz, Sheila, 338
Schmitz, Sylvester, 32, 296, 336
Schmitz, Teresa, 338
Schmitz, Terrence, 247
Schmitz, Theodore 'Ted', 32, 33, 112, 338
Schmitz, Tim, 339
Schmitz, Tony, 122
Schmitz, Trissa, 338
Schmitz, Val, 339
Schmitz, Veronica, 338
Schmitz, Vincent, 25, 287, 338, 339
Schmitz, Vivian, 338
Schmitz Desotel, Lucille, 106
Schneider, Aug., 147
Schneider, Henry, 148
Schnirch, Louisa, 32
Schnirch, Louise, 368
Schnirch, Maria, 247
Schoeller, Jean, 46
Schoenauer, Alene, 339
Schoenauer, Deane, 51, 339
Schoenauer, Edythe, 190
Schoenauer, Mary, 273
Schoenauer, Mrs Deane, 51
Schoenauer, Mrs. Paul, 37
Schoenauer, Paul E., 9, 41, 46, 163, 195, 264, 339
Schoenauer, Pauline, 339, 344, 364
Schoenmann, James, 334
Schoenouer, Amelia, 324
Schoenrock, Leo, 121
Scholander, Mrs. C. E., 341
Scholtz, Teresa, 114, 173
Schons, Anna, 372
Schoon, Peggy, 179
Schreiter, Erma, 339
Schreiter, Mr. & Mrs W. A., 129
Schreiter, Norman C., 339
Schreiter, Wentzel August, 10, 114, 210, 258, 339
Schriber, Mary, 258
Schue, Alice, 189
Schue, Bridget, 233, 339
Schue, Jerome, 20
Schue, Joette, 177, 339
Schue, Katheryn, 339
Schue, Louis, 339
Schue, Mary Beth, 339
Schue, Mr. & Mrs. Mike, 189
Schue, Richard, 339
Schue, Scott, 339
Schue, Thomas, 233, 339
Schue, Timothy, 339
Schuhmacher, Mrs. Delbert, 340
Schukle, E. J., 117, 344
Schukle, Edward J. Jr., 344
Schukle, Kathleen Marie, 344
Schukle, Linda Ann, 344
Schukle, Mr. & Mrs. E. J. 'Ed', 344
Schulky, Gerri, 231
Schultz, Albert, 249, 340
Schultz, Arley, 92, 194, 249, 340
Schultz, Arthur, 340
Schultz, Barry, 136
Schultz, Ben, 249, 340
Schultz, Bernice, 340
Schultz, Bertha, 249, 340
Schultz, Brandon, 349
Schultz, Celaine, 340
Schultz, Chad, 340
Schultz, Christina, 373
Schultz, Cory, 349
Schultz, Delbert Lee, 340
Schultz, Donald, 340
Schultz, Doris, 340
Schultz, Edward, 249
Schultz, Edward, 340
Schultz, Ella, 238
Schultz, Ellen, 192, 340, 365, 366
Schultz, Erdman, 249, 340, 366
Schultz, Esther, 332
Schultz, Ferdinand, 249, 340
Schultz, Fred, 249, 340, 366
Schultz, Frederick & Louis, 340
Schultz, Frederick Michael, 371
Schultz, Frederick, 340
Schultz, Henry, 249, 340
Schultz, Herman Jr., 340
Schultz, Herman Vincent, 340
Schultz, Herman, 249, 339
Schultz, Hulda, 249, 340
Schultz, Inez, 340
Schultz, Irene, 249, 340
Schultz, Kent, 349
Schultz, LaVern & Hazel, 349
Schultz, LaVern, 249
Schultz, Leo, 249, 340
Schultz, Loreen, 340
Schultz, Louis Jr., 340
Schultz, Louis, 340
Schultz, Lyndon, 340
Schultz, Mavis, 154, 340
Schultz, Mildred, 236, 340
Schultz, Minnie, 194, 249, 340
Schultz, Mr. & Mrs. Erdman, 154
Schultz, Myrtle, 332
Schultz, Robbie, 340
Schultz, Wayde, 340
Schumacher, Mrs. Bill, 311
Schusser, Anna, 340
Schusser, Anton, 341
Schusser, Bartholomew, 340
Schusser, Bernetta Sophie, 200, 340
Schusser, Carl, 68, 142, 341
Schusser, Florence, 341
Schusser, Irene, 68, 106, 340
Schusser, Joseph, 340, 341
Schusser, Mary, 67, 341
Schusser, Michael, 341
Schusser, Rose, 372
Schusser, Sophia, 340
Schusser, Theresa, 340

Schwallenberg, Eva, 212
Schwartz, P. A., 122
Schwegman, Mrs. Wayne, 278
Scott, Clark, 328
Scott, Dave, 206
Scott, James, 341
Scott, Teri, 341
Seaverson, Albert, 138
Sebenaler, Delton & Dorothy, 341
Sebenaler, Mrs. Delton, 253
Sebenaler, Peter, 341
Seeger, Alvin, 343
Seeger, Bernetta, 283
Seeger, Betty, 344
Seeger, Bill, 324
Seeger, Bradley, 343
Seeger, Carl, 344
Seeger, Charles & Bill, 344
Seeger, Charles F., 81, 344
Seeger, Charles Jr., 344
Seeger, Charles, 67, 68, 69, 197, 324, 342
Seeger, Charley, 342
Seeger, Clara, 343
Seeger, Dora, 342
Seeger, Dorothy, 358
Seeger, Elsie, 224, 225, 343
Seeger, Ernest, 342, 343
Seeger, Florence, 298, 344
Seeger, Frances, 344
Seeger, Fred, 67, 105, 225, 332, 342, 343
Seeger, George, 343
Seeger, Glenn, 344
Seeger, Harry, 343
Seeger, Herman Carl, 343
Seeger, Isabelle, 250, 251, 343
Seeger, Kathleen, 343
Seeger, Leslie, 343
Seeger, Lois & Reiny, 282
Seeger, Lon, 343
Seeger, Lucille, 225, 343
Seeger, Lynn, 322, 343
Seeger, Marie, 342
Seeger, Mary, 68
Seeger, Michael, 343
Seeger, Mr & Mrs Charlie, 88
Seeger, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sr., 342
Seeger, Mr. & Mrs. Fred, 251
Seeger, Mrs. C. F., 86
Seeger, Mrs. Charles, 67
Seeger, Mrs. Fred, 67
Seeger, Mrs. Leslie, 322
Seeger, Mrs. Walter, 362
Seeger, Pauline, 250, 332, 343
Seeger, Reinhart, 274, 343
Seeger, Steven, 343
Seeger, Walter, 343
Seeger, William, 88, 89
Seeger-Knott, Pauline, 246
Sefkow, Viola, 342
Seger, Mary, 120
Seger, Meredith, 120
Seger, Michael, 120
Seger, Pastor Roy, 120
Seibel, Irene, 154
Seibel, Mrs John, 194
Seibel, Mrs. Art, 365
Seidl, Mrs. Louie, 285
Seif, Jeff, 312
Seifert, James, 360
Seiff, Louis, 41
Seilbeck, Carol, 287
Selkird, Lord, 6, 7, 8
Sellmeier, Marie, 365
Seltz, Pastor A. C., 48
Seltz, Pastor Paul, 48
Seltz, Rev. C. G., 121
Seltz, Rev. Fred J., 47
Seltz, Rev. P. J., 48
Selvig, Conrad G., 95
Selway, R. H., 122
Semper, Emily, 212, 311
Senn, Dianna, 134
Senske, Mrs. Louis, 176
Senum, Lars, 54
Senum, Torgrim, 54
Serik, Mrs. Edward, 183
Sernou, Martha, 324
Sether, Simon, 61
Seveland, Joyce, 340
Severance, Mrs. George, 355
Seykora, Helene, 166
Shaffer, Mary, 208
Shallas, Nancy, 221
Shank, Adelore, 76
Shank, Gedeon, 76
Shannon, Vincent, 365
Sheldahl, Esther, 47
Sheldahl, Rev. 47
Sheldon, Alice, 316
Sheldon, Kenny, 266
Sheldon, Mrs. Tom, 266
Sheldon, Tommy, 266
Sherack, Mrs. Frank, 253
Sherk, Mrs. W. J., 215
Sherry, Monica, 326
Sherry, Tom & Elizabeth, 326
Sherry, Tom, 201
Shetterly, Mildred, 283
Shieffield, Mrs. Scott, 217
Sholl, Mrs. Richard, 170
Short, Con, 57, 344
Short, Maggie, 344
Short, Mary, 344
Short, Mrs Con, 53
Short, Mrs. Josie, 56
Short, Mrs. Martin, 344
Short, Nellie, 54, 344
Short, Pat, 9, 344
Sibley, Gov. Henry, 15, 16, 193
Siebel, Erwin, 51
Sieff, Abe, 126, 127
Sieff, Jake, 126, 277
Sieff, Joe, 126
Sieff, Louis, 126, 282
Sieff, Maurice, 126, 127
Sieff, Philip, 126, 127
Sieff, Rose, 118, 126
Sieff, Sadie, 126, 127
Sieff, Verna Mae, 127
Sievalaa, Hilda, 295
Sigurdson, J., 53
Sigurson, Ljot, 59, 60
Simenstad, Dr. L. O., 183
Simenstad, Mrs. L. O., 182
Simmon, Marie, 231, 365
Simondson, Rev. O. M., 47
Simons, L. C., 41, 195
Simonson, Dausel, 324
Simonson, Donald, 20
Simonson, Jacob, 324
Simonson, LeRoy, 324
Simonson, S., 61
Simpson, Mrs. Robert, 234
Singelseter, Irene, 280
Singer, Leonard, 55
Singer, Stephen, 25
Sischer, Mrs. Elmer, 223
Siven, Mrs. Jason, 361
Sivenson, William, 57
Sivertson, S. M., 24, 121, 355
Sjaaheim, Olav, 53, 260
Sjoberg, Alfa, 207
Skaale, Egil, 60
Skagen, Rev. J., 54, 85
Skala, Alice, 345
Skala, Anne, 227, 345
Skala, Eugene, 345
Skala, Evelyn, 345
Skala, Henry, 345
Skala, Isabelle, 345
Skala, Joseph & Alice, 227
Skala, Joseph F., 25
Skala, Joseph II, 345
Skala, Joseph, 105, 162, 200, 181, 345
Skala, Karen, 345
Skala, Kathleen, 345
Skala, Mathias 'Matt', 32, 105, 112, 130, 181, 193, 293, 324, 334, 345, 356, 364
Skalicky, Lorri, 214
Skalicky, Mr. & Mrs. Wm., 214
Skallet, Larry, 81
Skar, Edwin H., 238
Skar, Einar, 238
Skar, Elias, 238
Skatvold, Doris, 346
Skatvold, Mrs Merle, 51
Skelly, Berniece, 165
Skjerven, Roger, 46
Skjonsby, Adam, 349
Skjonsby, Amy, 349
Skjonsby, Dr. Harold, 349
Skjonsby, Nathan, 349
Skoghaug, 41
Skomedahl, Ole M., 76
Skomedal, Ole N., 53, 59, 60
Skorheim, Mrs. Dora, 324
Skorpiene, Andre, 60
Skredergard, Mrs Curtis, 252
Skreland, Gunstein, 60, 61
Skreland, Guro, 261
Skreland, Mary, 57
Skreland, Mrs. Osov, 62
Skreland, Osov, 60, 61
Skreland, Thor, 54, 61
Slabaaken-Olson, Kristi, 287
Slattery, Minard, 45
Slawson, Marian, 225
Sletton, T. L., 97
Slettvedt, K. T., 53
Slettvedt, Roy, 55
Slettvedt, Ruby, 55
Slettvedt, S. T., 53
Slettvedt, T. T., 54, 61
Slettvet, Edwind, 54
Slettvold, Richard, 79, 85
Sletvedt, Clara, 283
Sletvold, Charles, 79
Sletvold, Ole, 79
Sletvold, Richard, 284
Slotnick, Mrs. Harold, 313
Slyter, L. E., 318
Smejan, Torjei, 271
Smidesang, P. E., 147
Smidesang, Pete, 148
Smidesang, Thor, 147
Smidjan, Torjus G, 53
Smith, Donald, 8
Smith, Harry, 282
Smith, James, 210
Smith, Joseph, 10, 38, 255
Smith, Louise, 117
Smith, Marie, 307

Smith, Mrs. Sarah, 355
Smith, Mrs. Vernon, 251
Smith, Rose, 367
Smith Dessie, 116
Smuland, Mrs. Smuland, 283
Sohler, Xavier, 110, 113
Soland, Ed. J., 81, 85
Soland, Leona, 83
Soland, Orlo, 82
Solheim, John, 345
Solheim, Marie, 294, 295
Solheim, Mr. & Mrs. Iver, 345
Solheim, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley, 345
Solheim, Mrs. Jerald, 311
Solheim, Mrs. Nels, 295
Solheim, Nels, 294
Solheim, Nordal, 295
Solheim, Palmer, 295
Solie, Mrs. Merle, 308
Sophia, Isabel, 296
Sordahl, Anders, 85
Sordahl, Andrew, 85
Sordahl, Annie, 85
Sordahl, Ben, 83, 85
Sordahl, June, 256
Sordahl, Knute, 85
Sordahl, Mr & Mrs Torkel, 85
Sordahl, Mrs T. O., 85
Sordahl, Ole, 85, 88
Sordahl, T. O., 54, 85
Sorensen, Fred, 116
Sorenson, A. E., 37, 100
Sorenson, Agnes Anderson, 49
Sorenson, Ausil, 55
Sorenson, Avis, 207, 345
Sorenson, Bernice, 346
Sorenson, Carl, 50, 60, 61, 345
Sorenson, Carol, 346
Sorenson, Cora, 345
Sorenson, Corlan, 275
Sorenson, Doris, 346
Sorenson, Edna, 345
Sorenson, Gunder, 55, 89
Sorenson, Harry, 60, 345
Sorenson, Helga, 55, 346
Sorenson, Ingvald, 345
Sorenson, Iver, 345
Sorenson, John, 50, 60, 269, 345
Sorenson, Laura, 346
Sorenson, Lloyd, 50
Sorenson, Mildred, 241
Sorenson, Mr. & Mrs. John, 346
Sorenson, Mrs Lloyd, 46
Sorenson, Mrs. Iver, 353
Sorenson, Mrs. Paul, 88
Sorenson, Neuben, 345
Sorenson, Ole, 60, 295
Sorenson, Orville, 345
Sorenson, P. T., 54
Sorenson, Paul, 88
Sorenson, Ralph, 55, 346
Sorenson, Rose, 346
Sorenson, Sarah, 345
Sorenson, Sidney, 346
Sorenson, Soren, 345
Sorenson, Stella, 346
Sorenson, Truman, 89
Sorsoleil, Milton, 205
Sortedahl, Cornelia, 189, 346
Sortedahl, John, 118, 346
Sortedahl, Lillie, 273
Sortedahl, Mae, 346
Sortedahl, Martin O., 63, 137, 271, 346
Sortedahl, Mildred, 187, 346
Sortedahl, Mr. & Mrs. Martin, 189
Sortedahl, Myrtle, 346
Sortedahl, Olaf, 346
Sortedahl, Ralph, 118, 346
Sortedahl-Daily, Mildred, 270
Sortedahl-Delorme, Cornelia, 270
Souto, Dorla, 309
Sovde, Cindy, 352
Sovde, Lowell, 79, 346
Sovde, Ole, 346, 347
Sovick, Julia, 60
Spaeth, G. Howard, 179
Spear, Mrs. Jesse, 209
Spears, Dr. Michael H., 134
Spears, Evelyn, 347
Spears, Harold & Evelyn, 347
Spears, Harold, 45, 116, 347
Spears, Kent Douglas, 135, 207, 347
Spears, Michael Harold, 347
Spears, Mrs. Evelyn, 241
Speece, Newton, 117
Spilde, Marjorie, 349
Spillane, Mrs. Leo, 126, 169
Splitzloeser, Mable, 45
Spomer, Lois, 342
Spong, George E., 59
Spray-Olson, Judy, 284
Sproll, Rev. Bernard, 119
St. Antoine-Gallant, Josephine, 329
St. Ives, Charlotte, 318, 327
St. Ives, Eleanor, 329
St. Ives, Eli & Edna, 192, 318, 326, 327
St. Ives, Eli, 26, 311
St. Ives, Glen, 327
St. Ives, Julie, 327
St. Ives, Sybil, 191, 192, 327
St. Louis, Beulah, 249
St. Louis, George, 276
St. Marie, Delbert, 328
St. Marie, Henry, 328
St. Marie, Joan, 172
St. Marie, Joseph, 68, 73, 172, 328
St. Marie, Julie, 247
St. Marie, Mrs. Henry, 214
St. Marie, Mrs. Romeo, 331
St. Marie, Phyllis, 337
St. Marie, Raphael, 144
St. Marie, Raymond, 112, 328
St. Marie, Reaume, 41
St. Marie, Robert, 95, 328
St. Marie-Brunelle, JoAnn, 328
St. Marie-King, Julie, 328
St. Marie-Pederson, Carol, 328
St. Marie-Vaudrin, Marlys, 328
St. Mars, Celina, 325
St. Martin, Frank, 60
St. Martin, Mrs. Oliver, 284
St. Martin, Victor, 60
St. Michel, Alfred, 91, 92, 221, 328
St. Michel, Alphonse, 91, 328
St. Michel, Ann, 328
St. Michel, Arabelle, 328
St. Michel, Bonita, 328
St. Michel, Carol, 328
St. Michel, Clarinda, 152, 328
St. Michel, David, 309, 328
St. Michel, Eli, 328
St. Michel, Emery, 328
St. Michel, Ernest Jerome, 329
St. Michel, Exerine, 328
St. Michel, Gordon, 329
St. Michel, Jeff, 329
St. Michel, Jerry, 125
St. Michel, Joseph, 328
St. Michel, Judy, 328
St. Michel, Kenneth, 329
St. Michel, Kevin, 328
St. Michel, Leo Jr., 328
St. Michel, Leo Toussaint, 328
St. Michel, Leonard, 106, 328
St. Michel, Loren, 328
St. Michel, Loria, 328
St. Michel, Lorraine, 328
St. Michel, Louis, 328
St. Michel, Madeline, 328
St. Michel, Mary Lea, 328
St. Michel, Maurice, 329
St. Michel, Michael, 328
St. Michel, Mrs. Alfred, 329
St. Michel, Mrs. Ernest, 233
St. Michel, Olivine Adeline, 221, 328
St. Michel, Phyllis, 328
St. Michel, Robert, 328
St. Michel, Roger, 328
St. Michel, Sally, 328
St. Michel, Shirley Ann, 328
St. Michel, Steven, 328
St. Michel, Teresa, 328
St. Michel, Tim, 328
St. Michel, Tony, 328
St. Michel, Victor, 328
St. Pierre, Deva, 178
St. Pierre, Mrs., 180
St. Yves, Armond, 329
St. Yves, Edward & Bertha, 329
St. Yves, Edward, 145, 174, 209, 327, 329
St. Yves, Eli, 174, 209, 327
St. Yves, Emma, 145, 174, 209, 327
St. Yves, Florestine, 174, 209, 306, 327
St. Yves, Harvey, 174, 209, 327
St. Yves, Justin, 174, 209, 327,
St. Yves, Louis & Arize, 174, 306
St. Yves, Louis, 144, 145, 209, 326, 327, 329,
St. Yves, Lumina, 174, 209, 327
St. Yves, Mrs. Louis, 145
St. Yves, Noella, 323
St. Yves, Oliver, 329
St. Yves, Paul, 329
St. Yves, Roma, 94
St. Yves, Virginia, 329
St. Yves, Wallace, 329
St. Yves, Willie, 145, 174, 209, 327
Stadem, Mrs. Karl, 171
Stadum, Ernest, 120
Staggert, Sally Rae, 208
Stahl, Mary, 172
Stahle, W. M., 25
Stainbrook, Josephing, 231
Stainbrook, Mrs. Roy, 320
Stalemo, Nels, 54
Starken, Gertrude, 68, 184
Starken, Peter, 68, 184, 250, 314
Ste. Marie, Alan, 328
Ste. Marie, Barney, 327
Ste. Marie, Carole, 327
Ste. Marie, David, 328
Ste. Marie, Don & Zola, 328
Ste. Marie, Donald, 19, 22, 23, 327
Ste. Marie, Elise, 327
Ste. Marie, Eraine, 327
Ste. Marie, Harriet, 327
Ste. Marie, Isabelle, 327
Ste. Marie, Janyce, 266
Ste. Marie, Jos W., 24, 25, 28, 143, 277, 327
Ste. Marie, Jos. W. & Emma, 328
Ste. Marie, Kathy, 328
Ste. Marie, Ken, 328
Ste. Marie, Leo, 263

Ste. Marie, Lucy Ann, 327
Ste. Marie, Mae, 180, 263
Ste. Marie, Mike, 328
Ste. Marie, Mrs. Joseph W., 144
Ste. Marie, Mrs. Reaume, 266
Ste. Marie, Mrs. Richard, 226
Ste. Marie, Raphael & Marie, 327
Ste. Marie, Raphael, 327
Ste. Marie, Reaume, 327
Ste. Marie, Romeo, 180
Ste. Marie, Sharon, 266
Ste. Marie, Steve, 328
Ste. Marie, Terry, 266
Ste. Marie, Tim, 266
Ste. Marie, Veleda, 327
Steele, Art, 343
Steenerson, Mrs Don, 181
Steer, Mrs. Henry Jr., 156
Stehr, Rev. John. W., 48, 121
Stein, Ellen, 331
Stein, Mrs. William, 348
Steiner, Donald, 239
Steiner, Mrs. Don, 236
Steinert, Dana, 349
Steinert, Donald, 348
Steinert, Emil, 348
Steinert, Gerry, 348
Steinert, Gertrude, 185
Steinert, Gordon, 348
Steinert, Jennifer, 348
Steinert, Krista, 349
Steinert, Leo & Bertha, 347
Steinert, Leo, 255, 348, 363
Steinert, Matthew, 349
Steinert, Mrs. Gordon, 122
Steinert, Otto, 348
Steinert, Patricia, 348
Steinert, Richard & Karen, 348
Steinert, Sandra, 349
Steinert, Stephen, 349
Steinert, Susan, 349
Steinert, Sylvia, 299
Steinert, Synthia, 349
Steinert, Theodore, 228, 348
Steinke, Wilbert, 358
Steinkogler, Rev. Lawrence, 120
Steitz, Roy, 139
Stelter, Dr. Eugene, 134
Stelz, Pastor, 154
Stemlen, Philaben, 317
Stemper. Rev. F.X.A., 119
Stenberg, Arnold, 349
Stenberg, Barbara, 349
Stenberg, Bill, 349
Stenberg, Donald, 83, 349
Stenberg, Donna, 349
Stenberg, Doris, 349
Stenberg, Douglas, 349
Stenberg, Gini, 349
Stenberg, Jamie, 349
Stenberg, Jeff, 349
Stenberg, Jim, 349
Stenberg, Kathy, 349
Stenberg, Ken, 349
Stenberg, Lynn, 349
Stenberg, Margaret, 349
Stenberg, Mrs. Oscar, 62
Stenberg, Oscar, 349
Stenberg, Renee, 349
Stenberg, Sandra, 349
Stenberg, Sherron, 349
Stenberg, Susan, 349
Stenbert, Virginia, 349
Stenner, Toni, 323
Stensgaard, Rev. O. M., 46
Stensrud, Jean, 259
Stephens, Charles 'Chuck', 19, 29, 337, 349
Stephens, Cheryl, 349
Stephens, Jill, 349
Stephens, Karen, 349
Stephens, Linda, 349
Stephens, Mary Beth, 349
Stephens, Michael, 349
Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Casper, 349
Stephens, Richard, 349
Stevens, Barbara, 225
Stevens, Gov. Isaac I., 15, 16
Stevens, Helen, 255
Stevenson, Francis B., 122
Stich, Chris, 339
Stich, John P., 92
Stich, Louis, 339
Stich, Mrs. Peter, 339
Stickle, Mrs. Gordon, 326
Stocke, L. E., 298
Stocke, Shirley, 298
Stocken, Johanna Elizabeth, 372
Stokke, Janie, 254
Stokke, Kenneth, 125, 135
Stone, Jos., 144
Stone, Mrs Lawrence, 23
Stone, Mrs. Howard, 204
Stone, Mrs. William, 209
Stone, N. P., 181
Stoneouse, Catherine, 255
Stoneouse, Daniel, 53, 349, 350
Stoneouse, Danielle, 350
Stoneouse, Donald, 350
Stoneouse, Donavan, 350
Stoneouse, Duncan, 53
Stoneouse, Frances, 350
Stoneouse, James, 350
Stoneouse, Kristy, 350
Stoneouse, Margaret, 350
Stoneouse, Minnie, 350
Stoneouse, Myrna, 350
Stoneouse, Orlean, 350
Stoneouse, Ramona, 350
Stoneouse, Robert, 350
Stoneouse, Ronald, 350
Stoneouse-Huot, Katherine, 350
Stoneouse-Lange, Effie, 350
Stoneouse-Lyman, Sadie, 350
Storaasli, Ole Theodore, 54
Storaasli, S. O., 53, 57
Storhaug, Arthur, 373
Storhaug, Brent Arthur, 373
Storhaug, Eric Jason, 373
Storhaug, Gregory Edward, 373
Storhaug, Lee Jonathan, 373
Storhaug, Todd Matthew, 373
Storvick, Engvald, 350
Storvick, Lloyd, 350
Storvick, Mrs. Engvald, 223
Storvick, Peter, 350
Strand, Mr & Mrs Sam, 230
Strand, Valiere, 209
Strand Earl, 83
Strande, Anna, 37
Strande, Clifford, 351
Strande, Gerald, 351
Strande, Marvin, 15, 88, 155
Strande, Mr & Mrs Nels, 88
Strande, Nels, 79, 85, 351
Strande, Orrie, 336
Strande, Ray, 351
Stratonic, Brother Leo, 160
Streustofer, Mary, 254
Striddle, Cathy, 301
Striddle, Chuck, 301
Striddle, David, 301
Striddle, Marc, 301
Striegl, Ethel, 190
Strom, Anetta, 356
Strom, Mrs. Clarence, 275
Stromme, Annie, 85
Stromme, Betsy, 85
Stromme, Gertie, 85
Stromme, Gunder, 79, 85, 283
Stromme, Helga, 79, 85
Stromme, Mr & Mrs Gunder, 85
Stromme, Mr & Mrs Ole, 85
Stromme, Ole, 85
Stromme, Tollef, 85
Stromme, Tom, 85
Stromme, Willie, 85
Strunk, Miss M. E., 129
Struthers, Alden, 351
Struthers, Glenn, 351
Struthers, Janet, 226
Struthers, Julia, 351
Struthers, Lewis, 351
Struthers, Lorna, 351
Struthers, Mrs. Harold, 351
Struthers-Waller, 351
Stucy, Mrs. Duane, 299
Stuhr, Katherine, 266
Stuhr, Mary, 281
Stuhr, Sarah, 311
Stults, Bruce, 179
Stults, Dirk, 179
Stults, Mrs. Terry, 179
Stults, Tressa, 179
Sullentrop, Carol, 291
Sullentrop, Connie, 291
Sullentrop, John, 291
Sullentrop, Joseph, 291
Sullentrop, Laurie,, 291
Sullentrop, Mary, 291
Sullentrop, Mrs. J. R., 291
Sullentrop, Patricia, 291
Sullentrop, Terri, 291
Sullentrop, William, 291
Sullivan, F. C., 53
Sullivan, Father Louis, 93, 119
Sullivan, Jerry & Emmy, 135
Sullivan, Mrs. Jerome, 312
Summers, Steve, 323
Sundahl, Julette 'Jay', 328
Sundrud, Jack, 352
Sundrud, Jeff, 204, 352
Sundrud, Jonathan, 352
Sundrud, Omar & Erma, 352
Sundrud, Omar. M., 86, 351
Sundrud, Scott, 352
Suprenant, Alexine, 236, 249
Suprenant, John, 163
Suprenant, Joyce, 239
Surprenant, John Baptist Sr., 144, 180
Surprenant, Joyce, 68
Sutter, Emma, 94
Sutter, Simon, 105
Suttner, Anna, 340
Svaren, Dale, 284
Svenby, Gustaf, 35, 63
Svendsen, G., 61
Svendsen, O., 61
Svir, Helen Marie, 366
Svir, Mrs. Jerry, 366
Swain, Chester, 239
Swalbe, Bertha, 229
Swandby, Hilda, 346

Swanson, Agnes, 219, 352
Swanson, Arthur, 139, 219, 352
Swanson, August, 139, 219, 352
Swanson, C. O., 31
Swanson, Carl, 25, 139, 352
Swanson, Charles, 31
Swanson, Christina, 139
Swanson, Doris, 352
Swanson, Ellen Marie, 59, 352
Swanson, Ethel, 328
Swanson, Eunice, 352
Swanson, Fredolph, 139, 352
Swanson, Gust, 60
Swanson, Ida, 352
Swanson, Jenny, 352
Swanson, Loretta, 312
Swanson, Mabel, 352
Swanson, Mamie, 68
Swanson, Martha, 259
Swanson, Mary Ann, 352
Swanson, Minnie, 37, 143
Swanson, Mr & Mrs Gust, 59
Swanson, Mr. & Mrs. C. O., 328
Swanson, Mr., 126
Swanson, Mrs. Ida, 320
Swanson, Mrs. Kenneth, 352
Swanson, Mrs. S. A., 320
Swanson, Otto & Ida, 352
Swanson, Otto, 54, 139, 219, 352
Swanson, Robert, 352
Swanson, S. J., 148
Swanson, Selma, 352
Swanson, Solomon, 139, 352
Swanson, Swan A., 18, 19
Swanson, Walter, 138, 352
Swanstrom, Eric, 172
Swanstrom, Mark, 172
Swanstrom, Mrs. Berway, 172
Swedberg, Hulda, 115
Swem, Geraldine, 216
Swendby, Gustav, 335
Swendsgaard, Kathy, 360
Swenseid, Irene, 45
Swenson, Darrel, 254
Swenson, Gust, 60, 62
Swenson, Ida, 219
Swenson, Konstance, 61
Swenson, Mr. & Mrs. Ole, 362
Swenson, Ole, 60
Swenson, Selmer, 61
Swenson, Shirley, 123
Swenson, Willie, 59
Swiderski, Arnie, 217
Switzer, Mrs. Frank, 321
Swollanberg, Jack, 148
Sylvester, Hon. J. H., 122
Systveit, Clara, 55
Syverson, Mrs, Edwin, 202
Syversrud, K. E., 53
Syversrud, Kari, 227
Syversrud, Knut & Elizabeth, 261
Syversrud, Nup, 53, 261
Syversrud, Synneve, 261
Szaalay, Josef, 329
Taggetz, Gene, 333
Taggetz, Josephine, 143
Talley, Craig, 338
Talley, James, 338
Talley, Mark, 338
Talley, Paul, 338
Talley, Stephen, 338
Tallon, Frank, 349
Tanberg, Emma, 44
Tande, Olaf, 269
Tande, Olaf, 41, 59, 60, 61, 62
Tanner, George, 49
Tapin, Rev. A., 142
Targeon, Ann, 325
Tarum, Rose, 37
Taylor, Fred, 137
Taylor, Mr. & Mrs., 267
Teal, Violet, 339
Teigen, Archie, 89
Tellefsen, William, 270
Temp, Dr. George E., 235
Temp, John Arthur, 235
Temp, Karan, 328
Temp, Tracy Louise, 235
Tenter, Iona, 216
Tessier, Delina, 310
Tessier, Dr. & Mrs., 342, 344
Tessier, Dr. W. O., 80, 86, 141, 242, 263, 351
Tessier, Flore, 86, 342, 344
Tessier, Mrs. Onezime, 179
Tessier, Onezime, 86, 141
Thamert, Joe, 233
Tharaldson, Anne, 44
Thayer, Phillip, 67
Theillon, Father Elie, 75, 84, 93, 142, 180, 256
Therorault, George, 208
Theroux, Angele, 353
Theroux, Annie, 353
Theroux, Barbara, 199, 314, 353
Theroux, Bert, 353
Theroux, Claudette, 353
Theroux, Clinton & Pauline, 353
Theroux, Clinton, 41, 51, 125, 172, 314, 353
Theroux, Delima, 353
Theroux, Dorothy, 314, 353
Theroux, Douglas, 353
Theroux, Emma, 353
Theroux, Eva Mae, 164, 314, 353
Theroux, Gary, 314, 353
Theroux, Harry, 353
Theroux, Herby, 353
Theroux, Herman, 353
Theroux, Hormidas, 353
Theroux, Jean Marie, 353
Theroux, Jean, 314
Theroux, Joe, 199, 353
Theroux, Joseph & Leah, 164
Theroux, Lee Anthony, 372
Theroux, Lemi, 353
Theroux, Louis, 190, 353
Theroux, Malvine, 353
Theroux, Marc, 314, 353
Theroux, Marie, 190, 353
Theroux, Marvin, 314, 353
Theroux, Mathilda, 353
Theroux, Mrs. Clinton, 321
Theroux, Mrs. Harry, 175
Theroux, Mrs. Joe, 314
Theroux, Paul, 314, 353
Theroux, Pauline, 51, 125
Theroux, Philip, 353
Theroux, Philomene, 353
Theroux, Renee Mary, 372
Theroux, Rita, 314, 353
Theroux, Rose Alma, 353
Theroux, Rosie, 340
Theroux, Telesphore, 353
Theroux, Valerie, 158, 353
Therrien, J., 144
Thibert, John, 354
Thibert, Agnes, 353
Thibert, Deborah, 173
Thibert, Dwight & Betty, 135
Thibert, Dwight, 353, 354
Thibert, Gary, 354
Thibert, George & Agnes, 354
Thibert, George, 135, 180, 181, 353
Thibert, Georgiana, 205, 353
Thibert, Gerald W., 29, 123, 353
Thibert, Greg, 354
Thibert, Henry E., 254, 353
Thibert, James, 354
Thibert, Jerry, 353
Thibert, Joseph, 103, 353
Thibert, Lynette, 353
Thibert, Mae, 345, 353
Thibert, Maurice, 353
Thibert, Michael, 354
Thibert, Michelle, 354
Thibert, Moise, 144, 353
Thibert, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph, 103
Thibert, Mrs. Parnell, 285
Thibert, Mrs. Roger, 253
Thibert, Nancy, 353
Thibert, Parnell, 103
Thibert, Patrick, 354
Thibert, Raymond, 353
Thibert, Robert, 307, 308, 353
Thibert, Roger, 135, 222, 353
Thibert, Rose, 125, 353
Thibert, Stephen, 354
Thibert, Timothy, 353
Thibert, Vern, 353
Thibodeau, Agnes, 179, 354
Thibodeau, Eraine, 179, 354
Thibodeau, Francis, 179, 354
Thibodeau, Helen, 179, 354
Thibodeau, Ida, 179, 354
Thibodeau, Leo, 179, 354
Thibodeau, Levite, 179, 354
Thibodeau, Lucy, 179, 354
Thibodeau, Mildred, 125
Thibodeau, Roseanna, 125
Thibodeau, Thomas, 179, 354
Thill, Jacob, 222
Thoburn, Isabella, 292
Thode, Ann, 354
Thode, Arlen, 354
Thode, Arnold, 354
Thode, Carl, 94, 354
Thode, Carol, 354
Thode, Clara, 354
Thode, David, 354
Thode, Ernest, 354
Thode, Fred, 354
Thode, Gerhardt, 354
Thode, Henry Jr., 304, 354
Thode, Henry Sr., 20, 354
Thode, Joyce, 354
Thode, Louise, 354
Thode, Mrs. Fred, 176
Thode, Mrs. Henry, 256
Thode, Nick, 354
Thode, Paul, 354
Thode, Raymond, 354
Thode, Roger, 354
Thoen, Rudolph, 55
Thomas, Mrs. John, 310
Thompson, Aslak, 354
Thompson, Betsy, 275
Thompson, Betsy, 354
Thompson, David, 5, 6, 8
Thompson, Debbie, 354
Thompson, Emma, 275, 354
Thompson, Gunder, 53, 54
Thompson, Jean, 223
Thompson, Jeffrey, 354
Thompson, Jessica Anne, 349

Thompson, Marne & Shirley, 135, 354
Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Aslak, 275
Thompson, Mrs. Dennis, 310
Thompson, Mrs. Paul, 349
Thompson, Olaf & Evelyn, 204
Thompson, Rev. G. S., 120
Thompson, Tommy, 275, 354
Thompson, Tonetta, 223
Thoreson, Alfred, 355
Thoreson, Alice, 355
Thoreson, Anna, 355
Thoreson, Bertha, 355
Thoreson, Brede & Marie, 355
Thoreson, Brede, 326, 355, 362
Thoreson, Ellen, 326
Thoreson, Emelie, 355
Thoreson, Hannah, 326
Thoreson, Harold, 326
Thoreson, Harry, 326
Thoreson, Mathilda, 326, 355
Thoreson, Mrs. Ardell, 252
Thoreson, Nick, 37, 326
Thoreson, Nickolai, 355
Thoreson, Rose, 355, 362
Thoreson, Sarah, 37
Thoreson, Segrid, 61, 355
Thorfinnson, David, 355
Thorfinnson, Dennis, 355
Thorfinnson, Kristi, 355
Thorfinnson, Mildred, 19
Thorfinnson, Richard, 355
Thorfinnson, Vaughn & Mildred, 355
Thorfinnson, Vaughn, 26, 112
Thorpe, Mrs. Fritz (Bessie), 241
Thorson, Henry, 196
Thorson, Mrs. Walter, 367
Thorson, Olive, 196
Thorson, T. W., 26
Thorstenson, Mrs. Paul, 352
Thune, Norris, 135, 309
Thye, Edward, 55
Thyren, Paul, 139
Tibbetts, Currie, 197
Tibbetts, F. Currie, 134
Tiederman, Marlene, 337
Tillman, Albert, 355
Tillman, Bertha, 355
Tillman, Emil, 355
Tillman, Frank, 355
Tillman, Fred, 355
Tillman, Glendyce, 355
Tillman, Henry, 355
Tillman, Herman, 355
Tillman, Kern, 355
Tillman, Mr. & Mrs. Henry, 201
Tillman, Paul, 355
Tillman, Pauline, 201, 355
Tillman, Segrid Anderson, 49
Tillman, Walter, 355
Tinkham, Colleen, 238
Tipton, Mr. & Mrs. Cordis, 293
Tischart, Alex, 356
Tischart, Anton, 356
Tischart, Barbara, 356
Tischart, Catherine, 125
Tischart, Charles, 125, 356
Tischart, Dale, 356
Tischart, Daniel, 356
Tischart, Dorothy, 356
Tischart, Duane, 356
Tischart, Edmond, 356
Tischart, Elaine, 356
Tischart, George, 356
Tischart, Janet, 356
Tischart, Jill, 356
Tischart, John 'Jack', 153, 154, 255, 356
Tischart, John B., 355
Tischart, Joseph, 355, 356
Tischart, Kenneth, 135, 246, 356
Tischart, Lena, 22, 142
Tischart, Margaret, 125
Tischart, Marie Anna, 356
Tischart, Marie Antoinette, 356
Tischart, Marie, 356
Tischart, Mary Amalia, 356
Tischart, Mary Amanda, 356
Tischart, Mary Magdalen, 356
Tischart, Mr. & Mrs. Jack, 131
Tischart, Mrs. Duane, 295
Tischart, Mrs. George, 173
Tischart, Mrs. Kenneth, 351
Tischart, Teri, 356
Tischart, Yvonne, 264, 356
Tischart-Carriere, Dorothy, 311
Tischart-Clark, Dolores, 356
Tischart-Dickens, Merlyn, 356
Tischart-Welle, Jackie, 356
Toban, Julia, 142
Tobias, Francis W., 45, 46
Todd, M. E., 141
Todd, Professor, 148
Tollefson, Mrs. R. W., 124
Tollefson, R. W., 129
Tollefson, Thea, 371
Toms, Miss, 45
Tongen, Bob, 135
Tonneson, A. M., 53, 54
Torburg, Bena, 228
Torgerson, Alma, 85
Torgerson, Annie, 85
Torgerson, Dr W. B., 9, 86
Torgerson, Gunda, 77
Torgerson, J. A. C., 79
Torgerson, Jim, 60
Torgerson, Milt, 297
Torgerson, Mr & Mrs Torger, 85
Torgerson, Mrs W. B., 86
Torgerson, Ole, 85
Torgerson, Oscar, 85
Torgerson, Rev. & Mrs T. A. 86
Torgerson, Theodore, 60, 82
Torgerson, Tom, 85
Torgerson, Torge, 60, 77
Torgerson, W. B., 79, 85
Torgerson, William, 82
Torjerson, Gunsten, 60
Torkelson, Davie, 356
Torkelson, Duane, 308
Torkelson, G. Leonard, 356
Torkelson, George, 356
Torkelson, Margaret, 268
Torkelson, Mari, 360
Torkelson, Mrs. Helen, 356
Torkelson, Myron, 356
Torkelson, Ole & Margit, 268
Torkelson, Ole, 54, 356
Torske, Alton, 356
Torske, Henry, 61, 356
Torske, John, 356
Torske, Lars, 60, 356
Torske, Lorina, 356
Torske, Severt, 59, 61, 356
Torstveidt, Arthur, 51
Torstveit, Howard, 214
Torstveit, Sharon, 214
Torstveit, Wendy, 214
Toth, Terezia, 329
Tougas, Algina, 153
Tougas, Angelina, 153
Tougas, Charles, 153
Tougas, Ludger, 153
Toulouse, Albert, 357
Toulouse, Clara, 77
Toulouse, Dean, 357
Toulouse, Frank, 357
Toulouse, Jane, 356
Toulouse, Janice, 357
Toulouse, Jim, 357
Toulouse, John, 304, 356
Toulouse, Kate, 356
Toulouse, Lorraine, 357
Toulouse, Louis Jr., 356, 357
Toulouse, Louis, 77, 356
Toulouse, Margaret, 358
Toulouse, Matty, 356
Toulouse, Michael, 95
Toulouse, Nellie, 304, 356, 357
Toulouse, Rachelle, 37
Toulouse, Rose, 356
Toulouse, Thomas, 168, 261, 356, 357
Toulouse, Unis, 356
Toulouse, Walter, 51, 357
Toupin, A. P., 9, 129
Toupin, Coranna, 142
Toupin, Dolor, 144
Toupin, Edith, 261
Toupin, Henry, 144
Toupin, Ida, 208
Toupin, J. B., 144
Toupin, Mrs. Arthur, 311
Toupin, Pascal Jr., 144
Toupin, Pascal Sr., 144
Toupin, Rolland J., 261
Tousignant, Harry, 258
Tousley, Clara B., 230
Tousley, Elizabeth, 168
Toutant, Louise, 195
Tranby, Aagot, 223
Tranby, Agnes, 223
Tranby, Peter, 223
Trangsrud, Marty, 339
Trangsrud, Mrs. Milo, 339
Travis, Gene, 298
Travis, Janice, 298
Tresp, Walter, 351
Trontvedt, Gene, 350
Trontvedt, Larry, 350
Troska, Chad, 192
Troska, Marc, 192
Troska, Paul, 192
Trotties, Rosalie, 159
Troumbly, Bernice, 358
Troumbly, Ed, 123
Troumbly, Edmond & Winifred, 357
Troumbly, Elvia, 358
Troumbly, Ernest & Jemina, 357
Troumbly, Godelyne, 358
Troumbly, Margaret, 244
Troumbly, Muriel, 358
Troumbly, Theonilla, 358
Troumbly, Vivienne, 358
Trudeau, Cerisa, 162
Trudeau, Edgar, 232
Trudeau, Father Charles O., 84, 142
Trudeau, H. J., 124
Trudeau, Jeanette, 192
Trudeau, Mrs. Harvey, 124
Trudeau, Mrs. Richard, 221
Trydahl, Aase Olive Thea, 54
Trydal, Osmund, 54
Tschida, Wahnita, 45
Tschirhart, Catherine, 355

Tschirhart, Dr. Peter J., 355
Tschirhart, George, 355
Tschirhart, Henry, 355
Tschirhart, John B., 355
Tschirhart, John, 355
Tschirhart, Joseph, 355
Tschirhart, Ludwig, 355
Tschirhart, Marianna, 355
Tschirhart, Mary, 355
Tschirhart, Regina, 355
Tschirhart, Rosina, 355
Tucker, Gladys, 316
Tuff, Jane R., 240
Turcotte, Eurchariste, 290
Turcotte, Idella, 177, 178
Turgeon, Anton Ferdinand, 77, 157, 358
Turgeon, Dorothy, 205
Turgeon, Felixine, 358
Turgeon, John, 358
Turgeon, Louis, 358
Turgeon, Mae B., 157
Turgeon, Mrs. Ed, 307
Turgeon, Rose Anna, 77, 358
Turgeon, Walter, 163
Tuskind, Johanne, 345
Tvedt, Mrs Henry, 46
Twete, Donna, 358
Twete, Dr. Leonard R., 155, 219, 358
Twete, Louis, 278, 358
Twete, Ruth, 358
Twinam, Louise, 117
Twomey, Audrey, 179
Tydlacka, Alan, 358
Tydlacka, Chuck, 358
Tydlacka, Jerry, 358
Tydlacka, Mary Jo, 358
Tydlacka, Michael, 289, 358
Tydlacka, Tim, 289, 358
Tydlacka, Tom & Myrtle, 134, 358
Tydlacka, Tony, 289
Ueland, Frances, 219
Uggerude, Mar. Orlando, 272
Ullereng, T. C., 117
Ulrich, Alvin, 359
Ulrich, Arthur, 359
Ulrich, Bonnie, 359
Ulrich, Carl, 358
Ulrich, Cheryl, 359
Ulrich, Craig, 177
Ulrich, Darryl, 359
Ulrich, Dora, 342
Ulrich, Dorothy, 359
Ulrich, Ernest, 359
Ulrich, Fred Jr., 359
Ulrich, Fred Sr., 342, 358, 359
Ulrich, Gayle, 359
Ulrich, Hulda, 359
Ulrich, John, 26, 139, 342, 358, 359
Ulrich, Julie, 177, 359
Ulrich, Kenneth & Linda, 359
Ulrich, Kenneth, 177
Ulrich, Louis, 250
Ulrich, Marie, 358
Ulrich, Minnie, 359
Ulrich, Mr. & Mrs. John, 359
Ulrich, Rabnold, 359
Ulrich, Renette, 359
Ulrich, William, 154, 359
Underdahl, G. O., 53
Uphever, Anna, 294
Uran, George, 248
Urrich, Craig, 359
Ursula, Sister, 229
Useldinger, Caroline, 244
Useldinger, Mr. & Mrs. Gregor, 244
Utech, Mrs. Harold, 369
Vaaler, David, 120
Vad, Arlen, 281
Vad, Arlene, 280
Vailancourt, Philomene, 353
Vaillancourt, Henry, 242
Vake, Knute, 218
Vake, Mrs. Hans, 161
Vake, Mrs. Knute, 62
Valenta, Francis, 356
Valiani, Aldo, 250
Vallenta, Joseph, 356
Valley, Cecilia, 318
Valley, Mrs. Albert, 207
Vallie, Jos., 144
Van Lith, Cornelius, 313
VanDenEinde, Anthony, 334
VanDenEinde, Connie, 334
VanDenEinde, John, 334
VanDenEinde, Sheila, 334
Vandersluis, Dr. Charles, 16
Vandervaal, Izora, 37
Vandervaal, Laura, 37, 307
Vanderwaal, Minnie, 143
VanderWeg, Charles, 341
VanderWeg, Jacob, 160
VanSant, Samuel R., 226
VanVickle, Shirley, 255
VanWort, Mildred, 179
VanWyk, Cecile, 178
Vanyo, Marie (Monica), 295
Vanyo, Monica, 295
Varen, Georgiana, 77
Varey, Zella, 179
Varin, Blanch, 359
Varin, Dan, 359
Varin, Eugenie, 359
Varin, Georgette, 359
Varin, Hector, 359
Varin, Jacob, 359
Varin, Jenny, 359
Varin, Joe, 359
Varin, Josephine, 359
Varin, Mr & Mrs Paul, 81
Varin, Mr. & Mrs. Octave, 368
Varin, Octave, 24, 25, 359
Varin, Paul, 359
Varin, Pierce, 359
Varin, Reine, 359
Varin, Remee, 359
Varin, Reney, 77
Varin, Roma, 367, 368
Varrie, John, 220
Vasend, Oscar O., 261
Vasstrand, Ed, 54
Vattendahl, Anne, 78
Vattendahl, Olaf, 78, 89
Vatthauer, Billy, 360
Vatthauer, Brian, 360
Vatthauer, Calvin, 360
Vatthauer, Clarence, 26, 105, 106, 190, 359, 360
Vatthauer, Dale Michael, 360
Vatthauer, David, 360
Vatthauer, Dean, 206, 250, 360
Vatthauer, Donald, 360
Vatthauer, Ellen, 360
Vatthauer, Eric, 360
Vatthauer, Ernest, 360
Vatthauer, Frieda, 358, 360
Vatthauer, Harold, 38, 46
Vatthauer, Henry, 315, 358, 359
Vatthauer, Irene, 315, 360
Vatthauer, James, 360
Vatthauer, Joan, 360
Vatthauer, Julie, 360
Vatthauer, Kimberly, 360
Vatthauer, Kristen, 360
Vatthauer, Lisa Anne, 360
Vatthauer, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest, 360
Vatthauer, Mrs. Henry, 219
Vaudrin, Anna, 190
Vaudrin, Annette, 156
Vaudrin, Carol Jean, 160, 360
Vaudrin, Dwain, 160, 360
Vaudrin, Edward, 190
Vaudrin, Josephine, 153
Vaudrin, Larry, 160, 360
Vaudrin, Monica, 160, 360
Vaudrin, Orphier, 160, 360
Vaudrin-Moncalm, Josephine, 190
Vaudry, Rev., 142
Vayno, Andrew & Anna, 295
Veano, Mrs. William, 303
Vedbraaten, James, 171
Veillerux, G. T., 80
Veilleux, Rev. S., 142
Veitch, T. B., 53
Velz, Joanne, 183
Verbonceor, Agnes, 288
Verbonceor, Mr. & Mrs. Mose, 288
Verhas, Amelia, 370
Vervinckt, Edwardus, 370
Vervinckt, Sophia, 370
Vesey, Mrs. Math., 138
Vettleson, Deborah, 195
Vettleson, Halvor, 59, 60
Vettleson, Herbert, 356
Vettleson, Knut, 260
Vettleson, Wanda, 204
Vicento, Susan, 328
Vickery, Louis, 94
Vigstol, Anne, 361
Vigstol, Daniel, 361
Vigstol, David, 361
Vigstol, Eldon, 35
Vigstol, John Eldon, 361
Vigstol, John, 360
Vigstol, Lee, 361
Vigstol, Maribeth, 361
Vigstol, Neil, 361
Vigstol, Nels & Effie, 360
Vigstol, Ray, 361
Vigstol, Richard, 361
Vigstol, Russell, 361
Vigstol, Steven, 361
Vikoren, Martha, 262
Vilain, S. 75
Villars, Martin, 37, 252
Villars, Mette, 252
Villwock, Rev. Robert J., 49, 122
Vilven, Mrs. Milo, 183
Vinge, Harriet, 370
Violet, Miss, 185
Violet, Mr. & Mrs. Francois, 187
Violet, Ozetta, 187
Violette, Agnes, 361
Violette, Albert, 361
Violette, Clarence, 361
Violette, David, 361
Violette, Dora, 361
Violette, Dorothy 'Sr. Karen', 361
Violette, Dorothy, 361
Violette, Eli, 361
Violette, Florence, 187, 361
Violette, Francis, 361
Violette, Frank, 257, 361
Violette, Fred, 112, 135, 361

Violette, Harriet, 135
Violette, Karen, 204
Violette, Louis, 283, 361
Violette, Mary Ann, 361
Violette, Maurice, 361
Violette, Mrs. Emery, 361
Violette, Mrs. Fred, 336
Violette, Omer, 361
Violette, Rose, 361
Violette, Sophie 'Sr. Justina', 361
Violette, Sophie, 257, 361
Violette, Susan, 361
Violette, Victoria, 361
Violette, Walter, 361
Violette, Wayne, 125
Violette, Wilbert, 361
Vogel, Myrtle, 310
Vollmer, Mrs. Henry, 187
Vollom, Thomas, 26
VonDonselaar, Henrietta, 207
VonWald, Arline, 125
VonWald, Cyril, 125
Vore, Miss, 45
Votava, Miss, 139
Voxland, Carole, 179
Vuellieux, Father, 145
Waale, Thomas, 54
Wager, Colleen, 158
Wagner, Charles, 369
Wagner, Edna, 176, 369
Wagner, George, 156, 324
Wagner, Leslie, 46
Wagner, Mrs. Arnold, 272
Wagner, Mrs. Harvey, 365
Waha, I. Willie, 243
Wahl, B. A., 53
Wahl, Dennis, 117, 361
Wahl, Jackie, 361
Wahl, Jill, 361
Wahl, Jodi, 361
Wahlbeck, Don, 264
Wahlbeck, Kathy, 264
Wahlbeck, Kristi, 264
Wahlbeck, Willie, 31
Wahlen, George, 31
Walbaug, Mrs. Swan, 62
Walch, Don, 344
Wald, Marlene, 276
Waldal, Alfred J., 36, 50, 224, 296, 362
Waldal, Alvin, 362
Waldal, Beatrice, 23, 47, 260, 362
Waldal, Carolyn, 362
Waldal, Clara, 362
Waldal, Emma, 277, 362
Waldal, George, 260, 362
Waldal, Helen, 362
Waldal, Jacob O., 35, 50, 362
Waldal, James, 362
Waldal, Jennie, 362
Waldal, Joyce, 242
Waldal, Lawrence, 20, 362
Waldal, Marie, 343, 362
Waldal, Marius, 362
Waldal, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred, 260
Waldal, Mrs. Alfred, 355
Waldal, Olga, 362
Waldal, Rosella, 362
Waldal, Selma, 362
Waldron, Dr., 366
Walhaug, C. A., 25
Walhaug, Carol, 363
Walhaug, Clarence, 362
Walhaug, Eswin, 362
Walhaug, Evind, 362
Walhaug, Ida, 363
Walhaug, Lillian, 363
Walhaug, Lloyd, 363
Walhaug, Rosanna, 363
Walhaug, Selmer A., 24, 88, 363
Walhaug, Sharon, 363
Walhaug, Shelly Jean, 363
Walhaug, Shirley, 363
Walhaug, Swan, 60, 61, 362, 363
Walhaug, Walter, 363
Walhaug, Wayne, 363
Walhof, Barry, 241
Walhof, Erv, 241
Walhof, Reed, 241
Walhof, Ross, 241
Walker, Alan, 363
Walker, Amy, 363
Walker, Andrew, 122
Walker, Arlene, 363
Walker, Becky, 363
Walker, Bert, 344
Walker, Brian, 363
Walker, Bruce, 344
Walker, Charles, 46
Walker, Clayton, 68, 363
Walker, Delmaine, 55, 344
Walker, Diane, 363
Walker, Dianna, 291
Walker, Dolly, 277, 344
Walker, Donald, 68, 363
Walker, Douglas, 344
Walker, E, B., 53
Walker, Ernest, 344
Walker, George, 344, 363
Walker, Grace, 363
Walker, James, 53, 55, 56, 344
Walker, Larry, 344
Walker, Leslie, 55, 344
Walker, Lloyd, 363
Walker, Marceline, 331
Walker, Mari, 291
Walker, Martin E., 344, 363
Walker, Martin Paul 'Marty', 344, 364
Walker, Mary, 344
Walker, Mr. & Mrs. James A., 363
Walker, Mrs Mary, 53
Walker, Mrs. Bert, 222
Walker, Mrs. Martin, 339
Walker, Mrs. Russ, 312
Walker, Mrs. T. A., 291
Walker, Paul, 363
Walker, Philip, 363
Walker, Rex, 344
Walker, Robert, 344
Walker, Roy, 328
Walker, Sharon, 196, 363
Walker, Terry, 344
Walker, Thomas, 291
Walker, Tim, 344
Walker, Violet, 342
Wall, B. A., 61
Wallace, Henry, 292
Waller, Julia A., 351
Waller, Mary Beth, 351
Waller, Wandalee, 351, 356
Walseth, Delphine, 55
Walsh, Edmund, 32
Walsh, Edna, 32
Walsh, Joan, 337
Walter, Andrew, 364
Walter, Anna, 345, 364
Walter, Duane, 333
Walter, Herb, 26
Walter, John & Margaret, 152, 345
Walter, John, 364
Walter, Margaret, 152, 293, 364
Walter, Mary, 364
Walter, Mrs. Herbert, 313
Walter, Mrs. Ray, 295
Walter, Philip, 364
Walter, Waldamar, 51
Wangsness, Evelyn, 214
Wangsted, Albert, 60
Wangsted, Gust, 60
Wanke, E. J., 79
Warberg, Rudolph, 77
Warner, Charles, 262
Warner, Charlotte, 262
Warner, Jack, 262
Warner, Jewell, 262
Warren, Bobbie, 238
Warren, Mrs. Walter, 214
Warstad, Emma, 364
Warstad, Inga, 356, 364
Warstad, Lena, 364
Warstad, Marie, 364
Warstad, Sam, 60, 364
Warstad, Selmer, 364
Warstad, Simon, 364
Washebek, Irene, 198
Watsend, A. O., 54
Watson, Dr. N. M., 10, 35, 127, 201, 210, 364
Watson, Neill Malcolm, 304, 364
Watson, Orilla, 160
Wavra, Brian, 365
Wavra, Dale, 365
Wavra, Daniel, 365
Wavra, Dorn & Mary, 365
Wavra, Jane, 365
Wavra, Joel, 365
Wavra, Michael, 365
Wavra, RaeAnn, 365
Wavra, Vern, 27, 31, 365
Weakley, Mrs. Ben, 237
Weaver, George, 173
Weber, Harold, 216
Weber, Henry, 239
Weber, Keith, 216
Weber, Mrs. Sophie, 365
Weber, Richard, 216
Weber, Wayne, 216
Weblishauser, Mrs. Frank, 306
Wedger, Hazel, 204, 205
Wedul, Annie, 37
Weed, Mrs. V. A., 255
Wegner, Frank, 143
Weigand, Mrs. G. C., 243
Weigand, Roberta, 46
Weiland, Margaret, 253
Weinberg, Rev. George, 166
Weinhandl, Mary, 373
Weis, Mrs. Don, 318
Weis, Mrs. James, 176
Weis, Tricia, 318
Weise, Ella Mae, 329
Weiseler, Father Larry, 332
Weiss, Adeline, 166, 220, 237, 365
Weiss, Anna, 365
Weiss, Arlan, 366
Weiss, Arlyce, 192, 366
Weiss, Betty, 365
Weiss, Bonnie, 366
Weiss, Bridette Noel, 365
Weiss, Dana, 366
Weiss, David, 365, 366
Weiss, Dorothy, 365
Weiss, Erwin, 22, 50, 72, 365, 366
Weiss, Evelyn, 365

Weiss, Fred, 31, 177, 248, 365, 369
Weiss, Gary, 365, 366
Weiss, George, 106, 365
Weiss, Helen, 336
Weiss, Henry, 41, 365, 366
Weiss, Ida, 232
Weiss, Jean, 365
Weiss, Jenny, 365
Weiss, John, 365
Weiss, Jonathan Michael, 365
Weiss, Kelly, 366
Weiss, Larrina, 365
Weiss, Lila, 221, 365
Weiss, Linda, 366
Weiss, Louise, 173, 365
Weiss, Ludwig, 72, 365
Weiss, Margie, 365
Weiss, Marie, 177, 365
Weiss, Mildred, 271, 365
Weiss, Minnie, 365
Weiss, Mr. & Mrs. Fred, 166, 221
Weiss, Mr. & Mrs. George, 365
Weiss, Mrs. David, 313
Weiss, Mrs. Fred, 231
Weiss, Mrs. Gary, 155
Weiss, Mrs. Richard, 340
Weiss, Paul, 365
Weiss, Randy, 366
Weiss, Richard, 25, 192, 365, 366
Weiss, Ronald, 366
Weiss, Sandra, 366
Weiss, Sherry, 366
Weiss, Sophie, 365
Welte, Walter, 56
Wenski, Mrs. Lenny, 198
Wentz, Mrs. Larry, 308
Werges, Rosanne, 216
Wertz, Alice, 366
Wertz, George, 366
West, Edward F., 134
Westerland, Dave, 20
Westerland, Mrs. Ray, 278
Westerlund, Gust, 50
Westerlund, Hulda, 372
Westerlund, Ida A., 206, 252
Westerlund, John, 50, 205
Westerlund, Mrs. Ethel, 324
Westerman, Rita, 106
Westlake, John, 37
Westmoreland, Mrs. B. R., 233
Westphall, Grace, 238
Wetch, Mary Ann, 205
Wetenkamp, Bob & Doris, 229
Wetenkamp, Christ, 326, 366
Wetenkamp, Daniel, 366
Wetenkamp, Emma, 366
Wetenkamp, Erwin 'Mike', 91, 366
Wetenkamp, Erwin Jr., 91
Wetenkamp, Fred, 229, 366
Wetenkamp, George, 366
Wetenkamp, Gertrude, 366
Wetenkamp, Helen, 94, 366
Wetenkamp, Irene, 366
Wetenkamp, R. H., 366
Wetenkamp, Reinhold, 366
Wetenkamp, Susan, 366
Wetenkamp, William, 366
Wetleson, Knut, 62
Wettson, Knut, 53
Whalen, Anna, 367
Whalen, Anne, 367
Whalen, Dan, 367
Whalen, Emma M., 334, 366
Whalen, Eva, 125
Whalen, Florence, 366
Whalen, George, 366, 367
Whalen, Grace, 367
Whalen, Greg, 366
Whalen, Hazel, 366
Whalen, James, 366
Whalen, Joe, 366, 367
Whalen, John, 31
Whalen, Josephine, 367
Whalen, Kerence, 366
Whalen, Kerence, 53
Whalen, Kieran, 23, 367
Whalen, Kitty, 367
Whalen, Leone, 367
Whalen, Mary, 194, 367
Whalen, Mollie, 367
Whalen, Rose, 367
Whalen, Thomas, 105, 367
Whalen, Tom, 366, 367
Whalen, W. O., 366
Whalen-Drees, Mary, 143, 353
Whaling, Ed., 207
Wheeler, and Nelson, 144
Wheeler, Bert, 309
Wheeler, E. F., 254, 339
Wheeler, E. W., 24
Whipple, R. J., 14
White, Delores, 250
White, Mrs. George, 354
Whiteley, F. A., 117
Whitely, Amanda, 233, 287
Whlhaug, Mrs Edwin, 62
Whybrew, Mrs. Waldo, 222
Whyte, Duane, 136
Wichmann, Rev. L., 120
Wichtereman, Louis, 368
Wichterman, Adeline, 367
Wichterman, Alice, 368
Wichterman, Alvin, 367
Wichterman, Alyce, 297
Wichterman, Andrew, 367
Wichterman, Arnold, 264
Wichterman, Art, 367, 368
Wichterman, Bernard 'Ben', 367, 368
Wichterman, Bob, 368
Wichterman, Donald, 51
Wichterman, E. L., 41
Wichterman, Edward, 189
Wichterman, Elaine, 367
Wichterman, Eleanore, 367
Wichterman, Elizabeth, 32
Wichterman, Elsie, 203, 368
Wichterman, Evelyn, 368
Wichterman, Florence Marie, 261
Wichterman, Glenn, 368
Wichterman, Gordon, 368
Wichterman, Gregory, 368
Wichterman, Harvey, 367
Wichterman, Hattie, 189
Wichterman, Jack, 368
Wichterman, Jane, 368
Wichterman, Jonas, 368
Wichterman, Joseph, 367
Wichterman, Judy, 368
Wichterman, Kenneth, 368
Wichterman, Leon, 368
Wichterman, Lorraine, 367
Wichterman, Louis, 180, 367
Wichterman, Mary, 264, 368
Wichterman, Melissa, 368
Wichterman, Michael, 368
Wichterman, Minnie, 368
Wichterman, Monica, 367
Wichterman, Mr & Mrs Ray, 49
Wichterman, Mrs Mae, 101
Wichterman, Mrs. Louis, 209
Wichterman, Mrs. Olive, 38
Wichterman, Mrs. Richard, 226
Wichterman, Nancy, 368
Wichterman, Patrick, 368
Wichterman, Pauline, 367
Wichterman, Raymond, 368
Wichterman, Reno, 368
Wichterman, Rose, 161
Wichterman, Sadie, 261
Wichterman, Sally, 368
Wichterman, Scott, 264
Wichterman, Tom, 368
Wichterman, Walter, 368
Wicks, Danielle, 155
Wicks, George, 369
Wicks, Harry, 369
Wicks, Helen, 369
Wicks, Jeff, 155
Wicks, Leona, 369
Wicks, Lorna, 155
Wicks, Marie, 231, 232, 243, 369
Wicks, Michael, 155
Wicks, Paul, 231, 368, 369
Wicks, Raymond, 155, 369
Wicks-Campbell, Eva, 369
Wickstrom, Anne, 369
Wickstrom, Gust, 369
Wickstrom, Harold, 369
Wickstrom, Mae, 227, 369
Wickstrom, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Adolf, 369
Wickstrom, Olga, 369
Wickstrom, Oscar, 369
Wickstrom, Victor, 369
Wicky, Mrs. 62
Widenhoefer, Rev. Ed., 121
Widger, Esther, 37
Wieland, Alvis, 369
Wieland, Dean, 369
Wieland, Debra Lynn, 369
Wieland, Donald, 369
Wieland, Eleanor, 176, 243, 318, 369
Wieland, Henry, 26, 230, 369
Wieland, Kenneth, 148, 369
Wieland, Kristi Ann, 369
Wieland, Marilyn, 125
Wieland, Mrs. George, 183
Wieland, Todd Philip, 369
Wieland, Walter, 176, 369
Wiese, Bertha, 286
Wiesler, Rev. Larry, 49, 98, 100, 142, 370
Wilcox, Ada, 369
Wilcox, Clifford, 369
Wilcox, Harold, 45
Wilcox, Mr. & Mrs. Stewart, 369
Wilcox, Mrs Harold, 206
Wilcox, Mrs. Roy, 345
Wilcox, Roy, 369
Wilde, Mrs. Dennie, 217
Wilkens, Carl, 238
Wilkens, Dennis, 370
Wilkens, Diane, 370
Wilkens, Harold, 238
Wilkens, John, 114
Wilkens, Marian, 238
Wilkens, Paul, 97, 370
Wilkens, Ralph, 238
Wilkenson, Mrs. Doc, 207
Wilkinson, Dorothy, 370
Wilkinson, Dr. John C., 123, 124, 277, 343, 370
Wilkinson, Elizabeth, 370
Wilkinson, Leslie, 124, 370
Wilkinson, Marguerite, 370

Willard, Emma, 36
Willems, Joanes Baptiste, 370
Willems, Louis, 370
Williams, Ann, 370
Williams, Gary, 349
Williams, Gust, 370
Williams, Jill, 201
Williams, John & Maria, 219
Williams, John, 370
Williams, Mrs. 79
Williams, Paul, 46
Williams, Raphael, 219, 370
Williams, Rose, 370
Williams, Russell, 207
Willis, H. J., 124
Wills, Irene, 329
Wilson, Brenda, 371
Wilson, Byron, 371
Wilson, Charles, 370
Wilson, Isaac, 50
Wilson, Karen, 371
Wilson, Kate, 37
Wilson, Kathy, 371
Wilson, Mrs. Chas. J., 256
Wilson, Oscar, 50
Wilson, Renae, 371
Wilson, Richard, 371
Wilson, Scott, 371
Wilson, W. W., 105
Wilson, Warren, 371
Wilson, Woodrow, 370
Wilson-Bolstad, Janice, 371
Wilson-Mickelson, Darlene, 371
Wimpiri, Earl, 179
Wimpiri, Edna, 179
Wimpiri, Vivian, 179
Windus, Edna, 273
Wingered, Evangeline, 223
Winters, Joe, 229
Winters, Mrs. Joe, 241
Wistad, Ole, 203
Withers, Ben, 325
Witt, Raymond, 46
Witt, Tita, 23
Wizairde, Steve, 188
Wodahl, Mrs. James, 202
Woerdenhoff, Rev. Eugene, 120
Wolf, Mary, 332
Wolfe, Harvey, 35
Wolfe, M. W., 35
Wolfe, Mrs. Richard, 258
Wolff, Alma, 249
Wolff, Elsie, 340, 366
Wolff, Mr. & Mrs. August, 340
Wood, A. W., 207
Wood, Russell, 227
Woodard, Corwin C., 134, 371
Woodard, Lee, 371
Woodard, Linda Sue, 371
Woodard, Sue, 371
Woods, Earl, 55
Woods, Harvey, 55, 56
Woolery, Betty, 353, 354
Woolery, Mr. & Mrs. Warren, 354
Workman, Clyde, 117
Wosje, Rev., 54
Wright, Alice, 252
Wright, Barbara M., 266
Wright, Frank Lloyd, 193
Wright, Karen, 343
Wright, Mrs. James G., 266
Wuggazer, Robert, 342
Wyckoff, Linda, 291
Wyer, James I., 121, 210, 235
Wyer, Jos. I., 10
Wylie, Ida, 371
Wylie, Jessie, 340, 371
Wylie, Margaret Jane, 371
Wylie, Martha, 371
Wylie, Mary Lottie, 371
Wylie, Sarah Helen, 371
Wylie, Sylvia, 371
Wylie, William, 340, 371
Wysoski, Irene, 260
Wysoski, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J., 260
Yasuka, Tama, 231
Yeadicke, Mrs. Herman, 332
Yelle, Celina, 153
Yelle, Marcelle, 91
Yentz, Minnie, 332
Yonker, Mrs. Claus, 332
Younger, Matt, 32
Youngman, Mary, 184
Youngquist, Esther, 198
Zaiser, Alice, 372
Zaiser, Fred & Tillie, 257
Zaiser, Fred, 201, 355, 371
Zaiser, Gustaf, 174, 372
Zaiser, H. H., 121
Zaiser, Hazel, 37, 124, 249, 257, 372
Zaiser, Helmuth, 210
Zaiser, Janet M., 101
Zaiser, Janette, 372
Zaiser, John, 16, 371
Zaiser, Louise, 372
Zaiser, Myrtle, 372
Zaiser, Otto, 129, 371, 373
Zaiser, Robert, 371, 372
Zaiser, Tillie, 371
Zaiser Bros, 10, 20, 107
Zaiser-LaCrosse, Hazel, 225
Zaiser-LaCrosse, Hazel, 270
Zarzecki, Father Vincent, 48
Zeh, Adam, 114
Zeh, Mamie, 339
Zeh, Miss Mamie, 110, 114
Zeh, Rosa, 168
Zeibell, Mrs. Charles, 340
Zeibell, Mrs. Irene, 340
Zeigler, John, 143
Zellikens, Father August, 48
Ziebell, Mrs. Charles, 249
Ziebell, Wilhelmina, 339
Zieczer, Lizzie, 242
Ziegler, Anna, 227, 228
Ziemann, Emma, 366
Zihringer, Vance, 206
Zimpel, Albert, 372
Zimpel, Arlene, 46
Zimpel, Delores, 372
Zimpel, Diane, 372
Zimpel, Duane, 372
Zimpel, Hulda, 68
Zimpel, Ivy, 372
Zimpel, James, 154, 372
Zimpel, John, 372
Zimpel, Lynelle, 372
Zimpel, Melvina, 372
Zimpel, Mr. & Mrs. Albert, 293
Zimpel, Mrs Russell, 23
Zimpel, Nancy, 372
Zimpel, Ottilie, 372
Zimpel, Richard, 372
Zimpel, Russell Jr. 'Bud', 372
Zimpel, Russell, 67, 372
Zimpel, Sandra, 372
Zimpel, Susan, 372
Zimple, Ivy, 37
Zins, Adam, 239, 372
Zins, Anna, 250
Zins, Antoinette, 373
Zins, Anton, 105, 372
Zins, Ben, 373
Zins, Cornelius, 372
Zins, Edward Adam, 129, 341, 372, 373
Zins, Elizabeth, 239, 279, 372
Zins, Flora, 37, 373
Zins, Francis, 373
Zins, Hanry, 372
Zins, Hubert, 372
Zins, Irene Schusser, 106, 373
Zins, Jean Marie, 372
Zins, Joe, 239, 372, 373
Zins, Kate, 372
Zins, Laura, 373
Zins, Lawrence, 372
Zins, Lizzie, 372
Zins, Louise, 373
Zins, Mary, 372
Zins, Mrs. Annie, 356
Zins, Pete, 160, 372
Zins, Phyllis Mae, 372
Zins, Richard, 324, 373
Zins, Rita, 373
Zins, Roman, 373
Zins, Theresa, 373
Zins, Valentine, 250
Zins, Wilhelm, 372
Zoren, Roberta, 251
Zornig, Harry, 332
Zornig, Judith, 332
Zuintana, Mrs. Steven, 322
Zutz, Adolph, 373
Zutz, Arlene, 373
Zutz, Arnold, 248, 373
Zutz, Carl, 373
Zutz, Charles, 147, 373
Zutz, Clara Vera, 373
Zutz, Daniel, 207, 373
Zutz, Elsie, 373
Zutz, Faith, 237, 373
Zutz, Henry, 373
Zutz, John, 373
Zutz, Lewis, 248
Zutz, Louis, 148, 373
Zutz, Lucille, 323
Zutz, Lydia Gerlach, 212
Zutz, Marvin, 207, 373
Zutz, Mathilda, 373
Zutz, Michael, 373
Zutz, Mrs. Arnold, 116, 212
Zutz, Mrs. Louis, 173
Zutz, Ray, 194
Zutz, Theodore, 373
Zutz, Verna, 373
Zutz, Walter, 373
Zutz, Willard, 207, 212, 373
Zutz, William, 373
Zwingelburg, Mrs. Gerhard, 173