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A HISTORY OF
RED LAKE COUNTY

Red Lake County, Minnesota

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by the Red Lake County Historical Society, Inc. and the Red Lake County Bicentennial Committee
Part of Red River Series
Printed in U.S.A.
by
Taylor Publishing Company
Dallas, Texas
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
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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, ungaily — 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 1760s and 1780s 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 1776 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 show 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 this reason 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 who came to 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 St 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 more la Verendrye who was pushed on solely by the quest for adventure.

The first French explorers who came possibly as far as Minnesota were Pierre d'Espérit, 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 1810, wrote that these early adventurers "brought both the knowledge and enthusiasm of the Canadian coureur des 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 early Canadian explorers were typical of those who came to Minnesota over the next two hundred years. (Blegen, 36-37, Rich, 1:133 (quote))

It was in the 1760s and 1780s that Minnesota came under control of the French for numerous explorers were quickly inspired by the mood prevailing in France and 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 1686 Jacques de Noyon journeyed from Quebec west to Rainy Lake and in the spring of 1689 went as far as Lake of the Woods. He was joined in 1717 by Zacharie Robitaille de la Verendrye in search of the "Sea of the West". (Blegen, 45-68, 46 (quote); Burrell, 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 established nine costs extending from the Grand Portage to the Forts of the Saskatchewan. But in all of this activity la Verendrye 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 St. Paul. During his travels la Verendrye 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 Northwestern. (Rich, 1:515-518; Henry, XXV-XXVII; Burrell, Pathfinder, 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. By 1763 the French Canadians were 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, 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 Red Lake Falls 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, become his partner in 1762. He was successful in organizing the Chipewyas [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 chief's tribe; and the hardy, fearless manner, in which, accompanied only by Chief of the Chipewyas, born and bred, and her canoes, she made long journeys to distant villages of her people to further the interests of her husband." (Tobolda, 14, Henry, 149 (first quote); Tobolda, 16 (second quote))

Through the Cadotte and Henry partnership, trade with the Indians was developed along 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 their other posts. The English have not been 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 hunting, to some extent sharing, the skill and knowledge of the French voyageurs." (Rich, 21 (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 many presents. The Indians were not silent towards us, in giving us presents as they are towards the Canadians, but they gave us presents in return for ours. The Chipewyas 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 he is the messenger of the Great Spirit; and he is the man of his arrival; that his 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 the interior of the country, the Chipewyas became dependent on them and frequently moved with them. The Indian population of northern Minnesota was not high. Perhaps as few as 7,000 Chipewyas 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 had two or three hundred square miles of hunting ground, and yet (they) have very few 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
In 1789 the Hudson's Bay Company proposed a series of posts radiating out from Osnabrough southwards — at Sturgeon Lake, Red Lake, Portage du Hoc 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 annual visit of Indians there from providing such foods 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); 160 (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 26, 1798 the geographer and surveyor 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 some 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 Scots 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 household generally speaks of; 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. It is a life of outdoor life, reminding us of primitive times.

Among this class, the buffalo robe is more frequently seen than the blanket in their dwellings. The better sort, however, have their houses divided into two rooms; but they are all full of furnishing that 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 settlers. According to him, a group of white men was there, but they too were changing and rather than rally the Indians to a tracing post they now were beginning to suggest settlement of this land. (Ross, 194 (first quote); 195 (second quote))

Another settlement in the northwestern area 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 found a settlement of French Canadians and a new place which continued until the late 1860s brings us to the period of intense settlement in Red River Colony. Some of the first persons closely associated with the settlement of Red River Colony were of the large family of French Canadians and mixed bloods who came from the entire northwestern area. (Holcombe, 46-49)

Some of the early settlers to come to St. Paul whose surnames appear later in Red Lake County are: Bottineau, Gervais, Labossonière, Cloutier, Pepin, Desmarais, Bazile, Laroche, Benoit, and Fournier. Pierre Bottineau settled and trained as a scout, guide and fur trader certainly viewed the junction of the Red 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 Falls. Among the early settlers was Pierre Bottineau and his son, B. B. Bottineau, 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 St. Louis to Red Lake Falls. Pierre and his brother were sent on ahead to guide the traders to the new settlement. 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 Chipewa Indians at the Old Crossing of the Red River had opened up these three 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." (Ross, 17-18; Blegen, 70-81; Tassé, 2:33; Rich. 2185 (quote))

Joseph Rolette not only diverted trade from the Selkirk Colony town of 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 include: Hurtubise, Hébert, Larivière, Préval, Lambert, Rivard, 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 Rolette family 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 Crelin who became the first Bishop of the Diocese of Pembina, lived at Prairie du Chien settlement, and the Reverend Lycull Garlatt 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 Iowa. 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, 173; Blegen, 154-155, 155 (quotations))

It is apparent, therefore, that from the early nineteenth century communication was developing and settlements were being created from southeastern Minnesota to the northern corner of the State where Pembina marked the border on the north. The Rolette and Kintner emigrants, as well as later settlers which continued until the late 1860s brings us to the period of intense settlement in Red River Colony. Some of the first persons closely associated with the settlement of Red River Colony were of the large family of French Canadians and mixed bloods who came from the entire northwestern area. (Holcombe, 46-49)

Some of the early settlers to come to St. Paul whose surnames appear later in Red Lake County are: Bottineau, Gervais, Labossonière, Cloutier, Pepin, Desmarais, Bazile, Laroche, Benoit, and Fournier. Pierre Bottineau settled there in 1849 and began the "Carteline" to fetch American goods from Red River. Within ten years almost two hundred Red River carts were regularly engaged in the five-six-weeks' journey on the "Carteline", the annual value of the furs carried to the States has reached at least $500,000. 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. 2185 (quote))

Paraphrased and advertised descriptions of Minnesota were circulated in the United States as well as abroad. In 1833 a group of French Canadians wrote and published a book entitled Description de la Colonie du Minnesota. The pamphlet includes a map of Minnesota, an account of the French-Canadian settlement of Pembina, and the history of the colony. 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 and Pembina. The pamphlet was reprinted in 1835 by Pierre Lafortune, printer of Pembina, Pierre Emard; Lambert, Patrice Lemay; Louis-le-dit, L. Hout, and Riériste, D. Bray.

In 1879 the Reverend Pierre Beauregard, archbishop of St. Paul, travelled to French Canada to establish a mission at Pembina. The names of those from Red Lake Falls who offered to help their compatriots were Isaac Gervais and George Labossonière; Father Boudreau, Francois de la Lande, Pierre Emard; Lambert, Patrice Lemay; Louis-le-dit, L. Hout, and Riériste, D. Bray.

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 early beginnings of several communities of French-Canadian origin in northwestern Minnesota and, in particular, in Red Lake County. **

Virgin B. Benoit teaches in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and in the Canadian Studies Program at the University of Vermont in Burlington. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Benoit, he was raised in Louisvilles Township, Minnesota, where he lived every summer until 1873. He has also written a History of Gentry and Polk County from 1873 to 1973.


Burke, Peter C. The Jesuits: Journals and Letters of Pierre Gaultier de Varennes de La Vrémont and His Sons. (Toronto, 1927).


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 band 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 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. A short distance from the ford or "Old Crossing," the white men were encamped on a small hill 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, arriving at 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, loyally adhering to the terms and conditions, still opposed the terms and when the chiefs left the council on the evening of October 1st "all hopes 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 (Moosledung) "touched the pan." 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 Indian 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 of the cedent'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."

The "Old Crossing" of the Red Lake River, where thousands of ox carts have passed in the years gone by, and where the making and signing of the Old Crossing Treaty has gone into history as one of the outstanding historic 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.
Acknowledgement

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

Because of their talents as writers, much of the narrative portion of this book would have been lost without their efforts. They have contributed to the story in a way that is unique and will be missed.

Andrew Gunderson and James Ford.

The territory now within the county lines was originally settled in the '60s and '70s, mostly by French Canadians from eastern Ontario. Following the old Pembina Trail, the territory was opened up by pioneers and traders through hostilities and Indian troubles.

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 lands. The settlers included a French, a Belgian, and a Swedish immigrant.

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Red Lake County, the mecca of homeseekers, 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 beneficent Santa Claus, issued his Christmas message. On Christmas Day Governor Clough 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 hard winter struggle, which did not end 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 barren land. It 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 County and the territory of Red Lake County were separated from each other, the latter obtained the land, in 1858, and the early days sprawled its great mass like an enormous jelly fish over nearly the whole northern western 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 7,742 square miles. The territory of Red Lake, as it is called now, is the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia combined. Crookston, its county seat, drawn 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 not well paid, and the county did not have a county seat, a county hall, a courthouse. It was a county seat, a county seat in a county, and the county seat was known as Crookston.

The county seat is situated at the point where the Red River and the Rainy River meet. It is the county seat of Red Lake County, and it is the county seat of Polk County, and it is the county seat of Polk County.

The county seat was moved to Crookston in 1885, and the county seat has been changed to Crookston. It is the county seat of Red Lake County, and it is the county seat of Polk County, and it is the county seat of Polk County.

With the meeting of the legislature of '92 and '93 the old war horses of former battles battled up serenely and "got into the game." Meetings were held in Red Lake Falls, committees appointed, the aid and funds of the village council invited and provided for. At that time the constitution of Minnesota was amended to do away with all special legislation. The merciful 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 to quit.

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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 intentions of the commissioners and 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 is the prospect for county division?" Some men gained ground to 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 were unfavorable 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, and by various means, several hundred were hired to bring voters to the polls. Pleasants 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 been carried by a majority; Nelson had lost; Garfield was in doubt. Red Lake had received votes as follows: for 922, against 449, Mills; for 534, against 56, Columbia; for 449, against 922, Garfield; for 603, against 603. 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 the result was that we had an apple which looks beautiful to the eye but crumbles to ashes at the touch. But the man of the hour was at hand, and, more than ever before, we recognized the value of a "pull." Hon. Marcus Johnson by his great political influence at St. Paul influenced the governor in 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 proposal to create Red Lake County subcommittee, Mills and Columbia was to overlap Red Lake, Nelson and Garfield, 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. The 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. Voters were sent from every town to corral the farmer vote. Canvassers from Crookston met canvassers from Red Lake Falls at every town and village, 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 houses meeting houses. The committee of each proposed county was suspicious of the committee of every other county. Ama
teur secret service men were sent out to

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 signification 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 the oath of the Clerk of Crookston. A copy of the 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 over celebrated the holiday 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 cognoscenti to up and down the land and懒 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, and the supreme court decided that all the votes cast 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 been other battles of Crookston and Red Lake, the question of our organization has never been further disputed.

To the men who planned and directed the execution on the both sides of this long continued fight, great credit is due. Yet republicans, 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.
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 quietly 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.

There was a great hurryning 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 lights 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 erstwhile 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 a steady stream of visitors, and a renowned tavern in the center of Hades, who was in every way as much a part of it as the setting sun.

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 its election. Yet the ink was scarcely dry when the news flashed across the state, that her people began to cast envious eyes upon the county seat at Red Lake Falls.

But this time the weak and foolishness of the new county had not been shown. The people of the county were well satisfied with its location, yet the jealousy of the inhabitants was in no wise diminished.

A new railroad, the Soo, came winding its way through the county and through some oversight, when Providence wasn’t looking, built into Thief River Falls, bringing in 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 by all.

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 air 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. As a formal step they appointed.

The saloon licenses raised to fourteen 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 last the people did 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. Lawsuits after lawsuits were tried, but the citizens of Thief River (their relatives) 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 old age, it became so ashamed of itself and the cause for which it stood, that it suddenly faded away, vanished, disappeared, vanished, and went back to the father of Evil when it undoubtedly had its birth.

No one has yet been found who will own up to 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 general 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 grave heretofore.

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-feel, 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). Pole 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-bitch?"
From out in the country, why cometh not he?
Then up spake brave Arthur from the Plain (o)
"Befor he here is, 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 hurried 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)
CIVILIZATION OF AN EMPIRE

Up until about 1896, legal barriers and the hereditary rights of the redman 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 hearty 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 de 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, LeSueur, DuLuth, Charlevoix, LaSalle, and a score of others whose names are synonomous 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 many 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 went on trips from the Hudson Bay Company's posts in Manitoba to the stations of the American fur companies 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 original band numbered a number of followers including Bottineau.

In the winter of 1837, Martin McLeod, who was one of Dickson's followers (and for whom MacLeod County was afterward named) set out for the United States, and probably Mexico, "accompanied by a Polelander and an Irishman. Pierre Bottineau being the guide. They encountered such extremely cold weather that the Polelander 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 post on Lake Traverse."

(Quoted from an 1895 Minneapolis Journal account)

About 1840, Bottineau became a missionary of St. Paul, though he continued to work in the migratory life of a hunter and voyageur, and often served as the interpreters of Fort Snelling as guide and interpreter. In the latter capacity, it was said that he was fluent not only in French and English, but also in the Sioux, Chippewa, Cree, Mandan and Winnebago dialects as well.

Bottineau's St. Paul claim was 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 500 acres on the southeast corner of the city.

Bottineau's name is synonymous with Great 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 S. Stevens of Washington Territory on his 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." It was Bottineau's life that the trip was made, 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 for the construction of 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 encampment and rode to Fort Ridgely on Mount and managed to get to Sauk Center, from where help could be dispatched to the fort. During 1863-64, he escorted General Sibley's military expedition into North Dakota and guided Captain Fisk's expedition to Montana. After 1865, 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 the city of Bottineau, and settled 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 into town to trade rice and pork. 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 a monument erected. Henry was a Civil War veteran who was with Sherman's march to the sea. After his discharge and return to Osseo, he died of yellow fever which he contracted in the service. Rose died in the city. He was buried in North Dakota where his wife, a Scotchwoman named McDonald, was a mail carrier out of Fort Totten. McDonald was scalped by waging 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 mother of 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 Coat Harbor. As a result of the Cerro Gordo Campaign of Red Lake Falls, Genevieve lived in the Brooks-Okelee 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 the women played a large role, and some of them are as follows:

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 wondrously, 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 1886. 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 the vicissitudes of travel and frontier life, being the hero of many interesting events, but he has the breadth of view of the engineer and I am confident he will be of the greatest service to us."

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.

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 1882, the son of Joseph Cyr.

The story of Fred's youthful logging days were taped recorded in 1954 by historian Dr. Charles Vandersluys of Benjidi 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 rolled 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 wanganis 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 wagans, 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
Clearwater Lake with a steam outfit and grower. 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 crew foot as a 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.

The winjans, 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 winjan 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 flowing where the water was quiet.

We were armed with pike poles and occasionally peavies, which differ from oint hooks by having a spike in the center. Pavies 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 pole driven into it tied to shore. We usually don’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 pavies.

The low water on the Clearwater was on the rapids, which were especially rocky.
Commissioner

appointments

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 of said proclamation and having duly taken the oath of office met on the above named date and elected 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. Mathews; Treasurer, F. A. Hanlon; Register of Deeds, Swan Anderson; Sheriff, F. G. Jeffres; County Surveyor, P. O. Haggard; County Attorney, E. S. Booth; Clerk, Frank Jeffres; Recorder, Joseph Balleau. Red Lake Falls.

Division of county into commission districts.

First district: Louisville, Park Center, Black River Bank. Second district: Red Lake Falls and township, Lake Plains. Third district: River Falls, Genesee, Wadena, the fractional part of township 153, range 42 north. Fourth district: Sartell, North, City of Park River Falls, Fifth district: Terrebonne, Popple River, township 151, range 4 west, township 151 range 40 west, fractional parts lying south of Clearwater river in township 151, range 50 east.

Bonds of the different county officers...
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. One story structure, it was to be an easy building for the elderly to get around in and to get in 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 the board of directors (who also served 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 Gilbertsen, Loyd Green, Ernest Hule and Sidney Kirk. Mrs. Earl Jensen became 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 whole 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 land due to poor health or other reasons. Hillcrest home care. What a joy it must have been for them to return to their home community!

Today the story is the same. The home runs at nearly 100% capacity with a continuous waiting list. This nursing home definitely is meeting a needed area resident need. 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 the nursing home 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) was in charge of 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 (binge, 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 house residents who require institutional care, which provides nursing care, to assist 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 Pahien, Neil Prenevost and Mildred Torfinnson. The present administrator is W. 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 nurse aide became a licensed practical nurse, and 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 Demoras is presently the long term resident and is also the oldest. She entered Hillcrest 11-25-1965, and 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 for 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 $185,000.

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. Keilheim, 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 Skalb 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 Bonanza 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 fed 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 grashoppers 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 really common until the 1940's and 50's.

The acreage of many crops has 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.

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.

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 that low 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

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**RED LAKE COUNTY FAIR AND FAIR BOARD**

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 Detroid Mobile Home Plant. The exact site 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 exhibitions and homesteaders 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 Brue 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 fairs 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...
came to be known, it found it too expensive to repair the stove.

In 1955, 10 lots were purchased south of Bottineau Avenue along the Clearwater River, east of the Fair Board. The first quonset building was erected in 1960 as an exhibit for the Fair Board. A second quonset housed the livestock. A third pole shed, also used for animals, was 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, Glenye Eskel. 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 hard 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 quality was abundant, but 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 the patterns were exchanged later on in the year their projects were displayed at the fair.

The time spent doing housework in the 1920s averaged 52-58 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 statistics.

It is true that most of the labor saving devices 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 in 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 28 hours per week with 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 fancy or complicated dishes. Nearly everything for a meal went into the one large kettle and was cooked together. This is how 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 of 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-
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-Hers 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 interfingled 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, Glasses 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 Cullins, Steve Konickson, Pam Moran and Tila Witt and the directors are Mrs. Elmer Hanson and Mrs. Russell Gust.
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. Swenson, 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 hydroplant. 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 other compartment. Sand was obtained from the Red River valley 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 slough land, sometime in 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 Byllesby's Consumers Power Company. In August 1910, the predecessor of Northern States Power Company (Minnesota) was incorporated.

Residents were provided lighting (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 ten 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 Carter 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. Carter.

HISTORY OF THE RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pioneers with 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 Electric Cooperative, Inc. 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. Those 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 Association.

In 1940 the Board of Directors increased the directorship to nine. George Remick of Red Lake Falls had the distinction of being 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 be 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 he 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 past president of the Red River Valley Peace Officers Association, attending every meeting 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 fictitious 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 published 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 Oldex were closed all day Monday in 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 to the waves of the wind, and the stanchion in the streets that marked the tomb of another helpless victim.

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

Many had been trapped in their vehicles in the storm, and the snow plows were making headway through the storm.

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

The storm had been a comparatively mild affair that day, and the surge of Saturday's shopping had drawn many farm residents from their homes into nearby cities and towns. Many of the dead were recouped 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 southeast 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 wind. The snow-laden wind. Automobiles on highways choked up with snow, their ignition fouled, gave up and generally abandoned.

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 towns, 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 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 need 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 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 windstorm tore down a pole line in town and upended 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 Valley Telephone Company about 1913. The Garden Valley exchange at Oklee 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 bury cable plant replacing 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 $100 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 Bade, Eugene Grenier, John Glass, Alf St. Ives, Oliver Flage, Frank Beyer, Frank Riesz, and Lawrence Fournier. Of the original members, John Glass was 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 assessment 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 Halloweener pranks.

The present board consists of John Glass, president, Paul Grandbois, vice president, Leslie Flage, secretary-treasurer, Tom Gagnon, Vic Gabor, Clarence Vatthauer, Henry Wieland, John Mead and Vaughn Thorfinson. 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 13, 1948. The first officers were Bernice Orr, president, Julian Johnson, vice president; Elbert Larvlik, secretary; and Mrs. Oscar Lovas, treasurer. Others present at this meeting were William Malwitz, George Christie, Horace Cutten, Mr. and Mrs. James Casey, Oscar Lovas, Sola Lovas, 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 flagged and it was decided to disband the organization in April of 1951. A treasury fund amounting to $52.60 was given to the 4-H Leaders Council.

With the approach of the Minnesota Centennial celebration of 1956, a County Centennial Commission was formed and evidently included a reactivated Historical Society because minutes of June 1957 refer to the Red Lake County Centennial Commission and Historical Society. Otlo Melby was the president and Irene Lancelot, 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: Otlo Melby, Rev. Gerald Foley, Al Buse, Noella Audette, Dorothea Dodds, Lester Flage and John Coradin, 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 visit to Cemetery, the Indian mound, site of the final trading post, and the Pierre Bottineau homestead. Present officers are Leslie Flage, president; Sherry Kankaal, treasurer; and Noella Audette, secretary. Members on the board of directors are Joyce Jahnke, Al Buse, Lloyd Philion, Rev. Gerald Foley, Al Buse, Otlo 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 members were late Riversides-Education 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 Cour. Except for a short time when Clarence Newcomer was president, William Cassavant was president until 1951 when Alvin Forrester was elected. Alvin Forrester is still the president at this time. Leslie Flage is the present vice president and Mrs. Oscar Lunkie 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 agricultural community; and a prosperous country — to that end, we are sincerely dedicated." Our goal: Cooperate for a competitive advantage 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 sponsorship of Howard Grant. The first organizer and field staff member to work in this area was the first officer elected at this meeting was 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 F.O.O. 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 Johanneson was elected chairman in 1966 and held that position for two years. It was during his term of office that members began block selling of their production.

Leonard Boucher was the vice chairman, later Joe Folsom and later Robert Harmon. LaVern Kuchen served as secretary for six years until 1977 when Mrs. Roget (Barbara) Harms was elected and still holds that position.

Olive Knoll became chairman in 1973 and Calvin Harmoning in 1975. Evelyn Johannson has taken charge of public work and publication of the newsletter. The Red Lake County F.O.O. participated in the milk hold action in 1964, the milk holding action in 1967, and the all-commodity action in 1968.
OTTER TAIL
ELECTRIC POWER - RED LAKE COUNTY

Electric service to the communities of Red Lake Falls, Brooks, and Plum- mer 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 the street lighting contract dated July 29, 1929, for tour-100 watt lights in the unincorporated community of Brooks.

The contract was with the Poplar River township and was signed by Township Supervisors W. M. Stahl, Euclid Beauchy, 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 poles.

The previous suppliers of electric service to the four communities were unable to provide the transmission service to meet the growing electrical needs, as these communities were isolated from each other and the only transmission lines were those that the company had in place, and were not capable of meeting the growing needs for electricity.

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 using about 100 gallons of fuel per year. Today, the average home uses about 4000 gallons of fuel per year, and the use of electric energy has increased significantly.

In 1944, the directors increased the capital stock of the Cooperative to $25,000.00, dividing the amounts into 500 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.

President Carl Swanson had served as president for eight years resigned in 1946 and was succeeded as president by Millard Dailey who continued 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.

The highlights of the Cooperative's history were 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 major factor in the community. The building is located in Red Lake Falls. The Cooperative occupies space on the second floor of the building.

The Cooperative was composed of seven directors: Charles M. Kleven, president; Helmert Lind, vice-president; Millard Dailey, secretary-treasurer. The directors are: Manvel Moen, Norman Duffaut, Vernor Arverson, Raymond Parnell, Leonard Woda, Lions Keefe, and Charles M. Kleven.

The Cooperative is organized as a nonprofit cooperative and is owned by its members. The Cooperative serves a membership of over 4,500 members and provides electricity to over 3,500 homes.

In 1954, the Cooperative was incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

The Cooperative has been working hard to expand its service area and has been successful in doing so. The Cooperative has been able to provide reliable and affordable electricity to its members, and the members have been happy with the service that they have received.

The Cooperative continues to work hard to expand its service area and to provide reliable and affordable electricity to its members. The Cooperative is owned by its members and is committed to serving the needs of its members.

Red Lake Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
County Judge
J. A. Harren

Treasurer
Jay Guillenette

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 Thibault

Welfare Director
Charles Stephens

Busi Block, The First Red Lake County Court House
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 Lehner 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 1950s 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 Lehner. 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 Johannson, Paul Grandois and Vernon Wavera, supervisors; Charles Swanson, clerk; and Ruben Lehner, 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 x 30 feet and was

applied 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-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 Iris, Mary, Ben, Agnes and Josephine. Other students at that time included John, Albert, Sophie, Freda, George and Alma Busse; Mary, Patrick, Della and James Ridge; Family and Anna Dobson, Albin and Clara Fuud; Willie Wahbeck; John and George Whalen; Emil, Dena and Albert Hambott, Alice, Helen and Buddy Ford.

My first teacher was Marie Cram, and others that I recall were Lydia Gerlach, Josephine and Frances Koellshen, Anita Auiler, Gladys Johnson and Elsie Randorf. Superintendents of Schools that I remember were Alban E. Deforge and Erva Poulton. 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 necess
"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 hands and hearts 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 23 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 1851 in Klaen, Germany, and following his marriage to Anna in 1880, came to America, settling near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he worked as a butcher. Nine children were born to John and Anna: Agnes (Nebert), Theodore, Adam, Joseph, (the father of all the Schmitzes in the Red Lake Falls area), John, Henry, Ann (Lehr), Herman, and Elizabeth (Niemerg). 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 eventually born and raised 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 97. 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 his profession. John Jr., first farmed north of Joseph's farm, then started a brickyard in Red Lake Falls. He made two kinds of bricks — 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 enjoyable 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 Schirch, came to America from Austria with a sister, Mary (Kilburg), Frank, a brother, who had already established residency nearby. 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 maids duties.

In 1891, Joseph Schmitz and Louisa Schirch 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 1895, 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 the hired boy and 8 girls. The farmstead has been owned by the family for eighty years. Until November, 1975, Martha Ommann, Joseph's younger daughter, owned it. She sold the property to Sylvester Schmitz, a nephew.

Of Joseph and Louisa's thirteen children, only two, Agnes (Mrs. Gust Knoll) and Gertrude (Mrs. Charles Knoll) have not been life-long residents of Red Lake County. The children are: John (deceased 1955); Elizabeth (Mrs. Art Wichterman) (deceased 1951); Crispin "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 Majerus), Clara (Mrs. Morris) Hanner (deceased 1944), and Martha (Mrs. Louis Ommann).

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...
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 Schmits. No wedding within the Schmitz relationship is ever complete without seeing “Uncle Ron” or “Uncle Ed” dragging out their musical instruments and becoming the center of the party. Those Schmits 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 farmland. Hard work 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.

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

John Schmitz and Anna Ott Schmitz
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 Enderine 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 men who called together a meeting of men in the area on the 18th day of July 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 Meuller, 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 Bobeir, Raphael Robideaux and Louis Heta as constables. At this meeting by-law was adopted that it was unsuitable 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. Goss line the purchase two scrapers and a 16” breaking plow at Red Lake Falls. The two road scrapers cost $10.00. In 1895 they explicitly 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 and a fine imposed if a man didn’t contribute his time.

On July 8, 1889 the lowest bidder, Louis Heta, received the contract to make a ditch from the county road to the coulee on the south side of Henry Bobeir’s 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 and to be 15 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 165 to 250 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, 1895. If a culvert was involved 260 a rod was paid. Men who were enterprises 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. Hogan, Ole Anderson, Harvey Wolfe, Odiloux Gauthier, Gustaf Svenby and P. Oslund. Jacob Waclow 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

Hail to the writers of history! They present to us a colorful panorama of events in the shaping 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 the pioneers, 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 a man for road work. A. J. Hemstad was town clerk.

In 1912, Emarldville Township was changed in physical appearance. Pennington County divided from Red Lake County and Emarldville township added a strip on the west, 40 acres of land, from Wyandotte Township. The town board's 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. The town board was established 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 misdeemeanor if a road construction exceeded $200.00 which was to be read at 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. Waldorf, 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 bushing in preparation to road and ditch making and any kind of work they could find.

This history of Emarldville 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 with the time the township was organized and to be read 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.

State. The study brought out understandings and appreciations of our culture. The cultivating 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 Whittmans 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 Gun 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 Shag 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 Emarldville Township.)

Green Meadow School District 148,
DISTRIBUTED 481 — 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 1901, 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. Bernard Orr was the first teacher in the new school. Other teachers were Jessie Doyle, Alice Ford, Flora Zinns, Esther Purah (Mrs. Herb Walters) — the last teacher. They merged with Plummer District 16 in 1947.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 214 — CLOVERLAND SCHOOL
Originally in Polk County, it was located in section 218.

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

A November, 1904 meeting called for two more months of school. Originally there were five teachers for a term.

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.

Church suppers, bingo, school carnivals, basket socials, and community meetings were held there. It was a center of community life. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting and 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 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" x 12". Laura Prusses was teacher and had six to eight pupils, namely: Emil Gauthier, P. R. Reman, Zephyr Gauthier, Anna Reman, Nick and Sarah Thoresen.

1909 records show A. E. Sorenson, Odon Gauthier and A. F. Larson as school officers. Victorine Patnode was the teacher. Teachers' wages averaged $50.00 for men and $42.00 for women.

In 1910 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 J. C. Melzer, 1907; Bertha Hardman, Edith Demann (Mrs. Paul Schoenauer), and Stella Olson.

In 1927 Esther Colebank taught 44 pupils in the Grades 1 to 8. It was the duty of the school 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 the same time.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 234 — FINN SCHOOL
On November 12, 1913, a special school meeting was held at the Moll Krola home at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was called for the purpose of organizing the school district.

Teachers elected were: Bertha Krog, principal, and Miss Hennig, teacher. The meeting was held in the school house.

School of sessions for five months.

School was in session for five months.

In 1921, through the insistence of Mrs. Kaupla, a barn was built. Gust Kargas built it for $15.00. This sheltered the horses and provided storage for farm equipment.

June 1940 vote made the school term run nine months. Other teachers were: Laura Langer, Mrs. Krola, Myrtle Demann, Esther Wider, Elida Orr, Bertha Haas, Esther Kuoppala, Rachel Tohol, Freda Bredeoson, Hazel Zaiser, and Cecyl Bemis.

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

Cleveland School District 214

The original school was sold at open sale and sold to Brennan for $130.00. J. B. Jones and Bennie Johnson bought the school for $150.00. It was used as an 8th grade school with water fountain and two indoor tennis courts.

The first teacher in the new school was Anna Strande, (Mrs. George Beito). She taught from 1901 to 1909. From 1909-19, Elida Orr (Mrs. Clifford Christenson) taught. Other teachers were: Marie Pisonneault, Elida Causin, Clara Breche, Clara Berg (Mrs. Finlay Hese), Gladys LaFayette, and Francis Fosland was the last teacher.

Church suppers, basket socials, and community meetings were held there. It was a center of community life. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting and 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.

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After consolidation, the building was sold and moved to St. Hilaire.
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 Doucet and Leon Marsouette 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 is 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 engine was 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 unharmed.
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 dam 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 dam 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 northeast 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, Minne- sota 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 Vathhauser farmstead.
A LETTER TO MY CHILDHOOD:

Does anyone here remember The Plumber Pioneer? It almost sounds like the words of some half-remembered song—a song from the "old days," when I was a child, in Emardsville 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 passed on the wall above the wash stand to protect the new calamine 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 the news worth something, 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 cupboards 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 hester 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 I hoped the boy we secretly worshipped would get the first bid.

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 was, I thought it would be fun to be the star of the show, but it really wasn't all that talk for gospel, nothing 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...
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 Soc Ste. Marie Railroad built through Emardville township and a town soon began to mushroom close to the railroad. A new town site was decided to call the new town Plummer, 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 platted 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. Endare, 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 park 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 Morissette in charge. The Bovey-Chute Lumber Company of Minneapolis had a lumber yard with A. Aldrich in charge. E. Peterson was a blacksmith. J. A. Rucksten 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. A. H. Finrow operated a saloon. Hotel Scotland was owned and operated by Erick Iverson 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 Endare, Treasurer. Other former mayors were: William Bottineau, P. B. Lanage, H. H. Finrow, Alice Morissette, Arthur Carlson, James Ford, George LaFayve, Emil Larson, Henry Weiss, E. B. Kopp, Reaune St. Marie, Emil Mahler, 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. Lane (Clearwater Mercantile), Fox, Johnson and Rowwien and Charles Schmitz. Alice Morissette 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 butchermaker 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. Lanage owned a hardware store. Wm. Bottineau had a lumber yard and J. W. Pahlen a land office. Depot Agents were Krueger and Taggart. There was a Bertram-Wright Lumber Company, Hans Hugheit 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 Franitlund and Howard Greenwald.
A lineup of wagons on north side of Main Street.

Old Plummer Hall and Plummer brass band 1916.


Alcid Morrisette Store 1914

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 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 walk through the middle providing for two rooms.

Behind the school was a stand of brush and woods and also a ditch which was really a small stream during the spring break-up. Boys would sail rafts down the ditch.

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.

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 classes and a social worker, Miss Baseman trained for boys and girls to prepare them for life after school. Grade 9 subjects were algebra, English literature, science and ancient history. Miss Caroline Grahn 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. In the halls 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 1 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 choosing 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! Stillsness 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 Toombs, 1920-21 Albert Giles, Principal; Vivian Huffman, Miss Vore, and Francis Kaufman.

THE TRANSITION YEARS — 1921-1926

1921-1922, Walter Kelly was the Principal. There were three bus routes. Drivers were Route 1, Sam Pikkala, 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 were used during winter. Short cuts across fields and through farms were unregistered 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, Elinor 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 Spitzlhofer as helper. The girls' basketball team was organized by Miss Spitzlhofer, 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, Agnes Hanson, Gertrude Schaack, Anton Mickelson, Ethel Johnson and Minard Stalvert.


IMPORTANT EVENTS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM 1926 TO 1976

During the years 1926 to 1931 birds were regularly taken after the first of the year for green or black 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 $3.98 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, Alex 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 25 cents per dish.

1936-1937: Mrs. Oesten and Mrs. Hegg, both American Red Cross nurses, gave their spare time to operate a demonstration home and taught the students how to prepare and serve meals and other household needs.

1937-1938: The boys' basketball team was organized and played a few games. The girls' basketball team was organized and played a few games.

1939-1940: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

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 building a cement block for $15.00. A coal store was installed at a cost of $1,000.00.

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

1945-1946: Bus drivers salaries were $100.00 a month. School rent for the 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 Teacher.

1947-1948: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1948-1949: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1949-1950: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1950-1951: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1951-1952: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1952-1953: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1953-1954: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1954-1955: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1955-1956: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

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1958-1959: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1959-1960: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1960-1961: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1961-1962: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1962-1963: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1963-1964: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1964-1965: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1965-1966: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1966-1967: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1967-1968: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1968-1969: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1969-1970: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1970-1971: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1971-1972: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1972-1973: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1973-1974: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1974-1975: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

1975-1976: The school had a new roof and a new addition.

Plummer School primary grades 1910

Plummer School upper grades 1910

Teachers Laura Halseth and Lou Green 1912

Plummer team 1930
PLUMMER IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking back into the history of good people in the Plummer community, we see the dedicated services of past, present, and future members. Church services began in February 1956 in private homes of several members. Meeting places were partitioned into lunchroom and classrooms. Church basements were also put to use. The gymnasium and north wing were preserved by a fire wall. After some pro and cons discussions and some bitter resentment whether the Plummer school would consolidate with Oklee and 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, Naswick Construction Co. Inc., Bemidji, MN; Electric, Langlie Electric, Thief Lake Falls, MN; Mechanical, Lundstrom Plumbing, Thief Lake Falls, MN; Equipment, T.M. Equipment Co., Crookston, MN; Kitchen Equipment, St. Paul Equipment Co.; St. Paul, MN; Library equipment and casework, Erikson Lumber Co. The total cost was $214,305.00.

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

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 building and 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 two-window vans and 12 five-window vans were purchased for the use of the 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, Robert Lecles, 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, SLPB.Elem. Reading, Richard Van Doren, Elem. Reading, Fredie Ely, Elem. Reading. The cooks are Mrs. Goodwin, Mrs. Liv Englund, and Mrs. Avis Froland. Secretaries are Dorothy Pederson and Diana Quilty. Janitors are Harold Vathauer and Arlan Koske.

Enrollment for 1975-1976 are as follows:

Kindergarten: 31
Elementary Grades: 140
Junior High: 75
Senior High: 126

School board members are Paul Hjorth, Merlin Carlson, Jerry Gerardy, Dwight Robidous, Jerry Freitag and Melvin Eskell.

The church was completed in 1956 and is of brick with a wooden roof. The church was dedicated on November 6, 1969 with Odin Langen as speaker. The church was dedicated with Oklee and Red Lake Falls. It was decided to rebuild the church. The decision was to build between the existing buildings. Work started in 1968. The bids went as follows: General construction, Naswick Construction Co. Inc., Bemidji, MN; Electric, Langlie Electric, Thief Lake Falls, MN; Mechanical, Lundstrom Plumbing, Thief Lake Falls, MN; Equipment, T.M. Equipment Co.; St. Paul, MN; Library Equipment and casework, Erikson Lumber Co. The total cost was $214,305.00.

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Redeemer Lutheran Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church 1974

First Presbyterian Church

St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church

Norwegian Lutheran Church 1914 now the Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

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

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

In 1954 Rev. Runestad resigned and Rev. O. M. Simundson 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 1884. 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 Gronlund was installed to serve our church. Rev. Gronlund served our church only eighteen months when he resigned and moved to Arizona due to the illness of his wife. During the time Rev. Gronlund 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 Tiguex, Wisconsin and Rev. Sheldon was installed on October 1, 1967. In the fall of 1972 Rev. Sheldon resigned and moved to Hoople, North Dakota. A farewell party was held for Rev. and Mrs. Sheldon and their daughter, Esther on Sept. 10, 1972. Now again we were left without a pastor. Lay pastor, Wilbur Nelson, 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. Carle, 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. Seitz from Thief River Falls. Services were held in homes once a month. The church took the name of St. Johns.
St. John’s (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. Newbirt, Carl Carlson, Aug. Antl and Richard Loeffermacher pledged their support and the Norwegian Church was organized. Carl Carlson was the first Treasurer. The Norwegian Lutheran Church was rented for $1.00 per service. Shortly afterward they purchased 24 hynmals and promised to pay Pastor Paul Seltz $3.00 for every trip for services.

Ben S. C. Fedoke served as the first and only resident pastor for Redeemer. Pastor Fedoke was installed Sept. 5, 1920. An estimate of 95 people crowded the church.

Upon his arrival Plummer Congregation numbered 25 baptized and 14 comming members. The Plummer congregations first fall was the 1921-1922. When Rev. Emil Kreidt of Thief River Falls preached the mission sermon, sometimes the outdoor Mission Festival turned into a dismal failure as in 1922 when both scheduled services were washed out by rain. Yet it was the first trial of the congregation. But after Pastor Fedoke first fall, Plummer Congregation listed 35 baptized members, 17 comming members with average church attendance of 14 per service.

In April 1923, Pastor Fedoke was given permission to accept the call of Ogemaw and Callaway congregation while still serving Plummer. Attendance sank under this arrangement. Pastor Fedoke 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 Ogemaw, 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 the school. He attended Wartburg College and the University of Minnesota. The church was dedicated in 1928. Pastor Fedoke was succeeded by Pastor W. C. Stoltz in 1930. Then Pastor W. C. Stoltz was succeeded by Pastor A. C. Seltz in 1932. Pastor A. C. Seltz was succeeded by Pastor A. C. Luedtke in 1935.

The parish lines were changed and the tie to Ogemaw, 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 church today.

Pastor A. C. Seltz 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 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 purshased the property. The present church building was purchased, moved from Brooks to the present location and remodeled to give it a church look. The church was dedicated and the time and ability to complete the first building after more than 25 years of existence.

Pastor Immanuel Bade served Redeemer from 1945-1953. Under his leadership the church was extended, a parsonage was given to the church, and the church was moved to a new location.

Pastor Robert Boege 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 Wylie Congregation were united by mutual consent to sever that tie to Red Lake Falls.

After being without a pastor for over six months, Pastor A. C. Seltz served the congregation on a vacation basis until 1963. When St. Johns of Thief River Falls and Redeemer agreed to form a parish, they called the new Anglican Parish 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.

Since Aug. 10, 1969, Redeemer celebrated its 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 LWMIL international convention at Houston, Texas, in July 1969.

Rev. Bernard Lutz, a former son of Redeemer, is an evangelist 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 meets once a month and the voting members vote on every thing. The Board of Trustees meets once a week during the school year.

At this time Redeemer has approximately 75 members and a school of 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 was 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 the people of the community. The cornerstone was laid on January 1, 1915. The church was dedicated in 1915.

Father Deshales served as pastor for the first year. The new church was dedicated on July 3, 1915. The church was dedicated in 1915. The church was dedicated in 1915. The church was dedicated in 1915. The church was dedicated in 1915.

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

Father Jerome Felton served the parish from 1955-59, directing and assisting in the church's remodeling. He organized the Holy Name Men's Society, and renewed parisioner'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 sewerage for 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 Armstrong. During Father Carriere's tenure, the church kitchen was enlarged and modernized. He also used the church for his own residence. The village hall was sold 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 Benner 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 church which had been recommended by the Sec-ondary Survey 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 opened doors, and there is an additional entrance to the church.

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.

PLUMMER POST OFFICE

The first post office in Plummer was established in 1904, west of the present village with H. H. Finney as postmaster. When the town moved to its present site near the railroad station in 1917, Charles A. Latta was appointed postmaster. He remained in office for a number of years. In 1964 the building was moved to its present location and a new building was erected on the property. The new building is still in use.

PLUMMER COOPERATIVE CREAMERY ASSOCIATION

The Plummer Cooperative Creamery Association was formed in 1915. The creamery was built in 1916 and is located in Plummer, Minnesota. It was started by a group of farmers who wanted to improve the quality of their milk and cream. The creamery produced a high-quality product and was successful from its inception.

The Plummer Cooperative Creamery Association played a significant role in the local economy, providing jobs and income for local farmers. It was a source of pride for the community and helped to boost the economy during a time of economic hardship. The creamery continued to operate until it closed in 1972.

The Plummer Cooperative Creamery Association was a landmark in the history of Plummer and the surrounding area. Its legacy continues to be remembered and celebrated by the community, which is grateful for the role it played in the region's economic development and prosperity.
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 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 the meeting were: John Hagen, S. Michelson, John Carlson, Jacob Waldal, Harry Olson, Nilis 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 Garee, M. J. Fallon, H. C. Jepson, Alfred Waldal, E. Holmberg, and Simon Sater. The first officers of the newly formed association were: David Haugen, President; John Greenwald, Vice President; A. J. Hemstead, Secretary-Treasurer and Directors were John Greenwald, Anton Lee and P. S. Medich.

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 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 Houtan 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

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 members to duty. The Village purchased a 1960 Hudson truck with all new equipment in 1962. In 1963 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. sponsored 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 Year’s 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 classified 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 have been: 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 Falcon, Joel Nelson, Donald Wichterman, Eugene Carpenter, John Hemstad, Walter Touise, Ollie Mattson, Russell Pahlen, Howard Greenwald, Douglas Maney, Joseph Havlicek, Lloyd Hanson, Erwin Siebel, James Jackson, Waldmar 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 for the last two years. The Post has taken a very active part in the Fourth of July celebrations in Plummer and sent 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 Voonen, Donald Hesse, Lawrence Granum, Lawrence Carpenter, and Joseph Falcon.

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.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #623

An organizational meeting was held in Plummer in November, 1947, with twenty-two women present for the purpose of getting 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 1947 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 Mattson.

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.

WESTSIDE GROCERY

The first grocery store in Plummer was started 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 it to Arthur Torsteidt. He had the business until 1947, when Jesse and Wally DuChamp bought it. In 1966, 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.

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, 1896. C. E. Roberts acted as modulator, C. D. Hall, clerk and Edward Havik, R. H. Green and George Bendar 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 corner of Sections 22 and 23 and Sections 24 and 27. It was also noted that all section lines be public roads to the west 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 township board was elected with the following results: Edward E. Havik, town clerk; Lewis Sall, treasurer; J. J. Buskirk, assessor; J. J. Donahue was elected chairman of supervisors; S. M. Adams and A. M. Tonnessen 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, pondsmasters.

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 Grist post office located towards the southeast part of the township in Section 19, Magnus J. Lillo had the Grist 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, 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 the 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 service 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 Blueke and Einar Kvasaer, Orlo Lintvet, and Louis Matheson, treasurer.

EQUALITY TOWNSHIP
EARLY SETTLERS


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

In 1896 and 1897, the many Scandinavian people who settled in the eastern part of Rendal 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 sheds and others were built of logs, washed inside and out. Some roofs were sod and others covered with tar paper which did not make them waterproof.

Rocks were built 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 Storasi. On April 22, 1900, the first confirmation took place in the log school and class members were Michael Reinhardt, Edwin Slettvet, Edwin Renfoula, Clara Elvera Lillo and Aase Olive Thea Trydal.

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. Sæter 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 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 every three weeks.

In the early summer of 1911, the dedication of the cornerstone 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 Annie Bell Rolandson were the first couple married there. The altar ring was purchased in 1915 from Northern Wood 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. Leifallom, who had served the three, served Clearwater as well and the Lost River congregation


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 bongirger.

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 Walle and in 1937 the basement construction was begun by Reier Fossom. 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 painted. In 1954 the church was wired for electricity.

The pastors since 1952: Reverend Peterson (1953-1960); Reverend Larson (1961-1968); Reverend Lillegard (1968-1970), at this time there were five congregations together, (including Trail and St. Petri at Grygla); Reverend Wosje (1971-1973), five congregations. Reverend Behrens (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 or 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 walk through the mud. 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
Often the minister could not attend the meeting of the ladies held devotion and sang hymns. Some would bring their hand work such as knitting, crocheting, etc., and share their talents which would 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. It worked very hard between the years 1929-1941 to furnish the church, inside and out.

During Rev. Fahlmark'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 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 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.

EQUITY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

From the days of early settlement to the time of consolidation, five schools had served the educational needs of the children of Equity 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 8, was also organized sometime before 1900. The first building, a log structure, was 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 Equity was a one-room log building located on the homestead of Delphine Walsh, who was also the first teacher. The students at that time were Margaret and Anna Jorgenson, Helga and Aurl Sorensen, Mary and Bergt Krossen, Signe Olga, Inge and Andrew Anderson, Fidelia and Anna Aaknes and Harry Kolshus. The school site was located on what is now the John Corbin 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 classes of District #20, also known as Poplar Glen, were held in a farm house owned by George Jorgensen. Around 1906 a school was built on the Jorgensen 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 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 Peter 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 x 26 x 10 feet high. It was to be located on the section line between sections 28 and 29. This site was given by A. E. Ofters 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 Nelson 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.


Poplar Glen District 20

District 19: Back Row: Ole Krossen, Ole Breivold, Thoma Holm, Torkel Knutson, Rudolph Thom, Ole Holm, Ralph Sorensen, Andrew Knutson, Front: Ole Jorgenson, Ole Krossen, Paul Jorgenson, Andrew Holm, Albert Breivold, Gunder Sorensen and Chester Olsen.

ROLAND STORE AND CLEARWATER CREAMERY

In 1904 when the Reservation land opened for settlement near 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 Bony 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 the 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 Rendsch, Gilbert Hoveland, Robert Anderson and Walter Wolfe. 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 there 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 haasvine, 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 stock-raising 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. Hovik 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 necessary 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.
RED LAKE COUNTY COURIER 12/9/01

LOCALS FROM LILLO.

The Comings and Goings of the People Chronicled.

By Swell.

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, Lintwoldt and Lillo made a business 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 Krin to Gertie Randal. Mrs. Krin 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. Legwald. Mr. Jensen 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 passementerie. They received many handsome and valuable presents.
GARNES TOWNSHIP

The territory that is now Gernes 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 Wanegas (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 seek their necessary supplies. The first store was built by Egi 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. Gernes 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 Gernes store, where Geo. E. Spong now lives. This store was later operated by L. K. Moen.

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

E. K. Gernes homesteaded in Headstoa 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. Mander 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 Gernes 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, Gernes 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.

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

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

Irvvalt Husby owned the first automobile in the town of Gernes. 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 Gernes was presented to the board of county commissioners on the fifth day of January, 1898.

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

The first town meeting was held in the town of Gernes 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 Swanson was then chosen to act as Clerk of the meeting.

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

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

In organizing the board, Gus Iversson was elected to act as chairman. He was also resolved at this meeting that the following places be considered the most public places in the town: At school house No. 216, the post office in Gernes and at school house No. 230.

On motion made, seconded and carried, meeting adjourned.

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

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 Swanson home on July 20, 1895. Halvor Vettleson was chosen moderator and O. N. Skomedahl as a teacher. The election was held at Gust Vettleson's home on July 31, 1896. Gust Swanson treasurer until July 31, 1897; O. N. Skomedahl 1898.

The following motion was passed: Be it resolved that a school site be designated in the southeast corner of Sec. 20, Township 151 Range 41. The school 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 $33.00. Wood and supplies $45.65. Paid for new school house $187.35. Other expenses $52.71. Cash on hand $21.90. Total $376.61. First order issued for school supplies to L. A. Ears $25.00, July 5, 1895.

School District 233

The first meeting on record to organize a school was held at the Joe Belair homestead on June 2, 1897, Camil Belair was chosen chairman, O. H. Olson Clerk, and Andrew Lemieux treasurer. It was decided to have one month of school at the Joe Clearmo 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. Discuss also was a site for the school. Many meetings were held concerning this topic. In 1899 the school house was built in the northeast corner of the SW/4 Section 32, 151-41. The farm is now owned by Halvor Vettleson.

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 No. 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 — Lee Ethier, Ernest Ethier, Ethel Balmer, Agnes Ethier, Edith Ethier. Second grade — Max Manders, Ethel Ethier, Emma Ethier. Third grade — Lois Ethier, Paul Ethier.

The following are the children of the Ethier family: Lee Ethier, Ethel Balmer, Emma Ethier, John Ethier, Max Manders, Lois Ethier, Paul Ethier, and Lois Ethier.

In 1904, a meeting was held to organize the Garnes School District. The following were present at the meeting: O.J. Ethier and family, E.K. Ethier and family, Ole G. Lee and John Lundell.

The congregation was organized on November 2, 1896, with the following officers: D. Hess, S. Sether, H. Haakon Haaven and family, T. D. Loth, Ole C. Passal, Erik Ericson, Gilbert Evenson, Ole Lolland 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 was unable to support the work by free-will gifts and was dissolved.

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. Kolsto and I. 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. Lothhus. At this meeting the secretary was instructed to issue a letter of call to Rev. O. Kolsto.

Rev. Kolsto 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 on March 31, 1898, Rev. Elstaf of the United church was present and was elected chairman. After some discussion it was unanimously 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 Elstaf and the Mission Committee for their 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, A. Bykum, M. Boraas, S. Maren, B. A. Wall and J. 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 owned the land was E. K. Gjeldaker. He helped greatly in getting the church built. He donated $2,500 and spent much time traveling around soliciting money for this undertaking.

At the congregational meeting in 1906, O. Lee and Olaf Tande were received as members. In 1909 Carl Sorenson joined and in 1910 Swan Waaghaug 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, president, and also parochial school teacher. He moved from here in 1920.

Rev. Kolsto 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. Kolsto traveled a good deal. Besides serving his regular call he helped organize congregations in Winga, Convick, Clearbrook, and also Zion congregation, Oklee, Lost River congregation and Plummer Lutheran congregation. Pastor Lunder 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 church with its furniture. It took several years to get nice oak pew, an altar, painting and a church bell and to get it finished with nice interior material. Finally the church was complete and very nice. The church was built in 1902, and a few years later it was moved.

A new church was built in 1920. The church was completed in 1922. It was dedicated in 1923. The congregation was very happy with the new church.

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 Waaghaug, chairman; Carl Sorenson, T. T. Stedtfeldt, Mikkel Larson and Sig Krostue. A committee to solicit money for the building fund was also elected.

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The following were members of the congregation almost from its beginning: Sailer Krostue, Osoy Skreland, Mikkel Larson, Young Peoples Society before 1912.
and Gjermund Larson. C. O. Lindberg served as president for many years and Old Tande served as secretary of the congregation for about 20 years continuously.

Knut Wettenso, who was the oldest member at the time of his death, remembers being a member of the Salem congregation in his will with a gift of $400.00 toward getting a church bell. Mr. Wettenso 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.

Let 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 were identified as being hard workers, first year 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. Swahaus was president for the next few years while Mrs. Hovens was secretary-treasurer combined for many years.

A constitution was written for the North Ladies Aid which would serve the same purpose for all branches. It was written in the Norwegian language as that was the language used at the first meeting. Some of the contents of the constitution were the extension of God's Kingdom both at home and abroad. All members present except for some important reasons.

The South Salem Ladies Aid was organized in 1898. Mrs. Oskolstoe was president for many years, while Mrs. Hakv was secretary-treasurer combined for many years.

The East Ladies Aid was organized in 1899. Mrs. Wicky was president and Mrs. M. Fuldge was secretary-treasurer. They held office for seven years. The members of this group once a year gave a dinner for 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 used and 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. Many of the women 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 Vaage, treasurer; and Mrs. G. A. L. Tande, clerk of the office of the Ladies Aid.

The following have been presidents over the years: Mrs. Ole Lee, Mrs. Ben Larson, Mrs. Oskolstoe, Mrs. Melvin Johnson, Mrs. Alva Fuldge, Mrs. T. O. Lien, Mrs. Bert Johnsen, Mrs. Nellie Langeland, Mrs. Grace Skolstad, Mrs. Harry Olson, Mrs. Edwin Walse, Mrs. G. A. L. Tande, Mrs. Leonard Johnson, Mrs. G. T. Fuldge, 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 Indian reservation. It was settled in 1884, but only a strip along the north side containing about 2,600 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" which was made to the town when it was a part of the Red Lake Indian Reservation, a portion of which was opened to settlement in 1886. As the Indians never visited this portion of their homes, it remained for the white man to turn advantage of the natural resources of the country.

The reservation was opened for settlement May 15, 1886. 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 homesteaders to turn back discouraged before they had reached the border of the Indian lands. Most of the people on foot, followed by the rest of the herd that night before the opening morning of the small log houses along the line were so full, that there was room at a premium. Some of the men had tents but on account of the rain and the wet ground, there was no room but comfortable.

And as luck had it, 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 their land they had taken.

Through the efforts of E. K. Gernes a post office was established here the same year the town was re-established. He also carried the weekly mail to and from Lamberton. The following spring the governor established the carrier route with a weekly service which was continued until the summer of 1902 when the daily mail was allowed. The post office was organized in January 1898 and three names for it were suggested, viz., Garnes, Clearwater and Prospector. The county commissioner appointed Garnes as the post office was called by that name.

The first officers of the new town were G. S. Swenson, chairman, and H. Tande, clerk, with her Jeldjorde and Isaac Lemkuhl 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 1896, and have a flourishing lodge. They

LIFE ON THE HOMESTEAD

It was sometime in the year 1896 that my father, Martin E. Fuldge, drove with horses from Normand County to Red Lake Falls and filed 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, mother, father, mother and father's two little boys, Alfred, age four, and Carl, two years old, moved in. Later a kitchen was built but it was still a very small house, so small that a trailer bed was built that could be rolled away under our parents' bed at night and pulled out at night to give sleeping space to our 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, but they also raised eighty-three hordes of mosquitoes. The men had built big smudge pots 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 Swans was free of snow from the previous night's snowfall, and we heard tell that when my father drove across the swamp to get the mid-wife, “Old Kari Stryd,” 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 placated in a rockng chair and the boys were instructed to rotate the chair, not rock it, as that might trip me over.

Some very good and binding friendships were formed among the Scandinavian villagers to the north of Beyond. 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 the ground floured. For the family's convenience, a little rockng chair was placed in the barn, and I could hardly have any idea how long it would take to make the trip there and back with a team of horses and a load of wheat. I was permitted to stay up until my father returned and when he presented me with the most beautiful little rocking chair, 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, too far for a small youngster to walk. So for months I sat 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 a load of wheat. I was permitted to stay up until my father returned and when he presented me with the most beautiful little rocking chair, I was the happiest little girl in the world.

The new Foldoe homestead had an enormous amount of rock for I remember 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 about the same size as our old home place and contained currant bushes and rhubarb with a small vegetable garden. 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 small livestock.

Doctors lived in the towns and transportation was very difficult, so for such little incidents as a sawed off finger or another crush in the cream separator, it was “mother” who took charge and used whatever medicine she deemed necessary. One was time honored, when the fifth Foldoe child was born, it was 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 horsecar 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 the family. I think it must take people of great strength, forbearance 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 at the time. There was a small dance hall 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 most in class as she daintily held her long skirt back a bit off the floor with her left hand as she stepped agilely 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, Gust, and his family had moved to the United States. The Emardville had moved to Sedro Woolley, Washington, a year before and wrote glowing letters about his paradise out there. It made the Foldoes seem senseless, so the farm was sold to M. O. Sortdal, a realtor in Red Lake Falls, and an auction was set for the sale of all the farm equipment, 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 new Foldoes were not sad ones. The family moved from Bagley to Ernestine 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 a farm again and purchased a place only two and a half miles north of the old Foldoe place.

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. My mother lived eighty-three years and passed away in 1953. Seven of the eight children are still living.

Alfred of Mentor; Carl of Bagley; Major J. A. Hughes of Belgrade, Red Lake Falls; Mrs. Irving Gries of St. Paul; Gust of rural Plummer, still on the Foldoe farm; Joe lives in St. Hilaire; Harry of Bagley; John (Mabel) of Brainerd; Mrs. Dan Nelson (Ane) of California died two years ago.

Contributed by Belle Hughes

REV. KOLSTOE, A PIONEER PASTOR, AND HIS HORSE, BILL

Bill was a white horse, 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 playfull 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 lost the argument. He was so likable that people 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 a mystery to all who knew him. One trick 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 story, the life and adventures of the significant participant that he later unwittingly became in bringing the comfort and the guidance of the gospel to isolated pioneers in northeastern Minnesota. And so here, we shall leave White Bill, but not for long.

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 roads that served as roads. The country is flat; a vast lake bottom formed by an earlier extension of what are now the lakes of Minnesota. Then, it is said, there are few topographical features of the old prairie.
dead grass, which slowed down clearing of the ground for market farming. It limited the settlers to scarcely more than subsistence farming, but it was well-known that the people who didn’t manage to get along, they were on their way to 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-known to be catastrophic. With all these obstacles present, the duties of the pastor continued to remain obvious and compelling that any thought of easing up at any time or at any point of ministerial duties was given short shrift. 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 skis. With that pair of skis 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. For Father, his dedication 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 he was a good horse person, 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.

And so, he went on with his sales pitch. Dad, as John doled out advice, 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.

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 courage and kindness that Father showed toward 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-our slush-filled miles away. In the break-up of the winter roads, this would be a harrowing journey, if not to say, an outright dangerous one for the rider. John set out almost casually, as if he was going in his hat and coat, took off on foot, walked twenty miles through the miserable slush, bought a fifty-pound bag of flour, hoisted it onto his back and started back. Not much was said about it on his return. He and Gust didn’t have to talk. They 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. They took such men to build a pioneer community.

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 very smart and tricky. However, as usual, dad related the story of how he got and believed John’s sales 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 that he liked, or so he said, and a new life began for White Bill. Dad 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 need his horse like a fishhook or a blowtorch 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 living young at that time, but I finally managed to cut White Bill loose, 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 what an animal can be expected to do. He was calm 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 timing of the spring planting. Dad was the only one who could hardly wait. It was too early, he would need his horse to help. Dad told 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 one-two - three four, Dad 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 the...
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 fairhearted 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. More 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 bravery, in the phenomenal 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 sacchariness 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 scattered with mud and work-stained. He wore it a long time and it almost became a vestment of his office. John would be there and with him are 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 had 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 unwritten 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
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 was 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 Perreault, Phillip Thayer, Joseph Laurent, Sam Miller, and Orville 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.

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 Bla Reak, 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, Anna Hinrichs, 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 Neilsen’s yard and is used as a granary.

**WILDWOOD SCHOOL**

The old records of the Wildwood School date back to 1896. The teacher was 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 LeFaisve, 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 meetings 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, Arlt’s, 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.
The Tillman, Arit, Flage and Westerlund clan.

Gervais team is standing and Emardville baseball team in front.
Homesteaders began settling the land in Lake Pleasant Township shortly after the Bovina Group arrived in 1876. In 1877, Charles 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.

Charlie 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 Phenan 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, Charlie Perrault; Supervisors, Charles Ducharme and Michael Fournin; Clerk, Edward Columbus; Treasurer, William Schaper; Justices of the Peace, Henry Hennemuth and John Perrault; Constables, Adolph Riechel and George Frennette.

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:

1860 — 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. Desirée Lacoursière was elected poundmaster with the pound being located in section one. The cost for impoundment 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.

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 Charlie 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 Quessin. $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 $56,378.00.

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 moves in session on a vote to remove every vestige of control and supervision from the state commissioners and replace 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.

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; Supervisor, Leo Hofer and Erwin Weis.

Prior to 1900 there was a church located in section 27 and the cemetery is located on the farm presently owned by William Harvitz. Another cemetery, located in section 13, was known as the Demmich Cemetery. In 1925 Ludwig Weiss and Sam and George Luchtenburg 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 32, was built in 1927 by Ed Marcoux. He also had a post office where he sold 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 1925 by Isadore Rosen and the same year sold to Harvey Bombardier who owned it until 1938. Other operators have been Paul Brunette, Ed Callier and Joe Juhi who later started a gravel business which he sold to "Swart Gravel Co." and is now owned by Bradshaw Gravel Supply. The Midway Building was moved to Gethspady and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Braut.

In 1975 construction was started on the Red Lake Falls Municipal Airport which is located at the junction of Highways 32 and 32.

Lake Pleasant Township presently counts 777 people residing within its boundaries and of these 275 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
MARCOUX CORNER

Marcox Corner, situated north of Highway Two and west of Highway Thirty-two in Lake Pleasant Township, was named for Edward Marcox who settled there in 1927 and opened a Phillips Gas Station and a small cafe. Marcox had purchased a small parcel of land, four acres in all, from Omer Deforme who owned the quarter section on this site. Marcox thought he had made a poor investment in choosing this spot for a business place, and that he could not possibly make a living there. However, he was to be proven wrong.

It is said 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 a store, was a two-story frame house behind the store. The business improved another large room was added.

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 Marcox Corner. This in itself was a great help to the gas business and the establishment.

When Ed Marcox 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 Kanka had resigned and a new sheriff was appointed.

Oliver and Anne Proulx purchased Noel’s share of Marcox Corner in 1942 and remained there to operate the gas station, cafe and bar for many years. Their family of three boys, Joseph, Daniel and George and one daughter, Marie Jean, grew up at Marcox and attended school at Red Lake Falls and Crookston.

Subsequently, the place was sold to Walter Mondt in 1946, who operated the business for only one year. In 1947, Oliver Proulx again bought the Corner from Mondt, at the death of his father, he returned home to manage his father’s business. According to township records, the next purchaser of Marcox Corner was Lawrence Laundrie 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 site where the old one had stood.

Many times the Corner was a haven for travelers when a blinding snow storm 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.

Marcox Corner, presently operated by Fred and Dorothy Gjesdahl, is a modern, well-equipped establishment where patrons can enjoy dining and dancing in the restaurant, bar and lounge.
LAMBERT TOWNSHIP

Lambert Township was organized at a meeting held at the Francois Lambert home on January 29, 1882. The first officers elected were: Francois Lambert, Patrice Lamay and S. Vilain, judges, J. Lambert and Sylvain 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.
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. Francois 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. Mercier, Elie Theillon, Louis Faige 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 1886.

From 1901 to 1918, Fathers William Roy, Stanslaus Beaulieu and Arthur Beaulieu were the Priests. 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 91 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.
LAMBERT TOWNSHIP POST OFFICE
The first Lambert post office was established in 1887 and located in the Sylvin Gergin 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, Ursull Lambert, Xavier Juneau, Olive Juneau, Mary Louise Lambert, Arthur Beaudoin, Francis Beaudoin, Joe Lambert, Adelore Shank, Gideon 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 Backtown, 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 Elizima. From Canada.
- Charley Boisvert. From Canada in 1882.
- Michael Boisvert, wife Avina, farmers. From Canada in 1899.
- Zelia Martin Bachand, hotel keeper. From Canada in 1879.
- Joe Belland, sold agricultural equipment.
- Peter Boucher, wife Louise, farmers. From Canada.
- Joe Boucher, wife Marie, farmers. From Canada.
- Fortunia Bourque, wife Jenny Bottineau. From Canada.
- Ursull Bergeron, wife Mary, farmers. From Canada.
- Joseph Beaudoin, wife Virginia, farmers. From Canada in 1889.
- George Charest, wife Otevine, farmers. From Canada in 1881.
- Gideon Desselle, wife Malvina, farmers. From Canada in 1887.
- Louis Doucet, wife Mary, hotel and retail merchant. From Canada in 1885.
- 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.
- Ermengulie Hince, wife Adeline. From Canada.
- Adelore Hince, wife Angelina, farmers. From Canada in 1880.
- Goust Lambert, wife Adeline. From Canada in 1880.
- Alphonse Lambert, wife Ciseri, farmers. From Canada in 1882.
- Joseph Lambert, wife Mary. From Canada in 1882.
- Xavier Lambert, wife Josephine, dry goods store. From Canada in 1881.
- Anton Lambert, wife Maludie. From Canada in 1881.
- Armadis Lambert, wife Blanche, sold agricultural equipment. From Canada in 1881.
- William Langlois, wife Adeline, Agricultural equipment. From Canada.
- Joseph Falardeau, From Canada.
- Isidore Leleve, 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.
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 Redman, Mr. Asselin, George Charest, Gust Deymonius, Abraham La Coursiere, Joe Belland, Hughes Dery, Sr., Frank Fournier and Oli Quintal family.

The two family home built by Zephairin Lambert and his son, Francois, in 1881 so that the dwellings were situated on both homesteads fulfilling the requisite for buildings on homesteaded property.

Mathias Nash, wife Kate from Vermont. Irish descent.
Torge Torgerson, Minnesota. Wife Gunda from Norway.
Louis Toulose, wife Clara. From Minnesota.
Abraham Paquin, wife Marie, farmers. From Canada in 1885.
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.
Simone Bernier, wife Celina. From Canada.
Edward Erickson, wife Ida. From Minnesota.
A. F. Turgeon, wife Rosane, sell agricultural equipment. From Canada.
Reney Varin, wife Georgiana. From Canada.

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 it for 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, Adelle Boucher, Geo. Charest, Adelle 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.
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 Anna Vattendahl in 1896 who retained ownership for several years. The Tri-State Land Company, a corporation, purchased the land from E. E. Quinroe 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, 1859 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 1911 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
Several buildings were erected on the village site during 1910. Peter Husbys, local manager of the I. O. Manger Lumber Yard, 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 Stavold 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 $500 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 locate in what promised to become a prosperous community.

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, squill, feed, and merchandise used by the early business establishments and their homes.

Louis Falaradeau 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. Gjeme 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 Stave 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
Norway. While the language, religion and customs differed, they had 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. Surprisingly 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, helped to attract 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 general merchandise store owned by Peter Bergeron was one of the first Oklee stores. Gunlik Holm is the driver of the ox team.

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 hearty 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, Chautauqua 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. Oklee Tribune, published by G. T. Veillevaux, 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 settlers 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.
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 two fire and 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 power plant. A few years later a 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 everyone to connect their basements with the drainage. The present water system was installed in 1919 which offered 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 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 everyday routine. Men between the ages of 21 and 40 were ordered to register for war service duty under the Federal Conscription Law. The people were called upon to observe meatless and meatless 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 Guner 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 Tuscana, 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 Nebraska, 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 Knutsen, 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 it 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.
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 by 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. Sローン and his successor Hans Roedt 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 Gardens 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 fire-proof 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 school districts 9, 10, 11, 13, 19, 20, 76, 103, 151 of Red Lake County, 204, 262, 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 2 1/2 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 251 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 2% and 3 percent.

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 had won three championships, 1951, 1955, and 1958, and that this team were Theodore Torgerson, Raymond Lindquist, Orrin Melby, William Torgerson, Oscar Rolland, August Bourque, Carl Lorch, Elmer Hince and Orio Soland. Since that time basketball has been carried on continuously as an extra curricular activity and has not added to the 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 team have won three championships, 1951, 1955, and 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 teams 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...
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 Clearbrook. Since then he has been in Boy Scout Service. 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 1938 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.
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Several original parishioners of what is now St. Francis Xavier Parish in Oklee unanimously agreed 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 Zephirin Lambert, father of Francis Lambert, and Antoine 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.

Pierre 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 Lambert, a mission chapel, 20 feet by 40 feet, facing north, was erected on the NW corner of Section 15.

Father 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 Lambert who chose the name St. Francis Xavier for the mission in its earliest days.

The first recorded baptism dates back to June 17, 1864. This baptism was administered to Thomas Janeau, son of Joseph Juneau and Delphine Belland, by Father G. L. Dugal. Father Dugal lead the mission in the short period of 1884-1885.

Following the appointment of Father Meeks, there was a succession of four priests. This group included Father J. H. Meehan, 1885-1887; Father Elie Thelion, 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 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. The 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 Boivin.

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 1868, during that time of Father Feige's pastorat. Bishop McGolrick again returned in 1898 during the pastorate of Father Archambault, to confirm another group.
Rev. J. K. Lerohl came to our parish in the fall of 1920 from Starbuck, Minnesota, Canada. He and his family lived in what is now the Horstman home until 1926, when the parish bought the old Dunlop home and moved their congregation there.

In 1939, after special meetings with the leaders of the church and much discussion, the Ladies Aid borrowed $1,000 from the church extension fund. With the aid of two other loans from the Aid, the congregation was able to build a basement, level the ground, and lay the sidewalk. The first Ladies Aid meeting was held in the new church basement on February 14, 1940.

The newly enlarged church was dedicated October 20, 1940, with Rev. O. Fielstaas presiding.

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: he was in Oklee; Zion, Salem, Valley, Plummer; Oklee; and Zion 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 week and church collections would run between $2.00 and $4.00.

In October 1947, Rev. J. M. Runstad served the parish for the first time. On November 6, 1947, a dinner and dance was served at安装 services and reception for Rev. Runstad and family. Rev. Runstad served the parish until 1954 at which time he accepted a call to serve the Bethany Church in Red Lake Falls.

Rev. Grudol served the parish from 1954 for three years. It was during his stay here that the old parsonage was sold and the new one was built. Rev. Grudol 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 the third pastor in Oklee, following Rev. Runstad and family. Rev. Runstad served the parish until 1954 at which time he accepted a call to serve the Bethany Church in Red Lake Falls.

Throughout the years, the Zion Ladies Aid has assisted their congregation in their endeavor to create a pleasant and comfortable place to worship and enjoy the fellowship of its members.

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 first members were Mrs. T. O. Sordahl and Mrs. E. O. Erickson, who became the first president. As early as 1911 the Ladies Aid 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 1913 Rev. T. S. Palm held the constitution for the Ladies Aid in the Norwegian 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 new remodeling project in the church in 1964.

In January of 1962 the Zion American Lutheran Church Women of Oklee organized their members into groups 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 every four years with one circle giving the program and serving refreshments.
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 Clarksfield 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, 1909. To them were born Dora (Mrs. R. E. Biltbrough), 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.

This home built in 1911 belonged to Dr. W. B. Torgerson.

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. Dr. Tessier was called to attend 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 Kellis, 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, Onnezime and Flore (Mrs. C. F. Seeger).
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, Jack Lee and Jason. Ramge Knutson 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 combat 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, Pembina, Marshall and North Polk counties.

We are 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 for twice a week. It was called "Girl 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, sugar 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 freezing it and covering layers of it with fat. Quite often beet was salted and then cured and dried. Berries of all kinds were plentiful; wild cranberries, pin cherries, choke cherries, June berries, raspberries, and wild strawberries were large and plentiful. A large bail of strawberries could be picked in a short time.
JENNIE BOURQUE
(b. 1872—d. 1982)
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 Mayermicks 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 Bottineaus, 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 on 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 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.

—Contributed by Mrs. Edward O. Erickson

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 on July 2nd 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 planning committee headed by Grace McNamur and Selmer Walshaug assisted by Walter Asselin, Mrs. Joe Asselin, Adelia 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 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 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. Max, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Millette, 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
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. Gron 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 Steiger, 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 day convention with a program of Norwegian music, folk and old time dancing, poems, readings and speeches. Highlights of the concert 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 Norwegian people who came from Setesdal, Norway. Olaf Vantrengdahl, a Setesdals, was an early owner of the Oklee townsite. Though most of the Setesdal pioneers from Setesdal are dead, the younger generations and other Norwegians and nationals 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.

Bjorgulv Bjornar served as president of the Organization for the first thirty-two years, from 1909 until 1932. The present officers are: Ole Lien, president; Byron Flatebaek, vice-president; Mrs. Erick Johnson, secretary-treasurer; Gunner Sorensen, Oscar Olson, Oscar Flatebaek, Gust Gunderson 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 Naives 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 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 Tagesen; Vice-President, Truman Sorensen; Treasurer, Ole Gullickson; Secretary, Mrs. Erick Johnson; Directors, Tilda Langerud, Leonard Gullickson, Arline Brekke, Carl Norjere and Oscar Carlson.
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 Huot 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.

The year 1885 the supervisors were Alec Roberge, chairman, Simon Patnode and Alphonse St. Michel, with Benjamin Dolbec as clerk, Eustache Payet, 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, Elyiaer Derouin, Octave Montrouil, France Grenier, J. Jones, Theodore Pepin, Octave Beauchaine, 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 lives for many years and where Erwin Welenkamp, Jr. lives today.

Ten years later, on March 12, 1895, the supervisors were Octave Beauchaine, chairman, Vital Major and Athanas Beauchaine, 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. Costs of the bridge was to be $120.00 for labor, $19.60 for supplies, $21.44 for lumber, $1.05 for nails and $45.50 for delivery of supplies to the site.

A. D. Berry was the builder.

On February 23, 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 Beauchaine and A. D. Roepelle, A. D. Berry as clerk and Joseph Marcutt as treasurer.

In 1910 the supervisors were A. D. Roepelle, chairman, Alfred St. Michel and Arthur Huot. A. D. Berry served as clerk and Joseph Marcutt 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 1916 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 town 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 flocked 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 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 in 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 those years Louisville boomed with French-Canadian families.

Father Elie Thellion 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 Grignonprez 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 Grigonprez' health began to fail and Father Ernest Bossus was sent from Baudette to help care for the parish and to serve the mission of Dorothy. Father Bossus arrived at Dorothy on March 8, 1926, and was there less than a month when Father Grignonprez 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 1932 to 80 families in 1935.

Father Bossus' sight failed in his last years at Dorothy but his eyesight was successfully restored by a cataract operation. In 1939, 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, 1950.

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.
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 novelty between the acts. Gazette May 1, 1941.

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL AT HUOT

In 1926 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 six months. 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 Ahanasse Beauchene, Octave Beauchene and Benjamin Dolbec.

Little Red School District 1736

RED LAKE RIVER FLOOD — 1969

When the Red Lake River went on a rampage on April 10, 1969, and ice jams tore open the dikes, the Robert Larson farm in Louis ville 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 Red Larson farm, built in a rather low area one mile southwest of Hoot in Louis ville 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 evident 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 up river, 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 cars loads 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 dikes, 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 were 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, Dianne, 15, 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 dikes 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 Juhi, Douglas Kees, Dean LaChance, Michael Moursi, Allen Page, Robert St. Marie and Michael Toulouse.
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 Meurer 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. Stetton 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, Perrus, Toupin, Oban, Audette, LaChance, Cyr, Meurer, Pomier, 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 Gentrel, Harvey Riedeau, and Paul Wilkins, superintendents; Lee Nielsen, assessor; Dwight Robidoux, town clerk; and Clifford Noyes, treasurer.
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 Aure 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), Aure J. Parenteau, Wallace Champa-}

pagne, 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 as the current 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, proprietor), 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, proprietor), A. I. Hamr-}

rum Accounting Service, Third Base Sup-}

per Club (Milo Larson, proprietor), Perreault’s Plumbing & Heating, Dick’s (Delage) Gravel Service, Paradis Standard & Antiques (R. J. Paradis, proprietor), 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.
BROOKS

FIRE DESTROYS BUSINESS BUILDINGS AT BROOKS

Fire starting in a vacant building at Brooks about midnight Thursday evening, burned eight buildings to the ground and caused a loss of about $26,000 besides blowing out over half of the business section of the village of Brooks. Only one building was left standing in the entire block — the phone. The Kienast garage in the next block was untouched and was the only other business building standing on the west side of Main Street.

The Brooks band had played a concert on the street earlier in the evening and it is assumed that someone threw a cigarette into the vacant building which was owned by the Merchants State Bank of Red Lake Falls and the stub ignited some refuse and started the fire.

So rapidly did the flames spread that it was next to impossible to save any stock of merchandise and several people barely escaped in their night clothes. The school teachers, Misses Blanche Berthiaume, J. A. Maas and Alma Guillemette, lost everything in the flames but the clothes they were wearing.

Deymonaz Bros. lost their entire stock valued at $11,000 and on which they had invested $3,000 insurance. Their building was owned by W. O. S. Pennington of Glenwood, pioneer merchant of Brooks and son of President Edmund S. Pennington of the Soo Railway. The amount of insurance on the building was not known but the furniture was valued at $5,000. H. E. Lantz lost several hundred dollars worth of furniture in the residence apartments over the Deymonaz store.

F. A. Honwald lost his restaurant building, equipment and household furniture. His loss was about $2,500 with insurance of $1,400. A pool hall and barber shop owned by Nick Pfeffer, then in the army, were leased by Arthur Lambert, burned. The loss 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 officials held a meeting in Pleffer’s barber shop to set the wheels in motion for the construction of the church. The chairman of the congregation was Frank Oiban with J. D. Seymour serving as treasurer and Max Warren, secretary. It was decided to build the new church on land that had been originally deeded to Louis Derosier by the United States government in 1882. The church dimensions were to be six feet wider than the Terrebonne church and six feet longer, being the same size as the Terrebonne church. Peter Champagne, Narcisse Robidoux, and Fred Berberick were appointed to a committee whose task it was to formulate building plans and also to determine the proper costs for the structures. The church was donated $25 for the gravels 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 in later 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 tones “la” of the musical scale and was the finishing touch to 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 volunteer labor in the congregation.

Lake in May, 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.

Throughout this tenure as Postmaster, Mr. Lanel served a total of more than 45 years, county schooled by Lake on Rally, in September of 1949. Ralph Lanel 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 All Berry became the carrier. Mr. Berry served as rural carrier for 37 years retiring in 1943. The old schoolhouse served as a temporary building in 1943 and 1950 when Lloyd Mercel was appointed rural carrier in April of 1950. He has since served in that capacity from 1965 to 1990. 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 building was run concurrently with the store until 1958 when Ralph Laniel sold the 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 Falls. 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 two 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 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 nonexistent 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 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, remembering 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 traveled to Liban and married 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
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 cheesemaking 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 fifth year in business in March of 1976.
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 fountain 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 Carrara, 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.

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. Loans for the project were obtained the first part of 1967.

The first three double units were erected in 1968, the second two 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.

Mayors, past and present, Aurel Parenteau and Ron Paradis.

Blast to Brooks annual celebration.
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 a meeting held April 13, 1880, W. W. Wilson was re-elected chairman. Henry Gervais and Eli Lasha were re-elected supervisors, and Frank Hunt was elected auditor.

At a meeting held October 22, 1880, all section lines in the township were declared public highways, except 1/18, 17/20, 16 1/21, 15 1/22, 14 1/20, and 13 1/24.

On March 8, 1881, Thomas Belair was elected chairman, L. H. Gervais, clerk, and Eli Lasha and George Brunelle supervisors. A three-mile tax was appropriated for road purposes, and two miles 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, and 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.

On 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 on 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 at 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 Labissiere, 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. Entitled "A History of the Township of Red Lake Falls," it was written in 1888 and mentions 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 the town's history was recorded as follows:

Serving as treasurer over the years were E. J. Lasha, John Yehl, Simon Sutter, John Linnertz, Simon Sutter, Harry Miller, George Schaffer, John Schaffer, and Jorgen Knutson.


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 1890's," says Mr. Schmitz, "and even in my time, it was a practice to post township notices of importance to the residents of the township at three prominent places. In 1899 it was ordered by the board to post notices at the post office in the village of Red Lake Falls, one at the Red Lake River bridge, and one on the telescope 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."
Mr. Schmitz notes that another duty of the township clerk was discontinued during the 1950s. Recording of births and deaths was transferred to the Clerk of Court for the County.

On March 2, 1953, a special town 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 Harmon 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 1892-93, however, these records tell little else. Information dated 1897 shows John Marlow, John Dewey and George Weiss on the school board.

Some of the earliest teachers at Busy Bee were Clara Richard, Anna Rosch, Marie Crome, Eddi Hanson, Nita Adler, Nieland, Irene Schlosser Zins, Alice Baker, Cecelia Hart, Gertrude Blaska, Blanche Berthaume, Ursula Patnode Jolly, Opa Cornell, Anna Pinnconeault Proulx, Agnes Johannson, Freda Lehmkohl, Elizabeth Kruse, Mary Jo Carmody, Marcella Platt Fernholz, Rita Westerman, Eunice Lambert Haupt, Leonard St. Mitchell, Ula Guilleminette, Frances Marlow, Evelyn Longtin, Lucile Schmitz Descell, Thelma Dalley and Musetta Normandeau.

"Memory 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. The 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 aunt, 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 time in the small and often crowded classroom.

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


School District 40 located on the Karl Bundemark farm in Section 29. Francis Keelenheim 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.
coping 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 grit '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 township 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: Isaac Gervais, Joseph Belair, Thomas Belair, John B. Demaraire, 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 Broulette, 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, peoples 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 hardest 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.

From early years, Main Avenue was the commercial hub of town. The land was 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 winter, 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, a colony of French settlers came from Upper Canada including the Brunelles, Peraults, Libissonieres, Marchildons, Marchants, Robillards, Latendresse, Ducharmes, Lizees, Legacys, and others. These settled south of the river. 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 Busch, 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 Suhler took up the townsite as soon as possible afterwards platted it.

The next year, the first of what is now Main Street, Mr. Buse with Otto Kankel, built a grist mill and saw mill, erecting a dam some distance up the river, the remains of which still can be seen in the low water. The turbine wheel used to run the mill was bought 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 Christoffersen. Others soon followed, the country north of the river being settled mostly by Scandinavians, while some 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 prosaic 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 making the grist mill village an ideal location on the bank of the Clearwater, platted by Mr. Kretzschmar and called Kretzschmar Addition. Prices of lots in this new and really beautiful location at one dollar an acre, and 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 $200 to $500 each, which they had never seen and didn't want 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. Rodgeron 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 clusterbuck of the Kretzschmar Block, were it not for the fact that into this Eden crept a serpent, or rather, one of them, in the shape of a pair of confidence sharers named Collins, who inveigled the ambitious but unsuspecting Kretzschmar into a number of schemes for capitalizing a company, secured his signatures to important papers and decamped, leaving him financially stranded. Sympathetic citizens attempted to treat the Collins to a lynchng bee, but the birds flew and never returned. To this day they are held in deepest degradation 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 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, "kittering" across sections, and became in the fall and winter a well traveled highway. Upon it at short distances apart, saloons and stopping places were established where the weary travelers might refresh themselves. 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 Kouli", 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, placed 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 great measure disappointed, and with the
At the advent of the Great Northern the city centralized itself about Main Street and settled down to prepare for the prosperous future that awaited it. The boom times were over. New starts and inflated beginnings have been succeeded by a steady, real and prosperous growth, based upon the true advantages and opportunities offered by the city and its surrounding territory. But one thing was needed to complete the situation, that it become the central point and county seat of a county as prosperous as itself. This happened in December, 1896, and since then Red Lake Falls and Red Lake Country have made great strides in progress. Their fame has spread throughout the Northwestern states, and lo! many strangers, lured by no fictitious values but by real worth and golden opportunity, have entered their gates to reap their bountiful invests and depart no more. What the future shall bring forth, who shall say? Yet the past has its merry reminiscences and no man can say he is sorry to have lived in those early, stirring days.

by Charles E. Boughton, Sr. 1902

Red Lake Falls from Kretzschmar Avenue about 1880

Main 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 shoe store, a drug store and a jewelry store.
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 route center of northeastern 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 lakes 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 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 an increase to 1,600 persons. Population projections reveal that the 1978 level could reach 1,800 persons, and could surpass the 2,000 persons mark by 1986. 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 percent of the population is enrolled in 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 southeast part of the city. The water and sewer facilities and paved access roads for the 154 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, new pavement, and improvements being among those concerns.

Red Lake Falls City Council members 1976: Mayor, Vaughn Thorfinnson; Alderman First Ward, Herb Johannbeck; Alderman Second Ward, Lawrence Phillion; Alderman Third Ward, Edwin Efferson; Alderman at-Large, Roger Eickstein and Fred Violette.

Positions appointed by the mayor and approved by the Council: Clerk, Phil Cuney; Water Superintendent, Ray St. Marie;
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 Chipewa were at war with each other and their warrior behavior along with the 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 Chipewa, 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 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 struck 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, L'Abissonieres, 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 Sohiel, 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,
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 fiddle 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 township. 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 shoes and fine goods, ducks, geese, and deer. Bear and wildcats, 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 power that makes the city a large one. 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 from nothing over to 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 almost be doubled. It would be an entirely new city if I had a chance. I think they would do it in the next town."

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 citi-

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 Falls' first school was a small log house called "Buse's Shanty". It was located, in terms of present landmarks, as a house down the hill and to the north of the courthouse. The decision to open the school was made at a special meeting held at Schroeder's Store in Red Lake Falls on September 4, 1880. Otto F. Buse was the first chairman of the school board and Dr. Dr. Lemeux was the first clerk of the district.

Adam Zeh, W. A. Schreiber and John Wilkins were among the first trustees of School District No. 15 in Polk County. Red Lake Falls was a part of Polk County at the 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
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 townhall on Botinsau 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 Hurl.

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 taught for extended periods included: Hilda 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 Church. A new school was built in 1914 and the Normal Training Department was moved into the new building.

In 1905, a new Washington School was built which is now the elementary school. This building was torn down in 1967 to make way for the present Washington School. Lafayette High School was built in 1891 and the old building, which was torn down in 1928, is now the elementary school. Lafayette High School is now the junior high school.

In 1914, Lafayette High School was erected in 1914 and is now the high school.

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 modern. It included an assembly hall, two gymnasiums, a boys' and a girls' room, and 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 and friendship of everyone in the school, and was very helpful.

In 1914 the students were given a chance to see their school as it stood today. The visit to the new building was an annual event.

In 1937 the students dedicated the school to their friend. 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 early years, 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 $212.00 per month in 1940.

Through the years, the curriculum in the high school has changed with the 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 by 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 several years. Girls' gym classes were offered, 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, bookkeeping and sales were taught.

In 1950, the first classes in auto mechanics were taught by Margaret Rude. Others who taught for extended periods in the commercial department were Mary I. Fallon and Betty Breto. This popular program of training has continued to grow and change in keeping with modern office practices. Current courses in typing, bookkeeping, stenography, and business law are offered.

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. Killand (asisted by J. A. Hughes) coached the early basketball teams. In 1936, basketball was introduced for girls when the Clearwater River was developed for a practice and playing field. This is now known as the park. It is well-lighted and is used for both football and basketball.

Beginning in 1925, J. A. Hughes assisted by E. F. Killand, coached the football teams. In 1938, he 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 school.

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In 1937, George Christie, Robert Flemming, William Hunt and Maurice Roy formed the Lafayette golf club. This team, coached by E. F. Killand, took part in several golf meets. In 1938, golf was again organized at Lafayette with Roger Arvidson as the coach. Harold Spears began coaching golf in 1939 and continued in that capacity for a number of years.

In the early 1940's, a track team was formed. Track was the spring sport for Lafayette girls. J. A. Hughes coached those early track teams. Russell Monson began coaching track teams in 1937.

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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 a part of Lafayette since the early 1930's, leading the cheering sections at pep fests and athletic events.

**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. The chapter has been active in the community since its inception. It has been very active in its projects around the library. In addition there are rooms for special classes and a music room, two kindergarten rooms, a nurse's station, a faculty lounge and office space. The gymnasium, also used as a lunchroom, is situated between the school and the library. When Lafayette opened, William Jackson, the first principal, was hired as the district's first elementary principal.

Lowell D. Larson succeeded Mr. Birchland as superintendent in 1969 and held that position until 1975. Modular scheduling, a relatively new concept in education, had been tested at high school. Under his guidance, this plan was developed and modified to meet the local needs.

Through the evolution of the East Polk Red Lake County Vocational Center in 1969, additional areas of vocational training became available for high school students. E. J. Shulke, the first vocational coordinator, which was made possible through the cooperation of several school districts in the two counties, Winton Beckstetter 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 a variety of classes being taught. The 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 part-time instructors are employed. Jean Hanson has been the vocational director 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 Eileen Hanson in 1904. Other early principals include: Erma Lewis, 1905-1906; Louise Gehrke, 1906-1907; Lyle M. Smith, 1907-1908; Reinhart, 1913; Stephen Bakalyar, 1914; Charles Boyer, 1915; C. K. Ekren, 1917; Vera Curtis, 1918; Hulda Hanson, 1922 and Eugene Ahmke 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 place.

After the first twenty years, the high school principals have been: Edwin K. Kildan, 1926-1938; Mary I. Johnson, 1938-1943; Lauren A. Anderson, 1943-1946; E. J. Shulke, 1946-1950; Joseph H. Haller, 1950-1972 and Dennis D. Wahl beginning in 1972. During his tenure, teacher duties were phased out of his schedule, allowing him the opportunity to devote more time to guidance and counseling. As a full-time principal, he had an office on the second floor of Lafayette. In the mid-1960s, his office was moved to the new building on the north side of the school. He was one of the longest serving principals, having served as part of the home economics department. A full-time secretary was hired, and later a part-time secretary was added.

Hundred of people not mentioned in this history, have played a part in shaping the course of the schools, and in shaping the lives of the youth in Red Lake Falls. The results of the efforts of the faculty, staff and students have shown that the schools have given many years of dedicated service to the school district. Serving on the present board of Independent District No. 630 are Donald Bautian, Ronald Brule, Patricia Mertens, Robert G. Miller, chairman, Robert Poerle and William Purush (assistant superintendent). Norman J. Chaffee is the superintendent of schools. There are 291 students enrolled at Lafayette school and in the kindergarten.
The St. Joseph School was located on the corner of Champagne Avenue S.W. and 2nd Street, previously 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," 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.

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 enterprises in Red Lake Falls is St. Joseph's parochial school, a beautiful brick structure built by the congregation of St. Joseph's Church. In 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 for quartered wing rooms 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 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'Hiver, 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 Lemaire.

Father Pierre Champagne returned to Duluth in 1886. The street running 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 Payolle 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 Dubuque 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; 1918 — 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. Grimondrez, 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 parsonage 50 years 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 Fellen 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 Kielbach.

On June 24, 1961, Bishop Kenneth Puech 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 pipe organ, 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. Stepmper, Administrator of the Diocese of St. Cloud, appointed Rev. Bernard Sp buddle pastor of the new parish. He attended St. Hilare and Euclid as missions. Reverend Ignatius Bailiff took charge of the parish in 1889 to be succeeded by the following
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The building which was formerly Bethany Lutheran Church is located on the north end of Main Street and Red Lake Falls. It has a rather interesting background as it 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 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 has 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. B. F. Triem of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to seek its support. A survey was conducted of potential ELC members, and it was determined that there was 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 3 P.M. This was gradually increased in the pattern of services until the summer of 1950 when Rev. David Vaeler was hired to work in their midst as student pastor. In November of that year, Rev. O. L. Boldt, a retired pastor, joined the group. Also that year, the congregation adopted the name Bethany.

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. 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 incidenetally was the 50th year 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 tenure that the church was moved from the north to 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 Concordia College. A year and a half 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 the northern part of the state. Presently serving Bethany is Pastor David Putz. He and his wife, Erica, and daughter, Rachel, came here on January 1, 1975, from a serving a parish in Gatzie.

Bethany has continued its growth over the years and presently there are approximately 80 families worshiping there.

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The history of St. John’s Lutheran Church is actually a history of two Lutheran congregations, St. John’s 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 Pfeil, the two congregations merged and became a fellowship with its house of worship in south Red Lake Falls. That year the church was renamed St. John’s Lutheran, and the name has remained.

The foundation of our congregation was 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 bilingual family. Rev. George Schmell spoke for Rev. J. P. Flinc to the group. 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.

As 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 corner of Red Lake Falls. Both church buildings were remodeled in 1921.
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.


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 28, 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. Win. 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 26th, 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 Kreischman'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 Wyrer 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. O. 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-
And James Grant, the church was enlarged and remodeled. In 1955, an architect was engaged and the result was a large addition 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 $275,000.00 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. McCann, Gust Drews, S. J. Moore, Andrew Walker, Herbert Knox, P. A. Schwartz, Lewis T. Hughes, Francis S. Peterson, Rev. Richardson, S. M. Kelly, W. Evans, F. W. Hauser, Rev. Martin, R. H. Selway, Henry Lindholm, Merrill Nelson, James McCartney, Ernest Norquist, James Grant, Glen Atchison, E. A. Gruneneich, Robert Vliet and Ron Geisman, the present pastor.

ST. JOHN'S 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, Belview, Delano, Le Sueur, and Mankato, 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 the community. The city 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 with the approval of the community.

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.

Mssg. Victor Cardin and Sam Hunt were very instrumental in the original ground work. The establishment of the hospital and numerous correspondences with 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 total cost of the project was $350,000.00 of which approximately 45% was funded through Federal Aid Programs (Hill Burton — $154,000). The remainder of the project was funded through the Sisters of St. Benedict.

The designer of the building was Samuel Teel, Department of Planning, South Dakota. He worked 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 pediatric beds along with four bassinets.

On July 28, 1951, the Hospital was dedicated to the Lord by Bishop Schenk. Mssg. 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. C. F. Normen, president of the Minnesota Medical Assoc., Dr. R. N. Barr, Chief Section of Health, and Helen L. Knudsen, Director of the Division of Hospital Services, Minnesota Department of Health, and Honorable J. H. Sylvestre, Judge of District Court, who gave the dedication address. Also on the program were the American Legion Auxiliary, the Club, and the colors. The Lafayette High School Band was on hand to play the National Anthem.

First administrator at St. John's Hospital was Sr. R. Pancratius. She later was followed by Sr. Benita, Sr. Charitas, Sr. Ridges, 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. Moir who lived at Marquette Corner. The first baby born at the hospital was John Gaven, Jr., at 8:30 a.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 1959, the hospital experienced a low of two patients to a high of six patients in the hospital on any one 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 June 15, 1969.

At that point the community and hospital made a valiant effort to attract physicians to the community. They never closed permanently. During 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 radio that Dr. David J. Mersy would be coming to Red Lake Falls to start a practice and open a clinic. He was named staff surgeon. St. John's Hospital re-opened its doors on March 1, 1970 and since that time other physicians have joined the staff.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The first meeting of the 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 hospital auxiliary, Mrs. George Christy Sr. was appointed temporary chairwoman.

Evelyn Perris 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, Terence and Oklee.

Sister Benita O.B.S., 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 survive. Sister Benita did her best to help 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 Auxiliaries 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 stroller program, special clinics and community services.

THE EARLY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The early fire department had a steam engine that pumped water for its hoses.
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 1930s, 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 Brownsville. 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-four 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 Allepey, 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.

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 Moses A. 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 Cyn, Theoph. M. Ducharme, Eimer Guilmette, Omer Guilmette, Gilbert Huot, R. H. Jackson, John C. LaCouriere, Henry Latendresse, Moses Latendresse, Peter Linnert, A. E. Lucian, Louis Marchand, W. H. Mathews, Fred Miller, Wm. Ne

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 a combination football-baseball field, a natural bowl. Centrally located, Riverside Park offers 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
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 Gundar Austrad 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.

Gundar Austrad, the first man from the county to give his life in World War I.

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, the local Gundar Austrad 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, 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 Normandieu, Mrs. Dan Paul, Mrs. Clayte Paul, Mrs. Henry Paquin, Miss Marie Patnode, Mrs. Harvey Page, Miss Louise Paynt, Mrs. Paul Schirick, Mrs. R. W. Tollefson, Mrs. Harvey Trudeau, and Miss Hazel Zaske.

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 1937.

In 1946 Gundlau Aasand 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 Gough, 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 time 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 Payton and Nick Scheuring were among the WWII veterans who made the necessary arrangements.

First officers installed by H.B. Ratherseth of Thief River Falls were Thomas Payton, commander; Lloyd Philon and Cyril Von Wald, senior and junior vice commanders, respectively; Bruce Higginbotham, quartermaster; M. St. Germain, adjutant; Charles Tschirtz, chaplain; John Borel, 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 that time 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. The Post also ran a community soup kitchen for the elderly. A project 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, seniors; and Frank Cech, adjutant; Louis Longtin, adjutant; Ray Schmidt, quartermaster, and Alton Beauchene, post advocate. Wayne Violette is chaplain and Phil Cuno, service officer. Trustees are Harry Kjaer, Phil Cuno and Paul Heng. Other house members are Claude Marche and Howard Johnson, Frank Pischel 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 Von Wald, Laura Goulet, Margaret Tischart, Agnes Lambert, Dora Scheruing, Mary Jane Benoit, Antoinette Lachance, Palme Sauve, Eva Whalen, Rose Paradis Pay mont, Yvone Scheruing, Rosina Longtin, Ele nore Philon, Agnes Nash, Frances Con stant, Kate Musil, Emma Huot, Florence Cyr, Catherine Tischart, Betty Carl, Rose anna Thibodeau and Elaine Doughty.

Present officers are Pauline Theroux, president; senior vice president, Rose Theroux; treasurer, Pat Jagt; chaplain, Mary Drees, conductress, Harriet Leffler; 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 1886, relocating in the city area. Buse sold the mill in 1882 to his partner, 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 1889 and was owned by Johnson and Marshall who manufactured "Moscow" 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 saw-

Building the road bed to the Red Lake Falls Milling Company.
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, Phillip, 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, LeBlissoneire, Gervais, LaTendresse, LaCourriere, Hance, Marcholk, Paquin, and others. The remainder of the population were German and Scandinavian.

The town was divided in sections. The downtown 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. I was always 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. Incidentally, 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 Crocket.

I 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 a delay 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 hand 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 LaCourriere 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 frights in the streets.

At that time a Mr. Swanson in charge of the drive would come to town with the wagon to feed the men as it progressed on down the river. I remember a big event which drew large crowds was to watch the wagon jump the falls at the Healy dam. The big free bean feed Mr. Swanson held in the yard at Belar’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 on the street that 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 until he sold, 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 unsuspecting soul to come along. How well I remember ‘Whistling’ Peter 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 nowhere to be found.

The swimming hole 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 moosehoof 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...
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 sledding down the many hills that were part of Red Lake Falls.

The Red Lake Falls band with the Volunteer Fire Department. When the bell in the City Hall rang every one in town no matter what time of day or night was out to see what was happening.

The Red Lake Falls band led by Clem Brunelle, having its practice session in the City Hall, a gathering place for kids even if they were not members of the band, which incidentally had a fine reputation. Baseball, with its rivalries with neighboring towns — St. Hilaire, Plummer, Brooks, Boston, and especially Thief River Falls where the competition was so intense it has not been uncommon to see a fight break out among the spectators. And when you remember baseball, don’t overlook the fact that a player 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, which was the official war record and return in the evening. The Northern Pacific trains 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.

Abe Sieff and Sidney Marchildon started the well-known S & M Tire Company in Minneapolis. After Mr. Marchildon sold his business interests, Maurice Sieff joined the company. Phil and Maurie 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 1898 by the Schmitz brothers, John, Joe, Herman and Henry, and later sold to John who continued to employ thirty-five to fifty men. Up to a million bricks could be manufactured in one year and provided the materials for the construction of schools 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 mauling 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. The bricks were then ready for the kiln.

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”, “klin”, and “soft.”

A heavy snowfall about 1905 caused 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 country were still standing attest to the quality of the product manufactured and to the skill of the Schmitz brothers.

**THE GRAND VIEW HOTEL**

The Grand View Hotel was built on the north side of the river sometime after 1882. In the 1980's when the Northern Pacific railroad came through town, the hotel was moved to the west end of town to be near the L.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 woodburning 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-

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**FIBRE PRODUCTS COMPANY**

The Fibre Products Co. of Minneapolis has decided to locate their new $300,000 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 largest assets.

Thru the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club the company was offered a ten acre tract of land in the west part of the city just south of the fair grounds. A committee consisting of J. A. Duffey, E. G. Buse and L. E. Healy have been busyly 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 $1000 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 north up to the doors of the plant to eliminate drainage in loading and unloading.

The new plant will manufacture flax tow for upholstery, 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.
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 goods 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-two saloons in Crookston will have six months’ 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

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 Osol in Marshall county will be of business July 14 which will leave Red Lake Falls the nearest wet town to the North.

— Gazette May 1915

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 deal for the plane and returned to Red Lake Falls Thursday evening with a new Spanish Hasclo Waco plane. The trip from Minneapolis to Red Lake Falls was made in 2 hours and 55 minutes, a trifle less time than it 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 fairgrounds and a portion of these grounds will be scrapped 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 Oaklee Automobile club one year had a nail-picking bee under the direction of A. P. Toupin, a hordie 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.

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 Oaklee. 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, Ferpl, Dugdale, Oaklee, Plummer, St. Hilaire, Wylie and Dorothy have been marked by signs painted on telephone poles and fence posts at every turn or road crossing. The signs are 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 county 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 "drove 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 brann and experience in road-building 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 monogear 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

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 synchronopation. 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 synchronopation 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 Porier will punish the clarinet, Omer Hall will stretch the trombone and Joe Harron 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 Detting and Otto Zaiser will take in the money, Ernie Buse and Frank Jeffers will be floor managers. Dr. and Mrs. I. Lemeux will lead the grand march.

The reception committee will consist of Dr. and Mrs. I. Lemeux, Mrs. E. F. Marshall, Mrs. Wm. Findelsen, Theo. Labissoniere, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Schreiter and Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. 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.
Mr. Shala

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.


La Bissoniere's Store late 1920's. Employees Cecilia Bregier, Louise Berthiaume, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tischart, and Mr. LaB in the rear.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Name, if any</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Place of Birth of Child</th>
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<td>Mary Martha, Desmarais</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Birth-Place of Each Parent (Give the State or Nation)</td>
<td>Occupation of Father</td>
<td>When Registered</td>
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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.

RAFDOORS, 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 wholesale 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, preceded the Gazette but when it started or ended is not known. Only one copy dated August 10, 1882, has been preserved. During the 1888 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 1914, and following George W. Christie’s death in 1915, the editor was George Christie, Jr.

In 1987, 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 returned 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 in 1933 when the charter of the Farmers State Bank of Middle River was moved to this community. O. P. Gjerdinger, 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 Cola since 1971 was established by Ben and Gertrude 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
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 Speers 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 Slover 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 Phillon.

**HOFIUS OIL CO.**, owned by Dalton and Leona Hofius, has operated as a bulk oil business selling Standard Oil products since 1966.

In 1968 the **RED LAKE COUNTY AGENCY** was founded by Norris Thune. Lewis Pfann became manager and president of this insurance business in 1973.

**HORSTING'S FARM STORE** at 105 South Main Street has been operated by Mel and Nelda Horsting since 1969.

Ron Nieland has been the owner of the **STANDARD OIL STATION** since 1975.

Al Hanson became the **MOBIL BULK AGENT** in 1969 and Jim Bouthin 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.

In 1968 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. Robertson who had operated the business in the Max Inger building for thirty years.

**HANSON'S DEPARTMENT STORE** owned by Eunice and Goodwin Hanson was purchased from Ken Tischert 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 the **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.
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.

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.

OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CO., managed by Duane Whyte, started business in 1971.
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.
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 $195.60 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. Gotsa (Gauthier), assessor. Poll tax was set at one dollar 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-
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.

spaded 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.

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.

In 1910 times were getting better. We had more crops and hauled cream to the St. Hilaire Creamery. We sowed some corn 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 1915 we had 100 acres of wheat but cut only forty acres as the bulk of the crop was ruined by rust.

The spring of 1916 looked promising so we farmed more land putting 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 1918 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

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 22 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.

Threshing on the Fredolph Swanson farm, 1915.
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.

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 during 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. He 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 also took place. Father Dugal in Terrebonne was Thomas Paquet. He was named in June 1884 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 1887, 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 1899, Terrebonne received the first visit of a bishop when Right Rev. James McGorrick visited the church to administer confirmation. At this time all of Crookston 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 Lamberton. 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 have been various succeeding pastors: Rev. B. Pujols, Rev. C. Dub, Rev. L. J. Fournier, Rev. A. Tapin, Rev. J. M. Barras, and Rev. S. Veileux.

On December 31, 1909, the diocese of Crookston was formed and Terrebonne became a part of this diocese. Rev. C. Bosser served the parish from 1911 through 1912 and during this time decorated the sanctuary and the ceiling himself. Rev. P. LeFloc'h 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 LeFloc'h's successors were Rev. C. O. Trudeau and Rev. J. H. Perrin-Laurier 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 1930. When he hired a stonemason 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 177 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.

"Leche Potatoes," 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 miserable land for our farm, 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 McNulty, Carl Schusser, Agna LaFontaine, Cora Toupin, Amanda LaFontaine, Katie McCord, Ida Bjorke, Clara Berg, Ina Linnihan, Lena Tschirhart, Clara Newton, Florence Cyr, Julia Toban, Nellie Berg, Ida Poessell and Helen Rothe were some of the teachers there.

Robert Quesnel, Theron, 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 Perreault and Sam Bourier. The second set of officers were: Eli Perreault, 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 Baudry, 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 — BEAUGEREAU

Beaugerreau, Beau Gerlot, Bogole; many variations in spelling, interpretations and reasons for the school name. In this story we will stay with the most commonly
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 Ducharne, Michael Quesnel and Hector LaCoursiere.

The last teacher at Badger School was Henk Lentenberg. 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 Klabakdal 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 Launuy. Among the teachers at district #79 were Grace Bagan, Victoria Beauchene, Kate Berthamer, Marie Boileau, Emma Sauve Prevost, Rose Sauve and Erbe Pouliot. Mae Clement taught here for twelve years and Josephine Taggelz 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 Agnes LaFontaine, Minnie Vanderwaal, William Borchers and Freda Ittner.

Many of the county superintendents serving these schools were H. F. Andersson, Henry McAnulty, Albany DeForge, Louis Green, Erbe Pouliot, Albert LaCourse, Mrs. Albert LaCourse and Mary Whalen Drees.

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. 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 fortytwo 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 seventyfive 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. Marie 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.

This third and final mill was a very large structure of three stories high with an attached warehouse. In later years the warehouse was enlarged and a garage was added.

The mill site itself was a very beautiful place. At this spot in the river there was an island which is now called the Anderson Island. After the Island. 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. On hot days or 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 of 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. LaJausnes. The farmers who came from a
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 1928 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.

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 Kabinoski 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 Caleb, Stephen's brother.

The original Robillard home and their first car, a hupmobile, 1915.
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 Landra, 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 bustling 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 for some time at that time.
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 cobbler's business.

The Leppard Brothers, Sam and Fred, operated a hardware store and lumberyard and Fred Leppard 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 Gothere. The hotel was run by Maurice Dargan 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.

The cheese factory was owned by Ted Fournier and met with disaster on May 25, 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 watchman, 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 #124 in 1899, known as Black River School and presently serving as the town hall at Wylie.
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), Della (Minor), Addis (Longtin), Maria (Patnode), Amila (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 Red Lake Falls, in 1892 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 Bracys. They had two daughters.

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 Schirnich), Mae (Mrs. Walter Columbus), Cara, Aneta (Mrs. William Nieland), and Lucille (Mrs. Theodore Offstedahl).

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.

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 brothers and sisters were Rosina, Gertie, Gudia, Meriza, Virginia, John, Flore and Albert. John B. Amiot’s wife, Celina Bouthiller, whom he married in 1875, was also born in Montreal on August 19, 1852. Her parents were Joseph and Alene Bouthiller.

In 1878 John and Celina Amiot moved from St. Lurahan, Montreal, to section 12, township of Gently, 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 1899 John Baptiste died from pneumonia at the age of forty-seven. His wife, Celina, continued to farm with the help of their children. 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 Stillwater township.

John B. and Celina had thirteen children: Rossina (b. 1877 - d. 1953) married Slas Raymond. Their children: Ambrose (b. 1901), Theodore (b. 1902), Laura (b. 1903), Alder (b. 1905), Mary (b. 1908) and Joe (b. 1909).

Conna (b. 1880 - d. 1954) married a Mr. Peltier and their children were Willy (b. 1910), Emery (b. 1912), Mary (b. 1914), and Raymond (b. 1916). Following the death of her first husband, Conna married a Mr. Fortier and their children were Conna (b. 1909), Lawrence (b. 1910), Agnes (b. 1912), Florence (b. 1913), Irina (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), Olive (b. 1913), Napoleon (b. 1916) and Anna (b. 1923).

Donna (b. 1882 - d. 1961) married Clara St. Michel. Their children: Donna (b. 1909), Noah (b. 1910), Doria (b. 1912), Mable (b. 1914), Reina (b. 1917), Leo (b. 1919), Irene (b. 1921) and Meddie (b. 1923).

Delina (b. 1884) married Louis Mercier. Their children: David (b. 1900) and Alex (b. 1911).

Albina (b. 1885 - d. 1947) married Tires Fonteau. Their children: Maurice (b. 1909), Cecile (b. 1910), Paul (b. 1913), Loretta...
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. Before 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); Geneviève (Jean) (b. 1923) married Ed. J. Schindler. Their children are Judy, Germane, Jerry, Dorothy, Anna and Roger. Marcelle (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. Madame (b. 1939) married Roy Hammet and their children are Dennis, Bryan and Cynthia. Geor- gianna (b. 1941) married Leon Marsh and their children are Steven and Gregory.

Diane Poirier Amiot married James Landecota 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. 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. 1922) and Viola (b. 1930).

Oscar (b. 1888 — d. 1935) married Alginia 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. 1929). Ada (b. 1891 — d. 1952) 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), Rollie (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), Marcelle (b. 1929), Darlene (b. 1930), Jerome (b. 1931), Bernice (b. 1933), Madeline (b. 1939) and Georgianna (b. 1941). Celina (b. 1897) married Henry Martel. Their children: Francis (b. 1917), Daniel (b. 1919), Ellen (b. 1921) and Benedict (b. 1922).

AMIOT-TOUGAS WEDDING 1913. Florian Tougas and Celina Amiot, attendants.

Oscar and Celine Bouthillier. He had six brothers and six sisters.

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 Ladgir 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 southward toward Gentilly. A steel bridge was built in 1914 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 county 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, while 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 1943 and they moved to Red Lake Falls in 1944 when the Oklee Bank of Oklee 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, he 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 Dulafult in 1951 and they live on the family farm. Kathleen’s parents were Duval Dulafult and Alice Regememb of rural Crookston. The Dolats have five children. Bonita is married to Valdem 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 Karen is a sophmore at Lafayette High School.

ALVIN AND BARBARA AMUNDSON FAMILY

Alvin and Barbara Amundson moved to Red Lake Falls in the fall of 1965 from Clar- emont. 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 Beker. She graduated from Red Lake High School and then worked in an insurance company in St. Paul for two years before their marriage.

Amundsens have been active members of the First Presbyterian Church. They pur- chased the former Jack Tischert home in Red Lake Falls in 1968. They are the par-
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 1929 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 Albiorn, Michigan.

VICTOR ANDERSON FAMILY

Victor Anderson and Hulda Anderson (same last name) arrived in Cadillac, Michigan in 1889 from Linkoping and Korntorp, Ostro, Sweden respectively. They were married in early 1890. In 1897 they moved to Minnesota for family tie reasons (Hulda’s sister Hanna lived here) and settled on a farm in Gervais township, now owned and occupied by their oldest daughter, Segrid.


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 Tisch 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 Thiel River Falls during the time the REA 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 Thiel River Falls. He enlisted in the navy in 1968 and served four years of duty on the west coast and aboard the Destroyer Bosell as Radioman. His service included two tours of duty in the action in Vietnam. He married Mary 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 Kalsche, 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 Stenzel, Sr. A son Irvin was born in 1913 in Gervais Township. They returned to Glencoe where their second son Art was born in 1915. A short time later they returned to Gervais and lived on the Farmen farm where their first daughter Evelyn was born in 1917. Their second daughter Alice was born in 1920, then Eloise in 1922, 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 (Selle) resides at Morgan. Evelyn married William Ulrich and they live in River Township. Alice Konkowicz (Cornick) lives in Euclid. Eloisa 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 Coho 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. They are 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 began teaching at the Red Lake Falls school in the fall of 1949. During his years in...
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 Emmanuel 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 Hince. 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 520 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; Coralie (b. 1929) married Max Rosegir; Lucille (b. 1919) married Marvin Strande; and Celene (b. 1912). Those deceased are Walter (b. 1911; d. 1961); Harvey (b. 1917; d. 1971), 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 and the townspeople. They were a part of Oklee's history and helped shape the town as it grew.

In 1915 Onezime had a serious accident which left him crippled. A hay rack fell on him injuring his back and leaving him with a paralyzed arm. They farmed with the help of their oldest son, Joe, and many hired men. They grazed cattle and helped others with their work. Many of their relatives lived in town and Asselins had a strong family bond.

At the time of her death, Parmelia owned a section of land. The homestead land and buildings had always been in the same family until Parmelia's death in 1973.

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 Nella 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. Nella was appointed to the state centennial commission when Minnesota celebrated its centennial in 1958. Lawrence has worked for the Red Lake Falls Silo Co. for 26 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.

### LEROY AUDETTE FAMILY

Leroy Audette was born to parents Lawrence and Nella Lasha Audette in 1936. He was a boy he attended country school for eight years. He moved with his parents into the city of Red Lake Falls in 1939. He attended Lafayette High School and worked part time at 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 1958, he returned to Red Lake Falls and opened "Lee's Studio" in the Lincoln Hotel building. He worked full time at Alta Trailers Company, now DMH Company, for about ten years. In 1970 he decided to go into business for himself, manufacturing mobile home entries and mobile home rollers.

In 1962 Leroy married Carol Johanesen, daughter of Raymond and Gladys Peterson. 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, 1917. On July 29, 1936 Norman 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 until 1942 when they returned to Gentilly and helped on Henry Brule's farm. Norman later bought land from Charles Patnode and from Doc Tewt and moved to Gervais Township. Norman was very well known for his talent for painting homes. Besides farming, he did carpentry work, worked for six years at the Crockett Sugar Beet Factory and for six years for D.M.H. in Red Lake Falls. He also worked for Schlitz 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 have had four children: Ronald, born in January, 1938; Jerry, born in May, 1939; Colleen, born in June, 1942; and Karen, born in May, 1951.

Ronald 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 Mary Kay Kallbalden and they had four children: Monica, Michelle, Joanne, and Jimmy. Jimmy met an untimely death in 1971 in an automobile accident. Jerry later married Debbie Evans and they have another son, Jason.
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 26, 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. Harry 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 Streel, 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 Vauzin 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.

ANTONIO AND VITALINE BOUCHER BACHAND

All of the Bachand family in this part of Minnesota are direct descendants of my grandfather, Alfred Bachand, and, of course, my father and mother, Antonio and Vitalina Bachand. Alfred Bachand was a family of twelve children, six boys and six girls, who lived in the town 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 Henning County in Minnesota. It is 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 son, Onezime Bachand, lives today.

Alfred and Zelia had four other children; Wilfrid, Anatole, Bella and German. 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 Codere who was from North Dakota and they made their home in Forget, Saskatchewan. German 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 Vitalina Boucher, daughter of Simon Boucher and Leva Bergeron, who was born in June of 1884. His parents had come from St. Ursula, which is near Montreal in the province of Quebec.

Following their marriage in October of 1902, Anton and Vitalina 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, Vitalina, told me of the many ‘scare’ she had when it was necessary for my father to be away working for days at a time. Many men travelling 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 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 “Hilltop Hotel.”

In 1913 (or 1914) they moved to Red Cliff, Alberta, Canada where Anton, his brother Wilfrid and a friend, Frank DeMaynauz, 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 the Lambert township in Minnesota. Because of the economic situation in Canada it was impossible to sell their property and Antonio had to borrow 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 difficulties, 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 clear. 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...
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 twin 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 1936. 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 a farm. They approached their new lifestyle with vigor and enthusiasm and both actively involved in the church and community, and the children 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 married 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.

ILDA BARIL

Ilda Baril was born in 1868 at Ste. Elizabeth, Quebec, Canada and came to Red Lake County in 1882 settling on a homestead 16 miles north of Red Lake Falls. She married Odile Dufault who was born in Quebec and came with her family to the Gentilly area when she was five years old. Odile died in 1932.

The Barils were the parents of ten children: Mary (Mrs. Gilbert Marchildon), Dragons (Mrs. Gilbert Marchildon), Ann (Mrs. Gilbert Marchildon) and Doris (Mrs. Gilbert Marchildon).

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 falling a mile and a half to school each day. 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; it 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 was a quarter mile south of the junction which had been vacant for several years past, and on Halloween night, 1975 it was burned to the ground.

Ilda, one of the pioneer settlers of Red Lake County, died in 1940 at the age of seventy-one. For forty-six years she served as clerk of Red Lake Township, a record of continuous service in Minnesota. She also served as Deputy Sheriff in Red Lake County, and a cattle buyer for several years.

Of the four living daughters of Ilda Baril, two live in Red Lake Falls; Mrs. Mary Marchildon and Mrs. Alfred Fournier. Sister Bennett and Sister Euphemia became mem-
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 living in Brownsville. Sister Eugenia’s field is music which she has taught in several Catholic Schools. She is now teaching part-time in Red Lake Falls. Doris (Mrs. Emmett Hill) has lived in Lee, Massachusetts for many years.

ART AND MAYME BARIL
Arthur John Baril, son of Iladage 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 grandchildren as they grew up.

Five children were born to Art and Mayme: Pauline (Mrs. Arthur Guimette) 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 15, 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 Iladage and Odile 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 reside 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 Gunnesson, Colorado and Jack and Myrtle Barber 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 Knoll 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 meteorologist; 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 BARNNESS
In 1868 in Sogn, Norway, Peder Barnness 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 Louisburg, 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 Oaklee. The father and Adolph, the oldest son, came first so they could be there when the cattle and horses arrived shipped by freight. The father 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 Oaklee. 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 the 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 Hoa and Ola 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
When Mary was about a year old, Truman sold everything and moved to Olewien, Iowa, where his sister lived. They arrived in Olewien 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 caused him much trouble. He was laid up for several months and caused him much worry in later years. During this time of recuperation, the railroad paid him $40.00 a week, a small amount in those days.

The first four years the family lived in Olewien were difficult. Getting settled into a new country life and the tragedy of losing an infant son at birth was terrible. The baby boy had died to death because the doctor was careless in tying the umbilical cord. His negligence was caused by the extreme fatigue due to caring for diphtheria patients day and night in Olewien 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 Bartholomew family lived in Olewien for thirteen years, working and saving every penny so that Truman could realize his dreams of farming. After working all day, he would care for his children and her aged mother-in-law and took in laundry which she loaded on a washboard to help make enough money to fulfill Truman's dream even though she had no desire to return to the farm. Before coming to Olewien, she and her family had lived in both Kansas and Nebraska. After they arrived, they gave up trying to break the land and moved 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 on ten-year-old daughter, Bernadette, into her home and into her heart to raise as her own daughter. A year later, she married again and gave up her responsibilities 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 gain a special blessing when they married in 1930. Eva and her brother, Henry Herold, had a son, James. James married Bernadette and they had a son, Harold. 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 some success, 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, moved cheese for the cattle, 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 a month and then returned home only to receive the notice of Mary's death in the short time later. The next ten years of Eva's life were spent keeping house for her son, children and grandchildren. The grandchildren were raised in the garden and vegetable garden. She kept her garden beautifully cultivated and free of weeds. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren always enjoyed visiting and hearing her tales of bygone days. Bernadette and Martin's children loved to visit Granny and Harold. They loved children, too, and liked to show them how to fish in the creek or make a whistle out of a twig. Sometimes they'd play the guitar for them. In 1960, Cecilia 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. Eva remained on the farm until she became too ill to live alone. She left the home where she had lived for forty-four years and moved to a small home in the town of Red Lake. 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.
at 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 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 1906 when he married Marie Lizotte. The Lizottes had come from Madawaska, Maine, and settled in Louis-ville 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, the oldest married William Ro and they too, always lived in Louisville Township; Meddy married Rosalea and they also lived in Louisville Township; Victor married Ruth Bruden. They farmed until a few years ago, when he retired and moved to Crookston. Leo joined the Marine Brothers in 1921, and took the name Rosalea. Leo has lived in the East ever since. He taught school in Lowell and Lawrence, Massachusetts, Wheeling, 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 Minneapolis. The only surviving child, 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, Vera, married Orphrey Vaudrin. We lived in Gentry 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 Dwan 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.

There were thirteen children, seven of whom lived to be adults. There were fourteen grandchildren, forty great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren. Descended are Fred, Gustaf, Lena, Rudy, 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 Waterfront Gang."

FRED BEHN
The Fred Behn family came to Red Lake Falls in February, 1902 from Gordonville, 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.

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 Greenthin 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 Lemke farm, now occupied...
Leo Bendel spent most of his lifetime in Red Lake Falls. He started learning his plumbing trade in 1934 from another "Oldtimer," 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 he 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 Lizette 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 — electrolytically provided the curl heat with the aid of moist pads. There was also the machine — a method using a chemical pad dipped in water to provide the heat. Then came the old 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 Erie 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 Mandel) of Oklee, LeRoy on the home farm, and Ethel (Mrs. Bud Emmer) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.


LeRoy married Janis Larson of Bump and lives in the same farm 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 BENNOIT
Joseph Charles Bennoit was born in Weldon, Montreal, Canada, on August 8, 1865. He was the son of Charles and Lucy Forea Bennoit. 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 Cornelius in January of 1895. Her parents were Francis and Delia Chatel, also homesteaders in Poplar River. Joseph and Florida had ten children: Albert (b. 1895 — d. 1896), Emma (b. 1898), Geneva (b. 1899 — d. 1898), Cora (b. 1901 — d. 1903), Ethel (b. 1900 — d. 1903), Ardis (b. 1900), 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, Cora 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); Ardis married Lydia Laurent (see history); Arthur married Mary Jane Sauve and
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-Biddle branch farm here for a year, he became a disbursing 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 Bayer) of Moorhead, Robert of St. Paul, Donna of Red Lake Falls, Cecil (Mrs. William Kelley) of Minneapolis, Duane of Pine City, and Sandra who died as an infant.


MAURICE BENET
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 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.

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 Lafavres on my mother's side, who came to Minnesota from Canada, reveal a desire for stability through the family, the acquisition of property and the preservation of French-Canadian traditions. My great-great-grandfather Paul Lafavre, who came to Minnesota in 1856, left his sons, Pierre, and returned to Canada. Pierre began to establish himself in the Minnesota community of Buffalo, remaining 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 Territory which was to open to legal settlement. The older of his two sons, Luc, married a material grand daughter, moved from Gentry to the Terrebonne area where he married Emma Bisson in 1889. The fifth and sixth children born to this family were twins, one of whom was my mother Georประมาณ, the other George. In 1909 Odeson returned to his family to the Territory, and moved 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 adventurous and adventurous spirit.

In 1917 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 1860s we pick up the trace of Benoits in Sorel, Quebec. From this family, members spread into the New England States and from there into the privately constructed mills. My grandfather, Aimé Benoit, traveled from Sorel, Quebec to Massachusetts and points west until he arrived in Red Lake Falls where he settled along the river in Red Lake Falls. There he and his wife, Elizabeth Donboune, had nine children. Grandmother died, the children were dispersed, and grandfather traveled and did what he could.

My father, born in 1907, was raised from age nine by his sister Lucy Benoit Cassavaunt of Louisville Township.

In 1932 my parents married and in 1937, having saved $700, made a down payment of $350 to acquire a parcel 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 "faisieurs de terre", makers of land. Of the 160 acres purchased, 72 were in timber, the remainder contained low spots and stones. There was no water 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, 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, pick and ladder. Water was drawn with a bucket until Joseph Skala offered my father a pump which our family paid for when they 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 that was characteristic of those who joined 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 "400" combine which was a giant at the time. A drill, a six-foot comb and a ten-foot cultivator, 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 and their farm, my parents raised three children: Elizabeth, the oldest, a nurse in Seattle, Washington; Helen, a student at Harvard University; and Joseph, a farmer in Pennsylvania. 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. Like so many of their generation, my parents had 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 which has never ceased to offer them the freedom of individual expression basic to being human.

Contributed by Virgil Benoit

DAVID BENSON
David Benson and Elizabeth McDonald 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 July 10, 1967.

On April 15, 1969, the Bensons purchased Oak's Mobile Home Court from Robert and Ruby Halverson, and continued to operate that business at this time. In the fall of 1974, they moved from their residence in 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 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 in Vergas, Minnesota and graduated from Pelican Rapids High School in 1956. During a year's 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.

![Monte Benoit](image-url)
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 Lyda moved to Chicago with their son, Dean, born in Newport, Rhode Island, and daughters: Dawn born in Peli- can 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 Cwi, 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 Var- ton, 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 1959 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 Berger family lived in 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 Superintendentship with what appeared to be a fantastic sal- ary 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 was not available.

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 High School. All athletic events and school activities were held in the Plum- mer Hall. A mill levy was passed in 1950 to add needed space to the overcrowded building. Board members at that time were: Victor Medich, Paul Schoenauer, Lars Hagen, M. J. Fallen and David Ostby. Mr. and Mrs. John Greenwald were custodi- ans.

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, Super- intendent. She and the two children, Carol and Helen, returned to North Dakota in 1951.

JOSEPH BERGERON FAMILY

Joseph Bergeron (b. 1861 - d. 1931), 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 Valda Fou- nier in 1924; Eugenie (b. 1892 - d. 1975) married Peter Bergeron in 1913; Dennis (b. 1896 - d. 1975) married Betty Schall in 1913; Antoinette (b. 1897) married Ed Gibeau in 1925; Maurice (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 Philippin in 1926; Cecilia (b. 1905); and Elmer (b. 1911).

ALBERT J. BERGERON

Albert J. Bergeron married Valda Fournier in 1923. She was the daughter of Isidore Fournier and Pauline LaCoursiere. Albert and Valda 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

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 children: Duane, Harlan, Dale, Lloyd, Mary, Connie, Randy, James and Todd.

URGELE BERGERON AND MARY GOULET BERGERON

Urgele Bergeron and his wife Mary Goullet came from Canada in 1877 and settled in Lambert township where they farmed.

The children born to them: Clara (Gag- non), Louis who married Rose Gibeau; Blanche who married Medard 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.
PETER BERGERON AND EUGENIE (JANE) BERGERON

Peter and Jane Bergeron were pioneers in business in the community of Oklee as well as long residents of the 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 Minnesota. He was a chef for his culinary skills and in 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 eight 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 as a school trustee and was elected to 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 alongside him 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. Their 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 last child born to the Bergerons. Education was a very important part of this family and four 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 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 Berwind 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, from a former Red Lake Falls resident and one of their eight children live in Oklee. Vern continued his father's business in the grocery and meat store until ill health 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 Paterson, formerly of Erskine, worked for several years in Oklee before moving to Melrose where he is Department Head of the Social Sciences.

Erie is married to Joseph Grahek of Ely where they live with their four children. Erie 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. Peter 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, returned 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 neighbors for his quick wit, humor and how 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, Jaron and Ann and live in Longfield. Charlene (b. 1948) married John Larson, they have two children, 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. 1961).

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.

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.
ALBERT AND TILLIE BERGET
Albert Berget was born at Renville, in Redwood County in 1851 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, Levurene, 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, Levurene, was united in marriage to Berniece Skelly at Grand Forks.

From 1938 to 1948, Albert and Levurene 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 semiretirement. In 1956, 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 Emerson and family and moved to Oklee where they reside at present.

LOUIS BERNIER AND PARMELIA LESSARD BERNIER
Louis Bernier, son of Simon Bernier, married Parmelia Lessard, daughter of Edward Lessard and Valerie Elard, in 1909. Parmelia 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 Cella Carriere; Leo (b. 1916) married Opal Brewer; Zelma (b. 1920) married Earl Brown; Emma (b. 1918) married Roy Depta; Marie (b. 1922) married Reynold Huff.

ALBERT D. BERRY
In 1852 Albert D. Berry was born at Champlin, New York. He lived at Rochester, Minnesota until 1875 when he came to Red Lake County and homesteaded in Louisiana Township. Here he married Miss Clarinha 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. E. Reppelle 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 Louisiana 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. Marrie, Quebec, Canada on January 23, 1856 and came to the United States in 1881. She passed away in 1942.

ALLEN AND SANDRA BERTLRUD
Allen and Sandra Bertrud 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 the 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 1977 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 Bertrud family 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 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 Munsing, Michigan and worked as a mechanic and met Beatrice G. Lampl 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
Chester Thane Beyer was born in Lorain, Ohio, and Beatrice Beyer was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts. They married in 1928. Chester served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and Beatrice was a member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). They had three children, Chester Jr., David, and Janet. Chester passed away in 1982, and Beatrice in 1987.

Chester's mother was active in various community organizations, including the Lorain County Commissioners and always active in church and county organizations. He was County Chairman DFL; County Chairman NFO; Wylie township supervisor responsible for various civic groups, such as the Red Lake Falls Rural Fire Protection Association 1948-1970; Secretary-treasurer, Red Lake Falls Rural Fire Protection Association 1953-1957; Sunday School Superintendent and Chairman of the Board of Directors. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wylie; Supervisor Red Lake Falls Soil and Water Conservation District 1968-1971; Maverick candidate for St. John's House of Representatives, 1968; Supervisor Red Lake Falls Soil and Water Conservation District 1968-1971; Maverick candidate for St. John's House of Representatives, 1968; Supervisor Red Lake Falls Soil and Water Conservation District 1968-1971; Maverick candidate for St. John's House of Representatives, 1968.

Chester died in 1960. Mrs. Beatrice Beyer resides in a farm near Dorothy and still enjoys the wide open spaces.

IRVING W. BEYER

Irving Beyer was born December 28, 1923 in Lorain, Ohio, the son of C. W. and Beatrice Beyer. He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and returned to his family farm in Wylie township. After the war, he went to work for the U.S. Air Force in Denver, Colorado. He married a school teacher and they had seven children. He passed away in 1985.

ANDRE BISSON

André Bisson was born August 16, 1840 at St. Remy, Canada. In 1861 he married Miss Clementine Chatel at St. Isadore, Quebec. Their birth date was January 1, 1837. The couple resided in Canada until 1870 when they moved to Massachusetts. They had six children, where they lived until 1899 when they returned to Red Lake County taking a homestead in Gavols Township.

MAURICE AND HELENE SEYKORA BJORGAN

Maurice and Helene Seykora Bjorgman came to Red Lake Falls three months after they were married in 1962. Both are from the 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 nearby town of Yankton.

The Bjorgmans came to Red Lake Falls because of employment opportunities offered by the Detroit Mobile Home Factory which had been in operation for only a few months. Maurice has since been employed there and is also a city building inspector. He has been a 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

CHESTER THANE BEYER

Chester Thane Beyer, son of Chester W. and Beatrice Beyer, was born in Wylie, Ohio. He attended Wylie Township school and later went on to study at the University of Minnesota. He married Dorothy Smith and they had three children. Chester passed away in 1982.
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. Hélène 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 Bjorgmansen family is very active in the Bethany Lutheran Church.

Mary Bergeron, Terry Lambert, Blanche LaBelle, Reinoil, Dewey and Dorothy Lambert.

ARMIDAS BOUCHER AND EMMA COTE BOUCHER

Armides Boucher was born in Lambert township on March 10, 1882, the son of Joe Boucher and Marie Paquin. His birth was recorded 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 Griffee; Doris (b. 1928) married to Peter Mrozek.

Armides 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.

Mary Boucher, Marie Boucher, Wilbrod Boucher, Dorothy Lambert and sons, Terry and Reinoil.

BOUCHER-LAMBERT HISTORY

My Grandpa, Wilbrod Boucher, was born on January 10, 1868, 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 us 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 to Massachusetts where they worked at the factory 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 tells us about the railroad for many 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’s family was blessed with eight children, of whom 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; Reinoil who is living in Virginia with his wife and daughter; Bonnie, who is married to Steve Paquin, lives in Lambert Township; Arline, her 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.

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 Armides Lambert and Blanche Bergeron who were married in 1904. They had seven children: Leo, Lawrence, who died in 1992, Lester, Dorie, Leonid, Dewey, and another Walter who was described as a person with a disability.

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. In 1962, they came back to Oklee to make their home. John passed away in February of 1970.

Grandpa Lambert (Armides) was the son of Anthony Lambert and Matilda Paquin who were both from Canada. They homesteaded in Lambert Township where they lived for a period of time. They had living children: Lawrence, Reinoil, and Armides. 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: Clarice, Blanche, Rose, Antoinette and Leonid, 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 how the kids used to get out of doing the 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!
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 made by hand. The washing machine had a wringer on it and wash boards were put to good use. 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 Lambton 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 Montreal, Illinois, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, which was then located in Lambton 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.

Their three children were born to Peter and Mary Louise: Omer, Alida, and Joseph. Joseph married and lived for a number of years in Oklee. He moved to Red Lake County, Minnesota where he now resides. Omer was employed for many years by the Department of the Dray Line and Sanitation Department. He was also employed by Frank Cy and Thomas Melby. Omer and Alida continue to live in Oklee and they enjoy the pleasant neighborhood on Governor Street.

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 1897, 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 from 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 first case 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 Petrault. 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 III, who is now a project engineer with IBM in Rochester where he resides with his wife, Eleanore. He has one daughter, Barbara.

Charles and Elizabeth also had a daughter, Elizabeth (Betty) who graduated from the University of Minnesota and became the only woman in Minnesota to earn a certified photographer's degree. She and her husband, Tom (Warren T. Hancock), live in Bemidji where they operate their own photo studio, one of eleven nationally qualified commercial studios. They have two children, Thomas Charles and Joseph. 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 father was an Irish girl named Rhoda and had two sons, Joseph and John. Great-grandfather lived near Grandpa Bourdon until his death at the age of 96. He moved to Ripon, Wisconsin in 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 Michael MacKinnon and 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 Railroad and decided to give it a try.

They soon got their teams and outfit together and moved 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 house for the old folks and placed the sons in school. In the spring the whole family was 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. When winter storms came in, the company moved the family to Red Lake Falls for the winter.

Charles later went into partnership with Wm. Ralph (mother's brother).
JACOB BOUTAIN —
MARY PARENT

On November 25, 1843, Jacob Boutain was born of Jacques Boutain and Marceline Forier, and on August 6, 1855, Mary Parent was born of Godfrey Parent and Mary Houte 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 Hunt) 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. Zoilie Aude) was born. Frank was born on January 29, 1884 and the family moved about five miles south where they settled on the new existing line between Red Lake and Pembina Counties. Five more children were born at this location. They were William, Josephine (Mrs. Charles Olson), Philomen, Priscilla, and Albert. At the time of this writing, only Nellie and Albert are living.

Farming was the main source of living, although it was 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 power the threshing. Indians were a common sight in this area and were often hired to help with the harvest.

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 Anderdon) 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 215 S. 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 Riverton 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 Fink) in 1892. Mrs. James Brady died in 1895.

In 1910, James Brady built the new Red Lake County Court House on the hill sitting on the hill above the town and across from the old courthouse. In 1912, he built a new home on the north side of the town, where the old Hendy home was located. The old Hendy home was moved to its present location where the city hall is now.

In 1920, James Brady built a new home on the north side of the town, where the old Hendy home was located. The old Hendy home was moved to its present location where the city hall is now.
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 1900. 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 Lilian 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 Brandle 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. Lilian 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 Inez Hinz, a native of Wisconsin. Alfred worked on his parents’ farm until he was seventeen years old. He then worked for Bill Miller, a gravel trucking 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 Hince, daughter of Peter and Rosida Asellin Hince, in 1935. Their children are: John (b. 1935), Gene (b. 1937), Judy (b. 1939), Rosalyn (b. 1942), William (b. 1946), Beth (b. 1947), and Richard and Robert twins (b. 1951).

Emma Brandt died in 1960 and Alfred continues to make his home in Oklee.

ZEPHIRIN BREGIER

ZEPHIRIN BREGIER
ZEPHIRIN BREGIER (b. 1865 — d. 1927), and Lea Marchildon (b. 1873 — d. 1944), daughter of Joseph Marchildon and Henrietta Payten, was born in 1905. Lea had worked for Doctor Lameux and at Paul’s Hotel. ZEPHIRIN BREGIER worked as a lumberyard and had a pool hall and lunch counter. He was a janitor for many years at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church until shortly before he died in 1927.

They were poor but rich in their 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 killed pork, smoked hams, sausages and beef. Our parents were committed to farming and they always had plenty of food.

In later years, Eugene joined a religious order and became a brother and taught religion in this area.

ZEPHIRIN BREGIER

ZEPHIRIN BREGIER

Alfred Bregier married Ernestine Maurolier in Toul, France and came to St. Albans, Canada. He married his wife and only son, ZEPHIRIN BREGIER, who was born ten years ago. When Ernestine died in Canada, Eugene and his son moved to Red Lake County to join the French settlement here.

BREGIER FAMILY

Eugene Bregier married Ernestine Maurolier in Toul, France and came to St. Albans, Canada. He married with his wife and only son, ZEPHIRIN BREGIER, who was born ten years ago. When Ernestine died in Canada, Eugene and his son moved to Red Lake County to join the French settlement here.
MARVIN BRONKEN

Marvin and Joan O’Connor Bronken and their four children, Barbara, Beth Else, 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 1953, Richard in 1963, and Peter in 1970.

Barbara is now married to Cliff Melby, and they have two sons, Isaac and Jacob. Beth Else, 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.

Ingeborg Johnson (Lillo) was the site of the Lillo store and post office.

The Brekke moved to Fosston in 1969, but return to the farm each spring to take care of their grain-farming operation.

The Brekke family are the parents of five children. They are: Randy, born in 1969, married Karen Fentemeer. They have a son and a daughter and live in Thief River Falls; Renee, born in 1950, married James Vedbraaten. They have a son and a daughter and live in Thief River Falls; Bobby, born in 1963, died in August, 1956; Arlen and Dale (twins), born in 1966, 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.

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 1907.

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

Cris 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.

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.

Mavis Burman was born on a homestead in 1895 by Magnus and Ingelis. Ingeborg Johnson (Lillo) was the site of the Lillo store and post office.
Cris 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 Clara Davis of Noble City. His father with the help of Criss who was then 12 years old and his older brother Felix and four sisters, Orna, 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 1930 the Stahls came 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 her family grew to ten children, six boys and four girls. Mrs. Clara 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 Phyllis Brule and Caroline Dalut Brule who farmed near Grantly in early 1900, and to the union five children were born: Anna 1905, Norah 1906, William 1907, Delia 1909, and Evelyn 1911.

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 in 1936. Soto after the birth of their son, Adrian had purchased. To this union three children were born: Dale 1935, Gerald 1939 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. Joseph's 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. Berwyn Stanstrom), John, Cindy and Kristi. There are two grandchildren, Mark and Eric Stanstrom.

In 1959 Bill sold the bakery to Clinton Theroux and in 1960 became Red Lake Falls City Clerk, a position he held until 1967 when he joined the staff of Inter-County Community Council in Oklee. Simultaneously (1960-67) he was Red Lake County Veterans' 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 High 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 Cloquet; Mary Kay in California; Cindy in St. Joseph (College of St. Benedict) and Krist at home (where she is sophomoric at Lafayette).

JOSEPH AND MELVINA BRULE BRULENNE
Joseph Brunelle, son of Arthur Brunelle, the pioneer settler of this near center farm was born on January 22, 1898 in Polk County, Crookston. Joseph, one of four children, attended the country school in the Northwest School of Agriculture in 1920. In 1920, then helped his father operate a 320 acre farm raising small grains and some dairy.

Joseph married Melvina Brule, one of nine children, on June 2, 1926 in Hawley. Born to them were three children: Elaine (Mrs. Lyle DePuyser) of Bemidji, William of Crookston, and Lorraine (Mrs. 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 family farm, now owned and operated by their son Willard. They will mark thirty years of wedded life in June of 1976 and they are members of St. Peter's Church of Genesee.

WILLARD BRULENNE
Willard Brunelle, son of Joseph Brunelle, and ninth generation of the family, was born on December 10, 1930 in Crookston. He attended the school system for eight years, as his father before him and graduated from the Northwestern 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, of Crookston, and they form a family of five children: Jeff, Bo, Scott, John and Mary. Willard was an instructor at the North Star School of Agriculture and now operates the family farm.

He served in the United States Air Force for four years, with nineteen months in Korea.

The Willard Brunelles own 580 acres, and rent a further 200 acres. Main crops are wheat, barley, oats and certified flax with 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.

All are active in the church, with Willard serving as a deacon.

BURMAN FAMILY
In 1889, Carl and Marie Burman, together with their five children, came by boat from Sweden and homesteaded in 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, all of whom were married and had children, were: Sylvia married and had one son; Charles married and had two children and lived in Wisconsin; Lewis married and had two sons and lived in Indiana; Frank married and had four sons and lived in Minnesota; and Louis married and had two children and lived in Nebraska.

The Burman children are: Martha married and had one daughter and lives in Minnesota; Richard married and had one son and lives in Minnesota; Andria married and had two children and lives in Minnesota; and Betty married and had two children and lives in Minnesota.
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 four 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, killed in the Korean War, Betty, who died in infancy. Mavis who was married Arlie Brekke has four children and lives in Foxton. 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 Lankin 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 the building now serves as the Equality town hall. Mr. Burman donated 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 Wendal who live at home and attend high school.

Marvin spends a lot of his time in the summers on 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, Germany, came to America with his father Carl Frederick Buse (1800) and his mother Lesseta Ohrm Buse (1809). He married Elisa Grunagler who was born in 1851. Of this marriage six children were born. Louise (Wilt), Lillian (Healy), Alice (Lewis), Mary (Converse), Pauline (Behrens), and Ernest C. Buse. Elisa died in 1885 and Ernest T. went to Germany accompanied by his son Ernest C. 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 1877 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 bided 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, June in 1909 and Al in 1914.

J. E. BUSKIRK

Mrs. Ed Greenwald was born in February, 1898, in Floyd Township, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Buskirk.

Her father and her 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 asked Brown what he thought. Brown said yes, and the Indian stayed, then a week, then the month, then the summer. The next year, 1899, the Indian went back to his own country, the Dakota. Buskirk and Brown stayed, and in 1900, Ed married Emily Dougherty. The children were: Betty, John, and Frank.
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 Zoétique, 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, Therese, 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, Elie, and Harvey; and three girls, Lumen, Florestine, and Emma.

Cleophas and Florestine were married in Terrebonne in 1900. At the time of their marriage Florestine was the widow of Romuald La Framboise with three little children.

In 1907, the Buskirk family moved to Brooks where J. E. Buskirk managed the Bertram Wright Lumber Company. They moved to Red Lake Falls, they stopped at Iverson's Restaurant in Plummer for dinner.

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In 1916 the Garden Telephone Company installed a switchboard in the Buskirk home, where Nena and her sister, Amy, were the switchboard operators.

In June, 1918, Nena married Ed Greenwald at the Presbyterian manse in Red Lake Falls. The minister was Sam Kelley, and the maid of honor was Mrs. Jim Colmbert who was their attenant. The Gilbertsons helped them celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in 1968.

Ed Greenwald still live at their farm home in Embdenville township.
CARRIERE-DESELLIER HISTORY

Lawrence Carriere, born in 1835, lived in Canada with his wife, Soulange Belange. They were the parents of Joseph, Celestine, Eugene, Octave, George, Cyrille, Soulange, Philomene, Philicte, Else and Anne. All were born at St. Charles, Belle- Chasse County in the Province of Quebec. They moved to Lemberg, Minnesota in 1855.


Stanislaus Carriere (b. March 31, 1832) and Azelia Boucher (b. September 11, 1859) were married on July 17, 1904. They had six children: Alexina (b. February 12, 1896), William (b. July 20, 1897), Pernelia (b. January 17, 1898), Delina (b. August 24, 1913), Doria (b. May 5, 1913), and Doris (b. December 20, 1914). All of these children were married.

Alexina Carriere and Andrew Dessellier were married on February 26, 1924. Alexine and Andrew had known each other since they were children because the two farms on which they were raised in Lamber Township were only a mile apart. To this union were born seven children: Onayce (b. February 19, 1925), Dora (b. January 19, 1926), Marie (b. September 2, 1927), Paul (b. November 14, 1928), Cecelia (b. December 15, 1929), George (November 22, 1930), and John (November 22, 1930).

Alexa Carriere and Andrew Dessellier were married on November 10, 1954 and they live in Oklee. Ten children have been born to them: James, Michael, Diane, Doane and Boris (twins), Elizabeth, Shirley, Linda, Audrey, and Mary, all of whom were born in Oklee.

Georges Dessellier and Irene Cote were married on November 10, 1954 and they live in Oklee. Ten children have been born to them: Abigail, John, James, Mary, Elizabeth, William, Paul, Albert, and Lawrence.

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progressing to the fourth grade before the urgency 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 his headright 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 rights, starting the 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 testament 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 he installed a daily delivery of a mile 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 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
REV. HENRY CARRIERE

Reverend Henry G. Carriere was pastor of St. Joseph’s Church and a parishioner 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 Bernice 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, and Associates, and the first masonry work completed by October 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 the building was completed by St. Rose of Lima Church of St. Paul were completely rebuilt and installed. The Sanctuary furnishings were built in place for the dedication scheduled April 11, 1957 by Bishop Schenk. Succeeding years noted the continual touch-ups, 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 devotion of the parishioners. The generous donations 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 the 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.

Father Carriere’s mother, Jane, lives with her son and has been his housekeeper since his pastorate in Brooks.

CYRIAN 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, Cyprian who was born in 1852, Paul, Zeb, Henry, and three more whose names are not known.

Cyprian 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 Cyprian and a lawyer friend to dinner, and because Cyprian was interested in homesteading some land, he asked the lawyer to show Mr. Casavan some properties. Later Cyprian 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 Cyprian Pierre who died in infancy, Laura Mary, Eva Anna, Cyprian Henry, Arthur, Marie Eugenie who died at the age of three, Joseph Wilfred who died at age one, Victor Maurice, Marie Louise, Odilon, Eldon, and Wilfred.

Cyprian Henry married Olive Boutain, the daughter of Pierre Boutain and Clara Guachae 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. Cyprian and Olive’s other children are: Mabel (Mrs. Louis Senske), Alva (Mrs. James Weis), Lawrence (Blackie) who married Eleanor Wieland, Lily (formerly Mrs. Hammond and now Mrs. Nelson), Cecile (Mrs. Fred Thode), Marie (Mrs. Wm. Rentz), Dora (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 were 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 gravel to the Top Mill and worked for the
Red Lake County Highway Department. At the present time he is engaged in farming and operates "Blackie's Palace" in Red Lake Falls. His brother, Frank, worked at the Farmers Union Oil Company for a number of years and then bought a store in St. Ignatius, Montana, after which he worked at Thompson's Hardware and served as a secretary to the Red Lake County Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Our four children are 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 Kie and they have Bradley and Tricia and live in Wisconsin. Our son Gary is a junior at Herkyl 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 — MARILY CASCHMITZ

Marlys Schmitz and Darrell Casavan were married 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 Demaris Casavan.

Marilys is a graduate of Lafayette High School and was employed at the ASCS office, Northland Institute, St. John's Hospital, and Steiger Mfg. for 20 years. In 1965 Marlys and Darrell moved to Staples, where Darrell trained for Journeyman Machinist. In 1967 they moved to Minneapolis, where Darrell was employed at A.O. Smith 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 rearing a 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.

James and Edna Casey

JAMES CASAVAN AND MARIE WEISS CASAVAN

James, born 1869 in Hudson, Wisconsin, and Edna Catherine Casey, born in 1904 in Eugene, Oregon, were married in marriage September 3, 1909, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Their children were born to them: Shirley Ann Marie of Clearwater, Florida; James Donald Casey, Great Falls, Montana; and Joseph L. Casey, of Riverside, Illinois.

Mr. Casey owned, operated, and retired on the Casey farm in Terrebonne Township. The farm is still in the family. Mrs. Casey lived there for 67 years. Jim volunteered in World War II — 357th Infantry in France and after five or six weeks of 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 St. Thomas, and in 1973 is buried at St. Anthony's Church.

Mr. Casey, now a resident of Red Lake Falls, attended rural schools in Red Lake County and has a Bachelor of Science and Remedial Reading Degree at Minnesota State College. He has a teaching experience in Broadus, Montana, rural schools in Red Lake County, and the elementary school in McIntosh. He 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 Persons 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 CASAVANT

William Cassavan 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 Cassavan.

In 1913 he married Lucy Brown, who was born in 1897 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 purchased for $1.25 an acre. Finding the land unsuitable for farming, returned to Red Lake Falls around 1918 and homesteaded on Section 11, Township 12, Range 77.

William served as a A.S.C. county committeeman of the United States Department of Agriculture over twenty-five years. He was on the Farmer's Union board in G.T.A., and served on the board of the district.

They have three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mrs. Cassavan passed away in 1966. William lives at Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Lawrence, son of William and Elizabeth Schmitz of Red Lake Falls, was born in 1913. He served in the army 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 farm. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Cassavan have three children: Eliza of Grotton, Linda, (Mrs. Jay Peterson 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 Delavan, Minnesota, and attended schools at the University of Minnesota, Mankato State College and Bemidji State University, 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 a charter president of the local Rotary 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's brother, James, was born in North Dakota in 1869. His residence in Red Lake Falls at the age of 30. He was born in 1869 also at Port Austin and had moved to a North Dakota farm with his parents. The couple settled in a small town in the early 1920s where they raised their three children in all: Leon, 1910; Delia, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; and Pearl, deceased. Rose Alba, deceased; Anna, Brooks, Cora, Thompson, North Dakota, Eliza, deceased; Ida, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, White, 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. Dieda died in 1948 and Peter in 1949.
AMEDIE CHAMPAGNE

Amedie Champagne, son of Peter Champagne and Idella Turcotte Champagne, was born in 1906 in Crookston on a farm. He married Delma Carriere (b. 1919), daughter of Stanislaus Carriere, well digger of the Brooks area, and Azelia Boucher.

Amedie and Delma 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 Beauleau officiated. The couple moved to their farm where seven children were born: Elmer, Onizime, William, Lowella (Bushaw), Lorene (Westman), Dorene (Cote) and Marion (Martel).

Later in 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Champagne moved to Milwaukee and remained twelve years before retiring in Okie in 1970. Amedie does some upholstering and both will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in June, 1976.

CHAMPEAU FAMILY

According to the 1902 "Northern Minnesota Compendium of History and Biography," Dolphus Champeon (Champou) 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. Champeon was born 1846 in the Province of Quebec. His parents, Anthony and Sophia (Dubue) Champeon, 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 then paid 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. Champeon added 160 acres by purchase.

Dolphus Champeon was married in 1888 to Miss Marie Laurent, a native of Canada. To the union thirteen children were born, Louis and Remi, twins, Ida (Ailda), Daniel, Joseph, Adelard, Leona, Osias, 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 Honora 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.


Daniel Champeon married Amilie La Plante in 1888 and raised five children all born in Red Lake Falls, Celestine Powers (deceased), Cecile Van Wyk of California, Leo of Wisconsin, Alda Hillaboe of Florida, who had been married to the late Dr. Hillaboe, 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 Paradise Saloon on the Main Street of Red Lake Falls and operated it for five years. In 1918 he purchased the buildings 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 Louis Bombardier and they have two children, Fred and Beth. Dona lives in Duluth. Pauline, born 1941, is married to Francis Flaherty. They live in Minneapolis and have a 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., his parents, Francois 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, Joes, remained in Canada, near Montreal. A sister, Exilia, married Raphael Hamel; another sister, Zoe, married Adolphus Rose.

George Charest Sr., married Oliva 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-
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Christenson moved to Red Lake Falls in 1918 when, in partnership with Mr. and Mrs. Horace Cutten, they purchased the Red Lake Falls Gazette. George Christenson was the son of Dr. and Mrs. George R. Christenson of Long Prairie. Eva is the daughter of the late Charles A. Ludvig of Red Lake Falls. Charles graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and Eva from Carleton College.

Two children were born to the Christies, both of whom graduated from Layfayette High School. Lillian graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in journalism. George graduated from Carleton College and later became a newspaper editor during World War II and a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He also served in the Navy during World War II. 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 in Journalism from Stanford University, and a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and is on the faculty at the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota and the University of California.

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.

During their time in Red Lake Falls, the Christies took an active part in the community. George, Sr. served as president of the Board of Directors of the Red Lake County State Bank, president of the Commercial Club and the Northern Minnesota Association, and was active in the Masonic Lodge. He became the Grand Master of Minnesota and 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. They were able to afford the building of the hotel, the hospital and the trailer park. 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 the 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 Christenson, Sr.

HARMIDAS CLEMENT

Some parts of this history about my dad, Harnidas Clement, also had not been told to me, but some events I vividly recall.

In the year 1889 Harnidas Clement left his home in St. In, Quebec, and with two cousins, Regis and Gideon Gagnon, he worked his way through Michigan laboring in mines and lumber camps until he finally arrived in Minnesota. He arrived with a cousin, Joseph Laurent, who had already homesteaded near Terrebonne on the farm now known as the Kaloñoski farm.

The county seat was in Crookston and the settlers traveled by horse or oxen to do legal business there. There were rumors then of Indians and wolves. 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 a trip to Crookston and filed a claim on what is the present site of the Very Spernent farm. To fill the obligations for the homestead rights, one had to put up a shack and sleep there a few nights a month but it was not a permanent home.

After two years of living alone and doing farm work for neighboring farmers such as Bruno Derozier, Xavier Sauge, Regis Gagnon, and Joseph Laurent, Clement decided to relinquish his claim to John Baptist Surprenant Sr. He went back home to Canada and married a few years later. When their first daughter, Lil, was born, the mother died. He and his son stayed with his father and mother.

In 1901 he was married to Lydia Heinault in 1897. In 1901 he was married to Lydia, daughter of Lila, sons Theodore, three years old, and Adelarde, 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 Harnidas Clement. There already was a log house that Mr. Thomas Perouse had built. This house had been a stopping place for loggers 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 around the house. The house was occupied by the Clement family for as long as he made cheese.

The building for the cheese factory was constructed, and Mr. Clement moved 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 were no phones, no telephones, no radios. 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 cheese. The milk was then stirred by hand in a large wooden tub and placed into molds to set and form into cheese.

Farmers hauled the cheese boxes to Red Lake Falls to be shipped to Swift or Kraft Companies. An inspector, Mr. Baumgartner, inspected and ordered the cheese to be shipped to the State Fair in St. Paul. He did so and the box weighed 98.5 pounds and the first prize. He was also awarded a trophy, a beautiful gold plated cup with his name and score engraved on it. (Ted) Clement, after this incident was reminded when Theodore Garbus asked to display his cheese in the grocery store as a means of advertising the cheese. The trophy was the inside of the store room was razzed by fire and the cup was never returned to the owner.

I also remember that a year or so after shipping to St. Paul, the cheese factory received big blue labels printed, “Swift's Premium Cheese.” These labels were to be glued on each box before shipping at the Great Northern Depot where Omer Hall was depot agent and checking clerk.

Clemens 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 spend the winter months in lumber camps at Bemidji or Kelliher, Minnesota.

Most families were large then, and ours was no exception. There were six boys: myself, Theodore (Ted), Adelade, Leo, Roman, Luger and Harry (twins), and four daughters: Lila, Amanda, Lourena, and Bertha.

Of the eight children six survive: Theodore in Red Lake Falls, retired; Roman of Aurora, retired; Roman of Auro, retired; Lila (Mrs. St. Pierre), provided; Amanda (Mrs. Leo) Robillard of Red Lake Falls; Lourena (Mrs. Wallace Coss) of Cass Lake, and Bertha (Mrs. Paul Magoon) of Frazee.

Harnidas 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 Aurel and Marc Parenteau, brothers, whose mother, Lilu, 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 the Perrett Station cheese factory, all equipped, to operate in their own factory. I helped them 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 and farm tools to cheese. 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 interest.

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 newspaper offering 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 Heim found a thirty passenger bus for me in Oskaloosa, Iowa. That vehicle was purchased for three years. When the number of students outsid the old bus it was necessary to purchase a new, larger forty-eight passenger 1940 bus from George Tibbet. We drove it home from Cleveland, Ohio.

LaFayette High School didn't own buses. We had to get a lease arrangement. The payments paid part of the fare and the districts furnished the difference, partly reimbursed by the county. There were five districts on our route: Terrebonne, Beau Geriot, Badger, Dehman and Columbus. My route was thirty miles one way.

As students 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 paid.

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 transport various groups to various camps. A special insurance was needed for those non-school activities.

In 1957, after driving twenty years with out an accident, the speedometer on the 1940 bus had gone around three times and registered 500,000 miles. Retirement from bus driving was set. I returned 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 Bjere and Thompson in the Fix-It Shop for fourteen years. When George Proulx owned the shop for Arc...
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. Florence Gibeau and Edward were married in Canada in 1898 and they had thirteen children, of whom only six survived the diphtheria epidemics, Elta, Louis, Florence, Walter, Alice and Earl.

Ed Columbus served as a clerk of Lake Pleasant Township. He did some blacksmith work as well as farm work on his home. He served as a county official and was elected to the state legislature in 1898.

He was also involved in the lumber industry and was a partner in the Columbus and Gibeau Lumber Company. He served as a member of the local business community and was a member of the local church.

In 1910, Edward Columbus was elected as the mayor of the city of Lake Pleasant. He served as mayor until his death in 1932.

EARL COLUMBUS FAMILY

Earl (Patt) Columbus and his wife, Diana Barie, spent the early years of their marriage in 1916, farming a quarter-section of land in Lake Pleasant Township. They were joined by their daughter, Florence, in 1920.

Earl Columbus was a member of the local farm community, serving as a member of the local school board and as a member of the local community steering committee. He was also a member of the local church and was a member of the local business community.

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 Florence Columbus.

He was involved in the lumber industry and was a member of the local business community. He served as a member of the local school board and as a member of the local community steering committee. He was also a member of the local church and was a member of the local business community.

In 1920, Walter Columbus moved to the city of Red Lake Falls and was elected as the mayor of the city. He served as mayor until his death in 1932.
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.

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 Converse had two sons, Ralph and

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 eldest was Josephine who married Henry Raymond, both deceased. Their second child, Anna, married Cash Carver, 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 Bernard 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 on 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 1924. He served in the United States Navy from 1942 to 1945 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 Gunner's Mate 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 Gondringen at Turtle Lake, North Dakota on August 17, 1952. They have three daughters. He is employed as a line man 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. Herold 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. Herold 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.

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 Converse had two sons, Ralph and

Milton, Ralph, who lived in Red Lake Falls for only a few years, died July 9, 1909.

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 Armasa (Bud) Converse of St. Peters, Florida.

Mary Keifenheim 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 tuning 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 1904, 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.

Armasa (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 ste
ADELORE AND LUCILLE COTA

Adolphe 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.

Adolphe 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 town; they moved to Red Lake Falls in 1951 when he was employed by the Red Lake Falls Mill Company. In 1971 the Cotas bought Vogue Cleaners in Red Lake Falls and Adolphe also continues with the silo company.

There are five children: Jerome, Shirley (Mrs. Joel Lurie), Carol (Mrs. Tom King), Alan and Mike.

Adolphe is a member of the American Legion Guster 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.

VELOERE COTE

Remi Cote and his wife Catherine Pauaud 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 (Fores), Estelle (Bourgeois), Blanche (Bonnel), Mabel (Sollis) 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 Clara 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, Henry, Myrle, and Lilian 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 threshing and plow teams. Later Kristena went and brought the four children and the rest of their things to the small room log cabin they had built. They also built a log barn for the cows and oxen.

Erik and Kristena made the second trip with the children. At the place they finally decided to return to the place. The water was so high that it was impossible for the children to make it safely. They turned around and stayed 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. The boys 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, Clara, Oscar, Gust, Nora and Clarence.

They raised their own food except for sugar, coffee, salt, baking powder, and soda. Their clothes were made from materials bought in bulk, from their own weaverly, and made the shoe leather for sale. 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 build wind breaks and plows around buildings. The older children were left 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 the other animals were still alive and had saved the hay.
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 Theresa Reed 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 with them because they 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 tin kettle on the doorstep the next morning and no Indians around.

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 lopped 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 1886. He also had two sisters, Mary and Theresa. 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 my grandmother. She 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 as 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 mother became very sick and he was 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 it until 1912 when his mother passed away. Then his sister Theresa 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 the town and on the farms. 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 mother was 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 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 Donald, was born three years later in 1926.

My father went to work for the Steiner Milling Company where he ground feed, cleaned grain, chopped ice from the boards on the dam so the rising and lowering ice wouldn’t bump the dam out, and just about anything else they needed help for. This job was done by Mr. Schmitz. He and my father became life-long friends.

William Cuno worked for Steiner’s Mill for about 20 years until climbing stairs in the mill became too much for him to do. In 1944 he went to work for the Smith Paper Co. hauling straw bales. When the mill closed he went to work for the R.A. Croft cutting boards. 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 we had plenty of it 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 my father used to swim with his wash water from the river and let us swim around in the river pots. Eventually we started swimming in the middle of the Mississippi with the Steiner girls. Gertrude Steiner and my mother would take us there each day and we’d swim while we swam. That was our private swim and until we’d get 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 the 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 Kelvin’s farm. From then on, many more miles were put on the Ford.

We all started our school years at Washington School when I was six, then 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 entered 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. Carniere. He was the son of T. E. Carniere and Jane Carniere who moved into this area in 1919 from Walsh County in North Dakota. He worked for farmers around the county, was Times press. 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 Falls building until they moved to the new building for complete equipment. That building still houses the Gazette.

The Cullen’s were both active in the community. My father was active in church work and serving in many offices of the First Presbyterian Church in Red Lake Falls during that time. My mother 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 extensively to keep Highway 32 from 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 was in progress.

The address of the Red Lake Falls Lodge No. 308, A.M.F.M. and served in offices in that organization. A life-long 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 Red River Valley Editorial Association, Secretary of the Red River Valley Editorial Association and served as board member and president of the Minnesota Editorial Association in 1941.

Cullen died in March of 1957 and his wife, May continued to live in Red Lake Falls until 1965 when she moved to St. Cloud. She died in October of 1970 in Eden Valley.

The Cullen’s 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 Pennsylvania. Mr. Cullen is married to Chloé Guillemin of Red Lake Falls and they have four children.

**HORACE W. CUTTEN FAMILY**

Hobace W. and May E. Cuten moved to Red Lake Falls in October of 1916, where Cuten 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 Mr. Cuten.

Hobace was born in Evassville, 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 the LaSalle Standard in Illinois. From 1911 until 1916 he was employed by the Sauk County Herald and while in Sauk he met and married May E. Crandall.

Shortly after the partnership of Christie and Cuten had purchased the Gazette, the Red Lake Falls Times was published. Its first issue was completely burned out, the edition for that week was ready to go on the press that Wednesday night, and that was completely destroyed.

Through the cooperation of the Thief River Falls Times, the two young editors had another edition ready to go to print 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
Fred Cyr, policeman

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. Ernest Guilmette) and Sara (Mrs. Sylvina Gervais) are deceased. My sister Laura (Mrs. Joe Helm) is living in Red Lake Falls. My half-sister Janet (Mrs. Gregory Grevy) 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 bullcook at the camp. I worked in the sawmill at Cass Lake for a couple of years and finally got on steady hauling logs on sleighs and bunks 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 sawmills at Crookston or Grand Forks. It was our job to break up any log jams with 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 Phillion during these logging days and we have one living child, Lucille, 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 Company, 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 Berndji 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 PHILLION CYR
Olive Phillion Cyr was born in Red Lake Falls on August 6, 1865. She was one of the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Phillion, pioneer residents of this community.

She attended the local schools and was an excellent bookkeeper, being employed for a number of years at the LeBissonnier 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 Gadois of Minneapolis). Her immediate brothers and sisters were Louis, Louise, Sadie, Rose and William.

Olive Phillion Cyr made her home for the greater part of her life in Red Lake Falls. She passed away at the Lutheran Hospital at Berndji on January 11, 1944. Death was attributed to a heart ailment aggravated by an attack of influenza. Her husband was
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 1836. He married Elizabeth 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 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 north of Red Lake Falls. His father arrived here in 1877.

Paul Cyr was married in 1880 by Father Chamber by Orange Violette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francois Violette. Twelve children were born to this union: Agnes (deceased); Clara (now in Davenport, Iowa); Rose, Grand Rapids, Alberta; Anna (Mrs. Henry Voeller, deceased); Leah (deceased); Paul, Jr. (deceased); David; Chisholm; Patrick, Eureka, California; Henry; Port Angeles, Washington; Alex (deceased); Mrs. C. DeRozier; and Romeo, Red Lake Falls.

The homestead, which is 100 years old, is still owned by the Cyr family. Paul’s eldest 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 Mary Ann Cummings in 1962. They have five children. James is now in Iowa Falls as a field supervisor for Northrup King Corn Co. He married Geraldine Paulson in 1972 and there are 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 Bachette 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 Holdindorf, Minnesota in 1827 and served in the U.S. Army for three years before he attended St. Cloud 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 Diana Czech.

Diana, daughter of Vern and Mildred Czech, 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. Diana 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, 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 Mildred 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 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 Dancy of Lafayette, Colorado and Joyce, Mrs. Don Davidson of Esmond, Illinois. Mae is a graduate of the local high school and she taught at the St. Cloud Business College. She is employed at the Boulder Valley School at Boulder, Colorado. The Dancy’s have four children; Jimmy Jon, Janet, Julie and Jo Ann Joyce is also a graduate of the local high school and she was the University of Duluth, School of Nursing. She is employed at the Memorial Hospital at DeKalb, Illinois. The Davises have three children; Steven, Valerie and Debbie.

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 mill which was owned by his father and uncle. 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 his fiber (Tow) from hank strand which was used in upholstery 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 manufactured in England and imported 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 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 in 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.

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 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 the fruit. She especially enjoyed learning how to make a salad. She decided to make bread thought she could remember how her mother had done it. Mixing the correct ingredients, she didn’t realize that it needed to rise and warn her that John might be angry at the waste, she threw it in the trash can. John arrived laughing, he went to greet them and the trash can was overflowing with dough baked in 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 in 1926.

At the beginning of the depression, the DeHaans moved to a farm near Chenoak, Montana near the Canadian border. There were no roads and it was seven miles to a town. When John became school age, he spent his week with a neighbor and rode a horse to school. 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 Gertrude would take a bag of potatoes into their bed to keep them from freezing. Catherine, John Jr., Joseph and Gertrude 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 responded that he had a nephew, Walter Morinville, that he was selling a neighboring farm near Red Lake Falls. John immediately contacted Mr. Morinville and purchased the farm for $2200. There was an unusual coincidence of the name that Mr. Morinville sold his farm to his nephew and it hadn’t been sold. John bought the farm and left, just happened to pass 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 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 known to be busy on the farm. They shucked corn, 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 Findis farm for twenty cents an hour. R.E.A. came to the farm in 1948 and was cause for celebration.

The depression years brought many changes in the family. Margaret married Lyrene DeDoux in 1947. Martin and Bernadette Gerald 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 in the air force. Joseph was reported missing in action and later found to have died in a prison camp in 1951. 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. married Gladys Hagen and in 1955 he was killed in an accidental fall while repairing an elevator.

After Jacob married Barbara Myhrer, Gertrude 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. De Haan 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 Highland Nursing Home where her long and fruitful life ended in 1974.

MARTIN AND BERNADETTE DeHAAN

Martin DeHaan and Bernadette Gerald were married in 1948 and left immediately for work in the woods to support the farm and 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 Boulter farm. This house burned down and they lost all their belongings. 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 tract of land 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 1954.

The next move of the DeHaans was to Minneapolis, Wisconsin where they found living quarters in a basement apartment. Bernadette arrived with three sick children. The landlord 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 Appliances 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 Wizier in 1969 and they live in Fergus Falls where he is a pilot. Nancy was married to Pat Jaquinta in 1975 and in the same year Mary married Allen Morten 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.

ADELDEL DELORME FAMILY

The history of the Delorme families living in Red Lake County dates back to the time of 1882 when Ambrose Delorme, father of Adelde 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. It 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 Ambrose brought his wife Marie and children from St. Jude, Canada to Red Lake County and settled on their homestead which became their lifetime home. Ambrose Delorme passed away in 1920 at the age of 85 years, and Marie died in 1937 at the age of 95 years. Marie and Ambrose 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 Ambrose Delorme’s farm. This place on the line was the site of the town of Delorme. The present site of Delorme is the site of the original townsite.

Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Delorme
the Leo Marchildon Farm S.E. of Red Lake Falls for eight years. He then purchased the William Montier 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 15 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 DMK Inc. of Red Lake Falls. They have four children: Michael, Patricia Ann, Kathryn 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. Eimer Cardal of Red Lake Falls. They have two children, Tracy Lynn and Wade. Sally works part time for Mr. Joseph’s Beauty Salon, and Roger works at Radiotrons 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 in Business Administration from Concordia 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 Khut 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 1895 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 lord. 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 build-

ings 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 Edward 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 veal 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-

Mr. and Mrs. Adelard Delorme

Wm. Demann and mother 1978
JOHN B. DEMARAIS

John B. Demerais was one of the first settlers in what is now Red Lake Falls. He arrived in the spring of 1911. At that time, in order to receive First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church, he 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, over near the old red 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 Deina Magnes.

He served in the Spanish American War 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 Crookston River where they could build a town, 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, the Bottineaus, and a big ox and a horse, with his cow tied behind. At the time they had four children: Henry, John, Mary, and my father, Philip, who was eighteen months old, born November 27, 1874. Father lived all his life in Red Lake County, passing away October 12, 1952, married Anna Vaudrin, my mother, who was 96 and still living in Red Lake Falls.

Grandfather related quite a few hestic 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 at night they had to keep the cow and the horse and the ox, and they started back across the trail going south. Well, as grandpa told me they had to have their cow, as they had to have milk for the yarns, so he took his horse and back-tracked for two days until they 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, and then followed a single wagon track to what today is Red Lake Falls. Here in the spring of 1876 he welcomed Pierre 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 his farm, which today I think, belongs to Clarence Vadhavera. They lived there for some time, then he sold out and moved on what was the F. B. Bailey place, now owned also by one of the Vadhavera. They lived there quite some time then he sold out and moved into Red Lake Falls. He invested the money in the building where Max Inger 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: Herbert, John, Mary, Max, Will, Della, 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 Demerais, son of pioneer, John B. Demerais, married Vellia LaPlante in 1894. Two children born to them, George and Agnes, were left motherless when Vellia died from pneumonia in 1901.

In October of 1902, Philip married Anna Vaudrin of Gentilly whom he had met at a fall fair. Anna was born August 1789 in Canada and lived at home. She helped him care for her six sisters and five brothers following her 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 candles 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. And he loved to sing and would entertain her family by singing.

Philip and Anna raised their family of eleven children: George, Agnes (Theroux), Walter, Joseph, Dulce (St. Marie), Leah (Lemieux), Omer, Edna (Rossignol), Wilard, Wilmae (Ragsdale) and Ray. They also had six brothers: Joseph, Max, John, and Edward Vaudrin, Anna’s brother and sister.

Philip Demerais died on October 19, 1952 and Anna Demerais has made her home at Hillcrest Nursing Home since 1965.

GEORGE DEMARAIS

George Demerais, son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Demerais, was born in 1896 in Ger- vais Township. 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 Demerais married Marie Theroux in 1919. She was a daughter of the Louis Theroux who had a farm next. Philip Demerais 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 (Theroux) Swanson of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Mrs. Anthony (LaVerne) Ritchie of Seattle, Washington.

T. M. DENNISTOUN FAMILY

T. M. Dennistoun of Lambton Township, Red Lake County, Brooks, was born in Scotland, April 22, 1834.

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 five years.

T. M. Dennistoun has been active in Civic and Community affairs. He was a member and director of Brook’s Livestock Cooperative Shipping Association during the time that livestock moved to market by rail, assessor of Lambton Township for nine years and an agent for Bray Insurance Company for about twenty years. T. M. Dennistoun helped organize the REA in the City in 1906 and assisted with the County Fair and 4-H promotion work for many years.

M. Dennistoun was a lifelong member of Princeton and attended the session since 1884, and ordained 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. Streg in 1915. He preceded Mrs. Dennistoun back to Scotland, one in 1912 and two in 1960. Upon his return, he revisited his homeland and 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 many years. 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 an organizer of the church.

One son, Dr. Rollin M. Dennistoun, married the former Edna A. Hopkins of Crookston, Minn. He is Director of the Division of Agricultural 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.

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 Lambton Township. At one time he farmed over 600 acres. He served as a local agent for many years, however, for over thirty years and is still doing this on a limited basis. Tom and Ethel are both naturally leaders and they both contribute a great deal to the county and to our lives.
Pierre and Marie Deroser had been married ten years when 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 man 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.

Their family was strengthened 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 in the area. During this time, he met and married Sophia Provoucnel. 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 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 a homestead on 160 acres of 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 did not long after the move to Minnesota. New friendships were made and new interests were discovered. Bruno worked as an engineer and farming operations were expanded with the help of his sons. The farm was efficiently managed and expanded the farm operations with the aid of his brothers, Dan, Arthur, Dolly, and Joseph. Two brothers, Dan, Vital, and later sold their farms to Ferment, and the farm operations grew larger. The work was completed through a combination of effort from the brothers and their families. 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 sugarcane for several years. Prior to his death in 1955, Ferment was a very progressive farmer. Among other things, he helped establish the Red Valley Winter Shows, was instrumental in helping farmers on the idea of rural electrification when REA was first introduced, and was also on the Board of Directors of the Red 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 the grandchildren. Many of her grandchildren learned her techniques of knitting and crocheting during her stays. Evelyn passed away on September 21, (her 79th birthday) 1973.

Louise, the eldest child, married Don Peppel and lived on the farm in geo Township. Louis is a Master B. Electrician for Detroit 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 prior to his early death of fifty-five years with Mrs. Marcella 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 Elma Mae Deroser, live in Red Lake Falls where he employs the city. Marion and his family live in their 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 a worker for 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 Joan Schmitz, are the parents of five sons and a daughter, and they 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 Savings Bank. They are the parents of one daughter and two sons.

ERNEST DEROsIER

Ernest Deroser was born in 1923 on a farm in Terrebonne, the son of Ferment Deroser 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.

Elma Mae Deroser was born January 12, 1929 on a farm near Beltrami in Polk County, the daughter of Francis Deroser 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.

In 1944, Ernest and Elma 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, Elma Mae returned to work for the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. They returned to Red Lake Falls in 1960 to make their home where they have resided ever since 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. Elma Mae is the librarian for the Red Lake Falls Public Library, a branch of the 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 Deroser is the youngest son of Ferment Deroser 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, graduating in 1949.

JoAnn is the eldest daughter of Bernard "Ben" Schmitz and Elizabeth Knott of Red Lake Falls Township. She attended grade school in Dist. 187, 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 Deroser farmstead which was settled in 1861 by George's grandfather, Bruno Deroser. 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.
LOUIS DEROISIER AND DORA ROPELLE DEROISIER

Louis Derosier, the eldest son of Ferment Derosier and Evelyn Paradis, was born in Red Lake County in 1918. He married Dora Reopelle in 1933 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 Detroit Mobile Homes Inc. and has his own small electrical business. Dora also is employed by Deroisier.

Their oldest son, Robert, was born in 1945. He graduated from Lafayette High School and served in the military for several years. Robert married Brenda Cardin 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 working at Robertson Lumber Co. in Red Lake Falls.

MAURICE AND SYBIL DEROISIER

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, in 1881. He attended Dist. #81 Beaugerlot school for grades 1-8 and Lafayette for his high school years from 1940-44. Here 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 Minn. Morris, married Linda Dingley, has one daughter, Amy, and a saleswoman 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 and her husband, a 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. Morvin 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 DEROISIER

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.

Arlene 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 was engaged in dairy farming, Arline attended one year at a country school and then attended Washington Elementary School, She later attended 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 Arline were married on October 9, 1971 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. They are currently making their home in Bloomington.

ALPHONSE DEROUSIN

Alphonse Derousin came to this area with his parents, Reni and Hermine Deroisier and their family, to establish a homestead in 1868. On February 21, 1898, he married Aurelia LaLiberte at Louisville (Hut), and they lived on the homestead in the Washington Township. Alphonse and Aurelia had ten children: Stephen, Theophile, Gilbert, Francis, Louis, Isidore, Joseph, Jeanne and John. Theophile died in infancy. Also deceased are Stephen, Francis, Louis and Isidore 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 four daughters. John married on the homestead and lives in Red Lake Falls. They have four sons and one daughter.

JOHN DEROUSIN

John Derousin, son of Alphonse and Aurelia Deroisier, and Eleanorina Cardinal, daughter of Arthur and Alice Cardinal, were married on May 1, 1952. The Derousins are the parents of six children: Thomas, Daniel, Judy, Mary (died in infancy), Raymond and Charles.

John worked on road construction and was a road 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 DESSELLER
Gedeon Desseller 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 Asseil, daughter of Cyprien Asseil. She was born May 18, 1870.

Gedeon and Malvina established a homestead in Lambert township where they lived and raised a family of twelve children. The oldest were Alberta (Mrs. Delmas Duquette), Eugenie, Lucile, Andrew, Rosina (Mrs. Leo Longin), Mary (Mrs. Alex Bui, and Cyprien (Mrs. Adolph Parent). The children also included Louisa, Lelaine (Mrs. Fred Chauvet), Cyprien, and Dela (Mrs. George Gross).

JOHN DEUTSCHMAN
John Duetschman (1873-1920) was born in Krania, 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 first worked for Joe Schmitt, Sr. on the farm to learn the German and English languages. He then worked for Mathias Skala on his farm and in the Skala's Sample Room, a saloon business he eventually purchased from Mr. Skala. Later he built the present brick structure on the north side 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 (Brodey) of Minneapolis; Walter in Red Lake Falls; and Rose in Austin.

Mr. Deutchman 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
Bertheleine (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 Calena Fallerene. Bert and Mamie farmed in Terrebonne township until 1919 when they purchased a farm in Gervas 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 Reopel, their son-in-law, and were living there at the time of Bert's death in 1967. 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 LaVeau of Buffalo, Minnesota; Leah (Mrs. Louis Peria of Maple Lake, Minnesota; Emma (Mrs. Omer LaCourriere), 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 Dorothy Mae, 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 177 Seventh Street North-East. The architect was Herb Fritz, Jr. of Spring Green, Wisconsin, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. An addition was completed in 1975.

In 1985 the store was doubled in size from the original twenty-five by eighty when the Max Ginger 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 in December 1985. The store was outfitted in bright red and gold and paneled in walnut with all new fixtures. A large and popular gift department was opened and named "The Gallery."

The Dodds family has taken an active part in the development of Red Lake Falls. Bob served as city alderman for four years, 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 Council privately serving as Program Services Chair, 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 Snow Day. 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.

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 Laforge, 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 1863. Later he enlisted as a soldier in the Mounted Rangers and was probably one of the soldiers escorting Captain Sibley to the Old Pembina Trail Crossing, which is now Huot, and where on October 2, 1863, a treaty was signed with the Chipewa 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 at 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 old. 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 1958 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...
Trent 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 blacksmith. He married Minnie Schultz and lived in the house behind Mildred Paul's that burned in the fall of 1915. 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 Donal Boulan family lives. John Drees had four sons: Christ, Matt, Pete, and Hille. 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 shows in various locations throughout the country. He was a stock show in Dorothy, relatives, and neighbors for his characters. (Pete Drees was in his shows.) He also was a great wrestler. He had four daughters. One married Henry LaCourse. They farmed and lived east of Red Lake Falls, just north of St. Joseph's Cemetery, then moved to Shockap. "Bunnie" married Herman Boulait. They lived north of Dorothy and then moved to Shockap, also. Roselle 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 Zutl farm. With his son, Pete, Matt drove up in a Model T Ford. It took them two days, trying to get to the correct route. They stayed overnight at Moorhead. Matt's other children were Nickie, Mary, Hille, and 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 Commando in the Navy. When Pete was first married, they lived in Dorothy where he worked for James Hancor. 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.

Nellie Drees married Pearl Orloff of St. Hilaire. They had one daughter and two sons. They owned and operated the cafe in St. Hilaire for many years. Nellie is still busy summers working on a dairying. 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 Else's.

Hilie Drees married Agnes Bugge of Thief River Falls where they reside today. Hilie is a "cat-skin". He has two machines and is always busy. He also farmed for many years.

William Drees has always lived in St. Paul. He sells paper on the 7th and Wabasha. He moved in on this corner for many years. Gertrude Drees married Phil Doran and lives in St. Paul. They have one son, Duane.

Elizabeth married Ray Rose and they had one son, Gary. Ray passed away in 1964. They lived in Third Street in the house Arthur Guillemette now lives in. In 1968, Betty married Clifford Onik 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 Nordby's: Tiffany, Jennifer, Laurie, Joel, and David. Chris worked for the R & D Electric and was self-employed for many years. He then worked 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). Hille, bass horn; Mary, clarinet; Elizabeth, baritone; Chris, cornet; Nellie, trumpet; Gertrude, French horn. Matt Drees was the father, played any musical instrument. Pete and Matt Drees played the organ 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 wife left the farm, they went to 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 of Third Street. He died in 1949 and his wife in 1956.

Pete Drees and 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. After that, they purchased the old VFW Club and operated it as the R & D Cafe. Matt 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 Plummers in September, 1947 from Thief River Falls. He and his brother Wallace purchased the Torstvet Grocery Store and operated it together until Jesse sold his part ownership of the store to Wallace in 1965, and took over management of the newly-built Onik's Provision Store. Later, he operated 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 Hofius. He still holds the position today.

During this time, the family has resided in Plummers. Jesse and Bunny have five children. Leon was born in 1948, and is married to the former Mutsuko Iguchi of

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Mr. and Mrs. John Drees and four sons
Mose Ducharme

My father, Mose Ducharme (B. 1858 - D. 1945), emigrated from Panatang, Canada with his parents around 1870 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 and in 1920 he moved to Red Lake Falls and then 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 Luxembourg, Paul Schoenauer, Napoleon Donald and Joseph Page. While we were 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 Arol, my brother, Dave, Leo and Tom Ducharme. Dave and I make our home in Lynwood, California. Leo lives in Seattle and Tom lives in Duthul.

We were members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls. The children attended the school at Percival, Station, and I attended St. Joseph's Parochial School in Red Lake Falls. My brother and I graduated. While attending school in town, I stayed with my cousins, George and Ann. Our home was the old Delage place, which is now 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 Baptist Dufault was born in Canada in 1874, and came to Minnesota with his parents when he was five years old.

He married Alma Joly in June, 1906. She was the daughter of the Telegraph Jolys, who had a hotel across from St. Joseph's Church for a year and then started farming in the Terrebonne area. This farm has belonged to the family for over 100 years. Mr. and Mrs. Joly were born in Joliette, Canada. Mr. Joly died in 1921, and she died in 1940.

John and Alma Dufault farmed in the Gently area until their retirement in the 1940's when they moved to Crockston.

Johon A. Dufault

John A. Dufault who was born at White Plains, New York on November 1, 1862, moved with his parents to Ohio in 1866 when he attended school and grew to manhood.

John Dufant came to Red Lake Falls in 1867 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 1895 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, 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 Dufant farm a mouth south of Red Lake Falls. In fact he took an active part and was a leader in all community projects.

He was also associated with the Farmers National Bank in Red Lake Falls and with banks in St. Hilaire and Wylie.

Mr. Dufant moved to Minneapolis in 1924 and died in 1938.

Archie Dupont Family

Archie Dupont (b. 1889) was the son of Euchrist Dupont and Louise Touflet who had come from Canada in the early 1880's to the Missouri town. Their son, Archie, was born in 1913. Archie married Eugenie Chartier at Old Lambert town. She was the daughter of George Chartier and Olive Paquin, pioneers of Lambert where Eugenie was born. The Duponts moved to a farm in Lake Pleasant Township of Red Lake County 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. Robert Hunsinger). Archie died in February 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 Roche 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: Giovanni (Mrs. Darrel Kargel), Gary, Ronnie, Dean and Karen (Mrs. Frank Knott, Jr.).

It will be noted that Euchrist 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.

Moses Dufant, 90 years old in January, 1976, resides at St. Vincent's Rest Home, he is the only survivor of the Joly family of ten children. Mr. Dufant died in 1949.

Children of the J. B. Dufants were: Rose (Mrs. Edy Beauchane), Red Lake Falls, Florence (Mrs. Kenny Johnson), Minneapolis, William (Mrs. Myron Kistance, Red Lake Falls, Leonard in California, Lawrence, Red Lake Falls, Donald in California, and Norman of Gentility.
Eucharist was the father of four sons, Albert, Majorie, Charles and Archie, and three daughters, Sister Agatha, Doria (LaCoursiere), and Mary (Grenier).

GEORGE DUPOINT 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 10 miles. After one year of good winter weather, there they lived 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 then known as the Beachport School north of Red Lake Falls, 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 1900, lower Terrebonne. Around 1902 he moved to Terrebonne Falls, and moved to a farm south 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 1902 he moved to Terrebonne Falls, and moved to a farm south of Terrebonne, with monthly wages of $30.00 a month and had to walk four miles morning and evening.

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Currie Tibbetts in 1975 to build and develop 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 ELLERSON

The Clyde Ellerson family has lived in Red Lake Falls since 1936. They had previously lived in Dorthy since September, 1936 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 Ellersons are members of Bethany Lutheran Church. Clyde is presently employed as lead lineman for 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

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. Securing 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 cardload of sheep for the 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. By May of 1936 Clarence was married to Gertrude Haltvorson 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 Kay, triplet boys, one other boy, Kevin, and two other girls.

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 (Mrs. Winton Mickelson) lives in Gnes Township. Since 1964 they have lived on the old Charles Seefer farm where they are active in dairy farming. 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 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 Bergert 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 as a 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.

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 Erickson place. They were married at Evantons on September 9, 1899. Mr. Erickson passed away on March 31, 1944.

There are two daughters, Mrs. Josephine Leonard of Portland, Oregon, and Mrs. 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 of Oklee. It is a 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 expressed interest in the plans and preparations being made for Oklee's Jubilee Days. She noted with pride the changes that had taken place from the simple, hard work of brush and stones and log houses to the fine, modern homes, from the old one-room school to the new schools, from the one-room store to the new schools, from the one-room store to the new stores.

La Vonne was born in 1945 to parents George and Hazel Fossman 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 Oil Company at Brooks until 1968 when he became employed by the Inter County Community Council of Oklee. He is presently the Homeost Director of the council.

Lowell and La Vonne have two children.

Keven born in 1966 and Joel born in 1968.

La Vonne is a member of the Clearwater Ladies Aid and also a member of the Buzz in the Doven Homemakers Club.

Lowell is presently on the boards of the Red Lake County Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board, Region One Development Board, Red Lake County Watershed Advisory Committee, Area Vocational Beal 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).
Isabelle E. Erickson

Erickson had done a great deal of craft work, such as tatting, crocheting, embroidery, 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 Oakie, a distance of four miles to attend school 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 Lappajärvi, Finland to the United States in 1908 and in the following year Ilima Marttila left her family in Verrot, Finland, also seeking a living in the new land. Nick and Ilima settled in Ironwood, Michigan, a mining town with a large population of Finnish immigrants. Nick worked as a miner and roamed at one of the numerous boarding houses. Ilima was employed at this boarding house as a cook and seamstress. Nick and Ilima were united in marriage in 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 Ilima along with the John Kantolais and Jacob Olies 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 Ilima 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 picked. 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. Ilima 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 Emardville. 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. Scheunau, 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: Mrs. Tom Huotari; Helen (Mrs. Charles Fremling) and Aini (Mrs. Lenny Wenske) deceased; also Willa, Leo, Edward, and Melvin, all farming in the Plummer area and Leonard and Martin who live in Chicago.

Nick and Ilima 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. Ilima 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 England, 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 the Red Lake Falls 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 an alumnus from Red Lake High School in the class of 1967. He then enlisted in the U.S. Navy and is presently serving in 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. He is presently interning at St. Luke’s Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota. Beverly (b. 1955) graduated from Red Lake High School in June of 1978 and is presently completing her junior year at Bemidji State University, majoring in English. Beverly was married to Steven Philen, son of Lloyd and Eleanor Philen of Red Lake Falls, in December of 1975.

HENRY FALARDEAU FAMILY
Henry Falardeau (1867-1963), son of Joseph Falardeau and Cisiera Paquin, was born in a farm in the town of Lambert. He was married to Laura Perusso in 1912. They owned and operated a farm in Lambert township until 1920 when he became manager of the

Oleod Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company. In 1936 he was appointed postmaster in Oklee and served until his retirement in 1967.

Mr. Falardeau was active in both church and community affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Falardeau had five children: Leo, Walter, Ruth (Linquist), Irene (Martenson), and Lucie (Ruebben).

Leo Falardeau married Elsie Youngquist and resided in Duluth, Minnesota. They have three children, Cherrie, Dammy, and Tom.


Ruth married Vernon Linquist and lived in Oklee, Minnesota. Vernon died in 1955. They had three children, Robert, Gaylene, and Cheryl.
Charles Fellman was born May 24, 1875 in the Åland 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, near St. Hilaire where he grew to manhood. In 1896, at the age of 21, Charles married Miss Alma Julin at Crookston. Alma Alda 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 November 23, 1931, he died of a lung hemorrhage in Crookston hospital. Alma continued to live in Red Lake Falls until her death in 1955 when she went to live with a daughter, Myrtle Grise, at Austin, Minnesota. She suffered a stroke and was bedridden 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. Son Glen, who became Judge of Probate of Red Lake county, was born on July 1, 1924 of a heart attack. The surviving children are: Myrtle Grise, Alvin, Minnesota; Alice Johnson, Belleview, Washington; Violet Fellman, Red Lake Falls; Vernon Fellman, Seattle, Washington; Doris Fellman, Duluth Lake Falls; Donald Fellman, Richland, Washington; Lois Higginbothom, 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 $250 a month plus free board. 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 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
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. Eleanor 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 Holborn, 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 earned the 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 in a freak train crossing 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.

Their children were born to William and Marie Findeisen: Eleonore 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 1966. Herbert Schuyler Findeisen, born 1890, graduated from the Red Lake Falls High School, 1908. Herbert took over the family business, along with the Ford and Buick dealership, until 1917, when he sold to Henry Jensen. He served in the Army during World War I. On July 1, 1919 he married Bernette Sophie Schusser. They engaged in farming at Badger Creek (now the Louis Hagle farm family) until 1932 when they moved to Red Lake Falls. Herbert 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, a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, National Rural Mail Carrier's Association, Odd Fellow's Lodge and the World War I Barracks Association.

Herb and Bernette still reside at their Northside residence, purchased from Joe Skala in 1928. They are 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 anglerworms, 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](image)

...
Oliver Flage Family

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 Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wyley township. They purchased the Tom Sherry farm in Browns Creek township in the fall of 1946 and lived there until 1959 when they moved to Fork River and 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. Their 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, married to Roger of Minnesota. Penny is married to Roger and they reside in Minneapolis. They have one daughter, Judy, who married Russell Lister.

Lester Flage purchased the farm from his parents and is engaged in grain and cattle farming. He raises cattle. In order to make it a more efficient operation, he also purchased the Gjerberg farm, which joins his, when Fred Gjerberg died.

Lester Flage teaches school in Red Lake Falls where he lives with his family.

Delores married Sam Genereaux. They reside in Thief River Falls, where Mr. Genereaux 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, which was a board member for many years. He was also interested in the political movement in the country. 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 Luella, 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.

Oscar Flateland

Oscar and Helen Flateland moved to Oklee in February, 1968 after they sold the farm they had operated for over twenty years in Polk County. Oscar was born in Chester Township. Both of his parents came from Norway. His father had homesteaded here in 1894 and lived in a wagon box for the first fifteen years. Wolves and mosquitoes made life difficult at night.

Oscar entered the Army in 1942 and served with the 37th Division in the Fiji Islands, New Hebridies, Guadalcanal and Bougainville. While there he suffered multiple shrapnel wounds. He came back to the United States on rotation in 1944 and was reassigned to the Air Force. He was discharged in 1945 and on November 9, 1946, married Helen Reiter 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 1968.

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 graduated from Convicck high school in 1938 and from Bemidji State University in 1942. Her first year of teaching was in the Orange Township School 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 roof and there was a continuous sizzling as the snow melted. One night after school, she drove her little car, 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 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 Richardson 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 Healthcare 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 Garves Township, Red
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 af 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 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 Syversen (Mavis) of rural McIntosh, and Mrs. Linda Anderson of Berndt.

Gust has been a very successful diversified farmer on this 240 acre tract of land north 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 Foldoe family members 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 he became consolidated with the Plummer district. He was on the Board of Directors of the Plummer Cooperative 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.

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 had adopted a boy and served in the Civil War as a private in the 118th Illinois Infantry and 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.

He moved out of the service and returned to Hastings where he lived until 1868 when he married Margaret O'Rourke. Twelve children were born to them: Joseph, Clarence, Frank, Stephen, John, Earl, James, Daniel (Zeller), Neil (McGintry), Olive (Sullivan), and Catherine (Spencer). Another son died in infancy.

In 1879 John moved his family to Red Lake Falls and lived there until 1890 when he moved to a homestead near town in what is now Brown's Creek Township. His wife died in 1894; Mr. Ford passed away at his home in 1972 at the age of eighty-six.

Of his surviving sons, Joseph is the only one left. In 1934 he married Eleanor Gustofson. They continued farming and raised their family. They had five children: Earl, John, Carol (Smith), Joan (Kalbakerdalen), and David, who was drowned at the age of seventeen months in 1942. In 1944 the farm was sold to Red Lake Falls.

Joseph Ford passed away in 1946, after sixty-six years as an invalid due to a stroke. I never knew my grandparents' parents but my grandmother often spoke about how much they loved to ford the river to get to town. Once when John and Margaret Ford went to the "forks" for supplies they found that the road had been burned, and all the children were gone. Well, all of course they thought they could have been burned to death, but they were all safe at the neighbors. I don't know if she told the neighbors or told the children, but she said "the forks" 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, they had died or run away from hunger or fire 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 Doe 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 Kalbakerdalen and they have six children: Robert, Debra, Gall, Jeffrey, Lisa, and Daniel.

LEONARD FORD

Leonard, the son of Charles and Bertha Daugherty Ford, was born in Brown 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 living.
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 some extra money for the family. Later he bought a threshing machine and he helped his brother thresh for the neighbors. Later he bought 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 she worked for Mrs. Oscar Lillo who had a new born baby and no help. She did all the housework, cook, care of the other three children, milked the two cows, did the washing on a washtub, ironing, cleaning, and worked 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.

**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
disc. I was all bruised but not injured seriously.

Maurice, Obert and I received our elementary education at Shadow Lawn School which was built in 1928 and was consolidated with the Oklee School. The school building 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 elevat
er grader and dump wagons drawn by horses. Nels built miles of roads in the neighboring townships and also 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 the Great Depression, 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 a lot of work. We did a great deal of log haul. We had two big log skidders that we hauled the logs to the saw mill. We also had a log skidder that we hauled the logs to the saw mill.

My dad, Herman Lillo, married his second wife, Elsie Wichterman, in 1918. They have six children; Eldore, Norman, Leon, Milton, Ardith and Renaldo.

In 1934, Gladys Fossman 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. We built our home in 1934 and later added on to the buildings as there were no buildings here. Hazle brush was seven feet tall, so thick you could not see through it.
We have now remodeled and added on

Andrew Fore Family
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 married 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 Homemakers 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 Olke Farmers Co-op Elevator Ass’n since 1948. I served as president of the Olke 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.

Russel Fore Family

RUSMUS FORE FAMILY

Russel 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. Russel and Aasa were married there and traveled to the Fosum area where they lived on the northeast corner of White Fish Lake.

In 1897, Russel, 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 27. 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 Township.

Russel 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 Fossum to vote and worked in the field when she had a lively barn there. She also had made several trips on foot to Red Lake Falls.

Russel and Aasa had eight children:
- Jens married AnnaBelle Rolandson and had nine children, all living at present.
- Alice married Alvin, Aas, Ornulf, Arlie, Mollie, and Boyd.
- Myrtle Bashness. They had four children, all living at present: Lillie, Dorine, Virgil and Eunice (deceased).
- Nels married Ida Lillo. They adopted two children: Alvin (Lillo) Fore and Marvin (Anderson) (deceased). They also raised Maurice Lillo as a son.
- Nels married Ida Lillo. They adopted two children: Alvin (Lillo) Fore and Marvin (Anderson) (deceased). They also raised Maurice Lillo as a son.
- Andra Reindal. Their three children are Ailen, Roger, and Della. Russel married Anna Aslund. They had seven children, four of whom are living: Adline, Phyllis, Delila and Ronald. In 1950, Martin died.

Russel Fore Family

GEORGE FOSUM FAMILY

George Fossum is the son of the late Peter 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 Gullif 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.


REIER FOSUM FAMILY

Reier’s parents were Reier Christensen and Oli Olsen. He went through the ordinary school and was in the army for three years. He was married in 1939 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 farm 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 Prout, 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 pew, the baptismal font and some tables. He was also on the church board for several years. Ragna was on the board of the ladies aid.

They had eleven children of whom three died at an early age.

All was born in 1900, married Louise Burman from Oklee and settled in Duluth. They had six children. All died in 1970.

Bert, born in 1902 and died when fourteen years old. Magne, born in 1903, died when eleven years old. Oscar, born in 1906, died

Arthur Fore Family

Reier and Ragna Fossum

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 Beaulieu, 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 Antionette Langlois and Alex, Sr. moved the family to a farm south of the Baie Geriot School where he had purchased more land.
Antonia Langlois who was born in 1873 came with her parents, Moses Langlois and Anne Levine, three sisters and three brothers from Ste. 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 Veirdas 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.
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 Leo Mercier; Anna (b. 1908) married Joseph Montreuil. They live in Detroit, Michigan; Mayme (b. 1911) married Philip Dutot. They live on a farm near Gentilly; Thomas (b. 1912) married Annette Casler. 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 Fournier; Vivian (b. 1925) married Milton Sorcel and they reside in Minneapolis.

ISAAC FOURNIER
Isaac Fournier came to his father, Alexis, brother, Alexis, Jr., and his six sisters, Agnes, Zelia, Amanda and three others, from Canada in the 1860'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 Vera, Violet, Luma 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 children.
Verdelia married Albert Bergeron in 1924; they had three boys and two girls.
Walter married Dorothy Turcotte and they had a child, Ann Marie, married Martin Hammer.
Luma married Clifford Peterson in 1921 and they had their only child in the presence of their family at 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 Luma still live on the home farm. They have two sons, Emor born in 1924 and George born in 1926.
Elmer married Mary Ann Water in 1932. George Peterson married to Belle Kerwor and they have four sons, Dennis, Donn, Wayne and Brad. They have two children, Terry (b. 1917) and Scott (b. 1919). Dennis (b. 1901) lives near Red Lake Falls and works on the farm. Roger (b. 1902) lives in Wylie and Wayne (b. 1904) is in school.

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 Euphrosine Blondin in 1899 and they settled in the Poplar River area.
Euphrosine 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.
Euphrosine married Amédée Gagner in 1925. She died in 1953 and Amédée died February 1956.

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 Doris 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 by the Garden Valley Telephone Company and at the County Court House from 1935 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 Richmond, N.D. and said his first mass in Red Lake Falls June 1960; LEO, Manager—Partnership for Special Projects; Cadillac Garage, Mason City, Iowa, has five children; Ramon, Production Engineer for Indiana General, Peru, Illinois, has two children; and Nancy, Am Office Manager for the Formac Corporation in Minneapolis, MN.
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 Meats Packers.

Audrey graduated from Lafayette high school and worked for Minnesota Mining in Hutchinson. She married Vance Zirnhelt 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.

George (deceased) attended Lafayette high school. He married Lowell Kalbakdalen (also deceased). They lived in Bismarck, North Dakota where Lowell Kalbakdalen was program director of KEYR 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 Rodriguez. 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 Designers 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.

RICHARD FROLAND

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Froiland are the fourth generation to live on the Froiland farm in Ernadville Township. Richard was born 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,
home 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 Christen met and married Harman Henke and moved to the Red Lake Falls area. In 1866 Ida married Johann and they settled in the Plummer Elevator area, 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 Minnesota Territory. They sold their farm at Park River in 1892 and staked their claim. They built a log house and barn and attempted to improve the homestead. In 1899 the work became too difficult for them, they persuaded their daughter, Ida and her husband to come. Their daughter Christin had just passed away and she was ill.

In June 1899 Johann and Ida Froiland rented their farm and started the journey to the Erickson homestead in Minnesota. They stayed with a farmer and his wife who lived in a little house with a red roof.

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 Heinig Gaass, born 1780 in Westercapel, province of Mecklenburg, Kingdom of Hanover. Johan went to Zwaal, Holland in 1815 where the family was changed to its present spelling. Gaass, however, lived in and dealt in linens. Johan Gaass and his wife, Lucia Bello had four children. Peter Gaass was born in 1816. He continued in the family business, adding it to dealing in paper. Peter and Gertrude Gaass had four children. Dirk William Gaass, father of Peter Bello, was born in Zwaal, Holland in 1847.

The Gaass family came to America in 1850, and settled on a farm near Pella, Iowa. Dirk W. Gaass married Henrietta VonDonsera in 1857. They had eight children, of whom two were raised in Plummer Elevator. 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 entered business as a merchant and land office 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 Company, with a partnership with A. W. Wood. In 1902 he became the sole owner of the business and then sold it to J. M. Stimson in 1912. In 1912, he joined the Army and served in World War I. He returned to farming and developed his farm operations and introduced sweet clover in his farm 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. Doell (Dora) Wilhelmson. Nettie has lived with the community and served as Commander of the Legion post where she was.

The Gaass family had three children. Winona was born in 1898 in Iowa, but attended schools in Red Lake Falls and business school in Crookston. She worked in the land business and married in 1959. Harold was born in 1902 in Red Lake Falls and attended grade school there. He graduated from Valley High School and attended 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 Alta 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 Bar-
LAURENT GAGNER FAMILY

Laurent Gagner was born in 1834 at St. Roman Trois Sarmaine in Quebec, Canada. He was married to Angel Carriuao, born 1859, and they came as early settlers to Terrebonne Township, homesteading two miles south of the village of Terrebonne in 1856. 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 Lethe, Amede, married Rose Ann Gagnon, and later Frossie Fournier, Arshfield married Delina Generoux, Souffrine married George Therault, Julia married Remi Ferrier, Philemon married Ida Teppin, and Zephyr married Ede Perreault.

The Gagner family 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 in Terrebonne and married Ruth Linnihan (daughter of William Linnihan). Leo attended the Society of the Divine Word Seminar at Techney, Illinois. Leo helped with the Crookston post office and was a volunteer fireman. He died in 1945. Amede and his wife were married on April 16, 1913. They had three children, Salley Rae Staggett, 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 11:30 Monday, November 7, 1921. His neck was broken by the wagon and the waggon 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 sympathy of all those who knew Mr. Gagner and of 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. Ede Perreault Gagner, wife of Zephyr, leaving 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 Minnie Gauthier, and Hector married to Angie Latour. Philemon and Ida were very active members of St. Anthony's Church, Terrebonne and all community affairs. Ida was a member of the school board district 36 for many years. She died in 1967 and Philemon in 1971.

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 September 1975. They had five sons, Maxvin 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.

Clarence R. Gagner

Clarence Gagner, son of Robert and Rose Gagner of Brooks, was married to Dianne Gunderson, daughter of Torkel and Magda Gunderson of rural Oklee in September of 1965. Clarence graduated from Plum Lake High School in 1961 and attended Bemidji State College, Bemidji, after graduation from Oklee High School in 1963, also attended Bemidji State University, graduating in 1967 with a degree in secondary education.

Having 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 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 1967. Clarence 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 serving on his second term as a member of the County Board of Commissioners and the Minnesota Executive Board for Postmasters. Clarence is currently serving as the 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 in the Plum Lake 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 in 1950.

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), Vicky (Mrs. Steve Parenteau), Jacqueline, Ronald, Chuck, Carolyn and Bruce.

The Gagner 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.
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 Desziel, 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 Gideon, and Harmaids, 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 Terrerrebonne Township and an area completely covered with bush. 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 Terrerrebonne. She was the daughter of Louis St. Yves and Alice Arous on August 26, 1876 in St. Justin, Quebec. Also born in Quebec were their sister Florestine and a brother, Justin. The remaining members of their family, Edward, Willy, Elie, Harvey and Emma were born and raised in the Terrerrebonne community. Lumena Gagnon's parents, the couple's children and the children of the Gagnon family lived and worked in Terrerrebonne.

Nine children were born to Regis and Lumena Gagnon. Two died in infancy and seven grew up and came to the Terrerrebonne community. Regis Gagnon was born in 1865, Ernest 1867, Lumena 1910, Laura 1914, Fecelia 1906, Sister Lillian 1907 and Harvey 1913. Surviving are Ernest, who is retired and still living on the home place. Laura living in Terrerrebonne is still very active, serving her many customers. Sister Lillian who entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph at Crookston in 1921, is presently teaching in the Marshall Parochial school in Marshall, Minnesota. Harvey and his wife Aloha are temporarily residing in Dhangari, 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 Terrerrebonne. 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 Melissa 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 Lumena St. Yves Gagnon. His father came from Canada and homesteaded in Red Lake county in 1889. He had six brothers and sisters: Ernest, Lumena, Laura, Fecelia, Lillian and Harvey. George attended school in Red Lake County. In 1926, he married Anna Kotian of Thief River Falls. They had four children: Robert, born in 1929, who taught elementary school at Wildwood, Wisconsin; Vernon, born in 1930, farms the home farm near Terrerrebonne and works part time for Ken's Electric; Lloyd, born in 1933, an electrician at Kansasville, Wisconsin; and Raymond, born in 1936, an electrician at St. Francis, Wisconsin.

George farmed all his life in Terrerrebonne and Gervais townships. His and his wife were the award winning Red Lake County Valley Farmer and Homemakers Award at the Winter Show in Crookston in 1952.

Anna taught in rural schools for many years. She was a 4-H club leader and a Modern Woodmen of America.

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 1965.

VERNON GAGNON

Vernon Gagnon was born in Red Lake County in 1930 to George Gagnon and Anna Kotian 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 Valerie Strand of Roosevelt, Minnesota. They have three
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 1970. 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 located in 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 building in the north half of the city. 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 of the corner near the Matt Skala store and the Hollow.

Later Theo. was made cashier of the bank and purchased the controlling interest of James I. Weyer in the early 1900's and became bank president. Theo. also helped build the Newton Milling Co. at the junction of the two rivers. Two Garceau brothers followed Theo. to Red Lake Falls. "Lilte" Ed went into business with Theo. forming up a mercantile business known as Garceau Bros. Although Ed later sold to Helmut Zaiser. Garceau Bros. and Zaiser operated for several years until Zaiser sold to Andy Rubertus. A brother. "Big" Ed Garceau, worked at the W. A. Schreiber Drug Store 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: Ethel (Mrs. Leland E. Healy) a lifelong resident of Red Lake Falls, Harry, Theodore, Walter, Lenora (Mrs. Chester Fowler), Robert, Lillie (Mrs. 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.

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 1, 1972.

Mr. Geisman was born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While at Harvard he spent a great deal of his time specializing in the area of pastoral counseling, 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, leaving him with an 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 a 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 his master's degree in 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 co-
Shows.

Four more children were born to them during these years: Marion (Mrs. Lynn Keltenheim) 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. Chapiwski) 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.

Pete Gerardy, 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 had 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

Pete 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 Neldner 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 were 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
lachs gave hospitality to arriving pastors and cathedrums 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 engaged at the General 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 F.W. Auxiliary, First President of Forget-Me-Not Garden Club and President for Senior Citizens Happy Hour Club.

Of the thirty children only two are living: Erwin 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, five are living in Red Lake County: Carl Lehner, son of Augusta Gerlach Lehner; Gust Gerlach, son of Henry Gerlach; Arnold Lehner, son of Ida Gerlach Lehner; Ruben Lehner, son of Ida Gerlach Lehner; Willard Zutz, son of Lydia Gerlach Zutz; Faith Kluhsen, 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 five 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 for many years as president of the Wylie Co-op Elevator Company. He passed away in his death by his wife in 1940. Henry passed away in 1951.

There were four children: Clara, August, Walter, and Gustav.

Gustav married Emil Gother in 1917 and they had two daughters, Dorothea (Mrs. Vern Engil 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 Jahneke. 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 Gerlach moved to Red Lake Falls where they continued farming and managed the clothing for two years, until they moved to Cloquet, 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 a cook at Hillcrest Nursing Home.

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 Ger-

vaises were the first settlers and founders of St. Paul, a settlement then known as "Little Canada." Isaiah married in 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); David (b. 1865); Jessie Addie (b. 1864); Horace Emery (b. 1866); Julia Jane (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." 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 built by Isaiah, built on the townsite, overlooked 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 moved on to 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 music and the family gathered there for 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 depleted in the 1880s. He became 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 go as a guide to the English laborers who were sent 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. He was later recalled from Fort Abercrombie in South Dakota during the Great Sioux uprising there and in the vicinity of which 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 found among the Indian 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, 1896, at the age of fifty-seven as the result of serious injuries sustained in a run-away accident.

Isaiah had always been a generous person and was exceedingly generous to all he knew. He was buried at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake.
Falls and his remains were interred in the Paul C. 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 dealer and he worked in the flour mills in Buffalo, New York, at which time Emily attended St. Mary's Academy located on the outskirts of Niagara Falls. Later, her father moved to Dubuque, Iowa, and then to St. Paul (Little Canada).

Shortly after the death of her husband in 1889. 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 alongside her husband in the Paul C. Cemetery where their remains still rest, the same not having been removed at the time.

Emily's mother's remains also rest in the same spot in the cemetery. She had resided all of her widowed years with Emily, her only daughter. She had suffered a stroke and had been a bedridden 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 Elmerie 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: Samuel, Philip, and twin daughters, Rosalie and Elmerie. Sam Gibeau married Alexine LeBlanc 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 Elmerie Hince farmed all their lives in Lambert Township. They had a large family of thirteen children, Elmerie Gibeau married Arthur LeMay, raised a family of five children, and they lived most of their lives in Idaho. Rosalie Gibeau married Joseph Moriaville, raised a family of eleven children and lived in Red Lake Falls and Terrebonne.

Sam and Alexine Gibeau

SAMUEL GIBEAU

Pictures in Gibeau family albums begin with tintypes taken in Red Lake County in the 1860's. They portray the handiwork of men and women of the time, the long 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 descendents.

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 Elmerie LaPlante Gibeau, who were native of Canada. Family members trace their roots to the "Evangelical country" of Arcadia, family records contain magazine clippings about the pioneer missionary priest, Father Pierre Gibeau, who helped forward the work of the Catholic Church in the area.

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 (Ced) LeBlanc, who is buried in St. Joseph. Kan.

Mrs. LeBlanc was born in New Orleans, La., Sept. 26, 1849. Family records and tradition state her parents migrated from Louisiana in the late 1840's. It is said that the DuRochers or the LeBlancs had moved to the Red Lake area in 1879. 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 1920, he moved to Red Lake Falls, to become an active member of the community and in those times, it is said to have been so active on Third Street. Mrs. LeBlanc came with them and lived there until her death July 20, 1922.

When Red Lake County was formed in 1888, Sam was elected first chairman of its board. He was re-elected in 1889 and 1891.

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, Hennepin Bank in Red Lake Falls, the First State Bank of Oklee) and for many years, until his death, 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, fraternal and Catholic Church organizations.

Memorabilia extant in the family include a small photograph album of early years and models were owned by which Gibeau. A handmade fishing reel rests on the shelf beside a mechanical bit which was used by Sam. Samples of warm knitted clothing, exquisitely fine knitted lace, knitted collars and dress clothes were kept for display and showed 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, after which 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 and throughout Minnesota.

He returned often to Red Lake Falls after numerous courses. He returned Sept. 28, 1936, for his marriage to Adelia Maaland, who had grown up in nearby St. Hilaire and to which he had attended school in the area. An occupational therapist, she is a graduate of Western Michigan State University, Kalamazoo, Mich., and worked in Michigan hospitals.

The LeBlancs returned 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 Oklee until its liquidation in the 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 their daughter Dawn Mignonette, born Sept. 2, 1938, and their son, Dunn, who was born 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 George Joseph Gibeau died May 20, 1968. He was 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 (Minnesota). Since late 1972 she has been 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.
THE GILBERTSON FAMILY OF EMARDDVILLE

The Hans T. Gulbranson family homesteaded on 160 acres in Emarddville in the year 1898. Hans T. Gulbranson was born in Sondre Land, Norway on July 17, 1851. He came to America in 1895 and was married to Mary (nee Seld) on March 24, 1895. The children were: Dale, 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 biocenotical projects.

JAMES AND BEVERLY GILBERTSON

James and Beverly Gilbertson and daughter Sheryl moved to Red Lake Falls July 1985 when Jim took the position of Spanish Instructor at Lafayette High School. Jim was born in St. Hilaire, attended Hazle grade school and graduated from Lincoln High School of Thief River Falls. He later attended the University of Minnesota 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

O. P. 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 owned Winger 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 at Red Lake Falls. In 1971 Robert moved 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 Clearwater County Planning Council, the city planning commission and the commercial club. Lorri organized the Red Lake Falls City One Fund Drive and the Candy Stripper Program at St. John's Hospital. She served as the president of the Red Lake County Agricultural Society for ten years and in 1975 she was named 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 farm. At this time, P. B. Glass, 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 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 appointed chairman for many years. In 1953 he was instrumental in the organization of the Rural Fire Protection Association. He has served 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 Maintenance Organization. His wife, Mary, has also been active in community affairs, serving on the County Extension Board, Homemakers Clubs and in her church. She died April 1964.

Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Glass and son, Virgil, moved to Detroit Lakes in 1945 at Red Lake Falls. They have three children, David, Marilyn and Randall and five grandchildren. The Virgil Glass live in Polk County near Mentor. Marilyn married Louis Doya; David who married Donna Dalton is the fifth generation Glass family member in Red Lake County and lives on a farm in Tettegoch. They have five children, Darin, Deanna and Dean.

My grandfather, John Henry Glass, was born near St. Hilaire, outside of Quebec in 1848. He married Marie Lase a few years later. Mary 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 Hoot. Grandma’s brother, Ed Lander who had come from Canada and who had sold 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 Laco, her mother, Marlene, who married three times: first to Joe Noel, then to her father, Ernest Chail; then Steve Price; and now to John; Orlene: Mrs. Joseph Radel; Oline: Mrs. Cash Carter; Rose, who died at the age of 12; Delrina: Mrs. Walter Warren; and Theophile Goulet, the youngest. Fifty children and many great grandchildren are descended, many of whom are still living today.

The family belonged to the Catholic Church, which was near the Hoot store.
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 Emarldale, 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 lightweight and known for its speed. 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 North’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 Field Artillery 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 on a convoy of thirteen ships: Six Transports sailing 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 Malayan dock busy keeping her young together.

He tells of the time when the convoy reached somewhere in a mid-ocean. A heavy log rolled in and cable about a quar- ter 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 log was then winched up to the stern 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 continuously. In a few minutes, at the right moment the waiting convoy put on full speed and in one neat maneuver sailed into perfect formation and sailed on.

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 1919 and returned on the Transport ship “La Lorraine”. 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 therapist 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 until 1943.

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 worked with.

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 a telephone operator. She became ill in 1944 and became a paraplegic.

Wilma attended Plummer School and graduated in 1944. She is now Mrs. Arnold Artt and lives in Gervais Township, Red Lake County. They have three sons. Arnold works for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

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 Gobelet, 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 near the Pierre Raymonds at their homestead, where Meda Beauchene now lives, until they
Ombeline married Majorie Latendresse and had the following children: Vina, who married Bernard Scheunig 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 Kelispell, Montana; Charles in California and Joyce Bren in Fargo, North Dakota. Henry died in 1970.

Selina 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 Dufresne 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.

A mile away lived Ferdinand Duesing and his wife Emilie Lindow. They had nine children and one of them, Auguste Anna Duesing, whom we call Annie, later became Willie’s wife. She was born in Michigan on January 1, 1889.

Annie and Willie went to an English school until they were twelve years old when they went to a German school for two years. They attended four days a week and had to walk three miles a day, 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 of 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 farmed their home.

Willie and Annie had five children: Oville 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 had 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, Erly, 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 Anna, just recently celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary, and they are just as active as ever.

Ombeline 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 1898.

Frank P. Grenier served as County Commissioner for many years and was also employed by the railroad, married Hulda Ross, who still resides in Red Lake Falls. They had no children, Frank died in 1917.

Desire married Mary Dupont and they had one child, Paul Grenier, who lives in Crookston. Desire 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, Ethnyne, who was killed in Italy during World War II; and two others, who died at age five years. Virginia Brunelle, the last living member of the 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 Laiberte on January 11, 1915 and they lived on the farm, where they raised the following family: Alva, married to Harold Weber, who had five children, Richard, Wayne and Keith all of the Crookston area, Geraldine Swart at Neosho, Missouri, and Karen Knutson at Apple Valley, Minnesota; Cecile, married to Abe Magnin, who had two children, Rosanne Verges, in California and David Magnin, in St. Paul; John Robert, married to Lillian Hurt Grenier, who had five children, Linda Johnson, Raymond, Jeffrey, Carol and Mary; Donald, who died in 1954 and was married to Lillian Hurt, who had four children, Gary, new living his grandfather at Hurt; and Eileen, who died in 1952. Eugene died in 1956.


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, Alvin, 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 Plum Creek.

Willie’s dad had rheumatism and heart disease so his mother had to do most of 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 and one of them, Augusta 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 a day, but didn’t attend regularly because sometimes they had to work or it was too cold to walk that far.

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Willie and Annie had five children: Oville 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 had 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, Erly, 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 Anna, 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 1968 and his wife died in 1969.

Pauline Baril was born in May 1925, the oldest daughter of Arthur Baril and Mayne 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 a 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 daughter. Tim is now working in Alaska. Jan married Ron 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 at 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 1955. In June of that year Charles was ordained a Lutheran pastor.

Charles Gunderson and Marilyn Ringdahl were married in 1954 at Boe Memorial Chapel on the St. Olaf College Campus. Marilyn and Charles have 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 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 the Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida. The family lived in Florida for the first three years following the Pastor's ordination.

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 Lander, who came to America with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Torkel Lander in 1891. Sam and Mary were married in the fall of 1892 at Crookston. They came to Red Lake County and first lived on the farm homesteaded by Ole Lande, Mary's brother, now owned by Oliver Groven. To this union seven children were born: Gunhild (Mrs. Amund Linvold) born 1898 died 1972, Gunner born 1900 and died 1900, Guder living at rural Oklee, Gladys (Mrs. Paul Hofstad) born 1905 died 1965, Torha of Fremont, California, Emma (Mrs. Scott Shieffield), Fremont, California, and Torkel of rural Oklee.

They came to what is now known as the Equality Spiritual Church in 1900 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. Many cattle and horses were lost in this river before it was opened.

Sam made much of the furniture for their home. He also built 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 Ramsøy Store which was half a mile away. Mrs. Ramsøy Fore place 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. Gunderson moved to Mayfield Township and Torkel continued to farm the home place. He bought 40 acres in Section 26 in Equality in 1930 and married Regina Hofstad in 1942. They lived on the farm and built the Trask Farm, southwest Quarter of Section 35, in 1945. Their children are Arlene (Mrs. Robert Berry), East Grand Forks, Diana (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. Here they raised their three daughters. REA came in 1943 and the 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 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 1864 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 earlier days was the church custodian. On
creamy. Later he had his own farm in Ganes township, the present Bishop farm. Ole died in 1953.

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 Seljord.

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 Torgel Guntosen moving from the Fisher area to their homestead located four and one-half miles east of the present site of Oklee.

Torgel Guntosen and Berit Boe were married May 10, 1887 in Bygland, Norway and in a few days set sail for America to seek their fortune. Torgel's parents, three brothers and a sister were already settled in the Fisher area. Torgel 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.

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 Hauk 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.

Gunoson was married to Ida Arvenson in 1924. They had five daughters, Adele, Verna, Audrey, Erly, 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 Highland, Minn. After several years he sold his creamery at Highland and became Pennington County Assessor. He married Bessie Hegland in 1931. They had two children Gene, and Anella. Gun- nuf 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


Gunstenon 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.

Four children were born to the Gunstenson's at their new home. Ed born in 1900, Kjersti in 1902, Ole in 1906, and Alfred in 1909. . .

Torgel 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. Gunstenon'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. Torgel and Berit were both active in church work. Torgel was active also in work in Chester Township.

The Gunston 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 Homestead, the present Russell Norberg farm in Equality township. Later, baseball playing was quite popular.

Torgel and Berit enjoyed their farm home even though it was so different from their homeland in Norway with its majestic mountains and beautiful fjords. Torgel died in 1938 and Berit in 1943. The farm was sold in 1948.

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

Charles Gustafson was born in 1858 in Cirentorl Asbro, Sweden. He came to New York in 1889, and from there to Gervais Township where he homesteaded. He built a 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 1939 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 pieces of furniture and helped other families as well. She helped anyone in need.

In her later years she lived with her married daughter. Her daughter Mattie married August Arit, and Edith married Herbert Arit. 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 1905 he married Ida Swenson, who had come from Sweden March 4, 1889 to work in New Brighton, Connecticut.

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 1925.

Russell 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 farm. Raymond and his wife, Jeanie, 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 12, 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 but was too ill to move the family because of its age and size.

Russell bought an additional forty acres from Fred Olson in 1973 and in 1974 bought another forty acres from the Swanson family. Gustafsons added 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 1896 to Peter J. and Christine Gustafson. The family moved to Canada in 1905. They left Canada and returned 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, Martha, 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 Benjamin who returned 40 acres to live on. Several years later the Benjaminsen moved to Canada and sold their remaining land to the Hagens. The Hagen children were John M., Gudor, Gina, Sina, Mina, Iger, Ica, 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, they were spent by the young folks of the area skating on the river by the Hagen home. They would all be invited 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' deaths 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 Louise Lohman and moved to Duluth, Minnesota. The rest of the girls went to Duluth also to go to school or to seek employment, taking turns staying home to help with the farm work.

In 1957 John M. built a house 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 Krueger.

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 Grand Forks. She was born in 1869 in Akron, Ohio to the parents Louis and Victoria Grimm.

In 1907 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 Vatthoe) 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 Country in 1900 to the parents Frank and Therese Grimm. He married Raphael Williams 1926 at Red Lake Falls.

Raphael was born in Eeclo, 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 GFA 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 ricks. He has fourteen grandchildren.

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 Fort Belvoir AFB in Spokane, Washington for a short time.

The Haglund family moved to Red Lake County in 1972 following his discharge, and here Sarah Sunshine was born.

Dennis is engaged in dairy farming with his father-in-law on the White Gold Farm in NW Red Lake 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 HAASER

Clara Schmitz (deceased 1944) was the 12th child of Joseph and Louise Schmitz. She married Morris Haasker (deceased) in 1918 and had five children. They farmed on a farm northeast of Thief River Falls. They were the parents of three daughters and one son.

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 the Farmers Elevator 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 Spartan, Wisconsin and married Elizabeth Murphy. Upon their return to Oklee, they later moved to Brooks and operated the elevator there until 1939. Hall then became an elevator operator who 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. Mr. Hall passed away in 1939 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 lived until his retirement in 1956. He died March 14, 1964.

Mrs. Ida Hall lives in Grand Forks. Esther (Mrs. Anthony Gorszewski) lives in Mountain View, California and Kenneth Hall lives in Grand Forks.

Mrs. Hall has three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

J. H. HALLER

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 country 48-state 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.

A personal retrospective 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 an evaluation of the educational system during my stay.

In the mid-1940s, public schools by and large, suffered due to the war effort, that in many well qualified teachers were either drafted into service or volunteered for military service. There was a shortage of qualified teachers.

My first impression of Lafayette high school was that it survived the war years in good style, having maintained a respectable 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 alternates, a technique often used with limited enrollments and staff. Although many departments were well equipped, there was, of course, a lack of equipment. The facilities were antiquated — notably Home Economics and Industrial Arts.

The Industrial Arts Dept. consisted of three adjacent rooms on the basement floor. It was adequate in size and location, but lacked additional equipment and a thorough general reorganization. Sup't. 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 attitude and workmanship in the department. The following year the present home lunch dining area and teacher’s dining room occupied the location where the former shop area was situated.

The Home Economics Department will long be remembered not so much for its obvious faults, but rather because of the administrative conflicts it posed with the home lunch program. The Home Economics 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 and preparation of food. In the home lunch areas there were many hot plates on each for cooking. This was the food 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 kitchen. To work 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 a warming of the food daily.

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 the hall was not scheduled 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 who ate in the first floor school. This seemingly roundabout routine stabilized, and it 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 rows of fixed seating. The floor was carpeted to the floor. These individual desks had storage in them for books and other supplies. These desks were individually assigned to students. Anyone the student wasn’t scheduled in a class or an activity, he or she was sure to be in the assembly to hear the presentation. Each desk had a hole in the top for an inkwell, and must have been manufactured before the days of ball point pens. This inkwell hole was an ideal situation for kids with daring and imagination. Most every day, banana peels, parts of sandwiches, not to mention toilet paper, were 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 classroom. It was equipped with 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 was entirely without gym facilities until the present gymnasium 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 Lynn's banquet, prom, all sports teams, 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 were permitted to rent 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 merely lived 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 additional
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 adapted 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.

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 not free to decide what or how they would spend their free time when not in a scheduled activity. Working with moods, 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 economics, 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 may provide a more flexible curriculum and in the final analysis history still may 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 Shalluce, also a student at the University. Both continued at college and graduated with majors in education. Presently, Dennis is the Principal at West Bank Elementary school in River Falls, Wis. 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, Wis.

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 have many friends.

IVAR AND ANNA HAMRUM

Ivar and Anna Josephine Hamrum moved to Red Lake County following their marriage in 1909 and settled in Poplar River Township near Clear Lake. 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.

Ivar 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 99 was constructed through the farm. The farm is still in the family and the house is the original log house, remodelled.

The Hamrums were members of Immanuel Lutheran Church which was at that time in Emardville Township and in later years moved to Plummer.

ARLIE HAMS AND LILA WEISS HAMS

Arlie Hams, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hams, was born in Springfield Township, Kittson County, Minnesota. He attended school at Katarl 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 Schanzen’s 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 Potk-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 Jaron.

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 Oline St. Michel, daughter of Alfred St. Michel. Alfred Hance was then employed in his father’s store and in 1936 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 Kreist) 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, "Thebohous," 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 Japan and China to the Orient, along with visits to relatives in Florida, California, Washington and, of course, back to Red Lake Falls and the old home territory.

JAMES HANCE FAMILY

James Hance was born in Austin, December 1872, one of six children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Benoit, 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 Hoot area, then in Polk County. A few years later, he quit farming, moved to Pellul 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 Co-op. Mr. Hance was active in its 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-Burhage Cooperative Company. He also opened a second store 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, 1885; Alfred, 1900; Mae, 1906; Cecilia, 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. Louisa Hance toных L. They had five sons and one daughter. Their only child, a daughter, died in 1917. His three sons have since died, Louis in October 1937, in California, Adolph, January 1942 in Washington, and Alfred, February 28, 1970 in Hopkins.

Five daughters survived at this date: Emma (Mrs. Henry Paquin), Red Lake Falls; (Mrs. Ada Cross), Cross, Wisconsin; Alice (Mrs. Albert Johnson), Centralia, Washington; Lorena (Mrs. Sid Marshfield), Tampa Beach, Florida; and Mae (Mrs. Waldo Whybrew), Sunrise, Florida.

Reflections of the eldest daughter who has since died are included in brief, since incomplete without a few personal comments on the life of our parents.

Remember Dad’s taking a correspondence course to further his musical education in boating and studying evenings, but taking time to assist us with our homework.

There were always evening dances including band music, a couple of horses, milk cows, 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 we also enjoyed fishing. Remember the desire and love of music, our first musical instrument, an organ, which gave us 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 58 years leaving a family of 9 alone, brought the family together. Somehow father was able to keep the homestead together.

We are grateful for the parents who gave us so much to improve conditions for the family and community. Their examples are our richest inheritance. I hope we can pass it on to our children these fine qualities they possessed.

JOSEPH HANCE

I can remember my grandfather, Louis Hance, telling of his family’s coming to northwestern Minnesota. Great-grandfather was Re朋 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-grandfather came to Canada, we do not know. Louis Christopher Hance, father of Joseph Hance, was born in Canada in 1884, probably near the Maine border. Louis married Anna Billaud and their first child, Mary, was born in Maine in 1883. Louis Hance was a carpenter and probably a farmer as most people were at that time. René and Sophie, and Louis, Anna and Mary moved to Minnesota and settled around Austin in the 1860’s. Two of dad’s brothers, Edward and James, were born there in 1865 and 1872. Another sister, Annie, was born at Freeborn, then in the late 1870’s when northern Minnesota was beginning to be settled, the family decided to homestead in Polo County. Dad showed me the place when I was quite young while we were out picking blueberries. Rene 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 Rene’s land and the other half was on Louis’ land. Dad’s sister, Selina, was born there in 1882, and dad in 1885. Dad’s mother, Anna Billaud Hance, died there and was buried in the Huit cemetery. Her grave is not marked, but she probably died about 1885.

When Dad was ten, grandpa Louis married Hermine Dupont Huit 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 house in the Klondek Park. It is the only brick house that is still standing, being built with bricks from the Red Lake Falls brickyard. Dad and mother (Louise Huit, daughter of Hermine Dupont Huit) were married in April, 1905. They moved to Rainy River, Ontario, where Dad worked in a sawmill and when they moved back to Red Lake Falls and lived in a house near the Presbyterian church (the Leo Carter house). Robert was born there and then we moved to Klondek 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 Marcase’s old house. This house was later moved to the Joe Boulain farm site and in later years was torn down and replaced by the house Mrs. C. W. Beyer lives in today. I am six and I 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 hay season was over, we moved to a house in the Klondek Park which is still there (the Huit Farm 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 Hance 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 Delma 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 Delma in 1969.


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 northeast 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.


Irene and Bob had ten grandchildren.

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 blacksmithing. 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 Wykla. He chose Wykla 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 and ran a

Peter and Harriet Hansel
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 fourteen, and Edward died at age sixteen. John married an Arizona girl and they farmed in Polk County. Their only son, Edward, married Marie Pepin and they had seven children. Edward Hanson died in 1971.

Harold married Lily Casavan, and they had seven children. Harold worked for the Farmers Union Oil Company until he health forced his retirement. He died in September, 1963. Royal married Cora Casavan and they had an only daughter, Arlene. Alex married Maureen. In Louis County township, John married Anne Kuchan in 1938, and they have four sons. Patrick married Paulette Kalinowski and they have two sons. Joseph married Shirley Cassavan; they have two sons and a daughter. Paul married Katherine Johnson and they have three children. Edwin 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 Herold married Olivie Goulet in 1912. He farmed the F. B. Gass farm in the district. From time to time, he has been under the care 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 town and the road district. He was a road supervisor for several years in the township. They have three 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. They have one son, James. John was born on October 23, 1964. Rollin died in August, 1970. Another son of the Joseph Herolds, Pat, was born in 1920. He married Marion Constain in 1956. With their two daughters, Constance and Jeanette, they lived in 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 farmed in Louisvile township. They have four 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 Verndale, Utah.

Herold married Minnie, the widow of Harold 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, Jack, and Harry — never lived in this area. However, Henry Herold, the youngest, married Bernadette Patrude. Since both Henry and his wife died at an early age, their daughter, Bernadette, was raised by her aunt and uncle, Eva and Truman Bartholomew. She married Martin DeItel in 1940. She has six children, the youngest of whom is a third-generation Red Lake Falls resident.

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 Detroit Mobile Homes. He has served as Past 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, she is a former Thompson 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.

PETER HANSON

Peder Hanson and his wife, Karen, came to Red Lake County in the early 1900's and settled near what is now Poneto, west of Ulen. They had two sons, Peder, Jr. and Anton, and a daughter, Elizabeth. The Hansons also had an older son, Hans Pederson, who married and lived for a few years in Plummer, and a daughter, Isabel Sophia, who was married to George A. Olson.

Peder Hanson worked as a shoemaker and had his shop in the back of Langer'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 Plummer. Gilbert died in 1910, 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.

Hans Pederson married Eunice 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 Ronvik, Nordahl, Norway at the age of 21 in 1908. She lived with her uncle Edward Jacobson on a farm in Errindale Township, about four miles from Plummer, and worked as a housemaid for the Scott family at Red Lake Falls to make enough money to repay her uncle for her passage to the U.S.A. The farm by boat via Quebec, Canada to St. Lawrence River, then by train to Winnipeg was fifty-two dollars. She worked hard and long hours to earn that amount of money. Occasionally, on weekends Julia would visit her uncle on the farm. In 1905 she married Peter Tranby of Erskine. The Hansons homesteaded about a mile from the Jacobson farm. Julia had two children, Dora Agnes, Mrs. S. J. Breeden 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 Severin Hanson. 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; Myrle, Mrs. F. F. Freeland of Plummer; and Ernest, North Dakota and one son, Lloyd R. Hanson, Duluth.

In 1920, the Hanson family moved into Plummer and purchased the Mars steakhouse, and operated it successfully for many years. They moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1943 and operated the American Inn and the American Service Station there.
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 Norwegian 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 Christaphsen) and Hulda. Sivert was married Clara Craft, rural Red Lake Falls, and Agnes (Mrs. Charles Christianson) of Deerwood.

Carrie returns to the "Harkaban" school. A suggestion was made to change their name to his father's name, Mikkelson (Mickelson's son).

In December of 1927, the Harkaban school was closed due to the enrollment. The school was sold to a farmer for $1000. The school was torn down in 1928.

CALVIN HARMONING

Calvin Harmoning, son of Clarence Harmoning and Elsie Seeger, married Susan Melby, daughter of Orin 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 worked in the cattle industry in section seven of Red Lake Falls Township. Mrs. Harmoning, Rollin Gerald and Esther Kandel. In 1967 they rented the southeast quarter of section seven from Bill and Cora Gorkaw and purchased it and his father's quarter in 1968.

Cal and Susan moved into the farm home in which Calvin was born in January 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 Greener 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 America, and serves on the board of the Gervais American Legion Auxiliary.
Clarence Harmony married on December 2, 1933. They lived on the farm owned by Fred Seeger. In April of 1933 they bought a half section of farm twenty-seven in Terrobonne Township.

Their only daughter, Josephine, was married after they left North Dakota and she and her husband, Walter O’Clair, 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 Menomonie, Wisconsin in 1939. They had six girls and two boys. Howard lived with his parents until 1963 when he bought a farm in Lambert Township.

Clarence Harmony died on April 22, 1953 and Henry died on August 12, 1983.

REUBEN AND LUCILLE HARMONY
Reuben Harmony married Lucille Seeger in June 1938. They lived in the Earl Kirschman farm for two years and then moved to Lambert Township and Section 29, where they farmed until 1943 when they moved to North Dakota.

They had four children: Roger born in 1939, 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 Lee 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.

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 near the railroad between the home towns of Minnesota and Michigan, which was of great importance to Josephine, 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, Jeanette, Susan, Jacqueline, Mark, Peter, Sheila and Pauline.

Joseph A. Harren, one of our early pioneers, came to Red Lake Falls in 1883 and established a successful shoe business. He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and lived at a time in the history of the city that was before the coming of Red Lake Falls. He and his wife, Mary Peebles Harren, are the parents of two children: Joseph and Rose (Mrs. Emil Albrecht), who have six children.

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 an active member of the American Legion and served as Commander of the local post. He was a mainstay of the Red Lake Falls band and orchestra which played for several years on dances at the pavilions at Maple Lake. He was a business man of the city and a member of the Catholic Order of
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 Commandant-Chief of the G.A.R. The Harris family has a long-standing tradition of dental excellence.

Dr. Jack Harris came to Red Lake Falls in 1928 and has practiced dentistry in this location continuously, except for three years 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, and the Harris family has one daughter Jill, Mrs. Richard L. Main, of Statesville, North Carolina, who is the mother of a daughter and a son.

In the service Dr. Harris became very interested in the fluoridation program and was a leader in the efforts to bring fluoridation to this area. It is estimated that more than 90% of the population of the city now has access to fluoridated water. The Harris family has contributed significantly to the dental health of Red Lake Falls.

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 property in 1911 and it was here that his father, Lucius Malby Healy lived for a short time until his death in 1917.

Edward Healy, Red Lake Falls pioneer,
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. Harry Healy started the Healy Piano Company. It is not known how long this company remained in business, but Harry 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 Land, Life, 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 Folsom of the Plummer community in 1921. They had two daughters, Eva and Ann. Vern now living in Mountain View, Washington and his daughter, Carl, lives in Minot, North Dakota.

Vern was a respected citizen of Red Lake Falls. He was not too busy to listen to other people’s tales of woe and lend a helping hand whenever he could, even though it meant working many long extra hours. He was called to the aid of one bitterly 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 the snow while his horse was dead 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 o’clock. After the unexpected guests were warmed, 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 at the county fair and even competed at the National Meet. 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 both.

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 Mr. 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, Mil- dred and Gladys remained on the farm until 1927. The family retained ownership of the homestead until the 1940’s when Gjermund’s homestead was sold to the Norwegian family and Kari’s homestead to Annie Flatgard. 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.


FRANK J. HELM

Frank J. Helm was born at Red Lake Falls on October 31, 1886. He was the youngest son of John N. and Mary B. 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 and ran it alone until his death.

In 1947, he married Miss Maria Ostrander at Minneapolis. To this union were born three children, Robert F. (deceased), Marian Helm Spencer of Osseo, and Walter Gerald (deceased).

Frank J. Helm was a prominent businessman and he enjoyed the friendship and respect of the entire community.
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 also 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, 1867, in Bavaria, Germany. At the age of fourteen years, in company with his uncle, Reverend K. Rehrmann, 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 Peshtigo, where hundreds of people lost their lives.

He attended college for two years at Valparaiso 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 six months' visit to 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 afterwards the Blue Front Store, with a fine stock of painters' supplies, wall paper, etc. In 1883, he enlarged his business by buying the Hardware Stock of Mr. Boards and continued the same until May 1894, when he sold his business to Messrs. Hunt and Weyer. Since that time Mr. Helm carried on the farm implement business. He, at first, had Mr. L. P. Berton in the firm with him, and 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, Joyce (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.

JOSEPH J. HELM

Joseph J. Helm was born in Red Lake Falls, Nov. 15, 1865 and 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, ran 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.

In 1914 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 being 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 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 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 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 Torber. She came here with this company of 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 house. He also lived a half mile west of this brick house. Mr. Bottineau was not living at the time that we lived in the brick house, but I remember his wife and family very 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 grandson, Elzeir Cyr came to Red Lake Falls.
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 a 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 Mill Hill Mill and the A. Millhouse Mill, and also at the A. Millhouse Mill, often taking food 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, Emili, Elmer, Nick, Gisela, Mildred, and Marie. Only four are living at this time: Marie Schafer of Gresham, Oregon; Joseph of Lancaster, California; Mrs. Gisela Burns of Minneapolis; and Mrs. Mildred Paul of Fifty-Four.

There are nineteen grandchildren, fifty-two great-grandchildren and twenty-six great-great grandchildren.

OTTO HEMME
Otto Hemme was born in the province of Oldenburg, Germany, in 1870 and immigrated to 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, née Gunn. The family moved to Barnesville when he was about seven months old. He has been in the creamery business 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 Wetteman, and the family then moved to Red Lake Falls. Paul went to work in the construction business while in school in 1935. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany from 1952 to 1955.

While in the army, he drove for the Greyhound Bus Company from 1952 to 1956 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 water cargo at the Elliot Packing Company of Duluth.

In 1957, while driving for Greyhound, he met Dorothy (Bonnie) Biendarra, who worked for Greyhound at the depot in St. Cloud. They were married June 26, 1959 in 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 Towanda 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 Detriot Mobile Homes. He also worked as a special policeman, in the Liquor Store, and as manager of the American Legion Club. Paul served as Commander of the American Legion and AEA in 1971-1972 and Commander of the VFW in 1974-1975. He has been active in the planning, remodeling, and opening of the new VFW hall.

Dorothy worked at the Falls Cafe when it was owned by Bob and Doris Wetteman.

The family are members of St. John’s Lutheran Church where Dorothy is secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School. Dorothy is secretary of the VFW Auxiliary Unit 5292 for the 1975-76 year.

The family has spent time at summer homes in Red Lake Falls and are active in school and church activities as well as in 4-H.

CLARENCE AND DELLA HENKE SR.
Clarence was born at Wictona, Minnesota in 1904 to Henry and Bertha Swab 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 1923. Della was born at Cut Bank, Montana and grew up 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 Darr, left Montana in 1935. They moved to Ironton, Minnesota, where they spent six years. They moved to Hensel, North Dakota in 1943. They then spent thirty-one days to cover the distance. Della came with her mother, brother, and sisters in a truck and a car.

Della and Clarence worked on a farm in Hamilton, North Dakota for ten and fifteen years. They moved to Bismarck, North Dakota in 1934. They then moved to Minneapolis, North Dakota in 1934. They then moved to a farm at Walsh, North Dakota in 1936.
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 Emmet Township, the house formerly owned by Charles Hubert 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 birthdays are: Dean, born at Litchfield, July 28, 1958; Mercie, born at Thief River Falls, March 21, 1960; Dan, born at Thief River Falls, May 17, 1962; Brenda, born at Thief River Falls, August 29, 1963.

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 of 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 buildings, or even a house, 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 in a river narrow, muddy roads by sleigh in winter.

Mr. Hill was a graduate of Jones Aichon College 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 farming.

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; Margaret, now Mrs. Harry Kirchner 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 unforgetable citizens was Herman Ertesvaag 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 Ertesvaag boys.

Herman went to Lafayette High School where he met and later married Alda Claire Champeau in 1922. After graduation in 1925, 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.

Mr. and Mrs. Hesse had five children: Maurice, the oldest, died in 1920 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 Lorain, Virginia. Clifford is retired from the Bell Telephone Company, and lives in Santa Rosa, California with his wife Birdie, who is a native of Thief River Falls. Paul and his wife Medora also live in Santa Rosa, California 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 at the 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, but the early 50's they were well started and for all 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 fast as they could. This writer can still remember a box of tom-ah-shanters in our attic plus other kinds of goods 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 bought the subject of all the rocks, he 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 a new shipment!"
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's Degree in 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 physician.

Herman died suddenly on April 11, 1974. He is survived by Aida, Joyce, Terry and Herman, Jr., and 6 grandchildren. He is missed and remembered with a deep and abiding love and admiration 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 Schloss, 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 as a butcher and sausage maker. He moved from Cincinnati to Wykoff, Minnesota where he worked on a farm and in 1886 came to Crookston where he lived for two years. In 1887 he was united in marriage to Marie Simon. She was born in Germany on May 26, 1850. 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 Crookston community since their marriage in 1931. Elmer was born in July of 1906, son of Peter Hince and Rosilda Aselin 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 Greenfield, Alaska and California, work in factories or on construction.

The children born to Elmer and Marie: Bonnie (b. 1932) married Ernest Roisland four children; Yvonne Elizabeth (b. 1936), Yvonne (b. 1941) married Joseph Noe, they have four children; Robert (b. 1947) married Tama Yasuka, they have three children; Laura Jean (b. 1944) married Francis Dufault, they have five children.

HERMENEGILDE HINCE AND ADELINE ASSELIN HINCE

Hermenegilde Hince, son of Louis Hince, Jr. and Marie Gobeil, married Adeline Asselin (b. 1879), daughter of Cyprian Asselin and Celeste DeRocher, in 1899. They lived and farmed in Lambert township. Three children were born to this union: Marie (1900) married A. D. Collette; Celina (1908) married Albert Riel; Joseph (1909) married Emma Bachand.

Hermenegilde 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 Hermenegilde Hince and Adeline Asselin, in April of 1930 and they lived on a farm near Odell 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. 1933-1939); Evelyn (b. 1934) married Paul Prudhomme, they have seven children; Richard (b. 1936) married Gerri Schuck, they have
Ambose, Maurice, and Kenneth; Mary (b. 1896) married Arthur Lambart and they had one daughter, Irene; Peter (b. 1899) married Marie Kubin and their children are Peter, Jr. and Pamela; Cecile (b. 1901) married Ratus Peter; the children are James, Patricia and Virginia; Albert (b. 1903-1963) married Anne Nolmand and they had one daughter, Yvonne; Elmer (b. 1906) married Marie Wick. Their children are Bonnie, Sherry, Kathleen, Mary Lou, Robert, Joan, Donald and Margaret; Anna (b. 1908) married Selmer Hjelmhag and their children are Gary and Sally Ann; Napoleon (b. 1912-1972) married Loretta Hughes. They had two children, Michael and Margaret; Emma (b. 1913-1960) married Alfred Brandt. Their children are 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.

Leo Hoofer was born in Blunt, South Dakota in 1921, the son of John and Gertrude Hoofer. 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 Penticton 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 Truman's farm. They have purchased the entire section in Lake Pleasant Township. The Hoofers 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

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 Benndale State College and married to Leroy Pazz
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 married Lydia on November 23, 1865, and they had five children. In 1912, 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 Emarvile Township all of their married lives, except for a few years in the early 1920s, when they moved to the state of Washington. One daughter, Barbara, was born to them in 1920. Bessie died in October 1970 and her husband, James, died in February 1974.

Howard Hofius married Amanda Whiteley in 1924. (See Howard Hofius history.)

GORDON HOFIUS

Gordon Hofius was born on December 15, 1905, in Pleasant Creek, Iowa, the son of Fred and Lydia Christiansen Hofius. He came to the Plummer community as a child with his parents, settling in Emarvile Township in 1912. He attended school in District 214. On January 21, 1929, he married Hettie Jones. Hettie came to Emarvile 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 Hofius family was members of the Brooks-Plummer Presbyterian Church. They had four children: Doris (Mrs. Russell Park); Gail (Mrs. Ernest St. Michel); Gary, married to Lathol Lucas and Jacqueline (Mrs. Clayton Moen).

HOWARD HOFIUS - AMAANDA WHITELY FAMILY

Howard Hofius married Amanda Whiteley in 1924. Amanda was from the Oklee community and had been a teacher in District Number 103, Lamberton 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 1951 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 March 1966. He 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 Union 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 1960 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 Dorcas Christenson on February 11, 1888, in a double wedding ceremony with Mr. and Mrs. James LaFayette.

John and Dorcas spent the first years of their marriage in Maquoketa, DelWitt 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 help, three of the children died in three days and Lester died six months later. In these 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 the Plummer community.

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 Lemon and they lived in Des Plaines, Illinois, George never married. Naomi married Hans P. (Shorty) Hanson. They made their home in Garnes and Emarvile 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 HOFIUS AND MARIE JOHNSON HOFIUS

Osmund Hofius was born in Deer Park Township on January 24, 1904. His parents were Osmund Hofius and Bertha Legrand Hofius. He was the eldest of their children. Two of the children died in infancy. Thelma (Wildma) lives in Burner and Seilmer, Tommy, Oliver and Ole live in Deer Park Township. Ole is married to Mabel Mostrom and Sarah and Gloyd a 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 Plast 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 Hofius 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; Lot (Mrs. B. R. Westmoreland) lives in Shreveport, Louisiana, and has two children...
Rolfe Hofstad and Anne Nygaard were married in 1900 in Seltlanden, Norway and had their home on the Clearwater River 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 trip they were very seasick so strangers took care of their six month old son. Rolfe's brother, Thomas Hofstad, was with them from Norway. From there they took a train to McIntosh, Minnesota, where Rolfe worked on the railroad for two years before moving to Red Lake County. Here they sold their lumber and bought a farm along the Clearwater River in 1901. This land had just opened up and the farm they settled on is located north and east of Oklee in the Northwestern Quarter of Section 27. Their son, Paul, still farms it today.

In 1904 Rolfe paid $7.00 per acre for the land. When Anne and Rolfe moved to their home, they lived on the South 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. They got supplies and trade cream, butter, and cheese from the sugar camp. 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 across country. One time Anne lost her balance and fell into the river. Rolfe had 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 Rolfe'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 Barnie. They worked small patches of their 160 acres grubbing and clearing with axes and pickaxes and two small mules. In the winter Rolfe would have to go out working in the logging camps by Effie 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 the Clearwater Church doing funerals and weddings, school and community affairs.

Anne and Rolfe 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 1905 and died in 1925.Next came Inez, now lives in Billings, Montana, Adolph has moved back to Oklee from Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Myrtle was born in 1912 and died in 1946, from burns in a Minneapolis wedding dress factory; Harriet was born in North Minneapolis, Wisconsin; Grace was born in 1917 and died of strokes in 1940; and Ragna, Mrs. Torkle Gundersen, 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 south of their daughter Grace and part of this house is still in use. In 1925 it was added to. In 1927 Rolfe and Anne purchased another quarter of land from Tarjie Mandt. This farm adjoined theirs. A big highlight in 1928 was when Rolfe's brother, John, came from Grand Forks, North Dakota, got an airplane and many had their first ride.

In 1938 Rolfe purchased additional land in Equality about three miles away. This new 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 Kiest of Vesper, Wisconsin. Mavis passed away in 1967 and Adolph retired in 1972 and moved to Oklee.

In 1942 Paul married Gladys Gundersen. They moved on the Tarjie Mandt place and lived and farmed both places. In 1947 Rolfe passed away and Anna lived at the home place alone for one year. Then a house was moved from the Mandt place to the farm. Ralph (Rolf) Hofstad's farm was sold to Paul in 1948 and Paul and Gladys moved to the home place. To this marriage there were three children: Merlyn, Mrs. William Lemly of England, Rene of Oklee, and Gayle at home. Gladys passed away in 1965. Paul still operates the farm. Merlyn and her husband recently visited the place in Norway where her dad was born.

There were many good times in Rolfe and Anne's lives and many sad ones also. Rolfe helped pay for his sister, Thilda and brother, John, to get to America and helped them get settled. They had many good friends here. Among a few were Sam Gundersen, A.A. Bolandsens, (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 owned by "Oda Knudsen" who came around to the farms to treat sick animals also Peddlers would come and the people 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 Rolfe and Anna 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 Rolfe 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 wash in the water and the children would have to wash in the rain or walk sometimes several 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 died in 1985 at the age of ninety-three years old. She was born in 1892 and lived several years before moving to Iowa.

The Charles Howard family moved to Minnesota in 1918. While still living in Iowa, Charles Howard helped Billy Brinlow move from Iowa to a farm in Red Lake County, southeast 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 a log cabin in the fall. James became the farmer in the family. In the fall the family moved to what was known as power company land along the Red River and later owned by the Ed Johnneces.

We milked many cows and hauled the cream in cans by horse drawn vehicle, summer and winter, to the Plains 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 had to take a key to open the doors. These were the geese rails in the fall to get rid of their poults when the market prices were poor.

Clara Howard passed away in 1933 and Charley Howard in 1949. Florence Howard married Helmer Malila in 1921. They have two children, Mrs. Loren Parkin, (Gertrude) of Engler, South Dakota, and Mrs. Arv St. Paul, Arnold served in the Korean War.


Lloyd Howard married Alpha Marnmer of Gorkick 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 Bangor, Maine, in the East Indies, and also on the Alcan Highway.

The only Howard descendants living in the Red Lake County are Mrs. Helmer (Florence) Malila and one of Lloyd's sons, Dwight Howard and family.
deplored 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 baseball 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 No. 308, A.F. & A.M., commander of Turner's Artistic Fife 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, the late Dr. George T. 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 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 Red Lake Falls YWCA.

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 Secretary, of the executive committee of 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.


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 Hampson 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 river and had all the inconveniences of a howling wilderness." This was before the days of the railroad and he had to haul 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. Kinkel who would run the business under the name of the Hunt-Kinkel Hardware Company. The brothers bought out Mr. Kinkel'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 Sault Centre. Frank and Mertie had seven children.

Samuel Ellery Hunt, president of Hunt Bros., Co., was born in 1886 in Red Lake Falls. After graduating from 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 Kendert of Red Lake Falls, daughter of the Charles Kenderts. Marcia died in 1968. Samuel and Mrs. Betty Paddock were married in Fort Worth, Texas in 1959. 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, and a member of the Senate delegation 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 banquet for years, chairman of the Board of Directors of the 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. Berke...
THE LEON HUOT FAMILY

Leon Huot was born in St. Etienne, in the province of Quebec, Canada, in April 1856, the son of Joachin Huot and Perpetue Mathieu. 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 Quillier was born in the province of Quebec on September 17, 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 Gentry 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.

Mr. Huot and his family are now Section Thirty-three of Wyche 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, Oorese (Mrs. Fred Richards), Theodore, Rosella (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-five cents. In 1900 a man's wages were $1.25 per day for threshing. Wheat was fifty 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 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.

In the fall of 1920 they retired and moved to Red Lake Falls, leaving their son Hubert, to operate the farm which they later purchased. After moving to town, Mr. and Mrs. Huot operated a small gas station in front of their home on Main Street, across from the street from the present Mutual 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 March 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 Elizabeth Schultz. To this union were born twelve children: Mary Jean (Mrs. Donald Donarski), Bernette (Mrs. Adolph Donarski), Lorena (Mrs. Harry Nohre), Dolores (Mrs. Allen Monette), Donald, Elaine (Mrs. Larry Ricard), Genevieve (Mrs. Bernard Ricard), Leonard, Edward, Wilford, 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 Leon, took over the operation of the farm, plus another nearby farm. He sold his farm in 1979 to a group of 12 neighbors who bought 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 ancestors came from there and settled at Concordia, Minnesota, in Hennepin County.

Louis Huot left Concordia, in the spring of 1848, bringing his wife and family to settle in the country 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 Audette, Peter Audette, Nick Poulits, Simon Patnones, Cyril Patnones, Mose Patnones and Baptist Patnones. They were followed by covered wagons, 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 Oenire Huot (son of Louis) and Cyril Patnones went as far as White Earth to retrieve them.

When the parties reached McIntosh, the roads were so bad that 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 of the later branches were the Mercil Patnones, 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
The Antti Huotari family left northern Finland for America in 1902 and settled in Monessen, Pennsylvania, where his father worked in the steel mill for about 10 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 tall and swamp grass.) These men, August Kaikkonen, Thomas Matala, Peter Kakkonen, and John Nurmia bought tracts of land.

They had Peter Kaikkonen 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 Gammon 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, my brother 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. A while we didn't have a barn, so they were tied to the wall of the house. Sometimes at night they would wake up by pawing on the walls. The night house and all oxen were in the same time we were riding with Meitala to a party, and it was hot and the flies were bad. The oven 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 home, and in the school house. After about eight years, the other family 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. Christianen) who died in 1922 at twenty-three years of age, Marie, (Mrs. Christianen) lives in Selma, Wisconsin; Harry, (Mrs. Ben Wexley) lives in Silver Spring, Maryland; Lillian, (Mrs. Jack Granholm) lives in Mesa, Arizona; Ray of Superior, Wisconsin, and Tom on farm home is married to Wilma Eskeli. They have one son, Russell.

RUSSELL HUOTARI

Russell Huotari, county commissioner of the 14th district, took office in 1950 and is presently serving his second term.

Ken and Wilma Huotari were married 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 is now the owner of the Russell Dairy and Wood Cremeria in 1965 and is president of the Northern Dairy Council. He and his wife are active in the civic work of the community.
MERVIN HYDE FAMILY

Menin 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.C., has served as a chairman 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 have three daughters, Sharon Kay, Tammy and Dawn. Bobbie Karel passed away in 1969. Gerald married Lorraine Frigel and she is employed at the Kennedy Speech 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 Tinkham.

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 Hufnagel 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 Gamblin 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 Erskine 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 thirty-mile route, and before this time there had been four inland Post Offices: Garnes (Gjermes), 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 1957.

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, or 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 Neil (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 Flookwood, Minnesota on November 4, 1961. They have two daugh-

EDWIN and Hilda with Roy and Norman

ers, Lisa and Amy, and make their home in Palos Verdes, Peninsula, California where Norman is employed with Hughes Helicopters.

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 St. Croix Sherrick area where his cousin, Julia Jahnke was living. He and his brothers, Fred, Henry and John, were all living.

The next year he moved to Black River township where he rented the Schrieck farm. In 1890, he bought land in Red Lake Falls township, three and a half miles north 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 Montevideo, Myrtle (Mrs. Peter) of Santa Monica, California, Gustave and Arthur. Carl married Charlotte Lefer. They had three children: Luella (Mrs. Gustave Gerlach), Gertrude (Mrs. Osa Peterson), and Wilfred. Carl farmed and did trucking.

Fred married Ella Schultz. In 1975 they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Fred farmed and in later years was a carpenter, but always he was an artist with wood. Their sons are Willbur, of Washington, Russell, Mission Hills, California, Leroy, Seattle, Washington, and a daughter, Carolyn (Mrs. Kenneth Head) of Grants Pass, Oregon. Ludolph, California. Elizabeth married Carl Wilkens. Their family, Harold, Ralph, and Marian, make their home on the Indian Range, Hibbing and Chisholm.

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, learned to drive his carriage and had his first experience in driving.

His parents were John and Anna Johanneck, both of whom were born in Austria. They had seven children: Mary, John, Charles, August, Frederick, and Emma. Mary married John Zins, and they had six children: Gertrude, Edward, Alphonse, Agnes, John Jr., and Raymond.

The Johannecks were very active in the community. They were members of the local church and were involved in many community events, such as the annual Bazaar and the annual Apple Festival.

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 Marcelline Rose in 1895 and also taught in the Terrebonne School.

When Red Lake County was organized by being set off from Polk county in 1886, he was appointed the first rural superintendent of schools, which office he held until 1900, after which he was elected to the office of registrar of deeds, an office he held until 1916.

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 Courant which they bought in 1898 and sold later 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.

HERBERT JOHANNECK
Herbert Johanneck, Alderman of the First Ward in Red Lake Falls, is presently serving his third year on the city council. He was born March 13, 1940, to Ray and Gladys Johanneck on the former Nisensig farm, later owned by A. W. Opheim. He attended St. Joseph's and Lafayette schools in Red Lake Falls. In 1968 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 1967 where he was employed at Detirof Mobile Homes before he engaged in the plumbing and heating business. He also was a snowmobile dealer from 1967 to 1977.

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 even 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.
CARL 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 Olde O. Hanson. The first church in the area was the Salem (Garde) 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 him he would not stop him 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 to carry his travel gear 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 not even a doctor on call, so the many children helped. One another whenever a new baby was born or when there was sickness in the family.

Pastor Leifsdottir and Reverend J. K. Leren 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.

Travelling by mail from Graves, but there was no delivery from there and the mail had to be picked up for Mrs. Hemly was farm carrier from Plummer. She faithfully brought the mail with a team of horses. Her route took her to Rhoda (Sing's Place) and where she changed her carrier. Once a month, she continued on to Plummer. Later the postoffice was at Rhoda and then Olkele.

Threshing day was something to remember. Most often with his stationary steam engine (pulled by horses) had the first threshing run. Later Kloeve and Ed Anderson had a steam engine and the threshing. Kloeve 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.

Two 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 Zahn, North Dakota; Clarence Johnson (b. 1906) lives in Alberta; Gladys M. Nelson (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 Olkele 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, Charly Johnson passed away. Mary lived with her daughter and son-in-law for twenty-one years. At the age of ninety-seven, Mrs. Johnson died. The family burial plot is at the Ebenezer church north of Olkele.

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 Barnes township not far from where their parents had lived in the early 1900's. From 1935 to 1946 they owned and operated a 140-acre farm 10 miles north of Olkele. In 1946 they purchased a 400-acre farm one mile west of Olkele in Lamberton 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 Olkele in Barnes 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 combine. 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 Vernell Rice of Fertile, Minnesota and presently lives in Huron, South Dakota. They have two children. Curtis is married to Carol Dingess 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 1919. They and four sons and one daughter live five and one-half miles north of Olkele 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 II and has since been active in farming. Ethel has taught school in country school and has 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; she is married to Milton Leifman of Thief River Falls and they live in Hopkins, Minnesota. The Leifmans 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 Bourgeois of Grand Forks and they live in St. Paul, Minnesota; Charlie Allen attended the vocational school at Thief River Falls in 1971 and 1972 and since then has farmed with his father. He married Laura Jean Lank of Brooks and they live in Olkele; Mary Robyn and Brenda Jo live at home and attend school in Olkele.
WALTER JOHNSON, BANKER

Walter Johnson was the banker in Red Lake Falls for more than 30 years. His 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 it was sold to O. B. Gjeldingen and O. P. Gjeldingen, 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 Murosravoi, central Finland. The family came to the United States in 1906, residing briefly in upper Michigan before homesteading near Cromwell, Minn. He left the area early, managing a co-op store in his town, 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 Aultonna, Minn. 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. Edward was born November 5, 1918 in Superior, Wisconsin, (while the family were refugees from the October 1918 Cloquet forest fire which had burned out Kettle River.) He 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 5 years in the advertising business in Minneapolis. Since 1969 he and George Christie have owned weekly newspapers in Vora and Braham, Minn.

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. E. Johnson was a dressmaker. Frank died in 1943 at the age of sixty-three, and Alice died at age fifty-six in 1944. They had three children, Florence, Howard and Lucille, who were all born in Lancaster.

Florence had been married before the family came to Red Lake Falls and Howard (b. 1913) and Lucille (b. 1915) came here with their parents. Lucille married and moved from this area. She died in Minneapolis in 1975.

Howard worked as a projectionist at the local theater before starting his gravel business about 1937. In 1954 he established the Howard J. Johnston Insurance Agency and still operates both businesses. He was married in 1938 to Mildred Sorensen 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).

Milie died in April of 1972. On June 1, 1974, Howard married Mrs. Evelyn Spear of Red Lake Falls.

GUNSTEIN AND SIGNE JORGENSEN

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, 1888 in Gefesdal, 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 Langel. She was also from Gefesdal, 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.

Anna, Mrs. Steen Birkeland, died in 1929. Mrs. Margaret Gunstein 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 1935.

Thilda, Olga, 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 Dagle.

The Edward Juneaus were parents of ten children. Antine who never married, Zelia married George Dupont, Roseabella married...
Hill River; a mill was also put up in Caledo-
nia, North Dakota, and in 1889 Mr. Kal-
bakdaalen 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. Kinkel in the milling busi-
ness, 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 grind-
ing feed, meal, buckwheat, graham and
rye. In 1895 Mr. Kinkel erected a fine resi-
dence 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. Kinkel
borrowed ten dollars with which to cross the
ocean, and without other assistance he
has gained a position among the substan-
tial men of Polk county. He is the owner of
five hundred acres of land.

Our subject was married in 1873 to Miss
Lizzie Ziecker. Four children were born of
this marriage, Charles, a miller of Ulm;
Otto W., a practicing physician; Gustaf and
Arabella.

Otto Kinkel died in 1914.

MELVIN KALBAKDALEN
Melvin Kalbakdaalen and Gladys Fisher
were married May 25, 1933. They lived in
the Grantor, 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, Jef-
frey, Lisa and Daniel. Maynard works for
the Soo Line Railroad and lives in Red Lake
Falls. Joan works in the office at DMM
Company.

In January, 1956, Jean married Leo
Ogden of Tucson, Arizona where they
reside with their children, Lyle, Lynn, and
Valerie.

James married Joyce Welda 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. 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
home.

In December, 1961, Lowell married Mar-
garet French. They were the parents of four
children; Janelle, David, Kimberly and
Scott. Lowell was program director and
newscaster for KFVR at Bismarck, North Dakota where they were
living. Lowell also had a band known as
the "Scotians". Lowell's wife, Marig,
wrote a column for the North Dakota News
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
Kalbakdaalen.

Dean, the youngest son, is a train dis-
patcher 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 Kalbakdaalen
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 of Northern Minnesota".

"Otto Kinkel, one of the oldest settlers,
and doubtless one of the most known men
of Polk County, is identified with the finan-
cial interests of that locality as a business
man and proprietor of a fine farm. His
home is at Fertile, where he has extensive
Millings interests.

Mr. Kinkel 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) Kinkel. He became a
midwife in his native land, and there also
served three years in the German Army. He
served in the war of 1866, receiving three
bullets 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 Alexan-
dria 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.
Kinkel 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, about a half mile
north 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 bruil millstones.
This mill had a daily capacity of
about thirty barrels. In 1882 they erected a
mill at Fertile, twenty miles southwest. Mr.
Sohler took charge of the new mill and Mr.
Kinkel remained at Fertile. In 1884 the
Garfield roller mill was erected about one
and a half miles west of Fertile, on the Sand
River.

Charles and Olga Kinkel

CHARLES OTTO KANKEL
Charles Otto Kinkel, born at Ashby in
Ottertail county on February 2, 1875, was
the only child of Charles O. and Elizabeth
Newman Kinkel. His father had come to
the United States at age twenty-three in
1870 from Sandow, Germany, with a
brother, Otto Kinkel and was drowned
1874 before Charles was born. His mother
David and Carol CASANOVE

Douglas and Carol were born at Crookston and raised in Red Lake Falls. Their parents are Lawrence and Phoebus Heye, and Lawrence and Eleanore Wirzland, both of Red Lake Falls.

The families of both David and Sherry Kankel have been county residents since the early settlement here.

Two sons were born to them, David (b. 1935), who is now working for the state, and Charles, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, who is now working for the federal government. The family resides in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Laina Marie Kankel married Woodrow Eyke in July 20, 1943, and they are living in a farm south of Plainview. They have four children, two daughters, and two sons, Rodney and Bruce.

Blessed is the memory of my mother's family.
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. 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 banana 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 Steinmetz 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 1897, 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 forty-one years before retiring. In 1937, John Keifenheim, Sr. passed away, 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 Telephore, who passed away at the age of 28 in 1928.

JOHN KEIFENHEIM, JR. FAMILY

John K. 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 Zella Peruse.

He 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-five 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 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 Department 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 fifty 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 townpeople 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 Keilenheim

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. Keilenheim died in 1971.

Ed and Ednah Keilenheim 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 Keilenheim home, which they built in 1936, 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 the local public library. Marion also has been active in many organizations in the city and has held offices in many. He was a member of the American Legion Post 22, 1945.

In 1959 he was appointed to a rural carrier position with the U.S. Post Office. Lynn has been active in many organizations in the city and has held offices in many. He was a member of the American Legion Post 22, 1945.

In 1959 he was appointed to a rural carrier position with the U.S. Postal Service. Lynn has been active in many organizations in the city and has held offices in many. He was a member of the American Legion Post 22, 1945.

On August 8, 1932, Edwin F. Kiland was married to Anna E. Jensen, the daughter of Mathias and Olga Jensen. Anna 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 secretary. In 1934, Mrs. Kiland was employed by the company of Red Lake Falls. During World War II, she served as county chairman of the Red Cross Women’s Army Auxiliary. Anna was a member of the St. John’s Lutheran Church.

Mary Lou, born on September 15, 1944, was adopted by Edwin and Anna on November 6, 1946. She died on August 1, 1949, at the age of 4 years.

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 that he felt more rewarding. After several years as the representative of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S., he was appointed in April 1940 to be the first project superintendent for the Red Lake Electric Co-operative Inc. Small room in the basement of the Healy Hotel, however, provided only 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, can be available to the farming areas at a cost that they could afford. The publications of the 1930s re-commenced, he 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. On November 8, 1944, 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 Kildan family and its contributions to Norway. In addition to the Norwegian language, he had studied French and German and was able to communicate with residents while serving with the marines during World War II. He was a prominent figure in the community, and his influence was felt in many areas, including education and sports.

He served as adjutant and as commander of the American Legion Guder 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 and when he could and attended the Twins World Series games played at the 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.


Following a period of failing health, he died at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester on January 19, 1971, at the age of 77. His remains were 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 late Mrs. Arthur and Mabel Jensen Larson. 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 in 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 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 Madisonville, Wisconsin, also a student at Luther College. Following college graduation the Johnsons lived at Biloxi, Mississippi while Phillip was assigned to Keeseer Air Force Base and on foreign duty in Thailand. At the time of his discharge from the air force service in 1972 the Johnsons returned home to the area. 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 as a bank officer. The Affiliated Bank of Madison and Mary Lou is a technician and a member of the cardiovascular team at the Methodist Hospital. Travis attends kindergarten in Madison.

As an adult, Mary Lou was adopted for the second 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 Anna Cockerill Scolfield, 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 scrips that were not accepted by local merchants. Only public bonds 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 her 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 phy. ed. were in one large class and a second teacher helped in getting the girls to the hall, through the showers and back to 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 staircases and the carpets were gone from the home economics department and the hollow sounding 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 the needs for Genoa 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 willing teachers might discontinue teaching. In 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 and those in earlier years. The children of living and Adeline Beyer could be spotted without a class in Feb. in the village. Pauland Knoll 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 communists were not permitted on the 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 continues 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 School and is a member of the Minnesota Retired Teacher’s Association and served a term as secretary of the North West Minnesota Division of this organization. She is an active member of the Northwest Minnesota Home Economics and is serving as treasurer of this group. She also worked at the Mayo Clinic Hospital Auxiliary and is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Guder Auxiliary at the St. John’s Hospital Auxiliary and is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Guder Auxiliary 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 society for economics students and 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 15 Prestage 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 1876 on the steamship Egypt, one of the largest steamships of its day. It just missed hitting a giant iceberg on
CLARA KILBURG

Clara Kilburg, only daughter of Peter and Maria Kilburg, was born February 9, 1896 in Wyile, Polk Centre Township. She graduated from the Normal Training Department of the University of Wisconsin 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 and received a standard two-year diploma. She continued adding credits and attending summer sessions to improve her education. She taught thirty-seven years, in Red Lake County in District 14 from 1913 to 1916, three miles south of Brooks where she sat with the John Noyes family. She served in District 16 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 Women's 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 worked, he then worked in the lumber camps, 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 lumber 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 Golder Morin, owned a grocery store and her father was also a carpenter by trade. They had 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. He remarried in 1951, to Marguerite Gilmour had seven children, the firstborn 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 Myers, Florida. Jerry, left college, entered the United States Navy, where he served 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 is now teaching and coaching at Indus. He married Carol Cota and they have a son, Brian. Allen, attended Thief River Falls Junior College and Bemidji State College before enlisting in the United States Air Force and has also been training in electronics. Bonnie Gail, is married to Rich- ard 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 Sonny.

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, 1970, they were victim of a fire that took his life on November 4, 1968. As there were two daughters and two sons in his 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.

Ned King will be remembered for his love of the outdoors. His favorite sports were hunting and fishing and his hobby was working on guns stocks or blueing the barrels. Many were the evenings he spent loading shells and exchanging hunting stories with his friends.

SIDNEY E. KIRK

Sidney E. Kirk was born at Niagara, North Dakota in 1906, the son of Ernest Kirk and Anna Sorensen. He attended grade school at Niagara, North Dakota, High School at Larimore, North Dakota, and Architectural School in Chicago, Illinois. Because of bad health, he was forced to discontinue his education and to engage in farming with his father and brother, Harvey. He has one sister, Dorothy, living in Fargo, North Dakota. In the year of 1932, the Kirk family moved to the former farm in Loyal, Minnesota, and continued to farm.

In 1936, Sidney married the former Verna Lutjen at East Grand Forks, and moved to the John Niskan farm in 1940. The family farmed East Grand Forks, and moved to the Niskan farm in 1942. Sidney died in 1942 on the farm in the Kiser 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 Socoac 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 Sarah 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 Valley Community. She was married to George King in 1936. 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 in Crookston, and the Victorian School of Beauty, in 1936. She married her husband 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 Polk County in 1934, 1935, and 1936, and served as a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1955 to 1971 he was one of the County Commissioners for Red Lake County, appointed to the Northwest Mental Health Board in 1960 and still serves. In 1965 appointed to the inter-County Community Mental Health Board served for five years as Treasurer and is serving in the same capacity. He served as agent for the Northport Pacific Railroad for twenty-six 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 purchased a home on Lake 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 the first set of white twins to be born at the then, new, St. Francis Hospital. He was graduated 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 Cortland College, where he received a B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota, graduating in 1970. He was named a three-year scholarship to the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, and then continued his studies in the field of Chemical Engineering.

Rosalyn, wife of Jeff Kirk, was born in 1915 in Thief River Falls. She graduated from Cathedral grade school and the St. Benedict High School. In 1931 she graduated from the College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud. She taught second grade for three years at the Sacred Heart Grade School in Grand Forks.

Jacqueline Kirk was born in 1942 in Crookston. She graduated in 1960 from Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls.

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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's 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 Hess, 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 Hess 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 Hess, 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, 1898, died April 25, 1973, in Florida; Jerome married Berget Fristad, who survived him and is currently living in Eau Claire, 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 Tackle Shop in Little Falls until he retired and moved to Florida. The name Jerome remained with him only while he was in Little 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 when she met George Uran and married him. He died March 6, 1970 at Eau Claire, Wisconsin 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 LaReine worked for Sears in Minneapolis. LaReine is an artist and world traveler. She resides in Minneapolis in the summer and in the winter at Ft. Myers, Florida.

Waldermar 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 Cruzerre, Ojai, California. At the present time he is a garden farmer, "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, pavilion 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 Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Elvira is a member of the Garden Club and is involved in local affairs.

Hildegard 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 Oak Park Sanitarium, Thief River Falls, for several years. She was then employed at the Community Hospital in Stoughton, Wisconsin, and also at the Wisconsin State Sanitarium in Wausau, Wisconsin. She and her husband, Howard Norsetter, have resided in Wisconsin since their marriage. The Norsettars have one child, Howard, Jr. and five grandchildren. Howard, Jr., is manager of the Wausau Police Department. Hildegard is kept busy with their Christmas tree acreage and her art, and painting, being a well known Rosemariner in her area. The Norsettars reside at Cottage Grove, Wisconsin.

Raymond Kitzrow, a professional Bachelors' degree in accounting, and has long since passed his "boh." graduated from Lafayette High School, Red Lake Falls in 1950 under the direction of Supt. J. A. Hughes. Many sports fans know Raymond from his softball pitching ability. In a severe snowstorm in the winter of 1931-32, Ruben Lehrer and Raymond had installed a snow plow, trucking ten miles of horse and a bob sleigh 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 in the snow. The remote location of the school made access to the Kitzrow farm impossible. Two days after Raymond and his friend, Ruben Lehrer, picked up the body, the Coroner and Sheriff Carl Kantel, followed the snow plow up to the Kitzrow residence, to examine and take the body.

Ray Kitzrow was a resident of the 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 snow plow was in the South, the winter of 1942-43, he left for Minneapolis, Calif., 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 "H.D." degree for a long time. Raymond was employed at a night 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 current location is 9498 Garden Grove Boulevard, Garden Grove, Calif. He has a week-end home in Palm Springs, at 32889 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.

HARRY AND CAROL KJAEER FAMILY
We moved to Red Lake Falls from Roseau in July, 1969. Harry was employed by Detrolor Mobile Homes as an electrical maintenance man.

We have three children. Our oldest son, Curtis, lives with his wife, Juliane, and daughter, Kristi, in Moorhead. Both Curtis and Juliane 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 Detrolor Mobile Homes. Our
Youngest son, David (our helper), is a Cub Scout and attends Washington Elementary School.

In 1958, we both started working at Arctic Enterprises in Thief River Falls. Harry was electrical maintenance foreman and Carol worked in the tool crib.
Walter and I purchased Oak's Mobile Home Court in 1970 when we purchased some lots from Clarence Marcotte in Kritzschmar’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.

The 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 cooperative in the four county area we serve.

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 Thibert's, 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 Ingeborg Kleven were only twenty-five years old and had been married a little over two years when they left the small community of Skatba in Telemark, Norway and sailed for America looking for a better way of life.
As they embarked at Kristiania, 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.

My grandfather had a sister living near Glynwood, Minnesota, and they lived there a few years before the lure of free land brought them to Red Lake County about 1896. 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 build a big house and have a big yard 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 President of 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 two-room school and most of the family’s early supplies were bought at a store near the Grill 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 1926 the farm was sold and 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 were still living. My uncle, Thorvald 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 Fredericke 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 Fredericke. 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.

He was living at Freeborn many years, tragedy struck. At the age of only 62 Alex’s mother, Fredericke, 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 Knaack, Bertha, Albert and Alice.

In 1902 Alex Knaack, now 13 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 west, and there was Ethel, who lived on the Arley Schultz farm which was the Herman Stahl place, and sister and another Ethel were Ben, who lived in Red Lake Falls and died young at the age of 23 from the flu, and was married to Alma Wolf who lived on the Vernoine Schultz farm is Irene (Mrs. Charles Zebel) now living at Bloomer, Wisconsin, Minnie (Mrs. Nick Drees) now living at Wylie, Bert, (Mrs. Fred Goeman) now living 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 1912. After the marriage, they moved to a farm in Freeborn County. Mr. Knaack was quite a gardener. He 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 a 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 Heim (Mrs. Claye Pytel), Beulah St. Louis, Leah Cramer, Hazel Zaiser, Betty Kruse, Alexine Stueven, and State Miller, Linda Nagler 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
Ingber farm now known as the Dean Vaught 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 Bruemwell of Erskine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Volson Bruemwell. Violet's father, Volson, taught at the Erskine school for quite a few years till he died in Erskine.

Gunhild, Violet's mother is now living in Northwood, North Dakota. Vernon married Violet September 6, 1949 at the St. John's church on the North Side of Red Lake Falls with Rev. Father 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 Belling, Montana. Bonita, author, is a senior at Lakeville High School. Vera 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 repairing business.

Margaret Gaines was born June 9, 1876 on a farm near Wanda, Minnesota. They were married on September 9, 1909 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 cabin was a common feature of the farm for a year. They rented the Rose farm, now the Louis Ulrich farm, living there for a few years. Cecelia 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 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 check for disease. In 1920, John, Gust and Harvey out and hauled logs on a small setup by John Schmitz on the river bank 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 John 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 where they farmed in Red Lake County where he bought a farm. John died in 1965. Gust married Agnes Schmitz in September, 1927 and moved to Minnesota 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 Lilian Gale in May, 1924 and they also farmed in Red Lake County, buying the Lawrence Gale farm where they lived until 1967 when they moved to Red Lake Falls. Harvey died in 1971. Dora married Henry McRoon in October, 1928, making their home in Minneapolis where he was employed as an electrical component wiring engineer for twenty-seven years.

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. Gustave became a member of the Lions Club and was a member of the School Board for many years. They have five children 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 Corinne (Mrs. Bob Abel), Kathy, James, Maria, Gerald and Paul 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.

Virgil married Gloria Mercier. They live at

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 13, 1927 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 have ten children and 10 grandchildren.

Dorine married Aldo Vialliani and with their three children live in Park Ridge, Ill., where he works for Allstate Insurance. Dorine has done tutoring.

Frederick married Edwin Nieder and they have one daughter. Fred worked at the Sheridan Hotel in Minneapolis and also at the Howard Johnson 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 homemaker. Lynn worked at Hormel and the Woolworth 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.

Dona married Don Lecker. Greg is a mechanic at Kirt Kohlman in Brooklyn Center where they live with their daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Knott
International Falls with their children Jacqueline and Mary.

Gus married Irene Merrick. They have two children, Julie and Jodi and live in Mound.

Agnes's 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 farms 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. Hilaire 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 city 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 have seven children: Henry Jr., Duane, and four others.

Their sons, Henry Jr. and Duane, 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 Crespin Schmitz and Frieda Schindler, on June 14, 1949. They live 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 Fandall. 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; Patrick (b. 1957), Cecelia (b. 1958), and Alice (b. 1959) attend school at Lafayette; Jacqueline (b. 1961), Anthony and Agnes (b. 1962), twins, Paul (b. 1963), Joyce (b. 1964) and Andrew (b. 1964).
JOHN AND CLARA BRELAND KNUTSON

Aamund Breeland came from Norway in 1888 to Fosston. He worked as a laborer. In 1890 he married Anna Johnson who had come from Aase, 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.

Their home was opened for homesteading in Equity 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. Breeland 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. Breeland both died in 1928.

Only one daughter, Aamund and Anna, Clara, survives. She is married to John Knutson who was from Fisher and they live on the Breeland homestead. John Knutson farmed a hundred sixty acres and raised 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. Ardel Thorsen of Embarrass, Minnesota; Carol. Mrs. Joppru of Thief River Falls; and Dorothee, Mrs. John Olason. The Olson’s 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 Haugesund. He grew to manhood there and then went to Storlen (a school) where he was educated to become a teacher. He taught in Norway for twelve years.

He married 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 Kolstoe’s immigrated to Clinton County in Iowa near Cedar Rapids. Soon after this Ole Kolstoe attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota where 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.

Note: See “A Pioneer Pastor and his Horse, Bill” in the Garnes Township history.

KONICKSON FAMILY

Per and Marta were the first Konicks 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.

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 Haugesund. He grew to manhood there and then went to Storlen (a school) where he was educated to become a teacher. He taught in Norway for twelve years.

He married 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 Kolstoe’s immigrated to Clinton County in Iowa near Cedar Rapids. Soon after this Ole Kolstoe attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota where 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 Margarett and Ola, their grandchildren, and Gulvona, whom they adopted after the death of her mother and Petula Larson whose mother also died.

Ole Kolstoe went 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.

THE JOHN KOTSHEVAR FAMILY

John Kotschevar, an early resident of the city of Red Lake Falls, brought his wife the former Anna Moven, and three children to Red Lake Falls in 1902.

He was born in Austria in 1882 and came with his parents to the United States when he was seven. The family resided in
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. Mrs. and Mrs. William Krueger operated the hotel from 1902. In 1919 with the coming of the Prohibition, the hotel and saloon were sold.

Bill Krueger purchased land in the Louis Town, 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 left in Red Lake Falls and 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 Store.

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 in 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, deceased; and Bette Lou — Mrs. Donald McAnulty of Green Bay, Wisconsin, seven grandchildren. Still in Red Lake County are Mrs. Roger Thibert, niece 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 Runam of Mankato), Betty (Mrs. Archie Johnson), Thief River Falls, Marie (Mrs. Frank Scherack), 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 Fром Red Lake Falls. She has taught in Red Lake County rural schools, is a graduate of Bemidji State College, and is presently teaching at Lefant Lake high school.

They have four children: Pauline (Mrs. Lyle Longton), Steven, Larry and Peggy. The family all graduated from Lefant Lake high school. They also have two grandchildren, Linda Joy and Talun 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 1958, he opened a law practice, his office two rooms in the Healy Building, on the first floor. It very shortly became a full service office when his law partner, Lamprich 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 of law since 1959 and started here in 1958. In 1971, he was joined by William D. Mul-
of Red Lake Falls on highway #32. In 1972 the Kuipers decided to retire and sold the business to Darrell 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 Radar 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 Radar Relay Field. He married Florence E. Griebel in February 1959. She was born in Jägersdorfer, Sueterland CR (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 have two daughters. Tim has been employed by U.S. Postal Service since 1971 and is located at Mankato, Minn. He married Janie Stolke of Red Lake Falls and they have a daughter and a son.

Kathleen 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 18, 1862, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kuld and grew to manhood there. His wife was the former Mary Straufstoffer. Their family was eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, two of whom are still living. They are Mrs. George Schaefer of this city, and Leonard of Red Lake Falls Township who still lives on the home farm. Descendants are Joseph, Anton, Frank, William, Charles, John, Mrs. Henry (Mary) Grenier, Mrs. Frank (Kate) Musil, and Mrs. Rudolph Bueter 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. Kunderl moved to Red Lake Falls in 1921, when 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 Mrs. Kunderl had been cashier of the Harrisburg State Bank and was also owner and manager of the North Lincoln Telephone Co. of Tea, South Dakota.

Mr. Kunderl had an early flair for politics and served several 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 was also 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 figure who could always be depended on to do his part for community welfare. Charles Kunderl 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 Kunderl 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 Kvasagre Family in 1951

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 1938 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. Thibet, known as John’s Mileage Service located at the south edge
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 and Marion, engaged his services and he remained in that gentlemen'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 his longtime employee, John Tschirn. 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 1959, 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 Lief 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 Edolisa Robillard. Their children were: Peter, who married Antoinette Parenteau, Albert, married to Mrs. Sophie Roedfield, Philip, married to Elsie Cousineau, Medore, who married Marie La Bonte, Celestine (Mrs. Edward Patnode), Rosebella (Mrs. Omer Parenteau), and Evan (Mrs. Lawrence Callier). Of the children of Damas, only George and Medore are living at this time.

Peter and Antoinette were the parents of two daughters and six sons: Beatrice (Mrs. Maurice Fortier) who lives at Crookston, vero, 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 Land). Elmer has been employed by the Red Lake Falls Rendering Company, now known as Central B 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 barber 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 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 Aine 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 drug 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 Mary 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. Charles 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 Batecian, 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.

They settled on land in Louisville town, 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 1907 Emil married Eleanor Anne Payne. She was born at Pontiac, 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 1942; Henry J. of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota; Edward now of Warminston, 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 Alivia (Mrs. Fred Lizotte), Exzila (Mrs. Phillip Roy), Marie (Mrs. Joe Banoit) and Jane (Mrs. Charles Lachnies).

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 all 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.

**HECTOR LA COURSIERE**

Hector LaCoursiere and Alice Lambert were married in June, 1925, and settled on the NE1/4 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 Nielson), 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 Detrotier Mobile Homes in Red Lake Falls, and does a great deal of trapping and fishing.

**OCTAVE LA COURSIERE FAMILY**

Octave LaCoursiere was born in 1864 to Edward LaCoursiere and Sophie Brunelle at Batecian, Province of Quebec. Edward and his sons worked on ships on the St. Lawrence River in the 1870's. When
Octave was old enough he also worked on the ships until he came to Red Lake Falls. Octave married Mary Roy in 1888 in Red Lake Falls at St. Joseph's Church by Father Morcille. Mary was born to Charles Roy and Susan Cyr in 1871. Many Roy, Octave's mother spent her last years with them on the farm. She was blind, but could spin and knit. Mary could also spin and knit many pairs of socks and mittens for her children and grandchildren.

The LaCoursièr's had seventeen children, eight of them still living: Paul, Emma (Violette), Theodore, Agnes (Violette), Ernest, Clara (Repeolle), Dora (Sr. Baptiste O.S.B.), and Rose (Sr. Gabriel O.S.B.).

Octave and Mary farmed in the Union Township for a few years where five children were born. They moved to town and Octave did some logging during that time. They then bought a farm which is now the farm of Francis Schmitz southwest of Red Lake Falls. Octave and his sons farmed this place until he died in 1928. After his death, Theodore managed the farm with his brother. He made many trips to town each week with the horse and buggy to sell produce and buy supplies.

In the early 1930's, Ed bought what is now the Andrew Neilson farm northeast of town. His mother and the two youngest children, now deceased, lived with him. Later, he sold the farm and lived in his own home in town. His mother moved to St. Anselm's Rest Home where she died at the age of eighty-four in 1956.

PAUL LA COURSIÈRE

Paul LaCoursièr, who was the son of Octave and Marie Roy LaCoursièr, was born in the Union Township, Red Lake County in 1891. He attended a rural school until his parents moved into Red Lake Falls, where he went to St. Joseph's Catholic School. At the age of fifteen, he and his elder brother, Arthur, left for North Dakota where they worked on a farm. They returned after two years.

In 1912, Paul was married to Genevieve Violette, daughter of Frank Sr. and Caroline Cyr Violette. Eight children were born to Paul and Sophie: Flavia (Sister Cuthbert O.S.B.), Emily, who died at the age of eleven, Lorena (Mrs. Robert Lash), Elinor (Mrs. Leonard Ford), Olive (Sister Cuthbert O.S.B.), Victor, a court reporter in Chicago, and Beulah (Mrs. Lawrence Marleau).

The LaCoursièr family owned and operated a farm in Brown's Creek Township, north of Red Lake Falls, for twenty years. In 1943, he and his wife, Mary, were awarded the Good Husband Award for quality dairy products and dairy herd management.

They retired in 1967 and moved to the senior Citizen Home in Oklee. Later they moved to Minot and finally came to Fairmont in 1971. Paul suffered a broken hip and has been confined to a wheelchair at Hillcrest Nursing Home for the last three years. Sophie is still active, doing all his cooking and housework.

The LaCoursièr family helped Paul and Sophie celebrate their sixty-third wedding anniversary in 1972.

LACROSSE FAMILY

John LaCrosse was born March 22, 1857, in Corcoran Township, Hennepin County. He came to Red Lake County as a young man and was employed in logging 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 Durouin family who lived in the Huot area. John and Mary LaCrosse were married on January 12, 1899, by Father E. Theillien of Lorette. They lived on the farm until August 23, 1919, when they moved to town and bought a farm which is now owned by John LaCrosse's great-grandchildren.

May 16, 1959. During the first years of their marriage, Jack worked on a railroad construction in the summer months and at the Red Lake Falls Creamery in the winter. In 1961, Jack and Gladys moved to a farm in Section 16, Terron Township, and the LaCrosse's were back on the farm.

They operated this farm in 1974. Gladys worked at St. John's Hospital as a nurse, and Jack sold real estate and helped his brother in Oklee. They have four children: Cynthia, Keith, Mark, and Anthony.

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: Barbara (Mrs. Terry Knutson) of Bemidji; Betty (Mrs. Joe Piccolo) of Becker; Robert of Fergus Falls; LaVonne (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 Osceola and worked at a Warren bank prior to their marriage, and in 1944 they opened a five-room business in Osceola in 1943. They have three daughters, Doris, Arlen, and David, and two sons, David, Arlen, and Curtis.

Arlon began work at Detriot Mobile Homes and Iva continued her work at the law office of Jaroslav Krtsa. David served two years in the Army and upon his discharge obtained work at Hanover, a major city in the Twin Cities. Arlen graduated from Lafayette High School and after two years of college and working in the Twin Cities, returned to Red Lake Falls and was employed by Ralston. Curtis is a junior at Lafayette High. They are members of Bethany Lutheran Church.

FRANCOIS LAMBERT AND CAROLINE BELLAND LAMBERT

The following is taken from a 1902 history book titled, "Compendium of History and Biography — Northern Minnesota:"

"Francois Lambert, one of the oldest settlers of the town 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 oldest of two sons born to Francois and Marguerite (Paquin) Lambert.

Our subject was reared to farm work and continued in his native place until 1861. 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 himself and his family, determined to obtain a good home for himself, 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 the same claim. Our subject paid 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 prospered greatly 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; Azelle (Mrs. Joseph Cote); Marguerite (Mrs. Joseph Beebe); Joseph, farming in Lambert township; Alphonse, farming in Lambert township; Virginie (Mrs. Joseph Beaudoin); Marie Louise (Mrs. Joseph Lambert); Oliva (Mrs. G. Ford); Dennis, deceased; Arthur, deceased; Urgelle, 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

Armand Lambert, son of Anton Lambert, was born in Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada. He married Blanche Bergeron (b. 1887), daughter of Urgele Bergeron and Mary Goulet and they resided in Lambert township. The children born to this union: Regina (b. 1905 — d. 1913); Leon (b. 1908 — d. 1909); Doris (b. 1910) married Antonio Laubrey; Lester (b. 1915) married Emma Baker; Walter (b. 1915) married Marion Boucher; Lawrence (b. 1917); Leonard (b. 1919) married Mary Schmier, Dewey (b. 1920) married Dorothy Boucher.

Armand died in 1950 and Blanche in December of 1975.

ALPHONSE F. LAMBERT

Both Alphonse F. Lambert and his wife, Celeste, were born in Quebec, Canada. The son of the Francois Lambert, he was born on December 1, 1874 at St. Ursule, and Cesare, the daughter of Joseph Bouches, was born on September 6, 1880 at St. Paulin.

The Francois Lamberts came from Canada to settle in Old Lambert Town near Oklee about 1880, and the Bouches Lamberts to Lambert township in 1882. Alphonse and Cesare 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 dry goods business and sold coals. The merchant 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 depot of Red Lake Falls was the fine team of buckskins, Maud and Bess, owned by Mr. Lambert, and many a young lad stood in awe and hoped for a short ride on the dry goods or the sleigh in winter. Hired hands were always delighted to hold the reins of 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. J. Gauthier), John, Alexine (Mrs. T. LaCoursiere), Doris (Mrs. Harold Champoux), Thomas, Dennis, Leo, Ucinice (Mrs. E. Haupt), Mae (Mrs. Ray Hesse), Vern, Jane (Mrs. Norval Navreson), and Agnes (Mrs. David Holter). Mrs. Lambert died in January 1962 and Alphonse in January 1964.

HALSEY B. LANE

Halsey B. Lane came to Red Lake Falls in November 1892 when he concluded arrangements for the purchase of the majority stock of the Peoples Drug Company, a corporation organized in 1891 to take over the A. L. Reichen and W. A. Schriner drug stores.

Born in 1891 at DeSoto, Wisconsin, he 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.

Halsey married Annie Rutherford at Lisbon, North Dakota in 1922. He had spent all his life in North Dakota, the daughter of two homesteaders, her father from Canada, and her mother from Norway. She obtained a pharmacy 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 1955. 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 North District President. For many years she was most energetic and effective Red Lake County Red Cross Service Chairman.

The Lanes had two daughters, both graduates of Macalester College in St. Paul. Ethel (Mrs. Richard Wolfe) of Midland, Michigan, has five children: Peter (Mrs. Donald Davidson) Olympia, Wash.
EVIND LANGERAK AND T. O. LIEN

In 1892 Evind O. Langerak together with his sister, Toni, left Bylgland, 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 Garmes township and proved his claim in 1904. The post office at this time was Grit at Harkes place where there was also 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 1958. He was a very kind and gentle man.

T. O. Lien, a nephew of Evind Langerak, left Bylgland, 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 Ohio and bought 40 acres of land from Louis Lourie 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 both in 1968. They live at Alton, Minnesota, and are both employed by Burlington Northern railway. T. O. Lien passed away in 1968.

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 1879. 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),

ANDREW S. LARSON 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 Simraskamp, 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, Edvin, George, Robert and Oscar attended rural school District 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 the 1873-1736 school 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 slumger was caught near the Larson farm in 1929 by sons: George, Robert and Oscar with the use of a pitch fork and bucket that landed a 148 lb. trophy. It was on display at 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 District 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 Olive Goulet. They have one daughter, Karin and two sons, Lynn and Drew.
CLAYTON LARSON

Clayton was born December 21, 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 Herefords from George Waldal who lived at Buffalo, Minnesota. The next year they purchased two more Herefords 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, to settle in 1896.

Mary Johnson also emigrated from Skanes, Sweden. She first came to Maple Bay where her brother, Charley Johnson, resided. In 1893 she married John Larson. They had a family of four sons, Roswell, George, William and Carl. Roswell 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 admiral 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 purchased stock have been raised by John or the Larson Brothers for the past forty years.

JAN AND JESSIE LARSON

LaVern and Irene Larson came to Red Lake Falls in 1972, when LaVern was appointed Director 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 at Lake Falls and have three children: Waltris, 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. He is a second generation American who is the first generation to fight in 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. Captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge, his dad 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, in 1877. Her parents Pris and Agat 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 building their homes and 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 known for his trapping knowledge.

Larson is a board member of the Minnesota Hospital Association Conference of Gastric Care, the American Legion and the 40 & B. 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’s 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 sinister storms.

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. Louise took over the farm operation, going into the raising of Guernsey cattle, later beef cattle and 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 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 Telemark, Norway. His wife, Gunhild Bjornstad Ris, was born on February 4, 1873, also in Telemark.

Mikkel and Gunhild joined the many emigrants who left their 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 steamship “Moreno” from New York City to Quebec. They moved on the ship, “Sarina.” From Quebec they journeyed by train to Winnipeg and on to Edinburg, North Dakota where they arrived on May 24, 1893.

Mikkel and Gunhild lived near Union, North Dakota until 1896 when land opened for homesteaders on Lake County. Mikkel made his way by Arneson to Erskine, Minnesota and from there he and Olaf Sjohagen and Knut Vettleson (Spaheim) 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 dripped 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 wagons or sleigh.

The nearest neighbors to the Mikkel Larsons were: Knute Vettleson (Spaheim) and Olaf Sjohagen, both bachelors; the Knudt and}
and Elizabeth Syversrud family, the Knut and Margit Bykum family, the Leif Erickson family, Nup Syversrud, the Ingebret and Marthea Hov family, the Gjermund and Kari Hegg family, the Tareg and Sigrid Neser family, and the Thor and Ingeborg Larsen family. The post offices that were near Olav Kolstoe were the Plumbers, Vallee and Salmi Lutheran churches.

In 1904, Mrs. Larson died leaving six children. Two of the children were taken care of by neighbors; Gunda, the youngest, and Mrs. Olle O. Lee; and Petra who stayed at the Reverend Olav Kolstoe home for two years. Caroline was the oldest at home and Bertha was in the family. There was one boy, Lars M. Larson, Svenne 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 rye field where the hollowness of the field was used. The children would sing and the echo would carry their voices. 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 Elkinsville Community School, district ten and the family bought supplies at the store and postoffice (Gott) run by Edward and Inga Havik.

In 1910 there was news of a railroad to a new town. Mikkol said, "It will mean an easy trip to Oklee. But there was no news of the railroad. In 1916 the old homestead was sold, and Mikkol bought a farm in Garrys Township, section thirteen. He married Guro Skreeland in 1891 and later moved to Equality Township, section thirty. They had three children, Gunton, Gudrun, and Gunhild, who are now living with their family in this town. Mikkol 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. Milo was from Minneapolis and Milo from Blacklick. They moved while Milo was a student at the University of Minnesota and were married July 7, 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 warm welcome they received upon their arrival in Oklee. Not knowing the condition of Oklee's streets in the spring of '51, they pulled out to the side of the street to park only to have their 1950 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 Roland 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 Garne, in Newton, Indiana. 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 DMR company.

For one month the Larsons lived in the trailer court and then moved to the former Schantz home. 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 Klockke bridge went down from the weight of the ice.

ELI LASHA FAMILY
Eli Lasha (Leger) was born in Ogdenburg, 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 ancestors back to Pierre Leger who arrived in Quebec from Paris in 1899. 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 Anna Beaudou who was from Canada. She died in April 24, 1883 in Red Lake Falls and on Feb. 17, 1884, he married Philomena Nosel. There were 12 children born of these unions. The children of Eli and Anna were Caroline, Nettie, Marnie, Stella and John. The children of Eli and Philomena were Gora, Annie, Mabel, Edna, Sara, Emery and John. And Anna 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. 5, 1933. Mrs. Lasha lived at the home until her death in 1935.

JULIE 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, Julie Henry Lasha, was born July 4, 1877 to Anna and Eli Lasha. He was the first white boy born in Red Lake County on Dec. 14, 1877. 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 an active role in 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 Aug. 9, 1874, just east of Niagara Falls. She traveled west with her parents and brothers and sisters, which eventually numbered 9. They covered wagons 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 stories of the horse. 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 hit her in the head! Grandma said it knocked her out! Florence's mother gave the Indians some medicine and they left, but they came back several times again for food.

Florence worked for Mr. and Mrs. Garceau in Red Lake Falls. Marnie, one of
Jewel Lasha and sisters, Caroline, Nettie, Marnie and Stella.

Jule's sisters also did housework in town. The two girls became friends and it was Marnie who introduced my grandparents to each other.

On May 19, 1898, Jule and Florence were married in Fosston. Six children were born on the farm, 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 to Red Lake Falls. On Dec. 1 of that year, he was appointed rural mail carrier on the route from Dorothy and Hutt; he retired in 1940. In 1948, he was elected Alderman of Largo 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.

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 Hilcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls until his death on Nov. 3, 1960.

Mrs. 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 (Jewel).

The family moved to Charles City, Iowa until 1945 when they moved to Montana. In 1959 they moved to California where they now reside as do their children and 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. Dakota, Red Lake Falls, and in Ada. Godelyn died in 1936 and Joan in 1973. In 1959, Leo married Martha Viklem and moved from Powell River to Columbus. They now reside in Minneapolis.

The mail route was an integral part of my visits to Grandma and Grandpa's house. Grandma would first go to the post office to sort and mail the mail. At this time, Grandma would prepare me a large snack for our morning's route. Then Grandma 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. Grandma 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, Joen, 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 stove at Dorothy and Hutt when we would park and ask Grandpa where he got the girls. 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 have a great time. 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, Jr., who lived next door. The price of milk was 10¢ per quart — Mrs. Boughton made Mother such nice grade A butter dressing. It was a white viole with embroidered lace and sash. — A new bank began operations in Red Lake Falls and Mr. Boughton opened account #1 for Mother and put $100 into it. During the 'flu' epidemic in 1917-18, Mother was in high school and the school was closed. Godfrey Dahlen decided to help in the homes of the sick. But when Grandma found out, she quietly put up 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 collar with the tag that said '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 sandoles at Veznita; Grandma in her Dutch costume for a Royal Neighbor Float; Grandma's ice house; the smell of the musky cellar; the snow with the new car; the horse; and the new car. Grandma usually bought herself for a birthday present; the kittens; Grandpa playing the jay's harp; the piano player at Pennsau; 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 my thoughts tonight as I am writing this. It is all 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 grandchildren that will bring a lump in her throat, tears in her eyes and love in her heart.

FRANCIS (FRANK) LATENDRESSE

Francis (Frank) Latendresse was born in December 1877 in the Province of Ontario, Canada. As a young man he worked for several years in lumber camps. He married Virginia Bonin 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, Nelson, Hildagar, Majoric, Czinnier and Aldo.

In 1878 Francis and his family moved to northwestern Minnesota. They took a claim on the two miles southwest of Red Lake Falls in section twenty-nine. 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 Aim.

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 home was destroyed by a strong wind. The school and 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 claim. Shortly after, they bought a hundred and sixty acre farm from Mr. J. Laveque, 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 forest for farming.

By the time most of the older children had grown out on their own except Majoric, who stayed on the farm. On February 22, 1905, Majoric married Odelene Grenier, the daughter of Frank and Mary Goulet Grenier, who were also old settlers in those parts.

About the year 1908, Francis bought a house in Red Lake Falls and retired. One son and one daughter, Nelse and Aldo, remained with their parents until they died; Frank in 1917 at age seventy-eight and Virginia in 1934 at age ninety-four.

Joe, the eldest of the family, had retired from Corona, Colorado to work in lumber camps where some years later he died.

Hildagar married Lydia Cyr, Ben Cyr's daughter, who was also an early settler. Hildagar and Lydia went to Cass Lake, Minnesota. There they operated a grocery store, died and are buried there. They had two boys, both of whom were in infancy and one who 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.

Majoric married Elnor, a sister to Hildagar's wife, and lived in Red Lake Falls. He and Nelse ran 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
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 Prinivel, 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. Then he 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 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 Olson-Schneider 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 Meece 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. His building had been built by Dr. Esser's father many years before. Dr. Esser resided in Duluth and, besides the Duluth 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 and Mrs. Laundry took over the store. She sold it to Joe Parenteau in 1919. Mrs. Laundry retired and moved to the home of the Louis Laundry family.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Laundry had eleven children: Alphonse, Edouard (Mrs. Albert Perreault), Peter, Joe, Anna (Mrs. Albert Poirier), Arthur, Louis, William, Alma (Mrs. Harry Sauve), Dora (Mrs. Ernest Paradis) and Cécilia (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 for 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 it 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: Cécilia (Mrs. Charles Redpath), Rita (Mrs. Leonard McDougall), Beulah (Mrs. Vern Halter) and Henriette (Mrs. Dave Knudson).

**PETER LAUNDRY**

Peter Laundry was born in Terrebonne Township in 1898, 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 he 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
had 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 Crockston until 1918, when they moved to Yakima, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurent had twelve children. They were Homer, Henry, Horace, Eliza, Regina, Dereel, Mathilda, Cecelia, Theodore, Deiphine, 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. M.S. Remer 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 Hagi, Joe Leefleur, Leo Kalinczki and the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Perrault.

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. Hilaree, 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 1905 in a two-room log house built by father with the help of neighbors. Mrs. Hans Holten was the neighborhood 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 railroad was being built. Dad was looking forward to the railroad to 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 canceled 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 bought the fires, swept, and dusted. The older boys carried in the

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 Lyngas, formerly of Erskine, Minnesota.

The three other children born to this family are: Kathryn, Mark and David. Mickey is employed as Graphic Arts Coordinator for Melrose in Gwinner, North Dakota. Gary is married to Sandra Johnson of Oklee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luene Johnson, and is employed at the McIntosh A.S.C. Office. Kathryn 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 Osteraalmen, Norway, in 1868 at the age of twenty-three and worked as a farm hand at Wallington, 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, Gundulda.

Lars and Jessie Larson have three children, Mildred, Mrs. Clifford Lund of Albert Lea; Ethel Olson of Forest City, Iowa; and Leonard of Minneapolis. Lars Larson died in the fall of 1969.

Gundud 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.

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 farm 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 Centilly, traveling with oxen and covered wagon. He farmed there on the farm now owned by John Patricks.

Peter and his mother each homesteaded forty acres of land southeast of Terrace. 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 Gurnee 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 Paul. In 1908, 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 1926 to 1928, and then took further training at St. Paul Hospital in Minneapolis. She did special nursing around Red Lake Falls, working with Dr. Roy. She also worked at Roseau and Baudette 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.

WILLIAM LEHRER FAMILY
William Lehrer was born in Aitwater, 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 Gehring at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wylie. She died in 1961.

Mr. Lehrer took a prominent part in town 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 Michigan. And have three children, Jeannette, Karen, and John. Ron is a chemist in charge of 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. Cloud, Minnesota, and teaches music and band in Thief River Falls Public Schools. Mike married Karen Longton. They have two sons, Mark and Brian.

Mr. and Mrs. Lars M. Larson

Octave and Emma Lefaivre with Lena and Georgiana.

William and Ida Lehrer

ARTUH 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. Kell 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, a butterfat and 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, 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 the time. After inspecting several farms in northwestern Minnesota, we settled east of Plummer. Since the owner in North Dakota.
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 Sturh. 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 Lemieux 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 Nordbye 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 Lemieux had nine children — two sons died at an early age; Jackie of San Diego has four children, Taddy, Jan, Julie and Crissy, and one grandson, Vincent; Mrs. Med Benoit, has two children, Audry, Mrs. Duane Hagi, and Ralph (better known as Sonny) and four grandchildren: Steve and Mark Hagi, and Larry and Rick Benoit; Alice, Mrs. Reanne Ste. Marie of Seattle, Washington, has four children.

Janyce, Sharon, Terry and Tim and two grandchildren, 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 San Diego, has two sons, Kenny and Tommy; Bobby Jean, Mrs. Dick Hobbs of Half Moon Bay, California has two children, Robbie and Lisa; Margie, Mrs. Bob Hastler of La Mesa, California has three children, Tammy, Kelly Jean and Douglas.

Ted and Bertha Lemieux wedding.


REVEREND AND MRS. J. K. LEROHL
The Leroahl 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 Leroahl served as Pastor for five congregations regularly, and for a period of time, six. They were Zion, Salem, Valle, Plummer, Erardville 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 congre-
LESSERT FAMILY

In 1896, Edward Lessert and his wife came by train from Quebec, Canada to settle in Lambton Township. They built a small house and cleared their land through the Homestead Act.

Charles Lessert, son of Edward, married to Rose Asselin in 1918. They built their home in the house his father had built, enlarging it to accommodate their family of fourteen children.

Raymond Lessert, son of Charles and Rose, was born in 1920. He grew up on the farm and helped to care for the land and cattle. In 1949, Ray married Mary Ann Nester, daughter of Andrew and Marie Nester, and they made their home in Lambton Township. Ray and Mary Ann 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.

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 Bremor Lindberg, 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 in a near relative’s home until they could afford to rent a house in Stearns 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.

Magnus and Ingeborg Johnson homesteaded in Equality Township on the northeast quarter of section three in 1895. 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 no cars in those days. Post Offices set up throughout the county at that time.

There were seven children in the Lillo family: Alfred, Herman, Oscar, August, Minnie, Clara, and Orval, as well as Mrs. Lessert.

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.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Lindberg 1944, Ages 90 and 92.

River Church.

Christian taught school for a few years, but the salary was so low he could not support 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 Clearwater 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 stalled 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 Christmas 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 them 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 school in Oakes at the time and Gannett was the nearest post office.

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 Deer Park's 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), Velada (1901) and Edgar (1904). Rev. O. A. Melby, pastor of the LeSueur River Church, who had confirmed all of the Lindberg children and confirmed the eldest girl, Sarah. Oscar died on April 2, 1924.
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 1945 and returned home.

In November, 1945, Alvin married Hilda Larson, who was born in September, 1912, daughter of Thor and Ingeborg Noreen Larson. She grew to womanhood working at home and also was employed one time in a bakery. 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 Thiel River Falls school system. Dennis and Elaine have two children, Marla and Dana Michelle. Dennis is married to the former Zean Morinville of Gonzivc. 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 the farm and worked for the 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 1st of July, 1944, Frank and Margaret Torkelson were married in Oklee by Rev. J. L. Leland. 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 two 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 20 years, first as supervisor and later as 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 Dalsland, 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 Goro and Ole Anderson who had emigrated from Norway. Goro 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 up. She 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 Plummers for 3c a pound. The Linders’ 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 farming 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 road 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 terms. 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 1955 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 Bermdji State College and taught school for six years in Little Fork-Big Falls High School.

He married Phyllis Drots of Thiel 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
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 Lovas 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 Bernesdi State College graduating from there in 1936 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, Orin, 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 fourth 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.

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 copybooks 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 Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Company. Some years later he purchased the Northland Elevator.

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 Majerus in Belgium and in 1895 they came to America and resided in Spring Valley, Illinois for one year before moving to Red Lake Falls in 1897.

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 Centrally 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 railroad, 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 took the time to be sheriff of Red Lake County between 1930 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
years at Eveleth and Hibbing, she married
William Teletsen, 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 Minnes-
ota, Washington and Oregon. She died in
1963 in Massachusetts where she had
been living with her sister, Bernice.

Next in the family came William Linnih-
han 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 time-
keeper. One job led to another so, except
for a brief business course he took in
Crookston, that was the extent of his for-
mal schooling. He married (June, 1914)
Josephine Keifenheim, the daughter of John
and Gertrude Lozer Keifenheim.

(More about the William Linnhans follows
later in this history.)

The fourth child was Raymond, who was
associated with his father in farming, buy-
ning 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, pio-
neers from Canada. Two daughters, Patri-
cia and Joyce, and a son, Terrance, were
born to them. Demerese makes her home
with her daughter and son-in-law, Pat and
Lyle Boutron, in Duluth. She is very active
and keeps in close contact with all her rela-
tives 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 Marchilon 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 min-
ing 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 short-
age of men. While living there, Ruth
was born and later, Dan and Erma. The town
was short-lived because the mine went 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 Lashia 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 defi-
nitely 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 chil-
dren attended country schools and have
some good memories of Christmas pro-
grams and picnics. Some of their teachers
were Alice LaCoursiere, St. Michael, Ida
Longtin Kees, Thelma Rustad Daily, Helen
Rosch, Mildred Sorteidaal Daily, Cornelia
Sorteidaal Deforme, and Hazel Zaiser
LaCrosse. The community was close knit;
they enjoyed sleigh rides, house parties,
skating on the river behind M. U. Latend-
resse'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
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 catch 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
drama 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 Klippen on the
fiddle tuning 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 back the days of the boot-
leggers and many farmers had stills. We
played a game called "Moonshine" in the
sand pit. One kid would be the "Feds" and
we'd choose some piece of stone or col-
ored 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 paroline 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 busi-
ness. Before, people just suspected that
you had a still; after a raid, everyone knew
Among Gladys' memories are these: “Every Christmas Grandpa Dan Linnihan or Uncle Ray would dress up like Santa Claus and come out to the farm to deliver the gifts. They were such good actors that we weren't aware of the fact for a long time. Grandpa loved to play his Irish records and dance and sing for us, and we were an entranced audience. There were many happy times spread throughout the year, including New Year's Eve and Christmas, all requiring little 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 attended 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 Bernhard A. Larson who is now Asst. Supt. of Schools in Bloomington. They have two daughters. Ruth taught school near Terrebonne, and married Leo T. Gagner, son of Eda Perrault and Zephyr Gagner, a pioneer family. Leo is a salesman for International Brotherhood of Teamsters 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 Myron Ritchey of Ferndale, Wash., who was a farmer and a member of the Republican Party. He retired in 1974. They have three sons and a daughter, who are all nurses.

Mae and Marie accompanied their parents to California in 1941, where they worked until they married. Bill worked 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 Minneapolis, Minnesota. After the war, they lived in Chicago and then moved to Port Charlotte, Florida. Mae is teaching mathematics in J.R. High School, and her husband works for Sears Roebuck & Company. They have two daughters, Marie and her husband, a civil engineer, and a daughter, a nurse.

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, 1881, in Crookston, Minnesota. His parents were living at Tilden, where his father worked on the railroad. He learned to live in an 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 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 smallest 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 Captain, and had a keen interest in the Democratic party.

At the age of 52, 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 Borodan. Joyce married Jim Dowsewell of Kerkhoven and now resides in Lake Zurich, Illinois; Terry married Beverly Flanders of Minto, North Dakota and they reside in Merrimac, Wisconsin.

LENTFVET 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 Pembina County. Their other son, Amund, purchased the northwest quarter of land in section two from Amund G. Lundun (Amund Lalone) in March of 1916. This quarter was homesteaded by Torger Gundersen (Torjel Smoan) in 1910. 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 Township. Andrew Fore and Amund also owned a threshing rig and traveled around the countryside threshing grain for farmers.

Amund Lintvet and Gunhild Gunderson (oldest daughter of Sam and Mary Gunderson) were married at the Clearwater Lutheran Church on June 17, 1922. Their first child was a son, Otto, and the 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 then, until 1952 when they moved to Silver Bay, where they own and operate their own hardware store. Their three children are Lynell (Mrs. Thomas G. Carlson), LeRoy and Julia 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 Ableid. They have two daughters, Melissa and Andrea.
PAUL LIZOTTE

Paul Lizotte was born July 19, 1885, in Louisville, Kentucky, a 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 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.](image)

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 1861 Jerome came to Red Lake County where he homesteaded in Gervais Township. In 1863 he married Addis Allard, daughter of the Mose Allards. Addie was born in Fall River, Mass., on December 17, 1861, and came to Red Lake county as a young girl.

In 1866 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 Vickers, Viola (Mrs. Ernest) Patterson, Clifford Pastor, Ida (Mrs. John Kees), Leo, Essie (Mrs. Arnold Wagner) and Harry.

Mr. Longtin died in 1931 and Mrs. Longtin in 1938.

![Leo Longtin](image)

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 1919 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 Carrier. 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 Desseller. Rosina was born May 21, 1901 in Brooks and died in 1965. She was a charter member of the Red Lake Drug F.W.V. Auxiliary.

Rosina and Leo had eight children: Ludger in Crookston; Louis, St. Hilaire; George, Oklee; Ernest (Mrs. Clarence (nee) Derr, Sr.); So. Milwaukee; Leone (Mrs. Leo Brule); Gentilly; Clarence, West Fork, Arkansas; Doris (Mrs. Orlando Unger) Buhi and Donald, Plummer.

![Leo Longtin](image)

CYNILLE 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 Marie Gerard in 1879 and raised small grains and raised stock and dairy cattle. He owned and operated a steam thresher 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 (Br. Maurin S.V.D.); Amie, Leah, Leo, Delina, Walter and Armand. The five children still living from the above named are Amie, Leah, Delina, 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 the 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.

![Cyrille Lussier](image)

OCR LOSVAAS

Oscar Lovas was born on August 27, 1892, at Fosston, came to Garnes Township with his parents and Mrs. Sam Lovas in 1906. He had four sisters, Minda, Selma, Cora and Olg.

Oscar married Dora Magnan on August 10, 1927 at Berlin, and they had one son, Samuel.

Mr. Lovas 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 Lovas](image)

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
In 1875 he married Johanna Demann who grew up in that area.

They decided to move north in 1878, and loaded all their belongings in a wagon and left for the trip. Later they took the trip with their belongings. They had to ford the Mississippi River somewhere near St. Cloud and almost lost all of their possessions.

After many long days they arrived at a place where they lived in what is now Lake Pleasant Township. At that time it was in Polk County and Crookston was the county seat, some twenty miles away. All business and shopping had to be done in Crookston. Red Lake Falls was almost non-existent.

They went to Crookston to file a claim on homestead, then built a one-room log house and a small barn. Later they built more and better buildings. The George Luxenburgs spent their entire lives on this farm.

They reared a family of eleven children, five of them, George Jr. and Emma, died in childhood due to a diphtheria epidemic. Others deceased are Annie, Sophie, John and William. Five daughters are living, Mrs. Mary Hagen at East Grand Forks, Lillie Sorrell at Duluth, Nellie Bache at Fairview, Niver, Red Lake Falls, and Jennie Northrop at her brother's farm. George Luxenburg died in August 1920 and his wife, Joanne, died in August 1923.

The following story is taken from "The History of Northern Minn." which was published in 1990.

**SAMUEL LUXENBURG FAMILY**

To pay a visit to one of the thriving agricultural districts of the Red River Valley and view the fine farms there is a pleasure, but little is realized regarding the hardships and privations endured by the early settlers of that region.

Mr. Samuel Luxenburg occupies a pleasant and well-improved estate in Lake Pleasant township and is accounted to be one of the successful and substantial farmers of Red Lake County. But to secure this valuable estate he endured more than any would have thought possible, and to view his life causes him to draw the conclusion that he would rather never gain such an estate than to labor as incessantly and endure hardships which fell to his lot as a pioneer of Northern Minn.

Mr. Luxenburg was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1827. His parents were Michael and Mary Schoenauer, Luxenburg. Both of whom died in their native land. Sam's early life was spent on a farm in Bavaria. In 1873, he came to America and moved to his brother George in Rice County, Minn. There the two brothers rented a farm, but their labors did not meet with good results from the start. They determined to change, so in 1878, with all of their worldly possessions, they started overland for Polk County, arriving with a man and wagon, pol and one hundred dollars. That same year they filed claim to land which they now occupy.

He built a log stable on the farm, but lived most of those early years with his brother who was married. The brothers cultivated their farms in partnership until 1883, when each began operating his own

**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: Johnnie, Dave, Kate, William, Dan, Frank, Mary and Clarence. Johnnie, Kate and Mary died at an early age. Johnnie died of a ruptured appendix which at that time was thought to be consumption. Kate 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 thirty-two years old. He and his wife, Edna Winstead, 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, Malcolm and Leon (deceased).

Dan married Cel Hince. He was a heavy equipment operator. They had two children, Wayne and LeRoy.

Frank married Louisa 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 Louisa's death, Frank married Dorothy OBrien. 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).

Dan died at the age of eighty-eight in 1984. 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.
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, and moved to Minnesota. My mother remembered the trip vividly, especially crossing 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 Merle.

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 Oake 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 Lulu Belle and Scotty.

My dad was the Garnes township assessor for 25 or 30 years and was also on the township boards.

In 1941 Reinheer Seeger of Red Lake Falls married Lois Medchill, the Medchill’s only child. She 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 fatter outside their own backyard.

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.

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 Minnesota.

Dad was a building contractor, 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 now has a 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 carburetor of the fire engine. Consequently, fire equipment from Red Lake Falls and Thief River Falls was on the scene before the Plummer fire truck entered 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 own mail wet!"

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 Shoemaker’s Garage, the high school band tried to become a marching band when Theresa was in school, but that project went awry. They practically had to do it-yourself tinsel-ornaments as they stumbled through the streets. One time, shortly after Theresa learned to drive, Mother sent her to the grocery store, but she got in the wrong set of rugs and ended up at the creamery instead of the grocery store.

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 Merchant Marine, Chicago.

All of us graduated from Preshing 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 bricklayer 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 two 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 Erickson and Plummer for a number of years. Carl married Betsy Thompson in December, 1897, and in 1904 they moved to Gaines Township. Mr. Magnell, one of the early settlers in Gaines 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. Gonder Heggdod), Dora (Mrs. Oscar Lovas), 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. He married Corliss Sorensen of Plummer and they have five children; Randy, Annette, Wesley, Dennis and Jason.

MEMORIES

On the farm in Gaines Township, the children of the Carl Magnell family played and enjoyed their childhood days, the golden days of youth, carefree and happy. They 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 pastor 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 get our lessons ready and memorized for Sunday morning.

Auntie, Emma Thompson, would come to stay for several weeks in the summer. Mother and Auntie would sew dresses for us girls and suits for the boys. Our nieces, Tommy Thompson and Werner and Olle 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 neighbors. 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 until late at night. Yet, these were the days on the farm that hold fond memories that we cherish. Whenever we have the opportunity to be together, we reminisce with joy about the yesteryears.

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 1974 and have lived at 136 River Drive since that time.

Mary Jean Kostboth was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on March 11, 1947. She attended college at the University of Sioux Falls. She grew up in Canistota, South Dakota, and graduated from South Dakota State University 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 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.

Marc 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 Stordal, Norway, in 1842. He arrived with his family in the United States at the age of twenty. The trip on the sailboat 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 Mahla. At that time he received his citizenship papers.

John was married to Gertrude Borstad in 1889. She was born in Stordal, Norway, in 1852. John and Gertrude had two sons, both born in Norman County, Helmer in 1892 and Bennie in 1895. In 1897 they moved to Garvais Township with horses and wagon, herding 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. Gertrude Mahla continued to live on that farm with her son, Bennie, until she died in 1946 at the age of ninety-four.

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 married Olga Kylo 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 Garvais 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.
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 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 Kepler 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 went 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 post office. 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 dreg (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."

**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. Gustav Petsch and was born on October 18th, 1876 in Perry County, Missouri. The Petsch family had emigrated from Germany with the original group of Lutherns 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 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, 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 north of Red Lake Falls and is presently owned by Maurice Derosier.

The family disposed of most of their personal property at a 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 well enough.

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 in 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.

Our first purchase Dad made in Red Lake Falls was a new walking plow that he bought from Findelstein Implement Co. Herb Findelstein 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
learn 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 Lacroix and I were hired to go ahead of the haulers to cut the flax 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 to drive the horses to market. Those boots 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 Enelowson. 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 at that time in Terrebonne. The nearest school was 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 Sigurd 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 24, 1915, until January 26, 1916. During that time the Township Chairmen said that if we had been in another neighborhood we would not have received our groceries and supplies and left 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 Steen and the Gunn Brothers, George and Don, had the other.

During World War II 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. Erna married Ivan 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 Oldendord 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 Oakes on November 1, 1923 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 lived so long on the beautiful farm I grew up with.
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 has lasted 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 and as a member of 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 grandchild, and he has photos to prove his kills. Although he is unable to hear the stories of his fishing days, telling 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 enjoyment on his fishing trips, you will often find him watching a baseball game on TV and listening to another on the radio. In order to keep her mind off this, 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 the farm taken 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 the farm taken 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, Meloni and Wil- tard, 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 1/4 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 straws, straw piles and work horses, are things of the past as combines and barn cleaners have taken over. Milking cows have 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 LaCoste, near the John Schindler farm. He married Jessie Gervais, of Minneapolis, and nine children were born to them: Bolla, 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 township. He was very conservative and light-fisted. Everyone had to work very hard. They finally gave in to acquiring a windmill 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 Ildge and Eddie 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; Eleanor, (Mrs. Glen Fellman) Red Lake Falls; Valenan, MN; Iron; Genevieve (Mrs. W. D. Dyair), Concord, California; Duane, Great Falls, Montana; Marion (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 John Marchildon.

On June 26, 1952, Gilbert Marchildon died of a heart attack. After his death, Mary Marchildon returned to Minnesota and lived with her son Valenan at Mt. Iron, Minnesota, until his marriage in 1960, when she returned to her native Red Lake Falls.

Mary was 52 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 Penetangushere, 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 1899 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 Dace; Mayne, 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. Leo married Zephyrine Breiger (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 Mayne. Mrs. Thomas Hines.

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 1929 on the farm presently owned by Herb Johnson. Clarence attended St. Joseph's School and the Crookston Agricultural College.
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 Barrett 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. William 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 twins boys, Glen and Joseph. LeRoy is employed at Red Lake Electric and has served three years in the U.S. Army. June (b. 1947) is employed as a Librarian for the University of North Dakota. Her three children are Patrick, Steven and Kelli Joanne. 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 II, returning in 1946. In 1947 Clarence began employment with the Red Lake Falls Street Department, a position he 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 Claritha 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.

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. Adolphe Cota), Red Lake Falls, and Kenneth, deceased in 1975.


WILLIAM MARLEAU SR.

William Marleau was born in east Canada in 1882 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 Brown's 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 Brown's 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 Marleau), 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 garage 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 Cecilia Pouliot in Quebec. Later they and their sons, Gilbert (J.F.), Eugene, and Napoleon moved to Cochran.

Friends of the Mathews in the nearby town of Hamel were Louis Huot and his wife Eupheme, and their children Mary,
Louise, DeLima, and a son Zephyrin, Edward, all of whom were born in Hamel. This family was in the group with the Mathews family who moved to Red Lake county.

Fibbert Mathews and Mary Huot were married at Huot Junction, Minnesota in 1888 when he was twenty-one and she was 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). 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 organizations of the professions. The other children were Alfred, Oeline, William, Odelon, Cora, Walter, Clifford, and Rosaline.

When Fibbert and Mary were first married they operated a farm and expanded their interests to a country store at Dorothy. Fibbert also became a member of the school board, postmaster, officer of the rail system, and manager of a nearby gravel pit owned by the Northern Pacific Railroad near the location where the N.P. train stopped on its trips between Red Lake Falls and Crookston. The gravel was shipped via rail and loaded onto a carriage. The train also had a turntable 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 soil 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 "whee hours," with Fred calling the squares, O.B. playing the organ and drum. Sometimes neighbors would bring accordions and mouth organs to add to the music. Among the neighbors were the late Odelon Patoun, the late Doyene, Marcotte, and Bertrand families.

When the tiny settlement was incorpo-rated into a village, dad suggested the name "Dorothy."

Fibbert and his family moved to Wylie when additional work operations were changed in that section. It was at Wylie that O.B. met Theophile (Ted) Fourier, a young prize-winning cheese maker and married him at Red Lake Falls in 1910. They had six children: three girls, Vern, Lawrence, Lester, and three boys, Clarke, Andrea, and Ruby. Some of their descendants still live in Red Lake County.

Fibbert was a rural mail carrier between Red Lake Falls and Wylie for twenty years. When he was busy with farm chores, occasionally Mother would drive and deliver the mail to the farm patrons. Our brother Walter sometimes substitute. The summer was sixteen years old, she "drove" the route. "Pete" or "George" were the name of the older 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 in 1922. They took part in Glee Club, plays, operettas, and were among the "reporters" for "Lafayette Life" — a weekly school section of the Daily 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 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 Fibbert 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 MATHISON AND GERTIE LANGLEY MATHISON

The farm in Equality Township on which the Mathisons now live was first owned by Albert Pufahl, who settled here in 1904. Martin and Kari Gunderson Math- son, John's parents, purchased it from Pufahl 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 Anderson 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 Equality Township which he bought from an uncle, Lars Gunderson, who is now deceased.

John married Gertie Langie, a daughter of Tarle Langie and Bert G. Hegland Langie, on March 6, 1937. They have two sons, Lurverne and Darryl.

Darryl attended the Oklee High School in 1955 and served two years in the United States Navy. While he was stationed in the army at New York, he visited relatives in Sartell, Minnesota. Lurverne married Gloria Anderson of Trail on May 2, 1959. They now live in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and have two children — Anita, Linda, and Lorraine. Darryl graduated from Oklee High School in 1958. He married Arlene Vaid of Highland in September 23, 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 Mathison.

The Mathisons 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 Tynes Bergen, Norway. In 1900 Kari Hegland Gunderson also came to Armstrong, Iowa from Tynes Bergen. They were united in marriage the same year.

Martin came to Equality township in 1905 and bought a farm from Albert Pufahl. Martin's son, John Mathson, and his wife, Gertie Langie now live there. Martin's farm consisted of 240 acres, 128 of which were improved and 112 of which were in pasture. In 1909 they added 160 acres of land to the farm.

Martin lived in Equality township until 1908 and bought a farm from Albert Pufahl. Martin's son, John Mathson, and his wife, Gertie Langie now live there. Martin's farm consisted of 240 acres, 128 of which were improved and 112 of which were in pasture. In 1909 they added 160 acres of land to the farm.

Mrs. Mathon died February 2, 1932 and Martin died July 7, 1934 of an accident when he was killed in a car accident. He was driving home from a Grain Elevator in Oklee. The driver of the car, Inga Andreaas, died July 9, 1934 and was laid to rest in 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.

Martin and his wife, Irene Singletary, live in Trail, Minn. They have one son, Ronald, who is married to Lillian Johnson, and has two sons. They also have two grandchildren.
HENRY AND CLARA MCANULTY FAMILY

James McAnulty, born in Donegal 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 1910, filled in a term for resigning Albany DeForge and served a third term in the 1920's. He later worked for many years selling school equipment and supplies for Waterman-Watery Company, a Minneapolis firm, and for St. Paul Book and Stationary, 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 Gerva, 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 on the train to visit her sister and friends then from 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 1953. Donald died in 1963. Donald still owns land in Terrebonne Township and is a frequent visitor to Red Lake Falls with his family... his wife, nieces Bette Lou Krueger of Red Lake Falls, and their sons, James and Thomas.

CARSTEN (SPIKE) MEAD

Carston (Spice) Mead, born Christmas Day, 1892, was a 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.

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 August 23, 1956 and Patrick born on February 25, 1958.

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 Keflenheim at Red Lake Falls. She was also the daughter of pioneer Red Lake Falls residents, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Keflenheim, Sr., who had come to Red Lake Falls in 1899 from Wabasha, North Dakota where they had managed a bonanza farm. Mr. Keflenheim 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 Keflenheims operated the Grandview Hotel and then he was employed at the Steinert Mill for

Inga, Melvin and Louis Mathson.

Spike Mead leading the parade.

Carsten and Frances' 40th anniversary.
of several years. Frances Keifer 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 back in the 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 Halt. He served as marshal in every one of the events he attended from 1918 and always on horseback, until 1957 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 1947-1954 and was a member of the commercial Club. He was a member 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 a member of the Red Lake County commission from the fourth district, Red Lake County Fair Board director, government appeal agent for the Red Lake County Disabled Veterans Service Board, director of the Red River Valley Winter Show at Crookston, and past president of the Sunny Rain Tuberclular Sanitarium 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 the Grand Lodge 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 Order of the Eastern Star, a member of the Shrine Club of Thief River Falls. He also held membership in Kern 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 1954, he was appointed 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 1944. He was discharged in November 1945 and the following year joined the Naval Reserve, remaining active as Squadron Commanding Officer of Helicopter Squadron HS511 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, at the University of Minnesota and received her 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 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 last eight years. He joined the department in 1950. He is the past president of the State 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 1950. Both are married and living 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 Ulm, Minnesota. Margaret married Hubert Ulm and lived in Alameda, 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, Karol, Merle, Adeline, and Marvin. Kenneth married Violet Rhodes 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 Okeel until they moved to Van Nuys, California to reside with their daughter and son-in-law, Lois and Reiner Seeger.

They moved to Havre, Montana and lived in Havre, Montana where he was employed by the railroad for 47 years.

Their family consisted of a son and three daughters.

**Peder Medchills 1906. Martin, Bertha, Clara and John. Back: Amanda, Melvin and Victor.**
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, Verne, and Jeanette. Of these three children, Orlo, Thomas, and Verne have lived in Oklee all their lives.

Oro Melby joined his father in business in 1936. He married Mildred Shetlerly 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 Bernette Seeger of Oklee purchased the Oklee lumber yard from the Daniel 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, Minnesota. 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. Don Greulich of Chicago, Illinois. They have two sons, Peter and James. Harold married Estelle Joki of Minneapolis. Their five children are, Karen, Stuart, Mary, Mark, and Brian.

In 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Melby, have been employed at the Melby store for a number of years and have 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 Oklee City Council.

OLE MELBY FAMILY

TOM O. MELBY FAMILY

Tom O. Melby came to this country from Norway in the late 1860's. In St PAUL, 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 St PAUL 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 Scow Lake 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 belly stove.

The town site’s Cookie 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 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 Orin, now deceased, Olga and Verna, and Wilton of Van Nuys, California.

The 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 Ole Melby and Andor Melby. To this day the store operates on the same location with Olet and Orel still supplying the needs of the community.

ORRIN AND VIOLA BERRY

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Melby

Pilagier. They have three children and live in Anoka where Allan works as a lab technician for General Mills. David, (b. 1940) married Gloria Ellefson 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 Olsen, are the parents of three children. Michael, (b. 1948) married Susan Rost of McIntosh. They own a farm site in Terrebonne township. Michael is employed at Detroit Mobile Home Corp. and his wife at Hilcrest Nursing Home in Red Lake Falls. Mary, (b. 1949) married Don Rindahl of Oklee. They are both teachers in the Oklee 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. The Rindahl married Dale Stager. They are both teachers in Oklee and have one daughter. Carolyn, (b. 1954) is married to Roy Rustad 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.

JOSEPH MERCIL FAMILY HISTORY

Joseph Mercil was born in 1869 the son of Caroline Clamont 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; and four sisters — Philanadce (Mrs. Ephraim Audette), Elizabeth (Mrs. Exzein Audette), Caroline (Mrs. Oliver St. Martin), and Mary Louise (Mrs. Peter Dulfat). They settled on a farm in Gentry, Minnesota, where they farmed and raised ten children.

Another family by the name of Peter Leavere came from Buffalo, Minnesota and also settled in the Gentry area. With them was a daughter named Addie whom Joseph married in 1895.

They then took a homestead in Gentry 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 included the following: a daughter born in 1896 who passed away at two months, then came Leon, Medor, Louis, Leah, (Mrs. Leah Doust жидкет), Rose Anna, (Mrs. Robert Gagner), Mary Louise (Mrs. Wallace Fournier), Wilfred, and Ralph.

During those years they bought more land to a total of 640 acres. The cattle log house was replaced by a large barn which was 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 very 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 oat 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 working 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
In the evening, the granary, with removable partitions, served as the dance hall. A blind fiddler, a piano player named Remy Per- rias, 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 eldest 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 Doast 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; Everett, of Duluth; Lloyd, rural mail carrier of Brooks; Donna Mae, Mrs. Wiliard Bergeron, of Oklee; Delias; Mrs. Ronald Paradis of Brooks; Madeline, Mrs. Parnell Tibbert, 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 Sanitarie 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 Bergman Creamery of 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 Phillip's 66 Station in 1958. Twelve years later he purchased the 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 Seid); 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 doctor 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 Fossom to Herbert and Grace Lethol. Besant had been the Soc Line Roadside station agent at Gunflint Lake since 1938 and the only one in western Minnesota under the influence of his brother. John Mersy, who made his home in Oakey for many years and was the Soc 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 were on the Assiniboine-Odyssey line of France in the late 1800’s. Bert’s mother spent her last years at Gwynn, and is buried next to her in the cemetery at St. Charles Catholic Church near Trail. Bert married the former Grace Lethol, daughter of George and Rose Lethol, in 1929. 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 Oakey in the 1920’s. Bert and his wife had six children. Ruth (Mrs. Merle Raffetto), 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.

Gillum Mersy was born in 1934 to John and Pauline Gilmour Mersy. John and Pauline were both born in Grand Forks, North Dakota in December of 1924 to William and Aileen Freer Gilmore. William’s father was a farmer and operated a farm on the Great Northern Railroad and had moved to the Grand Forks area from Canada. Aileen was born in St. Paul but spent her childhood with family in Grand Forks and 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 Mersys met while both were students at the University of North Dakota. Pat was secretary to Father Robert Brumner of the Newman Center, at the time that David was 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 fraternity, received academic honors, and Alpha Theta Lambda in Chemistry and the University of Minnesota 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 to 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 Medicine and community medicine at that institution. He had additional 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.

She 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 Pal and Dave received Phi Beta Kappa keys was deemed unusual enough to warrant a feature article in the Grand Forks Herald. In 1973, Dave graduated at the Alfred University Institute of Minnesota 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. Mary’s Church in Grand Forks as 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. He was educated in Red Lake Falls. In January, 1911, in the fall of 1910, the family moved to Red Lake Falls in the fall of 1911. Clarence and Josephine were married in Louisville Township and later Mrs. Meyer and four children. Clarence, Luella, Anna, and John, accompanied by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Latham, and a brother, Vernon, came to this vicinity in the spring of 1911 and to wind chopper land.

Clarence attended school in Red Lake Falls and after graduating went on 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 Assn 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 they bought a house in Red Lake Falls, and built a barn 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. Turkeys were three dollars each in an incubator and raising them in chicken houses heated with wood or coal stoves. No electricity at that time. They were successful, and the turkeys were dressed and sold to Land O’Lakes in Thief River Falls helped them through the hard times.

In 1936 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 independently 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 1949 bought the garage and opened Meyers Service Station operating this business until 1961 when they sold it to Clifford Drerup. 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. Janette (Mrs. Harold Brainerd), Kenneth of Des Moines, Iowa, Dorothy (Mrs. Harold Ford), and Gladysce (Mrs. Jack Lacroco) 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 now 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 farmed. Sjur was married in 1892 and had a son, Christian, 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 from the homestead and became permanent residents. 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 (Mrs. G. Emil Quick), Johanna, Nels, Anton, Carrie (Mrs. O. A. Calkins), Paulina, and Agnes (Mrs. Charles Christianson) of Deerwood. Later on a suggestion was made to change the family name to Sjur’s father’s name, Mikel, and the name became Mickelson, or Mickel’s son.

Grandfather Harbalen brought one cow with him from Fertile. Later a call 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 of flour was the most expensive item. The 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.

Mickelson helped organize the James Gilbertson farm was organized in 1900 and moved to Plummer in 1904. The present Plummer
ARNOLD MILLER — ALICE ROY FAMILY

Arnold Miller, son of Ernest and Minnie Miller, married Alice Roy, daughter of Joseph Roy, Sr. and Rosaline 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 Oliver ferry 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 E.1.9. farm, one mile south of their last home, now owned by Magnus Knutson. They lived there for eight years, and two sons, Bernard and Vernon, were born there. When Arnold's mother died in 1939, Arnold left the farm which he 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. Schmitz. The Miller 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 Steinmetz farm at the north end of Main Street in 1949 and operated it for four years. The Miller family built a house and moved to this farm in the fall of 1949.

QUICK

On our way to Red Lake Falls we glance to the south as we pass the place west of Robert Miller's, opposite to the church where Russell lived. The house was built in 1923.

Quick family for Children: Monte, Kris, Sherri, and Cathy, all at home.

DORRIS E. MILLER FAMILY

Dorris E. Miller and Georgia N. (Farmer) Miller came to Red Lake Falls in 1930 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, aged 10 years. Their daughter Linda Lee was born in Crookston in December 1960.

The Millers have enlarged the garage operation and built a new house 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

Dorris 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 some families from the east that came here about the same time; the Allards, Porters, Emards and Panades.

Levi had four sons and one daughter; Sam, Joseph, Napoleon, Peter and Martha. Joseph Miller was born in 1871 in Platts- ville, New York. He and his brother Nap- olon both became barbers. Napoleon opened the 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 Frances 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 1964. 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; Ralph, 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 Peter operated a barbershop and liquor store. In 1939 they moved to Grand Forks where they had a neighborhood grocery store. They have four children: Jack of Lompoc, California; Mrs. Bruce Benkusky (Yvonne) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; twins, Michael of St. Paul and Mary, and Mrs. Jim Kainz of Crystal, Minnesota. Elsie retired at the home of her daughter, Mary Drees.

Percy was born in 1905. He learned bar- bering 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 Gillilan 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 Bencel. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War Two and was a barber 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 in 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 Newcom Air Base and Fay- ette, 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 bar- bered for several years. He then moved to Shakopec, Minnesota and has operated shops in Bloomington, Minnesota, where he still works. Ralph and Rosalie (Patchy) have five children: Pam, Mrs. Adam Kol- kauki, of Santa Barbara, California; Nan, Christopher and Jackie at home. John died in 1957 at age five. They have one grand- child.

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

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 Cohasset, Minnesota, where he earned his license. He heard about the new community of Oklee and decided to open a new town near her. Nap's barber shop.

He set up his shop for business and although he changed locations a few times, he barbecued in Oklee for forty-seven years. His first customer was Ole Melby and in 1958, when he retired, his last cust- omer was again Ole Melby.

On October 15, 1912, Nap married Rose Hin- cee, the daughter of Peter Hinnee and Rosilda Asselin. Eight children were born to them of which five are living: 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

ROBERT MILLER FAMILY
Bob and Lorraine Miller began their married life by building a house out of a four-teen 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 Delina 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 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 acres 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 every one work together and be able to fill in for one another when he or she is unable.

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 and the barn was completed. A 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 was a member of the Farm Bureau, National Sunflowers Association, North-western 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 as the President of the School 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 completed.

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 Patty and Becky, daughters of the Millers, won the title of runners-up in the Sno Fest Contests. Patty in 1972 and Becky in 1974.

Mrs. Miller, the former Lorraine Lyken from Graton, is active in church work, the Friendly Circle Homemakers Club and the Co-op. In 1968-1971, she was a secretary at the Minnesota State Fair. Mrs. Miller was a 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 active in church work, the Friendly Circle Homemakers Club and the Co-op. In 1968-1971, she was a secretary at the Minnesota State Fair. Mrs. Miller was a consultant and bookkeeper for Educational Research and Development Council. Her main role is wife, mother and homemaker.

The Millers left the Red River Valley, Graton 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 Garnett Township. With them were their children, Lillie, Blanche, Elinor, Ellsworth and Eva. A daughter, Charlotte, was born on the farm in Garnett.

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 have three children. Eva married Richard Farrington. They lived on a farm in section fifteen of Emardville Township. They have two daughters. Eva married Richard Harrington. They have two children.

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.

John 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 steamboat and settled on a farm in Belle Plaine and later in Park Rapids.

Edward Moran, Jr. (b. 1853 — d. 1943) moved to Red Lake Falls where he managed a grain elevator. He married Mary Bracy (b. 1873 — d. 1938), the daughter of P. J. and Emeline Bracy. They have four children. 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 purchased cattle for years engaged in farming around Dugdale.

Edward Moran, Jr. died in Crookston in 1943 at the age of eighty-nine years. Mary Bracy Moran died in Minneapolis on July 16, 1938 at age sixty-seven.

Lloyd Moran was a veteran of World War One. He married Rose Marie 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 five children: David, Edward, Robert, Janice, and John. They lived in Mentor, Marion, Mrs. Francis Beaucumere, of Fargo and Donna, Mrs. Erwin Souve, of Minneapolis; Grace taught school in this area and in Montana. She

ALVIN J. (KELLY) MORAN

Alvin J. (Kelly) Moran, son of Edward Moran, Jr. and Mary Bracy, was born in 1893. He worked on his father's farm and received his 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 Riecke (b. 1905) and they had a grain and dairy farm near Marceau Corner. In the winter they hauled sand and straw and worked on oil wells. They farmed in the Dugdale area and later moved to the Kellogg area where William works for the Occidental Seed and Fertilizer Co. Marjorie and Bill have six children: Preston, William, John, Timothy, Tommy and Tammy (twins) and
MORINVILLE HISTORY

These tales were told to me by my uncle, Telephore 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, Euchariste Turcotte. They migrated down near Montreal in 1879 and had five children, Jane, George, Telephore, Joe (or Pete, as he was called), and Josephine, who died at an early age.

At that time, Crookston had the most 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 sold their new homestead, 50 miles away, to chop cordwood for five 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, and 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 Florence lived in Red Lake Falls until their deaths. I married Laura Marie Dutault 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 Euchariste Turcotte, who moved to Red Lake County in 1879 from Canada. His
Joseph (deceased), Laurie, William (deceased), Patricia, Terri, John and Mary. Emmett, 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 is the fifth child, purchased the family farm in 1955 and has made his home there with his wife Yvonne Mercier. They have 6 children: Linda Wyckoff, Barbara Rodahl, Sharleen, Valerie, Rod and Peggy.

Donna (Mrs. T. A. Walker) has three children, Mari, Dianna and Thomas. William (W. J. Jr.) lives in southern Minnesota with his wife Sheila O'Brien and their six children Doninda, Paul, Genine, Joseph, Megan and Shanice.

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, which 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 1/2 mile north of Brooks in 1949. He farmed until his retirement in 1955. He 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 Mercier 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 Mercier, and Terry, 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 herd of Hereford cattle.

Isaac Morissette

My great-grandfather and great-grandmother were born in Canada where they spent their entire lives. It was on a small farm near the city where my grandfather, Isaac Morissette, and his four brothers, Octave, George, Xavier and John were 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 factory. There he met his second wife, Mary Craite, my mother, who was employed 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 eleven 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 1930.

Uncle Alcid owned and operated a general merchandise store 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 Lamie owned and operated a general merchandise store in Plummer for seven years. He is now retired and lives in Hill City, Minnesota.

My father, Wilfred Morissette, was engaged as section foreman in Havre, Montana, during the year of 1905. In 1910 when the railroad was built through Plummer he became section foreman there. He worked there for one year 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, Marie Morinville, and father were married on May 3, 1915, in Plummer. It was there that my sisters, Dorothy, Ber- l, Isabel, 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 1919.

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 Massachusetts. Louella, Ber, Isabel and Louella made their homes in California. Doris and am the only ones of the family still living in Red Lake County.
On June 12, 1939, I married Joseph Aselin 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) in St. Cloud, Minnesota; and Donald (b. 1946) lives in Fote, Minnesota. 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 and is 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, Rosanne 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 1958 when her family moved to Polk County. After going through three years of St. Joseph’s School in Red Lake Falls and the Red Lake Falls School, Kathy attended the Eriksen public school to graduation. She is the third oldest of eight children.

Following their marriage, Fred and Kathy lived in Red Lake Falls until October 1963 when they moved to Emardville Township and purchased a farm 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 1962 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.

Husband and wife: 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 Councilman 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 enrolled in the College of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. After she received her B.S. degree in four years from Isabella Thoburn College — an exclusive college for girls that was established by an American woman, Isabella Thoburn. For her post-graduate teacher’s training degree B.Ed., Ivy attended the Christian Training College — another institution established 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 was awarded a 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 education 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. (Provincial 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 felt 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 Education. Jyoti Mukand was seventeen years old on February 20, 1976, and will be graduated from Lafayette High School in 1976. She 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 like his father. Dr. 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 gratefully accept here, but at the same time proud and happy — so are we!

William and Janet Muldoon

William D. Muldoon came to Red Lake Falls in 1917 to become a partner in the law firm of Kruza 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 was born October 23, 1908, in Kossuth county, Whitemore, 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 dance 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 years, then stayed home to plow — he is still plowing.

David moved with his parents to Estherville in Emmett county. He was a rural youth delegate to Washington, D.C. from Emmett county along with eighty-six others from towns, touring on two buses.

Danny and his brother, Sam, were the Emmett county delegates 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 Clemenson, his wife, from Fire township, Grand Forks, came to Red Lake County and in January 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
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 Crematory in Fergus Falls and then attended Alexandria Area Technical Vocational School in the fall to study fluid power.

Ron met Janet Marie Ollsen 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 Ollsen. 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 worked in Alexandria and Jan as a legal secretary in Fergus Falls. On December 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 & Lennick, L.L.P.

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 rented their home from the Al Amundson and sold to Bethany Lutheran Church.

WILLIAM NIELAND

William Nieland was born at Arlington, Minnesota, December 13, 1886, the son of Frederick and Clara Kutzweg 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 WWI and was a charter member of Gunner Aslend 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 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, Gage and Red School at Wylie. For four years she worked at the Matt Skula 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 Falls in 1912. He was hired as a hired hand in the popular Poplar Township through V. M. Higginbotham Realty, 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, Lea and family, knew some of the history of the 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 Lake Falls where he met 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 hard rowing 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 Elm 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, followed Pete. Mrs. Millard and son, Joyce, migrated here at the same time ran a boarding house for a while in Red Lake Falls. Pete's wife, Inez, died in 1923. Later he married Beissie 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 attended 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 (Agricultural Society) for many years.

J. NICHOLAS NIMESGERN FAMILY

Nimesgern Grocery, 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, from 1884 to 1887, his brother, P. J. Nimesgern, was in business with him, and later his nephew, William Nimesgern. In the early 1900’s, Nimesgern had the largest stock of furniture in the northwest. Nimesgern also made a specialty of shipping in fruit in the fall and bought and shipped potatoes.

Leonidas J. Nicholas (Nick) died in 1923.

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 Naurrer, 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 (1925), 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 Kelly in St. Joseph 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 weeks, Father Jerry worked for 17 years as a counselor and assistant camp director at Lake Trails Camp, Cuyuna, the wilderness camp for teenagers which he founded, together with Father William Mehrens in 1952. Quite a number of Red Lake Falls boys and girls have camped in that program in its 22 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 1971.

In September, 1968 he was transferred to Park Rapids, and then to Badger where he also served Benwood and Leominster. Then in June of 1971, Bishop Kenneth Poteau 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 of the annual Sno-King, the site location of Timberland Ski Area, the Youth Council, the Arena Project, the Boy Scouts, Medical Services Committee, Health Planning Council, Volunteer Ambulance Service and Lions Club.

Canoes of the local rivers, skiing and snowmobiling have been some of his favorite sports in his spare time. These have been joined by motorboating and snowmobiling. To date, he has covered all 48 adjoining states and six Canadian provinces on motorcycle camping trips. He 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 provinces, as well as the Swiss Alps, Bavaria and Austria on two wheels.

In addition to his parish assignments, his diocesan responsibilities include directing the Diocesan Office of Communications, producing the weekly Diocesan radio program, “Local and National,” and he is currently a Senator-at-Large and President of the Diocesan 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 Upfer 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 Gonic; Leslie of Oklee; Milton of Anoka; Sylvia, Mrs. Harold Maier of 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, Russell 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. He first came to Chicago, 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 Valderes, Norway, when she was sixteen years old. First she came to Iowa, then to Milan, Min-
resida. 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 Gnowich; and Palmer and North 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 a farm in Equality Township, section thirty-six, Red Lake County. A few years later they bought one hundred and seventy acres in Johnson Township, Polk County, enlisting their farm to four hundred and eighty acres.

Russell was a threshing for nineteen years before becoming 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 South 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 Marohan of Litchfield. Their children are Daniel and Nancy.

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 and work in hotels.

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 children, Dorine (Mrs. George Lachance), Una (Mrs. Joe Krause), Carroll (Mrs. George Murray), Theola (Mrs. Dallas Filip), Verla (Mrs. Eugene McLaughlin), and Jayne (Mrs. Duane Tischert) 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 home 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. Ann'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 VANOY NOVAK**

Walter J. Novak, Red Lake County farmer, was born August 7, 1911, to Mary and Frank Novak in Tabor, North Dakota. They were of Czech origin.

He attended grade school through the eighth grade in a country school which was 3/4 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 Sandstone Township for 19 years, after which they purchased a farm in Poplar River Township. They worked on the farm, which had been known as the Arntz farm years ago, was purchased from Joe and Pearl Peterson.

On October 4, 1956 the Novaks and their six children moved to their present farm located 3 miles west of Brooks in Poplar River Township. Two more children were born to them to complete their family of eight children. Their children are Jerome of Berndt, Leonard and Gerald of Sven, Mrs. Ray Walter (Reinette) of Plummer, Walter D., Raymond, Anna, and Donna at home.

Walter Novak worked for 22 years with several construction companies from Grand Forks, North Dakota. He worked on 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 20 cows with the help of the family. He also raises feeder cattle.

Walter D. and Raymond work at Arco Enterprises, Inc. in Thief River Falls and help with the farming. Anita is attending North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota, and Donna is a sophomore at Plummer High School.

**JOHN NOYES FAMILY**

John Noyes, a pioneer in the Brooks area was born in Merriman, Wisconsin, November 6, 1882 to Fred Noyes and Francis Barlow Noyes. He grew up on the farm in the Merriman-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, Fialto, California; Hazel, (Mrs. Ray Perris), Red Lake Falls; Eunice (Mrs. Armond Champagne) and Guy of South Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Russell, Brooks; Lorraina (Mrs. H. L. Barber), Roseda, California; and Vernon, San Diego, California.

**JACOB OLLIE FAMILY**

Jacob Ollie and Hilda Svalas emigrated from Finland to the United States in the year of 1902 and settled in Ironwood, Michigan, where they were married in 1908. They 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 1928 and they live on the homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ollie
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 Anandale High School, Anandale, 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 cancer of the colon 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, 1890 in Emardville Township and is a lifelong 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 trucks. In 1931 he bought his first truck—a Ford, in which he installed a transmission to give it a six-cylinder engine. 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 eldest son, George Olson.

Ingvald Olson was married on June 9, 1936 to Ruth Mildred Kingsland of Searske. They are the parents of ten children. Hansa is married to Gerald Green of Minnesota; and is a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Amy is married to Richard Rygg of Grand Forks, North Dakota. They have ten grandchildren.

Several sons served in the Marine Corps: Alfred, Marlan, Clifford and Norman. Marlan, Clifford and Norman all served a tour of duty in South Vietnam.

The oldest 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 Schools from 1940 to 1944, and in 1945-46 was Elementary Principal. He taught special education from 1946-47.

Under his administration, a new addition was added to the school, including a new 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 1929. North Dakota in 1935. Mr. Olson graduated from Valley 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 1950 from Fairmont, North Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson have three children: Marilyn, graduated from Lafayette High School and is now a 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 live 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 Hahnner Clement and Beverly Hahnner Varrie. This continued for ten more years after her marriage to Louis Omann in 1960.

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 Sylvester Schmitz. In January, 1976 she moved into her new home on Hamilton Ave. N.E. built by nephews, the Schmitz Construction Co.
George G. Orr

Love of adventure and the close friendship of the Ed. L. Healy family brought George G. Orr to the Red Lake Falls area in 1902. He was a native of the state of Maine and had homesteaded on a tree claim in Lyon County Southwest of Marshall, Minnesota. He, his wife and four daughters, lived on this claim for several years. Following the death of his wife, George married Miss Maren Christenson who had come to the United States from Denmark.

On October 2, 1902 the Orr family came to Red Lake Falls and settled on a wooded farm, three and a half miles east of town, along the road going to the Red Lake Falls. The Orrs were a source of entertainment, especially when the Log Drives came down from the north each spring. The Winnebago, or crockery, was set up on this land and there would be weeks of excitement as the loggers guided the logs to the banks and on their way to the sawmills. The last log drive in this location was in the spring of 1910.

There were no buildings on the farm that the Orrs purchased but a good set of log buildings had been vacated on a neighboring farm and the family moved there until a log cabin could be built.

Mr. Orr was active in the Community, serving on the Second Board and Treasurer of Gear’s Township from 1903 until his death in April 1917. Mrs. Orr passed away in August 1933.

There were six children in this family, of whom four were born in town. George H. Orr passed away in October 1925, Edmund in January 1955, and Bertha in February 1970. Three members of the family remaining are Mrs. Margaret Kirkby (Elgin), Grace Orr, and Mrs. Clifford (Eliza) Christenson of Red Lake Falls.

Dr. Ostendorf

We were residents of Red Lake Falls from June 1916 until June 1931 when we moved to South St. Paul, where Dr. Ostendorf had taken a position with the U.S. Government as a physician in the various meat packing plants there. We had been missionaries in Red Lake Falls for seven 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 school superintendent. I also was a member of Rebeca Lodge and Dr. Ostendorf and my husband were members 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 school, Mrs. Martin (Alice) Moeback, Mrs. Florence Green, Shulte, 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 Lindseth. Changes in times and modes 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 Espel, Germany on November 12, 1857, and came to the United States via boat from Quebec, arriving in Duluth June 3, 1890. He 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 lives on the North Side in Red Lake Falls. Mrs. Pahlen passed away in 1908. Twelve children were born to them: John W. Pahlen (Jack), Dick, Mary (Mrs. Martin Ford), Etta (Mrs. James Ford), and Anna (Mrs. John Schmitz), five children died in infancy, daughter Margaret in 1916 and son Theodore in 1934. 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 Serrings, Belgium, on January 17, 1884, and came to the United States with his parents in 1889 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 1914. He moved to Plummer in 1920 and was associated with Julius Pilcher of the Pilcher Land Office. Being an energetic and hard-working 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 Alice H. Kendrick in 1911 and one son, Edward, was born to them in 1913. Mrs. Pahlen passed away 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 graduated with the class of 1912 and had taught school for two years. In 1917, John took over the construction business, and he and his son, Russell, operated the business known as Plahen and Co. John (Jack) served on the Plummer School Board for many years and was Democratic Chairman of Red Lake County for six 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 Mildred Anderson 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 Oden and they have a home in Bismarck, North Dakota.

John Pahlen died in 1949 and Dagny in 1958.

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 a bombardier with the 399th Bomb Group in the Eighth Air Force. He was a partner in his father's 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 Pahlen family are members of the Brooks-Plummer Presbyterian Church.

Jack and Dagny Pahlen 1930
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 3 1/2 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 meat 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 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 $1.50.

Dad also had a lumber camp and me market at Blackduck and cattle were shipped there from the farm by way of McIntosh.

In 1909 when the Soo Line surveyed through the area to locate 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 roads of Oklee.

Many people came walking by our farm during the early days. Some would stop and ask for food or 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 the names of the children. She used 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 Aldra were on the teaching staff of the Oklee Public School at that 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 foot 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 he 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 who 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

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. 1948); Garry (b. 1947); Theresa (b. 1950); Steve (b. 1951); Ronald (b. 1952); Mary (b. 1955); Jerry (b. 1957); Alan (b. 1959); Tim (b. 1960); Pat (b. 1962); Wayne (b. 1963) and Lisa (b. 1967).

ALPHONSE PAQUIN FAMILY

Alphonse and Edwarda 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: Louisa, Lydia, Agnes, Joseph, Leah and Aristide (twins), Edmond, Celestine, Jean and Henry (who died at age one).

In 1910, many of their neighbors became ill, and Mrs. Paquin and Louisa 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.

Louisa 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: Marcela, Marie, Genvieve and Kenneth (now deceased).

Jean married John Monin. 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. Celestine 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 Cloquet, Minnesota, Agnes in California, Celestine in Thief River Falls and Jean in Colorado. The other members of the Alphonse Paquin family are deceased.

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); 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
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.

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 obstructive appendicitis. 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 Harron. There he was taught the cobbler trade. For twelve years he worked for the Harrons.

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 LaBissoniere'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 canvases 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 Steiert, Red Lake Falls; James, an electrical engineer with Aerospace by Arcaida, 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' 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 Steieter'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 blocks 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!"

PARADIS FAMILY
Ernest Paradis and Dora Launey 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. Onazime Champagne) of South Milwaukee; Robert, Little Rock, Arkansas; Ruth (Mrs. Fred) of Gorham; South Milwaukee; Mark of Terrebonne; Don of South Milwaukee; Irene (Mrs. Richard Mussati) of South Milwaukee; Grace (Mrs. Duane Stucy) of South Milwaukee; and Patricia (Mrs. Glen Broader) of Las Vegas, Nevada. Another son, Tom, died November, 1968.
Mark married Donna Baetz 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
years in Japan. In 1947, Sergeant Paradis was discharged and began farming operations with his father. In November, 1949 he married Della 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 battlestars 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 Town of Brooks.

For the past decade or more, Ron and Della 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 that 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 Kauhaagen 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 (Becovitch) 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 El Paynter.

Rose was born in Terrebonne, the daughter of Archille and Delina Genereaux 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.
AUREL PARENTEAU AND GLORIA HANSON PARENTEAU

Aurelius Joseph Parenteau was born on July 3, 1898 in Brooklyn, New York. He was 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 fourteen and in 1948, became a full-time employee.

Aurel married Gloria Hanson of St. Cloud, daughter of Earl Hanson and Dora Kleeve 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, a 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 Brookston Elks Club, Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters.

MARC PARENTEAU AND CONSTANCE KIEWEL PARENTEAU


Following a honeymoon trip to the Black Hills and Yellowstone National Park, the newlyweds 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 AG until the birth of their first child.

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 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 Crookston, the family lived in Marc's parents' cottage at Maple Lake from March until October of the following year. There was a definite feeling of pioneering, as there were many cold nights of leading a new baby towards the fire in the fireplace. Marc commuted every day through the summer, and finally moved his family to Brooks where they settled in the Ronald Paradise 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 River Road and the big move was made in January, 1969.

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 remainder of the family. 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
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 were 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 Township.

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), Carmelina (Cyr), Charles, and Melvina (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 one month old.

Pierre homesteaded east of Red Lake Falls (also mentioned) and established farm lands 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 land that Pierre homesteaded. Many of the families 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 Emparade.

Next to homestead in the “between the rivers” area (Gervais Township) were Joseph and Marguerite Patnode, who were the homesteaded from Montreal, Canada, in 1877.

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 America” and its challenges. Surveyors by avocation, they homesteaded to what is now Montreal. With the influx of the French Canadians, the “Pater Noster” became “Patnode” and later to “Patnode.” Joseph was known as “Big Joe” because of his robust strength. Following his forebears’ 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. They arrived in the fall of 1877 and saw the land and how far it had come.

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 farmlands. With little of the modern day equipment, they used their hands and courage, blessed with a faith that 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 be desired are the good things that are desired.”

Charles Patnode told how, as a teenager, he and his younger brothers, with no easy roads or transportation, used to walk the twenty-five miles to Crookston to buy sacks of flour for their families.

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 several years.

Living closely, there were some intermarriages among the two families. Alphonse Emard married Minnie Patnode (Alex’s daughter); Ellen (Emard) married William Patnode (Adolphus’ son)

There were many “get-togethers,” socially and in the fields. Old fashioned “beers” were common.

Pierre Emard, who died at age 97, lived his last years with his daughter, Alphonse (Mrs. Harmidas Patnode). Each New Year’s Day, Alphonse sponsored a “family dinner” for Pierre’s family and grandchildren and “pie de vie” was the theme. Prominent on the “banquet” table was “tourniere” (French Turkey Pie). That same year’s French dish. Somewhat true Canadians prefer “tourniere” to a fine steak. True or not, this holiday dinner would have been complete without this traditional pork pie. Mose (Emard), with his great tenor voice, led all in French folk songs. Alphonse 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, Keguc 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 Church at Osces, one of the last of the two families living near his old home. Father Patnode is well known and cherished for his successful pastorate 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 home town, Frazee. In June, Father Patnode, Fr. Keough’s nephew, Michael Patnode, son of Paul and Eleanor (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 family, with 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. A woman (Patnode) 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, railroads, construction, plumbing, 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 Patnode family to cherish their heritage, known to many of the Red Lake Falls residents, as “mere mere” (grandma). Joyfully, 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 Minnie's house.

Virgil Patnode, son of Eddie Patnode, and grandson of Alphonse and Harmidas Patnode, lives and works in Red Lake Falls.

Odena (La Coursiere) 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 that their presence made the family’s effort complete.

Mrs. Emard and Mrs. Patnode were worthy and needed to their families, to the land, to the community and ultimately, to the county, often referred to as “the gardener of the spot, the spot because of its rich soils and bumper crops.

These were the first citizens of Red Lake Falls and contributed to the local economy and local heritage. 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 and back-breaking work of the growing season, 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 man of the nation’s food and fiber system. 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 Harriet Patnode of Gervais Township, was born on May 6, 1901 and attended the country school District 112 (Patnode School). Keough's high school years were spent at St. Lawrence College, Mount Calvary, and then to St. Boniface College in Winnipeg, Manitoba for philosophy degrees. Following four years at St. John's Seminary, Collegeville, he was ordained in 1943. He served at the 1st St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Red Lake Falls. Bishop Timothy Corbett assigned Father Keough as the assistant to St. Philip's Church in Bemidji and he began his duties on April 4, 1930. He was transferred to St. Francis Xavier Church in Oklee on May 13, 1932 and remained there for twenty years. He then moved to St. Bernard's Church in Thiel Falls in June 1952 and remained until his retirement in 1971.

Father Keough is back in Oklee administering to his flock of the St. Francis Xavier Church and grateful to his parents for their sacrifices as they fostered his education, to the Reverend Eugene Lemire who fostered his education, and to his sisters, Alice and Mildred, who supported him.

Members of his family are Alice (Mrs. Michael Bambeneke), Rebecca (Mrs. Joseph Malachi), Paul, Marie (Mrs. John Fagoda) and Margarette (Mrs. James McFarland).

CLAYTE M. PAUL FAMILY

Clayte M. Paul (b. 1899) at Red Lake Falls, the son of Dan and Agnes Paul, spent his youth in Idaho returning to Red Lake Falls in 1912 and graduated from Lafayette High School in 1917. After serving in the U.S. Army for several months during World War II, he returned to Red Lake Falls and worked at several jobs in the area until 1924 when he accepted a position at Hunt Bros. Hardware where he worked for twenty-seven years. In 1954 he purchased the Wilcox Hardware which he operated until his death in 1963. Clayte was active in civic affairs, member of American Legion Post #22, also served as Commander), Commercial Club, Sportsman Club, Toastmasters, Park Club, Fair Board, Golf Club (serving as a member each). He also was one of the broadcasters on the KROX Red Lake County News for several years.

Clayte married Mildred Helm, daughter of 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; Vee (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, 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 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 were in those days and was not 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.

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 Moses and Modeste Allard, who had come here from New York state. There were four children: Clayton, born in Red Lake Falls; Goyt, 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 sawmills, 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 Labosierie's Big Store for several years, and Agnes, an excellent seamstress, saved for many people. Later, the Pauls operated a home laundry for a number of years until Dan's 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, 1969.

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 1966, and Fount is retired and lives in Hollywood, California. Goyt Paul Halsten and his husband have lived here since 1960, coming here from North Dakota.
KEITH PEARSON AND HARRIET HJELDENESS PEARSON

Although our family is not really a pioneer family, as far as 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 1956. 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 Kannel 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. Haler and Glen Follman. Follman was also Judge of County Probate Court. The county attorney was Charles Bughton, 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, wife, Harriet, Howard, and daughter, Gwen. Howard, 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 Crispin Schmitz now resides.

About a year later we moved to the old Kelly Moran house where Alton Gusek now resides. In October of 1959, we constructed a new home at the west end of Sixth 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.

I am still a state Patrol and works part-time for 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 has 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 about 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 Rossea and in 1897, he attended Mill Hill Theological Seminary at London, England, and was ordained November 17, 1901.

After ordination, Father Pelger first worked in Uganda in British East Africa, where he spent thirteen years as a missionary. While he was there he collected many natives of the province and he often told his parishioners interesting stories of life on the equator. When the World War broke out, Father Pelger served in 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.

In February 1922, Father Pelger was transferred to the pastorates of St. Mary's at Red Lake Falls succeeding Rev. Thos. G. Merrill and stayed for twenty-nine years. He was very mindful of the needs of his parish and served it well. Father Pelger and the pioneer doctor Neil M. Watson became very close and loyal friends. Failed 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 known as Red Lake County. He was so enchanted with what he saw and that he returned to St. Remi for his wife, seven sons and six daughters — and all the 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 him by ox cart to a homestead — a tract of land three and one half miles from what is now Brooks. Romulend, 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 and all of their worldly goods, blacksmith shops, entertainment centers (the Perras brothers formed a stringed orchestra) and church missions — itinerant mission priests said mass in their homes.

When Maxmillien, who was born in 1870, was old enough to work away from home, he preached for 50¢ a week. From there he migrated to the harvest fields of 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.

Keith (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 itself. Another of her sisters taught school and one of the sisters was a music teacher.

Their family once gave shelter to a missionary priest. Father Champigneau, who might have perished in a good old Minne
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 beets 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 Lambton Township and also Clerk of the Lambton 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 Kellie; 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 the 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, of Brooks. They lived in the Ray Linnhapartment 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's 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 PERRAUT FAMILY

Charle Wilfrid 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 Breault, and Georges 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 knew that a railroad would 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 eager 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, then to get ready to immigrate to a new land. They came by lake-boat to Duluth harbor, then by train to Crookston, or Fish Lake'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. Fourner as cheese maker. A school also was built to be known as the Perrault School and classes began. Charle's family consisted of two boys, Jean Baptiste (Johnny), and Joseph, and six girls, Henriette, Rose, Mary, Eugene, Josephine, and Marguerite (Mrs. Michel Pinsonneau), mother of the Pinsonneau 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 the 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 Bruneaux. Zephirin Perrault moved his family to the Yankima 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.
EDWARD AND ROSE PERREAUT

Our father, Edward Perreaut (b. March 1895) was one of twelve children born to Louis and Marie Bourgard Perreaut. Brothers and sisters were Louis, Jr., Albert, Napoleon, Alfred who died as a young man, Eldridge, Joseph, Georgiana, Mary, Vidaline, 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 Perreaut 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 Perreaut 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.

Rose always did a great deal of sewing. She planted large gardens and canned much 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 highly appreciated by the 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 PERREAUT

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, Iladge Perreaut, was born in Terrebonne in 1888, the seventh child of Louis and Mary Beauregard Perreaut. They had come to Minnesota from Connecticut and their parents had come from Canada.

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 Clephas 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 "Winnigam," the 1910 houseboats 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 Perreaut family consisting of two LaFramboise girls and five Cadieux daughters to grow and be happy together until the death of Clephas in 1913. Mrs. Cadieux then moved with her family to Red Lake Falls where she died in 1915.

Doria and Iladge were married in 1913 and lived in Red Lake Falls, where Iladge 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,
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 Eli and Doria Perreault. All five of us children attended St. Joseph's Catholic school and Lafayette High School. Eventually we went on to become 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 Perreault

THOMAS PERUSSE AND DELIMA BOIVERT PERUSSE

Thomas Perusse, (b. 1854-1900) and his wife, Delima Boivert Perusse, (b. 1856-1920) came to Minnesota with their family in 1879 from Livoniere, 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), Alphonse (married Marie Plante), Evelyn (married Xavier Sauge), Belzamere (married Adelie Labor), Elodia (married Mose Bray), Angeline (married Narcisse Parenteau), Josephine (married Arvilia Rock), and Alma who became Sister Christopher of the San Francisco Order.

ACICLE PERUSSE AND ELIZABETH QUESNEL PERUSSE

Alcide Perusse, son of Thomas and Delima Boivert Perusse, was born on November 13, 1862 in Livoniere, 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 (married Roy Fitzgerald), John (married Marie Smith), Ulric (married to Mae Morinville), Deila (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). 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. Alcide Perusse

ALFRIE PERUSSE

Alfrie 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. Alfrie 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 Farrowton, Canada where Mr. Perusse filed a timber claim and later moved to Fort Francis. There, in 1916, they built a home 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. Elzire Sauve of Canada); Zelia (Mrs. John Keitoham of Red Lake Falls); Amelia (Mrs. Pat Campbell of Rainy River, Ontario); Rebecca (Mrs. Emil Ham of Duluth); Irene; 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.

ULRICO 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, 1899...
ULRIC AND MAE LIVED IN MINNESOTA A SHORT TIME BEFORE HE JOINED THE BUSINESS OF THE CITY 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, Teterbonne Township, that he and his father purchased from his father. Ulric retired from farming in 1955 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 Chater, of Groveland, Minnesota. 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.

GUST C. PETERSON AND MARIA HEIDEN PETERSON

The Gust C. Peterson family lived in Lake Pleasant Township on the old Majers farm from 1940 until 1947. Gust Peterson was born in Snaalland, Sweden, on April 10, 1899. He lived in Moline, Illinois, for awhile, then in Minneapolis, and then homesteaded in North Dakota until 1938, when he moved to Minnesota.

Gust married Maria Heiden from John- son Creek, Wisconsin, in 1915. They were the parents of ten children: Melvin of Bern- jy; Fritz, Kenneth, and Allen of Seattle; Alfred, of Minneapolis; Elmer, of San Jose, California; Hazel, Mrs. George Olie of Plummer; Rose, Mrs. Robert Peterson of Mentor; Marion, Mrs. Jeard Kaltens- berg 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

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 Lorain. In January 1944, Janet was born. Allan was born in December, 1945 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 Hentle, 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 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 Lorain 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 Hooton of Plummer.


On November 15, 1963 Leonard married Bernice Maroonette Engstrom 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 1973 and is living in the Cities.

In 1965, Milton started work at Detroit 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 back to the Peterson farm in Teterbonne 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 Golden- gate, Washington, Neil C. Peterson of Crookston, and Raymond Peterson of homes at army training centers.

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 Homemakers 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 Peterson, was born in 1892 at Mayville, North Dakota, where his father was a carpenter. In 1899 he moved with his parents and brothers, Gust and Waldemar, and sisters, Christa, Emma, Annette, Anna and Elfreida to Thief River Falls where his father was employed at the Saw Mill when it was built. He 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 Ingersoll and Thief River Falls, and died in 1904 after returning from World War I with severe injuries leaving a large family to struggle through 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 time. He also played on the Owatonna Band each week. In 1916 Walter, Waldemar and his mother moved to Plummer where Walter was working on a dragger.

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 not play the drum.

After the war in 1919, Walter returned to Plummer and took up the casket trade, building two homes, one for his mother and another for himself.
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.

PHILON 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 1869. 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, Lucien Philion came to Red Lake Falls with the Tremblays 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 War Commission and later served in the Union forces. Having been 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.

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 1889 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 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 1905 William "Bille" Philion, a grain buyer for the Red Lake Falls Milling Co., married Eugenie Chatel. His part-time job was in his trap trading 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 family story from the family by Bille's son, Lloyd, in which the automobile plays the major role.

Three sons, Lawrence, Leonard and 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, Doris Scott.

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 Eloise Nelson and they have five children, Sharon Lizzette, Michelle Schuler, William, Robert and Steven. They have 7 grandchildren. The grandchildren are the sixth generation of Philions to live in Red Lake Falls.

LAWRENCE PHILON
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 1960. He continues to serve as alderman.
Lawrence Philion married Julia Dentz of Mahnomen 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 Trosbonne. They had eleven children: Charles, Edwin, E. Hector, Ross Marie, Clifford, Frank, Ida (Mrs. John Parenteau), Joseph, Helen, Louise and Arthur.

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 father 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 noted by Mike and his brother, Jean Baptiste, as 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 Minnesota and in 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 Perraault farm in Lake Pleasant Township. It was here that he met a daughter of the house, Marguerite Perraault, and they were married at Red Lake Falls in January 1895.

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 the town hall or at pipe organs in the various churches. The maintenance work was happy, as were all the students and teachers, when a new school was finally ready, so all could return to normal.

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.

Louis, who taught rural school in Red Lake County and 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.

Robert (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 Arell and they have six children: Larry (Lawrence) of Houston, Texas; Grace of 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 Korea in the 40'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. McKissack) of St. Cloud; and Paul of

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, prior to coming to Red Lake Falls in 1884, where they farmed a few years before moving to the city. Rufus was engaged in 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 seven children: Robert, Jr. (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, and 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 North Dakota District Alumni Club, Red Lake 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 Lemaux, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lemaux, in 1917, Mrs. Poirier taught in the rural schools before her marriage. Three children were born of this marriage: Evelyn (Mrs. Howard Quackenbush); Robert, Jr.; and Lorna (Mrs.
NICOLA AND NAPOLEON POULIOT FAMILIES

Nicola Pouliot was born in 1823 on a farm in Ste. Isadore, Quebec, Canada, and he was twenty years old when he migrated to Michigan, and from there to Old Superior, Wisconsin, across the lake from Lihue. He left his wife and children (Lavinia, Mary, John Luke, and Anthony) in the care of his mother. Nicola married Lucy Gervais, and they had two children, Daniel and Peter.

The family later moved to the Clearwater area, where they lived on a farm near the town of Clearwater. The children were: Joseph, Peter, and Emma. Nicola and Lucy lived a hard life, and their children were often sick and hungry. Nicola eventually died in 1850, and Lucy raised the children on her own.

After Nicola's death, Lucy married Napoleon Pouliot, who was born in 1855 in the town of Clearwater. Napoleon was a hardworking man and a good provider for his family. Together, they had six children: Daniel, Peter, Emma, Joseph, Mary, and John Luke.

Peter and Alvina Pouliot

PETE R AND VINA POULIOT

Pierre (Peter) Pouliot was born in Hennepin County, Minnesota in 1873, the son of Nicola and Lucie Pomarisse 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 in St. John's, University at Collegeville, and Curtiss 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 Store.

In 1909 he married Alvina Litzte, the daughter of another pioneer family, Denis and Sophie Martin Pouliot. Denis and his brothers, Anthony and Vital, had migrated across the Canadian border into Maine to establish citizenship. They lived in Maiteswuk, Maine for a time, then came by oxcart to the Huot area of Red Lake County where they lived for homesteads.

Here Denis married Sophie Martin and they raised eight children: Euphemia (Mrs. Andrew Huot), Frederick (married to Alvina LaCoursiere), John Joseph (married to John L Savard), John Paul (married to an unknown woman), John, (married to a Provost daughter), Henri, (married to a Lamarche daughter), and Alivna (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 his health took over several years before his death in 1943.

After his death, his wife, Alvina, continued to live in Red Lake Falls with her sister, Suzanne, in Puyallup, Washington, where she later died. Peter and Vina are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Red Lake Falls.

There were six children in the Peter Pouliot family: Martin, Celest, Greg, Vivian, Vincent, and Joseph. Martin served for many years for the Smith Paper Company in Red Lake Falls, where he met and married his wife, 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 Tischhart Carriere.

Celest married August Bourque, a descendant of Pierre Bottineau. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren. Celest 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 Alyson. Beth is Mrs. Jerald Solheim of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and she and her husband have a son and a daughter. Alyson is married to James D. Boutain of Red Lake Falls, and they have two daughters.

The Pouliot family in Red Lake Falls is now represented by third and fourth generation family members.

Vivian married Lester Schave and their home is in Piedmont, California. They have three sons and two grandchildren.

Vincent, Vivian's twin brother, lives in Yakima, Washington for 35 years.

Joseph married Iolas LaCoursiere, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joel LaCoursiere. They have four children, two of whom 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.
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 1952. Harley married Pauline C. Gerlach in 1921. Their children were Rachel (Mrs. Frank Kruse), Harley Jr. and Robert (both deceased) and Ayclic Mae (Mrs. James Kinney of Minneapolis). They farmed in Lake Pleasant Township. Pauline died in 1927 and Harley in 1965.

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 a 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: Francis (Mrs. Myron Hennen); Clarence; Lillian (Mrs. John Gaven); Ervie; Neil and Emilmy (Mrs. Jerome Sullivan). Mrs. Emma Prenevost died at Terrebonne in 1932 at age 42. Arthur Prenevost died at Red Lake Falls in 1960 at age 76. He was survived by his wife, Emma Sauve Prenevost, and their six children.

The George W. Pray family history shows a strong community presence, with the family deeply involved in farming and education. The children continued the family legacy, with some of them choosing careers in education and government.

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 of which were as Chief Clerk of the Board by unanimous 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 machine 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.

Art Prenevost at home

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 the people in that area proposed moving the county seat to Thief River Falls. Some strange delaying tactics were employed until local residents assured themselves of three members of the County Board that were sympathetic to keeping the county seat in Red Lake Falls. The aforementioned petition mysteriously disappeared from the records (at least it did). 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 pending. 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 building was provided to house the court. Then it was presently located, and of another law that stated that the county could bond itself 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 it had been, was demolished. At a later date, the county hall was burned to the ground. However, local firm men 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 the construction of a new courthouse building. 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.

Magazine 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 1935 and attended St. John's University from 1938 to 1943, was in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945 and attended the University of North Dakota. A graduate in 1951, he is a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Pete serves on numerous committees and boards through county appointment and has always served in many civic groups. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

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 1862 and moved to Argo, Illinois, their son, Noel, was born there in October, 1899.

Noel married Cerisa Hamel in May, 1913, 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 1881. Following their marriage in 1910 in Gentilly, they moved to Maxfield, 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 owner. Ten years later, Ed sold "The Corner" to Neil and his brother, Oliver, who were in partnership until Ed was appointed Red Lake County sheriff in 1943 to succeed Carl Kangel, who had resigned. During the 12 years that he was sheriff, Noel was involved in community and church activities. He was War Fund Chairman, a volunteer fireman, a special game warden, a board member of the Holy Name Society and St. Joseph's Church choir.

Following his term as sheriff, Noel operated the former Argo/Lacouriere's barber shop, and later purchased the town of Maxfield, operating a barber shop for six years. Because of poor health, Noel and Cerisa, and their younger children, moved to 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 Hilcrest 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: Angelene (Mrs. Dean R caval); Joan (Mrs. Roger Pasuk); Phyllis (Mrs. Russell Walker); Sister Mary Ellen, C.F.R.; Mary Jo, teacher, Mount Carmel High School, West St. Paul; Monica (nursing student, St. Mary's, Minneapolis); John; Gene; Jim and Bill.

Cerisa's present address is 2137 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 Techy, Illinois, and Lake Beulah College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In the fall of 1912, Louis Proulx matriculated in St. John's University at Collegeville where he received his BA degree. He earned his STL degree from the Catholic University of Washington, D.C., and was ordained on June 5, 1933 at St. John's University.

In July 1933, he was appointed pastor at St. Joseph's Church, St. Cloud, Minnesota. Where he remained 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 St. Cloud Credit Union and the Red Lake County 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 Warner where he remained for four years until he was appointed pastor of the Father Aulneau's Memorial Church of St. Mary's in Warner. Father is now residing 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 Gains 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 Pugh, came here in 1912, also from Wales.

Thomas and Elizabeth Pugh had five children: Ethel (b. 1914); Henry Lloyd (b. 1916); Llewellyn Edward (b. 1919); Thomas Irwin (b. 1922) and Betty Jane (b. 1927). The Pugh children were all baptized in the Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Mayfield Township.

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 farm in Gains Township. Llewellyn 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, Socha Goezi Puruth died in St. Cloud, 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. Mrs. Milligan) 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 Purath. East Dakota purchased from Frank and Theresa Haag 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 their only 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 St. Cloud, South Dakota, in 1888 came to Lake Pleasant township with his widowed father, Ernest, sister Anna and brother Willie in 1902 from 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 Enniscoe, Washington, Willard, a farmer of Lake Pleasant township, Darrell, communications engineer at Fort Collins, Colorado, and Fern, (Mrs. Harold Skotnick) of Milbrae, 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 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 city 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.

Retirement came for Fred and Emma when Willard bought the $1/2 of Section 15, Lake Pleasant township, the original homestead of his father and grandfather, and Willard's own birthplace in 1924.

Willard married Pauline Finkenstein in 1948, eldest of five children of Ralph and Mariam Musselman Finkenstein 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 townships, 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, St. Mary, Lafayette, Indiana; Jeanne, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Breckenridge, Minnesota, and Douglas, a junior of Lafayette High School.
BEN BUSCHINSKY
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 Foyelle, Pete Stearns and John Helm, Sr.

Mr. Puschinsky was born on March 1, 1869, 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 Odesch, 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, 1944, 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 public relations, he retired as a chief engineer in the U.S. Air Force, and Vernon Pushinsky of Oliva, 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 29, 1932; Melville of Portland, Oregon, who died on November 26, 1948; 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, Catherine, Sarah, Rose, William, Robert, and Elsie. Before moving to Red Lake County, Stephen was a captain on a ship on the St. Lawrence River until 1852 at which time he homesteaded in Terrebonne Township (lecher potake). He traveled by train to Crookston and ranked with others to what is now Red Lake County. The Quesnels' built a log house which they lived in until 1900 when they built a frame house which still stands on the place.

Stephens's daughter, Elizabeth, died in 1860. In 1861, he married Annie Louisa (born 1850, also from Canada). She was the mother of six children by a previous marriage. They were Oliver, Tilley, Emudiant, Archie, Joe and Lizzie. Three daughters were born to this union: Mable, Leah and Dora (mother of Mrs. Jude Dupont). The only survivor of this family is Mable, Mrs. Joe Thorou of Red Lake Falls. Stephen passed away in 1902 and his wife in 1914.

ROBERT QUESNEL
Robert, b. 1883, son of Stephen Quesnel and Elizabeth Christian was married to Federia Laurent (b. 1882) daughter of Adelora Laurent and Belzizzy Peruser. 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 early morning with their loads and return upon the last horse. 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, Bob, and Ralph, who lives at Terrebonne on her farm; Ralph, owner and operator of both his father's and grandfather's farms.

Robert, b. 1883, son of Stephen Quesnel and Elizabeth Christian was married to Federia Laurent. They built their home just one-half mile east of his father, Stephen Quesnel. Robert passed away in 1902 and his wife in 1914.

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 1920. It was to be the superintendent of the school for the twenty-nine years we have lived in Oklee since Carl retired in 1949.

Before we came to the Oklee community, Carl had graduated from the University of North Dakota and had been a teacher and principal at the Oklee School. During this time, he was the principal of the Oklee School, which was located in Oklee, North Dakota, and was the superintendent of the Oklee School District.

Carl's childhood home was Centuria, Wisconsin, and his parents were pioneers who came from Sweden. They were the youngest of a large family, and often times they didn't have enough food. They had to work hard to make ends meet.

Carl attended school in Centuria, Wisconsin, and later went on to college at the University of Wisconsin. After graduation, he moved to Oklee, North Dakota, where he taught school and later became the superintendent of the Oklee School District.
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 Nineteenth 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 Benson 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.

Paul Rafferty was born in 1953. He is a graduate of Lafayette High School and the Grand Forks Deaconess College 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 they taught for ten years. In 1963 he joined Horace Mann Insurance Company and remained in this field. Paul accepted a position as assistant 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 married Lillie Jane Jarett on July 11, 1886 at St. Joseph, Michigan.

He and his wife moved to the Red Lake Falls area in 1887 where they farmed. They had four children: Lillie, Myra, Ada, and Horace.

In 1900, he opened a hardware store in Red Lake Falls, which later became a general store.

After retirement, he moved to Huron City and lived with his daughter, Lillie, who ran the store.

He died on July 2, 1913 and is buried in the Huron City Cemetery.

ROGER E. RAEBEL FAMILY

Rev. Roger Raebel, present pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Lake Falls, has been in the community for 40 years. His family moved to Red Lake Falls on April 30, 1966 and established a new church on May 1, 1966.

Pastor Raebel, his wife Phyllis, and their four children: Cynthia, David, Jared, and Stephen, have lived in Red Lake Falls since 1966.

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 served as Executive Director of Fairview Manor, since its opening in 1970 and has participated in other community groups while keeping an active part in the activities of St. John's Church. The children are active in local school activities. Cynthia, a graduate of St. John's University in 1974, is presently a student at Concordia College, St. Paul. David is in the Class of 1976 and is a member of the Technical Community Group of the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Jared and Stephen are students at the public schools.

PAUL RAFFERTY AND IRENE VATTHAUER

Rafferty

Irene Vathauer (b. 1927) daughter of Henry Vathauer and Laura Hagl, married

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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 1867, a band of painted, feathered Indians came galloping down the street on their ponies, shouting their jingle "Yip, yip, ki, yi". She wanted to know if a person's hair grew back after she's scalped.

George did much of the original surveying of northern Minnesota; the Red Lake Indian Reservation, Blackduck, Rainbow 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 through that line you are surveying?" I told her that would be the first time I ever saw a railroad go through the barn door. "Well, if you think I'm going to hold these doors open every time a train goes through, you can stop right here! I've got plenty of 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. I 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 Philomena 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 Huo 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 Philomena. The other children were Frank, Pierre, Jr., Celos, Cyprien, Joseph, Henry, Rosena (Mrs. Desroches), Mary (Mrs. J. B. Huo), Philomena (Mrs. Xavier Clement), Celina (Mrs. John Barry), 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 the 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: Oeneme (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 Washall, 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 Menfor 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 married to Douglas Corbett. They live in Mason City, Iowa where Doug is a radio announcer and Georgene works at Penneys. Claudie, 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 Rich 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 Nickle of Riverside, California; Gladys Tucker of Temple City, California; Lowell Reichel of Alhambra, California and Leslie Reichel of Bakersfield, California. Mrs. Florence Balkins and William 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.

Reicks: Milton, Mayo, Myron, Douglas, Milo, Claude, Susan, Diane, Grace, Georgene, Marilee, Michelle, and grandsons, Kurtis and Christ Opher.
HALVOR REINDAL AND GUNHILD KVALLON REINDAL

Halvor Reindal was born in Telemarken, Norway and came to Albert Lea with his parents when he was a young man. Later they moved to Iowa 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 Minnesota with her husband and the last eight years of her life in good health at Sunset Memorial Home in Albert Lea. She died July 30, 1967 at the age of 103. She was survived by a total of 100 descendants.

Theodore Reindal wedding.

THEODORE REINDAL FAMILY

Theodore Reindal came to Equality Township, Red Lake County, with his parents, one brother, and two sisters from rural Coon Rapids, 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 Equality Twp., where his father homesteaded nine miles north east of Oklee.
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 Ano, 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. Styer, Lachance, Demann, and the Luxembourg families. They did their marketing and raising most of their sheep and pigs. This farm is now owned by Vernon Kneack. 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 town board. He was a member of 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. She was president of the county Agricultural Improvement Association. 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 in Columbia, Missouri. Dan married a horse and buggy sleigh in the winter. 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 chassis truck. They used it to sit on benches around it. I can remember that this school bus was also used to haul Terrebonne kids to Red Lake Falls to attend the show on Sunday afternoons for a nickel 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 Ray and was a rural mail carrier in Bagley. He passed away in 1966. Marion (Mrs. Ed Ano) 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 a auto parts salesman in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bernard married Madeline Amiot and is president of Vantage 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. IVE) REMICK

Ken and Charlotte are both natives of Red Lake Falls whose parents were the George Remicks and the Elly 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 Radioman 1st Class. After his discharge from the service, he worked for R&D Electric Service in Red Lake Falls, owned by Roy Rose and Peter Drees.

Charlotte St. Ives, daughter of Eli and Edna St. Ives, was born in 1927 on the family farm, attended grade school at the Badger 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. They also had a daughter, Tricia, in 1953. They have six children: Kevin, Edward, Joseph, David, James, and Thomas.

In 1965 Ken purchased the R&D Electric Service which he 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 then the company has become one of the larger commercial and residential electrical contractors in the area.

The Remicks are members of St. Anthony's Catholic Church of Terrebonne. Ken is active in community and civic organizations; was elected to council in 1976 and is a past commander of the American Legion Custer Auster Post #22. Charlotte served as clerk on the school board (Beau Geriot 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.

EUCLID REOPPEL 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 left the army, they did not return to France. Jean migrated to Vancouver, British Columbia, and Joseph settled in Quebec, Canada where he was a cabinet maker and farmer.

Joseph married Phoebus Beauchamp and they became the parents of four children: Joseph Jr., Armand, Delphs, and Euclid. In 1878 Euclid and his brother Joseph Jr. left Quebec for homes in the Red River Valley. They traveled to Minnesota via the Great Lakes waterways and through the wilderness to St. Vincent, Minnesota. Arriving in the Dakotas Territory, they traveled to Pembina, they filed claims near the Red River, and returned to Pembina. From there they moved to the village of Joliette, North Dakota, then to a small town near Pembina.

Four brothers, Joseph, Armand, Delphs, Euclid and Euclid, built their home on a log cabin which was built along the river. They had sod covered roofs.

In 1892 Euclid made a trip to Red Lake Falls to buy some farm machinery and a friend suggested he visit Miss Elizabeth Barnard, the daughter of Norbert Barnard who had homesteaded one and a half miles southeast of what is now White Lake Falls. Barnard and his mother, Valerie Flannery, came from Quebec, Canada, where Elizabeth was born in 1857.
Elizabeth and Euclid were married in St. Joseph's Church in Red Lake Falls in 1932. After their wedding they returned to North Dakota. Six children were born there: Victor, Euclid Jr., Leonil, Ildegard, Diana, and Aurora.

1896 the terrible flood of the Red River forced my dad to move his family, stock, and personal belongings eight miles to a farm on the south side of town. The oldest child was ten and the baby was two months old. About ten families were already sheltered in the small schoolhouse that was on the farm. After the water receded, they returned home to find a layer of mud on the first and second floors. There was a total of 140 animals, and parts of buildings had to be replaced.

Euclid, my dad, came to Red Lake Falls in 1924 and bought four hundred acres of land, which was covered with large hard woods, miles south and two miles north of Red Lake Falls along the south side of the Clearwater River, Section thirty-one, in Gervais Township and section six in Deer River Township. He sold the land in 1935.

He loaded all his belongings, horses, livestock in box cars and his family in a passenger train and arrived at Crookston, the end of the railroad in town. The Grandfather, Barl and his neighbors, they were moved to their new home. The log house which was on the land and was replaced the next summer by a large house, and the following summer, a new barn and a granary were built. There was a lot of hard work clearing the land of trees which were sold for fuel. Times were hard, so my dad hired four or five older men to dig out the stumps for fifteen cents a day. In the summer time hired older men to dig out the stumps for fifteen cents a day. In the summer time they dug out the stumps for fifteen cents a day. In the summer time they dug out the stumps for fifteen cents a day. In the summer time they dug out the stumps for fifteen cents a day. In the summer time they dug out the stumps for fifteen cents a day. In the summer time they dug out the stumps for fifteen cents a day. 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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 pump, 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 such aid as is the case of his clerical duties.

Frank and Mayme raised a niece, Dorothy Mae Richard, the daughter of Edward and Mabel Daughtery Richard, following the death of her mother at her birth.

Frank Richard died July 26, 1968.

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 Parrish Township, Roseau County, the daughter of Leon and Olympe Guillenier 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 5th 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 gravel separator owned by Frank. The winters 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 catcher on some of the early local teams.

Fred and Orore Richard, Attendants: Mayme Richard and Theodore Huot

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 Findeisen, Jansen, and Evans, and Peoples Auto Company garages as a mechanic and salesmen. Automobiles were new in those days and Fred taught many people to drive their cars. Some of these people 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 Steiner Milling Company, engineer at the Tow Mill and for NRA (National Re-employment Association). Fred worked in California in 1942, 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 to 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 Hallemek), Raymond, Edgar, Daniel, Teddy, Donna (Mrs. Sheldon Meyer) and Patricia (Mrs. Robert N. Hess). 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.
In 1899 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 granddaughter, Diana 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 Azilda Juneau in the Franciscan 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 hard-]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 1960 the story house was built and the last of the eight children, Olivia, was born there.

Children included Napoleon, Mary (Mrs. Audette), Albina (Mrs. Louis Desautel), Narcisse Jr. and Ralph, who were deceased, Peter and Olene (Mrs. John Martin) and Pauline (Mrs. Jack H. Castelli). 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 1936.

Peter was married to Delores, a member of the Anthony Catholic Church in Terrebonne in 1922. They had two children, Lloyd and Doris (Mrs. Laverne 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 remain. Peter's second cow was added in 1943 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 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 Lutheran Church, the St. Ann Save-Homeowners 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 Home- maker Award in 1957 at the RRV Winter Shows. They now reside at the senior citi- zen's home in Brooks.

Lloyd Robidoux purchased the farm in 1948, raised beef and dairy cattle and practiced crop rotation. He also improved the productivity of the land by installing drain- age ditches. A loaming barn for beef cattle was built, the house remodelled, eight stee-
NAPOLEON ROBIDOULX
Both Napoleon Robidoux and his wife, Laura Fournier, were born in Red Lake County, he the son of Narcisse Robidoux and Ozila 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 Guelmiente), Lucille Bluemke, Margaret and Robert.


THE TRIFLE ROBIDOULX HISTORY
Mr. and Mrs. Trifile Robidoux both came from Canada. Trifile 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. Rei for many years.

Trifile 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 Deschenes 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, Telephone, Aristide, George, Ovilla, Elodia (Mrs. Joe LaChance) and Felicite (Mrs. Moss 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 Robillard 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 snare root which they used and also sold for medicine.

While the Indians were camped there they begged for food. The Robillard gave them an ox which they butchered and they roasted all of it even the innards. 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 neighbor 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 Quesnell); Lidage, Leo, Horner and Louina (Mrs. Millard Hunt).

Velena Robillard passed away in 1906 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, Madeleine (Mrs. Henry Bray), Anetta, Morris, Alfred, Cecile (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.

Ovilla 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 Mining. 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 Seeager, Red Lake Falls); and twins Renee (Mrs. Bob Mickelson, Minneapolis); and Clair who died at two years of age.

In 1935 Leo 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 Seager farms the land.
OVILLA ROCK

Ovilla Rock was one of the French Canadians 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 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 Ovilla Rock farm in Terrebonne Township. He married Clara Perrault in 1915. She was born in 1896, on the Ed. Perrault farm in Terrebonne Township to Louis Perrault and Mary Jane Schaughnessy. They farmed most of their life in Terrebonne Township. For two years during the 1920's he was a cheese maker at Adam, 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-seven. They are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery at Red Lake Falls.

Their children are Lawrence, Norman and Robert Rock who was born in 1917 and died in 1920 of a malignant tumor.

Geneva Rock married Madore Lussier of St. John in 1941 at Terrebonne. They are living in Lander, Wisconsin where Med is a novel operator for United States Steel. Their children are Mary, married to Bonita Rank, and living in Prior Lake, Minnesota. In 1952 they moved to Red Lake Falls. Their children and their four children are active in community affairs.

Dona Rock is the twin brother of Madore. His family is in the third generation living in Terrebonne Township.

Monica Rock married Harlan Hansen of Seattle, Washington. Their children are Eric, Tom, and Lynn. They are a family with a large tire company in Santa Rosa, California.

Gloria Rock married Louis Demars of Red Lake Falls. Their children are James, Suzanne, Daniel and Lee. Louis works for the State Health Department in North Dakota and they live in Bismarck.

DONA ROCK

Dona Rock was born in Terrebonne Township to George Rock and Clara Perrault in 1928. She attended Terrebonne grade schools, served in the United States Navy from 1946-1948, and worked in Michigan in 1950-1960. She returned to Terrebonne and purchased the home where she was born, to become the third generation of her family. The property now owns 900 acres and rents 960.

In 1952, she married Joyce Boucher who was born in 1931, in Crookston to David Boucher and Neolia 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.

Mr. and Mrs. Ovilla Rock.

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. They are a family and they live 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.C.C.S. Committee, F.H.S., Farmers Union Oil, Brooks Cemetery Association. Soil Conservation, and is presently on the Productive Credit Association Board of Thiel River Falls and Roseau.

Joyce is a graduate of Mentor State University and has taught at Mentor, Plummer, McIntosh, Centilly, 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 Voldar, 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 Clitherland, Minn.

In 1939, 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 snare 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 site. 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.

There were two children 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, Milo, Ovila, Arline, Roy and Elmer. Edward — Died in 1918 from the epidemic, Melvin — Served in the World War, married Hazel Paulson and they had four children, Layne, Gordon, Richard and Rodger. Retired Gamble Store operator and John Deere dealer. Died in 1933. Knute — Married Inga Halsteengard, and is a retired John Deere dealer and store owner.
They have four children — Lois Ann, deceased, Arlo, Kenneth and Lorraine (Mrs. Hotvet). Eliza — Married Jacob Simonson who is now a retired railroad man. They had two sons, LeRoy and Dauphine. Mr. Simonson died in 1968. Eliza lives at Fertile.

Clifford — Married Ida Pederson and farm 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 Lambton township. One daughter, Sharon (Mrs. Ronald Remick), Melvin died in 1956. Agnes resides in Rudy, Montana.

Arthur — Married Mae Hackett and operated a cafe and store in Gull Lake. 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 owned and operated 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. Olive — Married Bella Anderson and farm near Thiel River Falls, Minn., also has basel cattle and hogs. Four children, Beverly (Mrs. R. Larson), Gary, Delores (Mrs. Freeberg) and Kenneth.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolandsen were active in church and community affairs. Mrs. Rolandsen was well known for her care of the sick and a "midwife." The welcome that was always out for friends and relatives, Mr. Rolandsen passed away November 10, 1938. Mrs. Rolandsen moved into Oklee, Minn. a few years later. She died December 22, 1946.

**ROSCHE 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 Schonein, 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 Moritz 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. Moritz 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 eldest, 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 1960. Helen, the second youngest, 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. Hulda married George Wagner, custodian of the County Court House for thirty-two years. Before moving to Red Lake Falls they farmed with her 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 Anna 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 Kenbridge, Saskatchewan. Margaret Rosch Kraemer died in 1968 in her 85th year in East Jorden, 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 cornet 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 to the shores of the United States, as a 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 cow and cow milker. 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 sneaked 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 Closen, Port Angeles, Washington. Earl, a lad, drowned at the Terrebonne dam when he was just fourteen. A brother died at age two of pneumonia and a boy in infancy.

The children made hay, picked wild blueberries, strawberries, plums and chokecherris. They also raised quantities of garden vegetables and kept a basement full of ice to keep foodstuffs cold. Meat was either canned, salted down, or fried and dropped in hard 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 sawyer for the Red Lake Falls Milling company. Belle died in 1928 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 rest home 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.
JACOB ROSEN

The Rosen family came to Red Lake in 1892. The father, Jacob (Jack), visited many times as a traveling salesmen and bought the general store operated by Max Inger. He was accompanied by his wife, Bess, and son, Harold, better known as "Java," a nickname he got when playing the piano, "Barney Google," an intermission at the Lotus Theater shortly after they came to town. They originally lived above the store on Main Street, but later moved to "The Hol," where they lived in what had been a Presbyterian Church manse.

Ruth was born in 1900; Faith in 1910. The family purchased the business and moved to the Twin Cities in 1932. Harold and Ruth both graduated from the University of Minnesota. Ruth, now Mrs. Allen Orchuck, lives in Encino, California. Harold, after more than 25 years traveling and living all over the world in the International Division of Ford Motor Company, now resides with his wife and children in Birmingham, Michigan.

NELS L. ROSEN

Nels was born in Flensburg, Denmark, May 21, 1863. His parents were Peder and Anna Rosen. Nels became a prosperous farmer and married in 1890. He moved to Trosley, Minnesota, in 1895, making their first home in Nebraska near the town of Elkhorn, Nebraska. Nels sold a livery stable in northwestern Iowa in 1897, making their first home in Omaha, Nebraska. Nels and Elena Rosen were married in Flensburg, Denmark, in 1893. They had four children: Anna, Myrtle, Walter, and Edna.

Deciding to go farming, they bought a homestead in Lyon County, Iowa. They farmed with oxen and plowed with a horse. Elena took care of the sick in the neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Rosen sold their farm there and bought a fruit farm in Eugene, Oregon, thinking it would be a more healthy and enjoyable climate. This piece of land was later part of the University of Eugene.

Their marriage was not so easy at Eugene for them, as they had no knowledge of orchards or farming in this part of the country. They worked as farmhands, and the family was often in debt. When they moved back to the Midwest, they found the land much better suited to their needs. They purchased a farm in Red Lake County, Minnesota, and started a successful farming operation. Nels died in 1932 and was buried in the cemetery of the John Baptiste Rossignol Catholic Church. His wife, Elena, died in 1945.

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 1856 and married Celina St. Mars of Quebec who was born in 1867.

Their home here was on a piece of land in Terrebonne Township north of the present John LaCrosse home. LaCrosse now owns the land. The Rossignol family moved to where now Knutson lives for a while, sold this to Joe Perreault, then moved across the road, buying the property now owned by Maxime (Mike) Rossignol.

The children born of this union: Felix, now deceased; formerly a farmer near Brooks, Thomas, now deceased, 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 Targence, living in Minneapolis; Albert, deceased; Max (Mike), living in Terrebonne Township, Clarence, living in Everet, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rossignol were regular members 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 Rossignol 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 setting out the Golden Jubilee Convention held in 1933 with outstanding success.

Other offices 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 Anequet, Quebec, Canada. He attended the University of Montreal, graduating from the College of Medicine in 1913. In the same year he married Corrine Boursquet 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 1915. 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 drowned in 1952 when a Military Transport plane, on which he was returning home on leave from Korea, crashed off the coast of British Columbia. He was striving to save the stewardess, but both lost their lives. His wife, Dorothy Massey 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, Lev, and Philip, and one sister, Mary, on August 5, 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 on the same day, through mud and mosquitoes to the Eli Cyr farm six miles southwest of Red Lake Falls, now the Christ Wettenkamp farm. Here we lived for three months. From there we moved to a little house on what is now the Eldon Kipling farm, and there my brother Eloi died on October 17, 1885, leaving his wife and four children, Alphonse, age six months, Theodore, age five, Charley, age three, and Mary, nine months old. From there we moved to the farm which Majestic LaTrentesse owns today. We lived there one year, then moved to Red Lake Falls and after two years. Then in March of 1888, we moved into our shanty in Louis ville 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 Dommel Chas 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 Braul, the daughter of Louis Braul and Julia LaFrinier. To this union were born: Julia (who died in a fall on July 26, 1909 at age three), Paul, Louis, Joe, Jr., Eva (who died in November 1917 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 12, 1927."

Mr. Roy's autobiography ends here when he was fifty-five years old, but he lived for another twenty years. 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 Noel Roy) 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 1945 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.

LOUIS ROY FAMILY

Louis Roy was born June 18, 1909, the son of Joseph Roy and Alice Braul 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 family. 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 Frankan Rochester), Evelyn (Mrs. James Larson) of Preston, Erna (Mrs. Lee Faust) of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, Madonna (Mrs. Gordon Stickle) of Des Moines, Iowa, Jean (Mrs. Marcel Ladouce) of Crookston, Louis Jr. and Pauline Pauline Dufault live in Minneapolis, Lawrence and wife Gloria Brunelle, Columbus, Nebraska, Philip and wife Rosalie Reinhorn live in Concord, California, Anthony and wife Maria Jones of St. Paul and St. John and wife Mary Hult 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 Terrebine Township, Red Lake County in 1935. They were the parents of Alvin, Lawrence and Helen Rustad.

Their son, Lawrence, married Agnes Olgarden and moved at the same time to Section 26 and lived until his death in 1952. No children were born to this union. Agnes sold the farm to Bob Fjeld who now owns it. Agnes is now living at Roseau, Minnesota, wife of Marv Dahl.

Nick Thoreson, son of Sharee 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 Poulis St. Ives, in Terrebine Township, section eight.

Eli was the son of Louis and Azze Alroom St. Ives, who moved to this area from Quebec, Canada in the 1880's and homesteaded the flat land south of Red Lake Falls. 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 and back 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 overpass bridge just south of Red Lake Falls. Our father would be better remembered by the nickname "Beto." 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, Terrebine Township, from Dolfus Clement. His mother lived there with him until his marriage to Edna Poulis in Nov. 1925, in Red Lake Falls. Edna was the
THE JOS. W. STE.
MARIE FAMILY HISTORY

We would like to feel that anyone who had a part in Terrebonne in the early half of the 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 1930's and was never to be the same after the 40's.

Raphael Ste. Marie was born April 20, 1845 in Ste. 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, all of whom survived to adulthood. Jos. W. Ste. Marie and Velede who married Willie Moncreif. Raphael was a farmer all his life.

Louis Ste. Yves was born on March 17, 1841 in Ste. Justin, Quebec. Anise Laurent was born in February 1900 in Ste. Isadore. They were married January 23, 1872 and had three children; Florestine, Lumaena, and Justin. They were all born in Ste. Justin before the family migrated to Terrebonne to homestead a farm on Section 7. Their other children, Edward, Willie, Eligie, and Emma were born in Ste. Justin and made their home in the Terrebonne community where their parents remained as farmers the rest of their lives.

Jos. W. Ste. Marie was born March 16, 1890 and Emma Yves was born February 11, 1892. They were married August 3, 1914 in St. Isadore. Church for Isaac and Emma was in Section 7. There were nine children born to them: Reamie, Elise, and Lucy Ann of Seattle, Washington; Isabelle of Bayport, Harriet of Rosco, Eraine of St. Paul, Barney of Honolulu, Hawaii, Carole of Aberdeen, Washington and Don, who is the only family member presently living. Their eldest son and his family still farm part of the original homestead and actively participate in the life of this community.

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 a small store in his basement in addition to his regular stock in his grocery store. Louis Launier's store was the other grocery and competition was friendly. Most families...
JOSEPH AND DULICE DEMARIA ST. MARIE

Joseph St. Marie, son of Henry and Marie Goulet St. Marie, was born in Louis ville 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 Demariais, daughter of Philip Demariais. They lived first on the Biron 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 moved to Red Lake Falls where both Joseph and Dulice were employed at the Alma Mobile Homes, later the Detroitor plant.

Eight children were born to Joseph and Dulice St. Marie: Raymond, Delbert, JoAnn (Brunelle), Marilyn (Vaudrin), Carol (Peder son), Julie (King), and Robert, who is deceased. There are twenty-six grandchildren at this time.

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. Donald 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. Donald served as County Commissioner from 1963 to 1971. In 1964 they were awarded the Valley Farmer and Homeowner 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 Vicente); Steve, working with Ziegler, Inc., Bloomington, (he is married to Karen Temp); Alan, presently attending Moorhead Tech; David, a student at Thief River Falls Tech; and Kathy and Ken at home.

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 those 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 Odie Rob in 1877 in Canada, and Alfred was born in 1879.

When Alfred was two, he came to Minnesota with his parents who homesteaded in Louis ville Township, then Pennington County. His brother and two sisters were born there; Victor (1881-1935), who married Florence Huot, Exline (1885-1930), who married Antoine Nolet, Clarinda (1867-1963), who married Donna Amony.

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. Lora, who lived one year.
3. Mary Lee, lived five months.
4. Oliva 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 Boutin. She still resides in Crookston. Their children are Shirley, Roger, Carol, and Bonita.
7. Ann married Donny Patnode and they live in Minneapols. 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, Steven.
   c. Judy married Peter French. They have two children and live in San Jose, California.
10. Arabelle married Vernon Lindquist of Lake Hiawatha 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. Leonid was killed during World War II in Germany in 1944.
EDWARD ST. IYES

Edward and Bertha St. Ives have the distinction of having one of the largest farms in Terrebonne Township and even Red Rock County. Ed was born on the "home farm" three miles west of Terrebonne on September 26, 1868. The farm was homesteaded by his father Louis in the late 30s. Louis came from Canada. Ed was the second oldest in his family. He married Etha Collier in 1907 and from this union came the family of sixteen children. They were Maud, Gervais, St. Paul, Noelia arum, Crookston, Paul St. Ives, Seattle, Washington; Wallace St. Ives, Red Lake Falls; Bernice Ruchan, Seattle, Washington; Armond St. Ives, Osseo; Ella Mae Oxen, Oxnard, California; Marjorie Sauer, anCouver, Washington; Jean Nordfinder, Battle, Washington; Oliver St. Ives, Ohio, Virginia St. Ives, Fergus Falls; and five sons have died over the years.

On the farm all the joys and some sorrows were experienced by all in the family. Times were tight and there were four generations living in this one bedroom house, seventeen people in all.

The old dwelling had the distinction of being a log house. The first two rooms built by Louis were from logs and as time went by, there were additions added.

On June 26, 1945 Ed passed away from a heart attack. It was a great loss to the area as he had been active in many community affairs. For years he was clerk of Badger school where his children received their grade school education. He was also assessor for Red Lake County and census taker for years. He was a member of Modern Woodmen of America lodge.

After her husband's death, Bertha remained on the farm with her son Wallace. The three younger children were still at home and attending school. After they left home, Bertha and Wallace remained on the farm until about 1965 when they sold the farm and moved into Red Lake Falls where Bertha lived until 1970 when she moved to St. Paul. She lived there until her death at the age of 88 in 1975.

The old house with all its memories is no more. The old homestead has only the unique white sills remaining and we all hope it will be there for many more years.
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, 1908. He was the eleventh child in a happy family of thirteen children. Two of his 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 others, he came to Minnesota and homesteaded on land between Terrace and Mentor. His mother, Mary Louise Dondeneau 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, 1896 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. The couple lived in Thief River Falls. 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, they came to Minnesota and homesteaded on land between Terrace and Mentor.

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 Gervaiss 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 farm family 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 6 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.

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 carried them on her heart.

We, Isaac Sauve and Eva Carriere were married by Fr. Paquin in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Brooks on June 18, 1923. We started on a 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 only one day only. We have 5 living children, Virgil and Melvin live in St. Paul, Raymond lives in Roseau, Derwin lives in Thief River Falls, and 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 soldiers' "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 without help. I've 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 injurious to lungs. Our next home was in East Grand Forks where Eva and I worked for one very enjoyable year for the Army 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 live in Red Lake Falls in the former Joe Paquin residence. The attached garage is my furniture upholstery 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 Lioburgo, 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 Inquisitors during the massacre of Lachine, seven years beforehand.
soon after his marriage, Pierre Sauve left military life to work at Sainte Anne de-lévéque and spent the rest of his life there. He descendants of that ancestor spread throughout all the provinces of Québec and elsewhere, but mainly in the regions of Montreal, Laval, Québec, Charlevoix, Beauce, Soulanges, Saint-Jacques, Vaudreuil, Valleyfield, Pointe-aux-Trembles, and Chateauguay.

One of these descendants, Joseph Sauve, was born in 1855 in Quebec, son of raham Sauve and Marcelline Walker. When he was twenty-four he arrived from Coteau Land, Quebec, Canada about 1879 to what is now Polk County near Mentor, Minnesota. He homesteaded there, building a house and a barn. Due to a misunderstanding in the homestead papers, he lost his homestead and then moved to the Terreneuve area.

In 1887 he married Marie Louise Dondrau, daughter of Narciss Dondrau and Alphonse of Terrebonne. To this union were born thirteen children, of which only two remain living today. Herman and Alice. People of Red Lake Falls and Alvina Francois Desrosiers) of Beltrami. Emma died at age three in 1896. Rosanna, Emil, Isabella, and Willie were taken within one year of each other in 1919. Theophila in 1896. Eva (Mrs. Ralph Barrow of Effie) in 1917. Regina (Mrs. Philip Prudhomme, Crookston) in 1919. Mr. and Alfred in 1974. Sauve spent his entire life farming in Terrebonne-Brooks area. He was a good carpenter helping many of his neighbors. He retired to a small home in Brooks till the death of his wife January 13, 1906. He then lived with his son Isaac until he died April 9, 1949.

His descendants number forty-four and children in all parts of the United States, many of whom still live in this area of the state of Minnesota.

XAVIER SAUVE FAMILY

Xavier Sauve, a very young man, left Abbe, Canada and migrated to California at the end of the Gold Rush. From there he came to Minnesota to Crookston where he worked as a carpenter and worked in mining and logging. After a few years he moved to Terrebonne. In 1882, he married Elen Peruse, who had claimed a farm section three when she came here from Nola with her family.

Mr. Sauve built up the farm which until that time had only a log cabin where Elen lived only a few nights a month to keep in touch. More of the land was cleared and the farm expanded.

Besides farming, Mr. Sauve with his brothers-in-law, Albert and Alcide, built tongs, made ditches, dug wells, and made log cabins and barns. They also built the road for the Soo Line Railroad coming rough Brooks.

In 1900 when lightning destroyed the original homestead barn, a barn raising was organized immediately to build a new barn and a larger barn. It has been the custom to donate labor to the neighbors. All the settlers could do carpentry work and were equipped with the building tools. A building went up in a hurry.

The wives would come with food and help the lady of the house cook and serve the tables to the workers. When darkness came and the evening meal was served, the people entertained themselves singing and square dancing. There was always a musician in the crowd who could play the harmonica or fiddle. These people really enjoyed times.

Mr. John Keiferheim (Zelia Peruse) 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 great spread. Mr. Bruno Desrosier was 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 Preneved), Rose (Mrs. Norman Laujame), Henry and Viola. Sauve family was notified of this by all the family. Mrs. Noel Brule now owns 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. For a few years he worked as a laborer, but in 1908 he started a building business. He became a successful builder and was one of the first to use modern techniques in construction. He was a pioneer in the use of concrete and steel in building construction.

Savard was a member of the Crookston Businessmen's Association and was active in the local community. He was a member of the Crookston Catholic Church and was aActive in the local community. He was a member of the Crookston Businessmen's Association and was active in the local community. He was a member of the Crookston Catholic Church and was a

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 theater. 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 many 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 always drew a crowd was the former Kid Parneau known as the Crook's Cheese King.

Politics interested Kaiser and he was a staunch Republican. He served on the city council and was Commander of the American Legion Guder Auster Post No. 22 in Red Lake Falls. He was a member of the Crookston Jaycees Club.

He will be remembered as a keen promoter of sports and a colorful character in Red Lake Falls. Kaiser passed away in 1973.

JOHN SCHAER 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 farm 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.

Our family consists of eight children.

Stephen, born in 1951, lives in New Orleans and is attending classes at Our Lady of Loretto College. He is a member of the Community of Jesus the Lord, a new order of priests yet to be organized formally — and who are establishing a House of Prayer at their residence.

William, born in 1952, attended one year at Benedict 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.

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.
William Schafer was born in 1957, is attending Moorhead State University and is majoring in Agriculture Business.

Laura, born in 1959, is a junior at Lafayette High School.

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 1950's. Louis won a trip to Washington, D.C. with the 4-H Citizenshio 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 activities. 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 Schafer's have kept two old threshing seers at their farm home.

The h-i-l-e of 75 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. Co-celebrant was Father Daniel C. 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 Linnert of Gervais Township. His paternal grandparents are John Schafer and Mary Wolf; maternal grandparents, John Linnert and Mary Majerus. He has three brothers, Willard, Larry and Eugene (Jim), and one sister, Margaret (Mrs. Dale Boutilier). 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.

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, daughter of Harry Zornig and Mary Rudge. Judy's maternal grandparents are Fessie Rudge 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 14, 1964 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 Club, St. Joseph's Men's Club, Knights of Columbus, American Legion, and the Red Lake Falls Credit Union.

The Schafer's 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 Schafer came to Dundes, Minnesota with his parents from Perth Amboy, New Jersey, where he was born in 1895.

In 1978, at age seventy-one, he took a homestead in Section 4, Lake Pleasant Township, then Polk County.

After farming for eight years, he returned to Dundes to marry Wilhelmina (Minnie) Ludwig in 1885. She was born in Hannover, Germany in 1860 and came to the United States with her parents, Fred and Minnie Yentz Ludwig in 1863, and to Dundes from New York in 1868.

William and Minnie Schafer had five children: Selma married Fred Seeger in 1907, Agnes, married David Sanders of Crookston, in 1917, Emma married Fred Paruhl in 1917, Roland who married and lived in Minneapolis, and Arthur.

In 1879 William Schafer was elected first treasurer of Lake Pleasant Township, a position he held until 1916 and served as clerk of school district number 216. Ida Koke Sailey was Emma's first teacher and would pick up the Schafer 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.
ANDREW SCHIEFERT, SR.
Andrew Schiefer, Sr., son of George and Margaret Schiefer, was born in Austria in 1871. He, along with his parents, two sisters, and one brother, emigrated to the United States in 1880 and settled in Sibley County, southern Minnesota where they engaged in farming.

In 1900 he was united in marriage to Anna Gitter. They farmed in Sibley County and then moved to Renville 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 Emri township, Renville County, six miles north of Renville. 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 Red Lake Falls, Wisconsin; Anna (Mrs. Frank Keim), passed away in 1969; Margaret (Mrs. Floyd Russell), Madison, Wisconsin; Andrew; Joseph, 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 Schiefer had 31 grandchildren.

In 1945 Andrew Sr. and Anna retired and moved to a farm in Renville County. Ann spent some time at Hillcrest Nursing home before she passed away in 1961.

ANTHONY SCHIEFERT

Anthony Schiefer was born in 1909 in Sibley County, southern Minnesota to Andrew and Anna Gitter Schiefer. He attended four 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 Plumner. Here he finished school and later began farming with his father.

In 1939 Anthony married Ezella Quewel, daughter of Robert and Emily Quewel, of Sweet Shoals, six miles east of Terrebonne. They rented and farmed the land they owned on the Quewel farm for the first child, Robert, 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 only a year. Here their son Lonnie was born. In 1942 the Schiefer farm was purchased a farm in Poplar Township.

JOHN SCHINDLER AND MARY SCHMITZ SCHINDLER

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 Falls Township. 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, southeast of the city.

Mary Schmitz, daughter of Joseph and Mary Schmitz, was born June 8, 1897 in a log 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 Granite 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 hogs, sheep, chickens, turkeys and geese. Every member of the family worked and knew how to work. Mary made butter and sold it to the local people. The family raised sheep and had a large flock of goats. John cut cord wood in the winter for sale. All the farm work was done with horses and mules. John also raised mules for power to pull the machinery.

The older children went to country school District 216, and a half mile from home. In the winter, it was sometimes impossible to get there. Later, when a private bus was hired, the younger children attended Red Lake Falls schools. Public schools 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 county board for ten years, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative Community College. 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 improved when a portable Delco light plant was purchased and installed and the buildings were wired for electricity. The Red Lake Electric Cooperative 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.

All the children were married in 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 1963. When they came back to Red Lake Falls that fall, their children helped 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 fiftieth 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-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 six children. Veronica married Raymond Carr and they have nine children. Josephine married Eugene Tator and they have six children. Raymond married Gene Taggert and they have two children. Veronica married Robert Carr and they have two children. Mary married Eugene Tator and they have four children. Mary married Eugene Tator and they have four children.
FRANK SCHIRICK, SR.
Frank Schirick, 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 both to meet again in Red Lake County.
In June 1891, Mr. Schirick married Mary Lozert who was born May 20, 1886 also at Bauch, Austria, and came to the United States in 1891.

The Schircks settled on a farm in Wylie Township that Frank previously homesteaded in 1881. Frank Schirick, 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. Evenia, deceased), John in Texas, Martha (Sister Franciscan, deceased), Frank and Agnes (Mrs. Joe Rynie) of Detroit, Michigan.

Frank died in 1912 and Mary in 1946.

PETER SCHIRICK
I was born in 1894, the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schirick. 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, 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 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 Crop and Seed Award 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 living in Crookston and 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 Award for three years. In 1943, I showed the reserve grand champion sample of wheat at the International Livestock Show in Chicago.

Peter Schirick purchased a new threshing machine in 1921 and for approximately the next 24 years moved from farm to farm helping to harvest small grain crops for farmers. He was a long time member of the Red City Towne and the United Church of Christ 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 245 bushels that weighed sixty-seven pounds. Times were hard then, and with out the untiring efforts on the part of my wife, they would have been much worse. I 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
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 home and went to live in Westport, Connecticut, starting a career as a barber.

In 1914, he received the news of his mother's death, and decided to return to Norway.

When arriving in New York, he met a Norwegian couple who were coming to North Dakota and they asked him to accompany them. He did, but for some reason he decided to stay in the United States where he worked as a barber in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and other states.

The Schjelderup family had eleven children. The two eldest, Carl and Andrew, were born in Woodside, Wisconsin, rural Kaukauna. The others were born in Plummer. Two died as infants. Carl, Andrew, Mary, and Harold died in 1912. Andrew, who was born in 1893 and died in 1912, is buried in the hillside cemetery.

The family moved to Plummer in 1919, where they bought a farm on the Clearwater River. They lived there until Andrew's death in 1947

Many stories are related to us about the pioneer days, and the hardships they faced. They would travel on foot to Red Lake Falls for supplies. A journey of 13 miles, and on such trips they would carry a pack mule and a horse with a wagon. It was a hard life for them, but they were both happy together.

The family lived in a log cabin until they moved to a brick house in 1930. The children attended school in Plummer.

In 1936, the family sold the farm and moved to the city. They bought a hotel, operated it for 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 goods and clothing. This helped the family out, and they continued to run the business.

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 Schmids sold the store and moved to a farm just outside Red Lake Falls. Mrs. Charles Schmidt passed away in 1936, 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 dance bands, 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.

EYVIN SCHJELDERUP

Eeyvind Schjelderup was born in Forsa, Tysfjorden Norway on October 24, 1863, to Kristian and Annette 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 home and went to live in Westport, Connecticut, starting a career as a barber.

In 1914, he received the news of his mother's death, and decided to return to Norway.

When arriving in New York, he met a Norwegian couple who were coming to North Dakota and they asked him to accompany them. He did, but for some reason he decided to stay in the United States where he worked as a barber in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and other states.

The Schjelderup family had eleven children. The two eldest, Carl and Andrew, were born in Woodside, Wisconsin, rural Kaukauna. The others were born in Plummer. Two died as infants. Carl, Andrew, Mary, and Harold died in 1912. Andrew, who was born in 1893 and died in 1912, is buried in the hillside cemetery.

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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, Moorehead, 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 in 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.

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, devotionals and the like. During early years people came with horses and buggies and often stayed overnight and would offer home cured hams, eggs and home rendered lard in payment for their lodging, although 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 accordion. A frequent visitor at such “concerts” was Father Henry Penner 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 also 45 great-grandchildren and 45 great-great-grandchildren 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 Boutilier. 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.

FRANK SCHMIDT, SR.

Frank Schmidt, Sr., came to Red Lake Falls with his parents, Franz Schmidt and Anna Glasser, 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 Landolt) 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 Descos) of Crookston.

The Schmidts family have been members of St. Joseph’s Church, Red Lake Falls.
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 bookkeeper. They have five children (one deceased) and four grandchildren. Maurice passed away December 1975.

Louise 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 has four children. They have five children and one grandchild.

Clarence married Donald Kott. 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 (one deceased).

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 school administrator in Argyle and 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 vivid in his mind. During World War I, he was ordered to serve 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. He spent all this money but not on food. He boarded a train and the fare was eight dollars a week. He worked as a loader and driver. 

Later, Ben learned a carpentry trade while working with a local carpenter 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 pay was paid on the 8th of the month and his check was good for ten dollars a week, one-half of his week's pay check. During this time, he also learned to be a weather forecaster and a bricklayer. 

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 section of Red Lake Falls. They started in 1940 and are purchasing 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 sawdow dairy herd, and the remainder was seeded into small grain. Ben supplemented his farm income with blueberry picking, brick work and odd jobs 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 music at social gatherings.

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 horses and he worked as a clerk in the local hardware store. He helped with the chores 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 stacks, he would only stand in one place.

It was during these formative years of his farming life that Ben learned to be a top-notch stonemason. His formal education consisted of eight years in "The Little Red Schoolhouse," his home school. He desired more education, but there was too great a need for him on the farm.

Later, Ben learned a carpentry trade while working 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 pay was paid on the 8th of the month and his check was good for ten dollars a week, one-half of his week's pay check. During this time, he also learned to be a weather forecaster and a bricklayer — all valuable assets following his return to Red Lake County.

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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 Henry P. 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
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 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 enlisted in the navy for four years as 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 13, 1964.

It was a happy day when R.E.A. came out our way, making farming 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 Schieffert. He works for Hydra-Dry Inc. and Delayne works for Detriot. They have two children and live near Terranebo.

Bonita was born November 18, 1940 and married Darrell Kasprowicz. They live on a farm near Stephen.

Veronica was born September 29, 1945 and married Anthony Kazmierczak. They have two children and live in Waconia.

Pauline was born January 15, 1949 and married Clarence Kuzma. They have three children and live in Bloomington where he owns the Viking Dry Wall Co.

Ruth was born February 26, 1960 and married Martin Schieffert. They have two children. Ruth is an LPN at St. John's Hospital, and Martin 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 remarried 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 (Majerus) still living. Leona has a twin brother still living.

ALOIS SCHMITZ AND DORINE BEAUCHANNE SCHMITZ

Alois Schmitz, eldest child 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, Leona served in the U.S. Army, based at Malmstrom, with duty in Germany. Alois 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 at Red Lake Falls and held that position for seven years. Leona 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 Council of Concerned for Life. She was employed at the Detriot Mobile Factory as secretary and also at Social Services 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 their was promoted to District
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, Alcis, formed the Schmitz Construction Company. Linus enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting and farming in his spare time. Beverly is employed by Red Lake Electric. Her hobby is gardening.

The family 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 father of fourteen 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 Nys); the Neys have one daughter, Renae; Mike is married to Karen Christiansen; and they have a daughter, Rachel; Charlotte (Mrs. Milo Trangesrud); the Trangesruds have a son, Marty; Bonnie (Mrs. Les Olson); Tim; Polly; Connie; Val and Les.

W. A. SCHREITER FAMILY
Wentzel August Schreiter, the second man to start a retail business in Red Lake Falls, was born in Lenz, Austria, December 18, 1858, and died 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 Manitowoc, Michigan for about seven years. In the spring of 1890, he returned to Red Lake Falls and became the head of his own business. He had found the girl he wanted to marry, Magdalene Hoerner, in Oshkosh, about twenty miles from Appleton, his home town. He decided to look for a suitable business location in northeastern 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, the Sovereign Drug Store, he was fortunate enough to find someone about to come 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. There were a few houses 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, so he and his wife, Mrs. Hunt, dispatched 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 and logging in the area but the land area 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 Benevent Avenue and E. 20th Street.)"

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 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 goods. Among the items advertised on the Prescription Department, "[the purest simples and liquors for medicinal purposes]," paints, varnishes and oils, cigars, groceries, clothing, boots and shoes, "at a still lower price than the best two dollars 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 his own subscribers. It was interesting to know who 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 Bank of the Falls, he was vice president of 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 daughter Ernestine and Mr. J. J. Paclen 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 Comfort Service, operating out of his home. VI is employed as a 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, student at Minot State University, Minot; Thomas, student at the University of North Dakota; and two daughters, 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 was also 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,
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 on his farm 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 Mr. Vernon, New York. They have two children, Celena 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.

ARLEY AND VERN 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. Erhard 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.

Theresa and Loren 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.

ERDMANN SCHULTZ

Erdmann Schultz, son of Herman Schultz and Wilhelmina Ziebell, was born in July 1853 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, (Mr. Richard Weise); Arley and Mavis (Mrs. Roger Avidson) 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.
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 Roark 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 a teacher at several rural schools in Red Lake County, including the Patnode School, Wildwood School, Old Lambert School, Hennighausen 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.

Emma 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 Kellner, Bernidji and Winona, Minnesota. He died in 1942. His widow, Florence, lives in Michigamme.

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 to Wisconsin with his parents to Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, where he worked in sawmills in the area. In June 1892, he was married to Emma Eleonore Sandberg, who was born 1866 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Emma was the daughter of Knute and Anna Sandberg.

Knute Fredric 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 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They had eight children: Selma (Mrs. C. E. Scholander), Axel, Gustav, and Emma (Mrs. Joseph Schusser).

Joseph's family lived in Sweden with their family in 1880, when they left the country for America. Emma, then fourteen years of age, related that the experience left her with no desire to return to her native country. That same year, they homesteaded in Black River Township in Polk County. When their family increased, the property was sold 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, Berntine Sophie and Irene Rose, both born in Red Lake Falls. Berntine (b. 1893) was graduated from Lafayette High School in 1913. She taught at the Shaker School, the Wylie School, and the Patnode School in Red Lake County, and one year at Kelsey, Minnesota. For two years, she worked for the Minnesota LaBissoniere's "Big Store" in Red Lake Falls. On July 1, 1919, she was married to Herbert Schuler Firocense.

Irene (b. 1898) was graduated from Lafayette in 1916. She took part in opera and was an active member of St. Mary's Church choir. Irene taught at the Patnode School, the Grants School, the Whalen School, the Lash 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.

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 social life. The Schusser family owned a number of Red Lake Falls churches, loved to cook, crochet, and read the newspaper. Emma was in her eighties when she died in 1944, leaving a husband and a daughter, and was still complained about her aches and pains and life in general. Emma quipped, "I'm busy and do something, work never hurt anyone." She remained active almost to the moment of her death at ninety-nine years and a half a year of age. She lived with her daughter and her husband, the Findeisen family, from 1921 until her death on January 29, 1966.

JAMES SCOTT

Jim Scott's grandfather G. F. Glasser was from Alisaire, Lorraine, and he remembered his grandmother was Norwegian and couldn't speak English. Jim was born in Canton, South Dakota, October 1, 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 her father's side were from Germany. Marie was born in Goshen, Oregon, in March, 1938, and moved to Rushford, South Dakota before one year old. Jim and Marie met in Sioux Falls, married in 1967, had two children, and left Sioux Falls from 1965 to 1969. 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 Grafton, 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 1965, both Jim and Marie went to work for Detroit Mobile Home Park and settled in Oakville, 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 Minot as an electrician, and they work for the Crookston Regional Interschool 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 1964, a young couple got stuck on the main street in Oklee while looking for a place to live there. Their young man accepted a position at the Oklee Creamery. They were Delton and Dorothy Sebener 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 Boufleur, came to this county from Plover, Wisconsin, in 1875. Fred Boufleur was not only a quiet man and spent most 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-granmother Boufleur helped raise the family. My father, Delton, was only one year old at the time.

These good people are gone now, laid to rest in Red Lake County.
CHARLES SEEGER FAMILY

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seeger Sr. both came to America from Sulfeld Germany (a village not far from Hanover) in 1882. They came to New Ulm and worked for a year at Grunden on a farm near Courtland in Nicollet County. Then they rented a farm; later they farmed at Gibbon and Buffalo Lake. In 1893 they sold their farm and moved to Flourney in town. 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; some 100 cattle were taken to market in the summer, for which rent was paid. In the winter, the cattle were taken in town for the barn sale. In the spring, they would be taken out to the fields to graze. The cows would be taken out to the fields to graze. The cows would be sold "off the poll tax."

I believe it was the lovely groove that called "walking through the grove" and told us how many pails of water we had carried to those groves. We put out our croquet set and on Sundays neighbors would come and play horses and croquet.

Christa Geddes of Arlington, Minn., moved here two weeks before we did. Mrs. Lizzie Grandbois, who passed away recently, was the oldest of the Geddes family. Anna Geddes and her sister Dora were good friends and she was Dora's bridesmaid. Bill Cunin, Philip's dad, was another that would come over.

July 4th, 1901 all the neighbors of German descent came: Claus Hinrichs, John Haney, Gertie Mathias, Almow, Geddes; and that afternoon they decided to ask Rev. Val Kern of the Emmanuel 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 administrators granted them his consent. We had our first services the last Sunday in July. That was the beginning of St. John's Lutheran church. The Fred Bein family moved from Iowa in 1902 and Reicks from Westa. Then it was decided to build a church in Red Lake Falls on the "North Side". Paul Roeger 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 Gedde, Helen Reick, Charles Seeger.

Mrs. and 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 farm and river in town. Their son, John, still lives on that farm. Fred Seeger married Selma Schaper in 1907. Ernest Seeger married Lydia Funte in 1901. He was a carpenter. Charles Seeger married Lydia Funte in 1901. He was a carpenter. Charles Seeger married Lydia Funte in 1901. He was a carpenter.

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 Cervias 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 Ora 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 Schanzen 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.

LESLEY 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 moved to Gibbon. In 1955 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.

From about 1932 to 1936, Ernest Seeger worked for the highway Department besides farming. In 1941 they moved to Dallas 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 Baltzer), 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 1953 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.
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 McInamar and they lived in 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 and Josie's sister-in-law, Mrs. Martin Short, to come with 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. Bins and Garvin worked for them to get enough supplies to last several weeks. This led to their starting a store in their home. Because their home was large, they were 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 and plow. He met his death in an accident when the tractor-grader he was driving while mowing ditches tipped, pinning him beneath.

In May of 1866, James Walker and his brother George of Arkwright, Ontario, Canada, established a store in Equality Township and were close neighbors of the Shorts. James and George cut wood to make a living and 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); Donald (b. 1922) and Leslie (b. 1925).

The first store 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 new 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 father operate the farm as his father had died in 1927 at the age of fifty years. He died in June 1929.

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 get around in a wheelchair. Leslie married Martha Axelton in 1937. They had two daughters 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 were operating the home farm in Equality Township. Delmaine and James both died in 1969. James had married Bernice Riel (daughter of Albert and Celina Hinch Riel) and they had four children: Lora Jean, John, Mary Jo and Kelly. Bernice died in 1951.

Ernest Walker married Amber Boerner 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 homeschooling 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 1963.

E. J. Shukle resigned as superintendent in 1955 and accepted a sales position. Later he became Program Coordinator for the 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 the University of Minnesota, Duluth, is currently enrolled in a graduate study at the University of North Dakota 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.

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 Tressier, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Tressier of Oklee. In 1918 he added hardware to his stock and in 1923 put up a "Cut Carb Guage Pump." In 1927, he moved the harness building and built a 24' x 50' modern hardware building in the same location. After Charlie and Flore had been in business 29 years, they sold their store, Bill, in 1939. They also had three daughters, Florence, (Mrs. Abe Paquin) Kenwood, California; Florence (Mrs. Vincent Anderson) Long Beach, Calif.; Betty, (Mrs. Tom Melyb) 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 a 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 the 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 Walsh, and later he sold to Wally Goering 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.
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 Florence 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 Heal), 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 November 23, 1929. The store was finally sold in 1956 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 a member 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 schools and served in the United States Navy during World War II. He married Beverly Scheiblauer after the war and they moved to Montreal. Four children were born, Joseph, Eugene, and two daughters, Kathleen and Karen. Henry continues the farm operation raising small grains and stock cattle. In November 1969, he married Erma LaPlante Perreau.

JOHN AND ARDITH HOVET SOLHEIM

John was born on June 3, 1942 to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Solheim of Thieaf River Falls. His father, now deceased, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Iver Solheim of Kratka Township. John worked for many years as a building contractor in Thieaf River Falls. His mother resides in Thieaf 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 and Thieaf River Falls and is the sister of Mrs. Roy Wilcox (Charlotte) of Red Lake Falls.

John was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Thieaf River Falls in 1942. He transferred to 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 5. Subsequently he returned to Minneapolis, where he was employed as a machinist in the Twin City Army Ammunition 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 Thieaf 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 Thieaf 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 13, 1970 at Thieaf River Lutheran Church, in Thieaf River Falls. In July 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 Kurler 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, 1974.

On October 11, 1974, their fifth anniversary, they were blessed with a little girl, whom they named Julie Jean.

CARL SORENSEN FAMILY

Carl Sorenson, born in Grue, Salar, Norway, on October 5, 1869, came to Kerkhoven, Minnesota in June, 1877. 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 1878, he joined his brother and sisters in Kindred, North Dakota, where he worked on farms and in the carpentry. 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 went back to Kindred to work. The 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 Berit Braaten who was born in Norway on August 13, 1874. On September 20, 1874. She came to America with her family in 1880 and settled near Kindred. Carl and Berit, together with his mother (Johanna) and brother John, made the journey together to the homestead in northern Minnesota. They made the trip with a covered wagon, three cows tied behind.

St. Hilare was the nearest town, about twenty miles away. There was a store and a post office at Garnes where they could purchase their groceries and supplies.

Ten children were born to Carl and Berit, five of whom attended school. Berit taught school, and farmed an adjoining farm. Ingvald who died in infancy; Iver, who married Mae Tiber 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; Erling married Frances Ebert, a baker from Minneapolis; Edna lived in a farm in Wisconsin. Her husband, Charles Hill, is a nephew of the late Earl Hill of Brooks. They are now retired from farming. As married Arthur Froiland and lives near Plummer. John, Neubert and Orville are on the Sorenson farm. John and Orville served in World War Two, and Orville spent several years on the Aleutian front. Bergt died in January of 1932 and Carl in September of 1950.

JOHN SORENSON

John Sorenson, the son of Soren and Johanneus Tiskild Halvorson, was born in Bravdal, 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.
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 1893. 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 Langlie) of Virginia. The second arrival was Stella who now is Mrs. Henry Larson of Oklee. The third 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. Sorensen passed away in April of 1952 and John died on the 30th of July, 1959.

RALPH SORENSON
Ralph Sorensen was born in January, 1910 the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sorensen 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 Berline 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, Orvin Linder.

MARTIN O. SORTEDAL
Martin O. Sortedahl was born in Kenyon, Minnesota in 1896. He received his education in the public schools in Goodhue County and at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

In 1921, he came to Crookston and accepted a position as deputy Clerk of Court in Polk County. He held that position 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 1927). 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 1928 he married Hilda Swanson of Warren, who had come to this country from Norway when she was twenty years old. They had seven children: Olaf, Mildred, John, Ralph, Mae, Myrtle, and  Myron.

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 Rock Knolls golf course. The children all grew up there and attended the local schools. Sticks for the driving were killed 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 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 sick and had abscesses quite a ride with that mode of travel. He 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 sick every day, there was at one time the family was quarantined for five weeks with scarlet fever. When Ralph was four years old, 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.

Mildred, Myrtle and Myron 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 Lilian Luxemburg 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 Barum, 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 Taste Food for nine years.

John left Red Lake Falls in 1944 and went to Audubon, Iowa where he married Thea 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 A. A. Lambt building, then in 1938, they rented the Sande 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 service and became affiliated with his parent's 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 Quirk 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 mid-1860s. 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 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.

Leo and Bertha Steinert 1884

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 room. This practice ended abruptly when his landlady discovered a slow drip from his 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 farmland.

My mother, Bertha Glaser, born in 1860, east of Leipzig, 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 Wangan "shoot" the dam. The Wangan was a form of house boat on which the log drivers lived, as they prog-
pressed 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.

For a few 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 1912.

Then to a very limited extent... that is, one or two dim carbon filament lamps in the house. The arrival of the electric light iron a few years later was a notable event. Before the "electric age" trimming the wicks on the kerosene lamp and lantern was a regular chore.

Theodore, and, of course, father worked at the mill at least six days of the week, ten to twelve 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 dressed in "Old Cloth", his family home, and went 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 robins on our street, as early as 1905. Reichert, to the left, and progressing west were Mizen, Northern Pacific station master, Helm, farm implement; Kaufer, harness and leather goods; and Ben Risch, Northern Pacific section foreman. House construction in those days was very poor. Insulation was unheard of and houses were never designed to give a sense of space under the house. During the winter the houses were "banked" and for heating we had a fancy base burner stove, with insulating windows, which burned anthracite coal. Around 1906, Theodore excavated a cellar under our house, and installed a furnace. At the time it was the only one in town. The fuel was provided by a supplier who delivered it, and in fact, perhaps without realizing it, serve as the test of the fly 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, after I had returned home, I followed in the footsteps of 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 a justice of the peace, and 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 Harden in 1923, who now resides in Crookston, Minnesota. Their children were: Mrs. Wm. McPherson, Mrs. L. Alvis, Mrs. William Stein, of Duluth, Minnesota.

In 1915 Otto married Estelle Foss at Blue Earth, and Estelle died in 1936. They are survived by Gordon, of Minneapolis, Donald, of Spring Valley, California, and Patricia, of Robert Olenkamp 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 stood twenty years of neglect, and the old landmark was finally razed in 1975.

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

**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 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 two 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 Olenkamp 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 Olenkamp live in Northridge, California.

Gordon attended the Minneapolis School of Business in Minneapolis and served in the U.S. Army for six years and was Chief Petty Officer. He was on the battleship U.S. Maryland in Pearl Harbor in the battle of the day of the attack, and was later in the family known of his safety. He married Irene Hallas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Hallas of Brooks in 1941. They have one son Richard who with wife Karen and daughter Jennifer live in Spring Valley, California, and Donald and Irene Steinert live in Spring Valley, California. He is Clerk of Superior Court in San Diego.

Gordon married Sylvia Paukert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Paukert, 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 Council and a member of the Red Lake Falls Fire Department for many years.

Following high school at Lafayette, Sylvia took time off to study and taught 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 the farm home near the school. One part of a school teacher's duties might involve 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 never easy.

**By Emil Steinert**
Oscar and Signe Stenberg

Oscar Stenberg was born at Horace, North Dakota in 1895. He grew up in a small town in the Red River Valley of North Dakota. After graduating from high school, he served in the United States Navy during World War I. After the war, he returned to North Dakota and married Signe Lunde on November 15, 1921. Signe was born in Telemarken, Norway in 1897. She came to America with her parents when she was three 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 $42.00 for an immigrant to 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.

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 these. 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 of two beans had exploded and there were beans everywhere! The first day of school, it 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 river to be crossed over a bridge, and it was a bridge for a river horse to carry the actors across. The plan worked perfectly, and the audience was thrilled.

The Stenbergs 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 Ramun of Thief River Falls and they have four children: Dana, Sophia, Matthew, and Richard. Susan (Mrs. Paul Thompson) has one daughter, Jessica. Anne and Philip Thompson live in Racine, Wisconsin. Signe Stenberg presently lives in Red Lake Falls and is employed at the ASCS Office in Crookston.

Oscar and Signe Stenberg Family.

Back: Margaret, Jim, Doris, and Don. Front: Oscar, Barbara, and Signe.

Charles Stephens and Monica Schmitz

Charles “Chuck” Stephens, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Casper Stephens, 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. Upon 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 Maire 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. in English and is now employed at Cameron-Sullivan Corporation as office manager. Richard is employed in construction work, living in a house. Hairy is a graduate of Hibbing Jr. College as a registered nurse and is employed at the Vet's Hospital in St. Cloud; Karen is married to Bert Schultz, the son of Al and Hazel Schultz and they have two sons, Brandon and Kelly. They reside in Kimball, Minnesota, where Bert is practicing law. 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 his brothers and sisters he 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 Stonehouse Family

One of the earlier settlers of Equality Township was Daniel Stonehouse, born in April of 1852, in Prince County, 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 Walpole, 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 Stonehouse 1897

land in Equality Township, Red Lake County.

On this land he built a carpenter, shanty about 14" by 16" for his first home. The following year Daniel married the daughter of a nearby 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 Stonehouse in April, 1897. Kate was born in Eden Prairie, Wisconsin on December 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 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 was 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 undertook in his efforts to help others. It was through his knowledge and courage that he lived on the home place until their deaths. Two of the daughters are deceased, Margaret and Francis. Daniel's wife passed away at age 95 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 are all retired from working professions except one. Minnie Stonehouse lives in Oklee and has remained in the area all through her many devoted years as a nurse in Oklee and later in St. Paul and is retired from teaching and family raising. Sadie Stonehouse 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 Stonehouse Lange, the youngest daughter, is living in Oklee, Oklee, Oklee, Oklee, Oklee.

The old log house had a large kitchen added in 1918. It was covered with siding inside out, but today these inside walls are covered by paper and paint. All the crude machinery was replaced by electrically operated machinery. Tractors replaced the many horses. The house is now equipped with all modern utensils and is the center of activity. The interior is spacious and the residence still a home for a Stonehouse and one of Daniel's sons, Orlean who lives there with his family of four generations.

This brief sketch of Daniel Stonehouse was done by his granddaughter, Kathleen Huot Braun, whose mother, Katherine Stonehouse Huot, gave her many notes and many ideas to arrange into this story.

DONALD STONEHOUSE AND MYRTLE RYSTAD STONEHOUSE

Donald Stonehouse, born in Equality Township, is one of eight children of Daniel and Kate Stonehouse. 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 the electricity and running water was brought into the house. A two room addition was built onto the original house. The homesteaded land was enlarged by Donald and his father. In addition to a total of 300 acres, improvements on the farm include a ditches, a drain and a water pot for the 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 and her two youngest sons moved into Oklee, where they were living in Oklee. The third generation of the Stonehouse family is still living in Oklee.

Orlean and Virginia now operate 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, the house modernized, are the same as Orlean's grandfather owned it.

PETER STORVICK AND LILLIE OLSON STORVICK

Peter Storvick was one of twelve children who lived in among the trees. 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, Telemark in southern Norway. She was a farm girl 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 on December 19, 1939, and two sons were born to them, Engvald and Lloyd.

Engvald owned and operated creameries in many cities in Minnesota.

In 1933 Peter purchased the Red Lake Falls Creamery from Fred 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, 1959, when the creamery was sold to Mr. Mutten. Donald Baril, Glen Feinlan and John Hendrickson bought the creamery.

Minnie Stonehouse
NELS STRANDE AND ANNE HOFSTAD STRANGE

Nels Strande and Anne Hofstad were married in 1912 in the Lost River Congregation at the parsonage of 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 remodelled 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. Tessler owned the first.) In 1931 Nels bought the Farmers and Mechanics 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 1956. He had worked for many years with his father serving in 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. He was a member 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 were used, the United States Forest Service was employed 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.

C.W.B. HONEY COMPANY

The abundant sweet clover fields on the green country side of Red Lake County are a delicious treat for the C.W.B. Honey Company. The company moved to Red Lake Falls in 1934, from the drab area of Volga, South Dakota. This was a family company of Lewis A. Coblenz, his daughter and husband, Lorena and Enoch Baker, and another daughter, Julia A. Walder, the mother of Mary Beth and Wandalee Walder.

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 Niels in recent years. Part of the 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.W.B. Honey Company specialized in producing comb honey which was shipped 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 cooperative in Sioux City, Iowa. In 1938, the company was awarded the Blue Ribbon for honey at the State Fair at Des Moines.

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 to Europe. The Honey Company ranked first in the production of comb honey in the world.

During a season, thirty to fifteen-year-old persons were hired. Some worked from April to November with bees and shop work. In June the sections were made and fitted with hives. The hard work of the season was the production of comb honey. The peak of employment was in July, August, and September, when several workers were employed to pack honey. Each section of comb honey had propolis removed from the wood, each was weighed and stapled with its net weight, producer's name and location, and each was wrapped in vapor-proof cellophane. Sections were packed twelve to twenty-four in a box and sent via Milwaukee and Chicago. The 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 business who also bought the royalty rights from Roy Eichleay of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Lakeland, Florida. Each summer Mrs. Eichleay spends several weeks visiting her daughter, Mary Beth (Mrs. Harold Struthers) and Wandalee (Mrs. Kenneth Tischart) at Red Lake Falls.

The family is 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 Agricultural School, is a doctor in Parkers Prairie, Minnesota. 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, Oregon. Enoch and Mary Beth have 2 children. The couple returned to Red Lake Falls and they have three children. Glenn, completing his service with the marines in Vietnam, 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 O. M. 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 Gjerum who 10 years earlier had bought it from its founders, Nels and Kate Hagen.

Since its beginning in 1914, the Herald has been a newspaper-Like composition entirely by hand. Mr. Gjerum had bought a typesetting machine from the discontinued Gordon Banner and moved it into the Oklee plant, but it was not yet in working condition. The task of making it work accounts for the fact that for many years there were lights burning in the building past midnight and the plant was open on Sunday mornings.

Sundrud had some ideas about modernizing to keep pace with a town that was itself moving with post-war energy. In the summer the plant dealers were doing a brisk business. Throughout the long years, painting and improving of store fronts and high-level buildings were being built of one model.

The early years marked the beginning of another growth that ran far into the years, dipped, surged, dipped again, but never really ended. Blueprints and crude drawings on restaurant napkins were the order of the day. As the town grew, so did the need for a place to do business. In the early morning, about the time a country rooster would begin his cackles, there was also the sound of flying hammers, screaming saws, and squeaking wheelbarrows and laughing carpenters. They were great years.

Most of the old Oklee buildings, Sundrud was surveying his domain and making plans to replace other piece of equipment. This process continued with an awesome regularity, but it was to end eventually in the manner of all of Henry's short stories.

We are in the middle 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 killed it, and the rebuilding. We give Wally and his men a big credit for the job. They did a lot of work to other plants 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 they really have "peaked." It may be that even now OMC is a sleeping giant.

The many and varied 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 brief smattering of highlights from the 25
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 at the end 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, had to begin at 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 the next step was.

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 a new era and it was exciting to see.

O. Henry ending of the tale: By the time the Herald plant had been "modernized—a process that took about 20 years—it was obsolete."

While reluctant to change, Sundrud in 1970 merged his interests with the Gong- vick-Olson newspaper, and other 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 Sundrud sons were out on their own in the world on their own 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 German and 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.
JOE THEROUX FAMILY

Joe Theroux was born February 28, 1891, son of Louis Theroux and Philomene Vallencourt who had come from Yamaska Province of Quebec to settle north east of Plummer, Mayfair township now Pennington County. In 1899 they moved to Terrebonne township, Red Lake County.

Joe married Leah Queeney, daughter of Stephen and Annie Lemay Queeney. Ten children were born to this union, all born in Red Lake County.

Clifton, Rita (Mrs. Rene Lizotte), Eve Mae (Mrs. Vern Bergeon), Maxine, Barbara (Mrs. Stanley Pay), Paul, Dorothy (Mrs. John Brown) and Gary. Jean Marie and Marc died in infancy.

The four boys served in the navy during World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam.

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 1962 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 logging camps of the north. Three years later, he homesteaded land near Plummer and worked on the logging drives through Red Lake Falls. In 1900, he bought a farm near Terrebonne and farmed until 1903.

Louis married Philomene Vallencourt in 1888. She was born in Montreal. She passed away in 1940 at the age of 73 years. Louis homesteaded land near Plummer and worked on the logging drives through Red Lake Falls. In 1900, he bought a farm near Terrebonne and farmed until 1903.

Louis married Philomene Vallencourt in 1888. She was born in Montreal. She passed away in 1940 at the age of 73 years. Louis homesteaded land near Plummer and worked on the logging drives through Red Lake Falls. In 1900, he bought a farm near Terrebonne and farmed until 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. 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, Honi, Isla, Delina, Marie, Malvine, Philip, Emma, Frank, Telephon, Hervey, 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 served three years and a half years in the United States Navy as 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 Hervey died. Clinton and Pauline now own and operate a grocery store in Plummer, one of the businesses first established when Plummer was founded.

THIBERT HISTORY

Moise Thibert and his wife, Elizabeth Perris, were pioneers to the Crookston area from St. Augustine, Canada, arriving in 1877. 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 Prevost, the daughter of Hubert Prevost who had homesteaded to Terrebonne from Canada also in 1877. Raymond and Anna raised ten children: Rose (Mrs. Harvey Page), Mae (Mrs. Iver Sorenson) and Arlene (Mrs. Ardi Cote).

Mrs. Thibert lived until 1888 at Crookston and moved to Plummer and was married to Mr. and Mrs. Fournier.

Georgiana 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 Amtrak.

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 that 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 family has received all their children: Vern (married to Donna Duvor) of Sonoamish, Washington; Roger (married to JoAnn Hance) and present owner and operator of the Thibert Garage; Dwight (married to Betty Wooten), 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, was drafted 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 Cecilia Bernier of Oklee. They moved to Crookston where he was employed as vice-president of Stander Abstract and Insurance. They became the parents of a daughter, Lynette, born in 1954, and a son, Timothy, in 1955.

The family moved to Red Lake Falls in 1961 when Jerry went into the insurance business and purchased the Higginbotham 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 for 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.

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 Krebul, 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 teacher before attending Sargent High School.
JoAnn's growing-up years on the farm saw many drastic changes in farming methods, from horse-drawn machinery and hand-holding 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 Thibodeau 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 moved from the city in the early 1960s 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 SDSU. 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 Thibodeau Chevrolet and Buick and JoAnn is a county health nurse with Inter-County Nursing Service.

As much as JoAnn enjoyed listening to her grandchildren's stories about their youth—playing with Indians, making hay near Dorothy in the early 1900s—building a house in the Klondike, homesteading a farm in Gervais township, and driving a truck at the church in Wylie, and the Grand View Hotel, she feels that she, too, could've had the same joy of memories from her early life that they would really think were from the "olden days".

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 Service 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.

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 Rosanna Chatel in 1904. They had eight children: Eraine, Leo, Agnes, Levine, 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. was born in Fenhann, 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 Holz in 1911 and lived on a farm in South Dakota. In 1917 they moved to a farm in a town in the state 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, Gerhard, 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 Coniak 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 graving 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 home in 1949. They have five children: Arlen, (Mrs. Wayne Marcotte of Jacksonville, Arkansas), Roger of Crookston, Joyce, (Mrs. Marian Mattery) 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 was born in Telemarken, Norway, on December 24, 1881. Aslak and Ingeborg were married in 1900 and immigrated to America in 1882. They lived in Goodhue County in Minnesota for two years before moving to Fentile where they lived for ten years. The Thomsen homesteaded land near Plummer and lived there for four years. Later they moved their home with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Maginn, 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 Maginn, 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. Bjerk in 1956. The Thomsen purchased inventory from Bjerke and, subsequently, the building itself from the Hunt estate. They acknowledged the financial backing of friends, Charles and Gretel Potter.

Marne Thompson was born in February 1941, and Shirley Norris in 1943, both in Rainy River, Ontario. They were married in 1962 and are parents of two children, Debbie (b. 1965) 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.
farms to Harry Hinkle 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 Thorfinnsens purchased the old Samuel Gibbons 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 Hendrickson, Bob Erickson and Ed Etterman ran on a white-collar ticket for the offices on the city council and Vaughn for Mayor. Kaiser Savard (incumbent) filed and was reelected with the write-in support, 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 Coordinator, under the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation headquartered in the School Service Unit of District 644 in Thief River Falls. The position oversees seven school systems in the area.

Dick Thorfinnson graduated from Lafayette high school and is 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 Directors of Heartland 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. He married a new woman and moved back to 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 railroad engineer on the Great Northern Railroad. Emil married Ella Marzwick. They lived on the farm until he retired. Bertha, the baby of the family, married Anton Halverson. They farmed near the home place. Their farm was purchased 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 Kem 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. Kem and Glenyce graduated from Pershing High School at Plummer in 1945 and 1946. They 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 Gowen Lening, Company at Duluth for seven years as stationery 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 farm.

TISCHFAMILY

John B. Tischhart was born in Germany near the French border in 1832. He married Catherine Domsman in St. Agatha, Canada. She was born in 1837 in Eibenberg, 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 Tischhart owned a hotel at Dunkeld, Ontario, a few miles west of Walkerton, Ontario. He 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 "Tisch" at Duluth.

Joseph Tischhart, 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
Lars J. Torske Family

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 were married and still live in North Dakota.

Leonard and Helen Torkelson were born in Fittle Township, Walsh County, North Dakota where they grew up. They married in September of 1927. Mr. Torkelson was engaged in farming and since 1929 operated the farm which had been homesteaded by his parents. In 1951 they moved to the Red Lake Falls farm where he owned his land until his death in 1973. Mrs. Torkelson was township assessor from 1967 to 1972. They were members of the Bethany Lutheran Church.


Mrs. Helen Torkelson still resides on the farm.

OLE TORKELSON

Ole Torkelson was born at Osaral, Norway to parents Torkel and Kari Olson, December 18, 1887. He came to Red Lake Falls in 1894 with his mother and three sisters. On November 28, 1896 he married Margit Knutson, daughter of Knut and Berthe Knutson at Bygdal Township, Fisher. They lived at Bygdal 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 to 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 Sundal, 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 traveled the homestead route which took many weeks. Many became ill on the journey 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 Barnes township, had their first crops. They started with farm land which they took over their small children settled near Brandon.

The years 1899, Lars, Anetta and their family moved to a farm in Barnes township, had their first crops. They started with farm land which they took from the 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.

At that time there was a store and post office at Barnes 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 Kelliver and later homesteaded in Montana where he farmed and 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 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 Iona Wastlund and they had two children, a son, Alon, and a daughter, Olin. After serving 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. Lorna married Herbert Vetterelsen 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 farmland 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, Marty, Maiz, Jane, Rose and Nellie. Louis Toulouse Jr., my great grandfather, was born in 1878 and was raised in

KENNETH TISCHART

Kenneth Tischart married Wanda Lee Wallace 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 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 children: 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.
Lambert Township and attended the Lambert School. Like his father, he worked in the lumber camps at the age of seventeen. Louis Jr. worked in the camps at Blackduck, International Falls and Kellihier. 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 Cleo 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 $4.00 per day.

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, Rose and Leo, and six girls: Laura, Rose, Agnes, Aldia, Antoinette, and Leona.

Aldia and Thomas moved to Oklee where Thomas bought the Oklee Dryline from his uncle, Fred Bernier. With his two horses and wagons, he delivered freight, owned and operated an ice house where he bought and delivered ice to homes and businesses in Oklee. Thomas ran the Oklee Dryline for fifty years. Along with the Dryline business, Tom served as a special deputy for the Red Lake County sheriff's department. He was a policeman from 1963 until 1966. Aldia and Thomas raised four children: Lorraine, John Louis, and Katherine.

TROUBLY 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 Troublly, 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 Dorimille 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 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 Riviers, Quebec, the youngest of five. It was in the autumn of 1870 that his parents, Ernest and Jemima Troublly, together with "many grand uncles crosse 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 Chipewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Troublly

Dad's youthful life 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 of 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 stucco 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 he was safety while he sweated over the valve. Her resourcefulness during the flu epidemic of 1918 was legendary. 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 lovely 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 Troublly. 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 (1905) where he obtained employment as a time- and hardware clerk for Hunt and Kankel Hardware Company. After the fall
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
tenderness 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
work. A farmer 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.
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
Theofl Moudry of LeCenter at St.
Bernard's in 1947. Our second sister, Vivi-
enne, died after a long illness in 1949, and
Dad, at ninety years, five months and
eleven days in 1955.
Bernice moved with Mom to Mankato in
1962. Elvia, our oldest sister, died in
Mankato in 1969. She had been living with
Margarit and Grand Forks for about fifteen years
prior to her death. After a long pleasant old
age, Mom followed in 1970. She was 94
years old, 3 months and 27 days.
At the present writing Godlyne, Bernice and
Theoria 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 hometown" 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, who were in Turgeon, together with his
brother Louis Turgeon and wife Adeline
Hince, and others of a group from Lamb-
ton, 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, Lambton 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 Can-
ada in 1873 was only one year old when
she left Canada with her family. They set-
tled 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.

LOUIS TWETE AND
FRIEDA VATTHAUSER TWETE

Frieda Vathhauser (b. 1952) daughter of
Henry Vathhauser and Laura Hagle, was born
in Thief River Falls and graduated from
Lafayette and the Red Lake Falls School.
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 1
month old son, Tim, moved to Red Lake
Falls in June 1948 where they purchased
the L. B. Hartz store from Albert Havorson
who, in turn, had bought the business from
Ed Kellifeld.
Myrtle grew up in Otter Tail County and
met Tom, a native of Taylor, Texas, at the
University of Minnesota. They were mar-
rried in 1945, shortly after he received
his commission in the U.S. Air Force.
They operated their store in the Kellen-
heim building until the Standard Oil Com-
pany 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 secre-
try position with the Northwest Educational
Council and is present at is 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 1954.
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 Boutein. They have
two children and live in Willmar. Mike
married Roberta Miller. They have two sons
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 Mandan,
North Dakota 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 mean-
time 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 an
extra large loaf for Fred who was baking
at the time. They were married in 1901 in
Wylie. They drove to the church in a rib
bon-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 Carl
while Marie (age three) hung on to her.
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 Beaudelet 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 livable.

Dan was the first person in the area to own a Rum-mely steam powered threshing machine and did custom combining. He also owned an Avoir 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, Lewallyn, Patti and Mark. The oldest daughter, Georgianna (Mrs. Alfred Dale) lives at Rosemont.

Dan died in 1961 at the age of seventy-five and Marie Louise died in 1965.


clearing with a wooden floor. In the spring they built an addition to the cabin.

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Henry Vatthauer with children.

Before their marriage she taught at the Windsor school near Gompick 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; Julius (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 school boards, 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, 1886, 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), Freda (b. 1925), Irene (b. 1927), Ernest (b. 1930), Dean (b. 1932) and Donald (b. 1942).

Dean 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 Granton, 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 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 seven years.

Dean holds a private pilot’s license and owns his own aircraft. In 1926 he quit the farm to work as an instructor at the school. He is presently working towards an instrument pilot’s license.

Dean and Connie have three children, Brian (b. 1969), Eric (b. 1971) and Lisa Anne (b. 1965).

DONALD VATTHAUER AND KATHY SWENDGAARD 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 the 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 Lakeside Township. A daughter, Kristin, was born to them in November of 1975, and a son, Dale Michael, in September of 1973.

ERNST VATTHAUER AND THERESA EFTA VATTHAUER

Ernest Vatthauer (b. 1930), son of Henry and Laura Hagl Vatthauer, married Theresa Efta (b. 1932), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Efta, in 1955. 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 partnered with his two brothers, farms 2000 acres of land in Lake Pleasant and Red Lake Falls townships, raises grain and registered Angus cattle and 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.

Viola attended the Huo School, walking a mile and a half to school except when snow made her brothers could use the horses to drive her. 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 in a bachelor farmer doing farm and house work. They had twenty-five cattle, thirty cows, and had a cow to milk by hand and other stock to care for. Their days often began at 4 a.m. and ended at 10 p.m., during which time they received sixty dollars a month.

Because of Orphier’s ill health, they lived for a time with his parents. Later Viola was kept in a hospital for a sick neighbor, and Orphier had to return to work. They found temporary work until they finally rented a farm and began on their own. Their crops were poor and prices low, and they were forced to live on the farm, rent and raise the crops, and they had a difficult time.

In the 1930s their situation improved, but they still lived in poverty. They purchased the farm four miles west of Red Lake Falls on which they still live.

Ernest and Viola have five children: Laverne, Carol and Monica. They all attended St. Joseph’s and Lafayette schools.

Dwan served in the armed forces in Korea and on his return found employment in Minneapolis where he married Dorthy Duskey. They have five children and live in Orono, 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 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 struggles during the depression but feel now that it was 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. 1/4 of Sec. 29 in N.E. Emard Township. We moved to Fairfield, Minn.

Nels is of Norwegian heritage, as his parents immigrated to America from Norway about 1880. His father, John, born at Hagendorn, Christiansand, Norway, came to Minnesota when he was 27 and settled in Red Lake Falls.

Ernest married Edna Torkelson, and Nels is the 8th of their 10 children. After they died Nels moved to Grand Forks where he married Effie Brower at Inlet on Jan. 1, 1935. We farmed 4 years at Inlet, North Dakota, 8 yrs. at Grand Forks and came to Plummer in 1947. Effie is of Swedish and Norwegian extraction, Dutch, with a bit of Scotch-Irish and English. Her parents, William 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,
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 local 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 space was limited. As the boys entered high school they participated in sports and played many baseball games in the city hall before Flummmer's present gym was built. In 1950 twin boys were added to the family. Dave 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 Flummmer and have been active members in all departments. Disease and Daniel, followed by Steven in 1956 and Maribeth in 1959. 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 to work. We had only horse power, but soon added a tractor. We were one of the last to convert to combine use, using the grain separator as recently as 1960. We also stacked hay with an overhead stacker until 1970 when Nels partially retired and we sold the N. ¼ 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 provided many ups and downs but having lived thru various depression years and seen the great improvements since then, we are glad that Red Lake County is our home.

Frank Violette family

Frank Violette: 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 in 1873, where they homesteaded. The Frank Violette who has lived in Red Lake Falls all these years was the father 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. Emma Violette), Hillcrest, Nursing Home; Clara (Mrs. W. Reppula), Tacoma, Washington; Rose (Sr. Gabrielle), 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 wedding anniversary, and in 1973 they enjoyed a happy 50th anniversary with all their fourteen children present: Agnes (Mrs. Francis Nash), Buhl; Sophie (Mrs. Justina), Crookston; David, Dixie, Calaveras; 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-

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 Hotreed 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.
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 1899 and Alfred was then six years old. He remembered he was sick when they arrived but he was fine. To amuse himself, he would tie a piece of bread on a string to catch fish. 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 Eriske, Minnesota close to Erskine. The schoolhouse was about eighty rods from their house and the schoolteacher boarded with them. The school was built by the name of Max Boucher who owned a small dog for his companion. Two French boys came on skis from the school, and part of the pupils were Pransels from North Dakota. None were able to speak English and some of the boys were very stubborn about learning.

On January 23, 1899 Jacob O. Waldal married Johanna Anderson at the Saran Lutheran Church near Eriske by Pastor Nickolai Heinmann. 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 Fredland, 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 1923 and Marius and George farmed the homestead and raised potatoes. One year they left 150 acres of potato 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 1930s Marius was elected twice to represent 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 household, and to go out for employment. Jennie left for California in 1937 where she still resides. Olga married Henry Rose of Plummer in 1939. She 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 cordwood 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. The land and a mill were sold, and he moved to his parents farm and homesteaded it. He cut the timber and cleared it and built a house.

In 1910 Alfred married Clara Olson and they had five children: Selma (Evansville, Illinois), James (Vancouver, Washington), Alfred (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.

In 1920 his wife, Clara, died after the youngest child, Clara, was born. Early in 1921 Alfred married Rose Thureson, daughter of Brede Thureson. To this union five more children were born: Marie (Mrs. Walter Seeger of Red Lake Falls), Beatrice (Mrs. Clayton Larson of Plover, Wisconsin), Helen (Mrs. Rossa Shinn of Merrilville, 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 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 aunt 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.

SWAN WALHAUG FAMILY

Swan Walhaug was born in 1873 at Øy- netr, Telemarken, Norway to parents Eivind Walhaug and Engeborg Trondson Wal- haug. He immigrated to America in 1889 and arrived at Hawley, Minnesota and Kin- drup, 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 Norwegian bachelor living on his homestead in Garries Township were the highlights of the fall of the year. Swan Walhaug would travel to North Dakota with a team and hayrack to get a job during the threshing season. He would work from 5 to 9 in the morning, 2 to 4 in the afternoon, and 6 to 9 at night to earn only $3.50 to $4 a day. When the threshing was completed he started selling hay. He would stay over for as long as the hay harvest would last; some 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 stolen his horse, 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 the best of it. They remained friends ever since. The family was Mr. and Mrs. Ole Swenson. The following fall Swan married his neighbor, North Dakota wanted 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 Kold resistance to the family who stayed there until their own house was constructed. The neighbors pitched in to assist the new pasteur 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 school and learned the English language. After about seven years of bachelorhood, Swan married Anna Foss of Crookston, Minnesota. He 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. She and the marriage, the Swan Walhaugs still made their home in Garries.

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 trea- surer. 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 homestead 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 Cooperative Oil Association, organized in 1935. He married Martha Mattson. 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 was born in 1907 entered nursing 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 251, Polk County. He received his Bachelors Degree in Education from Bemidji State College in 1936 and his Masters 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 radio gunner. He was discharged in 1945 with the rank of Master Sergeant. He also taught four 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 Agriculture 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 crops and hogs. He also worked on his own farm in Garnes township. He was united in marriage with Mae E. Schueller at Grant 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 farm in Garnes township and 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 school board, 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 of his children. Gifted barber to pioneer times when all was worked hard for these' they only the necessary things were bought and very few things were wasted. In contrast to our heated cars now, old iron was heated on the stove the night before to be the next day to keep foot warm on the long drives to town behind horses.

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 and married 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 1868. The Jensens were married in Crookston in 1886 and moved to Red Lake Falls. Lauritz Jensen was associated with Leo Steinitz in the Steinitz Milling Company and was also a real estate agent. Hope Jensen was born in Red Lake Falls on March 1, 1901. The Jensens moved to Clearbrook in 1903.

The Clayton Walkers had three children: Donald, Philip and Sharon. Philip is a post office office 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.


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 cooperatives for many years. He was also 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 G.T.A. 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 Charlie Peterson 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 Navy and returned to farming. He was married to Virginia M. Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Olson.
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 Granville, 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 of 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 have 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 Hagen (1822-1906), pioneer settlers of Red Lake Falls, first immigrated to America from Braitdorf, 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 the wives of Red Lake County pioneers. Margaret married Richard Adler in 1981 and the couple moved to a farm near Wylie in 1982. 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 1867.

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 Barnes 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 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.

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 emergency. Labor extending into days, sometimes more than twenty-four hours, and his judgment, possibly necessary, often to some rude dwelling miles away. It was a rugged, demanding life, frequently requiring heroic measures and fateful decisions.

Neil Malcolm Watson arrived in Red Lake Falls in 1892 from Canada. He was twenty-seven years old and had graduated with an M.D. and C.M. degrees from McGill University the previous year. He, too, took an active interest in politics and other community activities. He was a prominent part in the county election and one of the candidates for mayor in 1892 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 years, and as president of the Red Lake County Fair Board for several years. 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 not 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 answers to questions 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.
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 a 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 come under the debris somewhere.

After selling that property to the railroad company, we went into grain hauling and livestock hauling. In 1983, 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 Ag” family 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. Ray married Richard Lynne in 1973; their only daughter Angela died in infancy. They live in Mankato, Minnesota, where he farms and is employed by Farmer’s Union. Children living at home are Michael, Daniel, and Joel. One son, Brian, died in 1965.

GEORGE WEISS

George Weiss was born on March 25, 1846, in Obersthabach, Bavaria, Germany, and immigrated to America in 1875. He first settled at Rockwood, Wisconsin, where he was united in marriage to Marie Sellmeier who was born in Germany on February 21, 1854. They moved to Duncans, Rice County, Minnesota where they lived for three years and then came to Lake Pleasant Township, where he was born.

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 Brown Creek Township where they farmed until 1912 when they moved into Red Lake Falls where they made their homes.

George and Marie had six children: Jenny, Louise, Harry, 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 1899 and in 1899 they moved to a farm in Brown Creek Township.

In 1911 he was united in marriage to Mary Hilse, daughter of Ernest F. Hilse and Marie Simon. Fred and Mary lived on the farm of his parents in Brown Creek Township where they lived. He held various positions in the 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 Hans; Adeline, Mr. Irving Beyer; Marie, Mrs. Harold.

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 Schulz Weiss of Wylie Township. He attended Black River country school until 1957, and then the old Washington Elementary school in Red Lake Falls. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Technical Institute until he was drafted into the U.S. army in 1968. He served in Vietnam 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.

Trisha Audette (Terry), daughter of Leon Audette and Noelia Lash, 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 1968 she attended Moorhead State College.

Following their marriage, Gary was employed by his father-in-law. 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, Anna Gebert came later and on January 19, 1876 they were married in Rice County.

In addition, they raised two children in the town of Lake Pleasant Township. The following year, on June 20, 1883 they obtained a land grant from 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 school 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 Kuper, Jennie, Larrina, Minnie, and John married and moved away. David continued to live on the farm after the death of his father in 1915.

In 1926 David married Anna Purath Lubenzburg 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 Seibert) 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.
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 Fitzmmons 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. When he was 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 Ermdann and Elise 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 Fayetteville 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 their two daughters and five more sons arrived by train in Red Lake County. Their first summer was spent in a vacant house about three miles from their new farm while they were trying to get their new home built. A new home was built on the second year. This house and granary are still standing on the original Wetenkamp farm, which they bought in 1975 from my uncle, R. H. Wetenkamp. William Wetenkamp died in 1966 at the age of 95 years.

The younger daughter Gertrude took nurse's training at Fergus Falls and worked with Dr. Waldron at Drayton, North Dakota until she married Louis Jordahl and they now live in Drayton. The younger daughter, Helen, died in 1925 of polio. The six sons all lived on farms in the Township for many years. Christ and George have died. William lives now at Waubum, Reinhard at Clearbrook and Fred and Erwin (Mike) still live here.

My father, Erwin C. Wetenkamp, married Edith Fergen of Goodridge in 1935 and bought the farm where they still live in 1935. They are Mrs. Roger Aspengren (Irene) of Crookston and Mrs. John Mckee (Emma) of Fargo, North Dakota.

I served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952 and have lived all my life in the Township. I farm about 700 acres with my land. In 1965 I 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 Pemberton. She has two children, Daniel and Susan, and are members of Bethany Lutheran Church of Red Lake Falls.

KERENCE WHALEN

A resident of Oklee area from 1887 to 1941. 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 with him to Minnesota in 1896. She taught school about three miles north of Oklee where Oklee now stands for one year before they were married.

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 Schirr (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.

Whalen passed away on March 27, 1981. 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. Only one of the original windmills is still standing.
Tom Whalen bought the farm northeast of Red Lake Falls, which the LaVern Knotts now own and live on. The purchase was made from C. E. Parsley and his wife, Angeline, 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 Sueur 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 with the Minnesota Northern Railroad. They lived in California. Josephine married Tom McCauley, owner of Twin Cities Granite Works. Dan married and lived on a farm north of the railroad tracks near Wylie. Later, he moved to the last big white horse 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 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 they also had Thoroughbreds. 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 south barn 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 Sueur. They came by train to Red Lake Falls. During the time of homesteading, the family had to move out to a farm. One 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 of what her dishes were like when we played 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 in town board and school members. They worked hard for the benefit of 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 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 when then 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 McAndrews from St. Hilaire in 1914. They had nine children: Mary (Mrs. Chris Drees) of Red Lake Falls; Rose (Mrs. R. L. Guillement) of Mountain; Thomas, married, lives in Minneapolis; Annie (Mrs. N. W. Kobayashi) of Missoula, Montana deceased; Kieran, married; lives in Owatonna; Leon (Mrs. Douglas Anderson) of East Grand Forks; Grace (Mrs. Walter Thomson) of Kerkhoven; Joe, married, is a commander in the United States Navy at San Diego, California; and Kitti (Mrs. Ralph Gagnon) lives in Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Whalen family lived on the farm until October 1941 then they moved to Red Lake Falls. They lived on the third street where Walter LaPlant lived now. George Whalen worked at the coal 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 1966, when she passed away.

Art Wichterman wedding

ART WICHERMAN 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 child Eleanor 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 Plummers 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 14, 1933; and Andrew November 10, 1935 (drowned June 29, 1956 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 Kennelwick, Washington on construction in 1904-1905. Art is still very active at the time of this writing, driving tractor for surrounding Okelee farmers.

Elaine (Mrs. Kenneth Moran) lives in Bloomington, Calif. Kenneth works for the postal department. They have seven children and 2 grandchildren.


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 Grigg and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Lorraine married Marvin Olson who farms near Crookston and they have 6 children and three grandchildren.

Harve 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, and at the age of 26, 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 by 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, who lives in Plummer where he is engaged in farming. He is married to Bonnie Hesse, daughter of the Floyd Hess, who lived in Plummer, and they have two sons. James lives in Minneapolis and is employed at Hitchcock Industries. Bob is married to Diane Boucher, daughter of the Leonard Bouckers of Brooks. They are the parents of two sons and a daughter; Gordon also lives in Minneapolis and works for Hitchcock Industries. Paul lives in Minneapolis and is employed at Hess. James makes his home in Buffalo and is employed at Schlief Construction Company. Tom lives in Minneapolis and is employed at Aquarius 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 child 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 Crookston. 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 canoe 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 Crookston. 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. 1953), Gregory (b. 1955), Michelle (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.

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 told 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 working at the Ivery 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 for a partnership for many 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.

LEON WICHTERMAN AND KATHRYN O’BRIEN WICHTERMAN

In the late 1880’s two young people fomerly of 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 on 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 near called “The school farm” 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 told 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 working at the Ivery 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 for a partnership for many 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 June 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, 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
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. P. Wickstrom and Anna Johanson were married in Lincoln County, South Dakota in 1912. Both had emigrated there from Sweden several years previously. They homesteaded in Gienlev Township until 1919, when they moved to Emardville Township with their three children, Oscar, Olga, and Mabel. Their fourth child, Harry, was born here. Anne, Gust, Harold and Victor. Five of their seven children were in the service of the 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 Philippine Islands. 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 Arndtson (Olga) live in Erskine. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heggar (Mae) in Grand Forks, Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCook (Anna) in Dallas, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Johnson, and Mrs. Harry Johanson in Minocqua, Wisconsin and Victor in Minneapolis.

The Wickstroms had fifteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

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 lumber business, cutting trees by hand and building their home. Later they began shipping lumber across the lake to Marquette, Ontonagon, 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 formed a partnership in the lumber business, but the tough times forced them to close down. They then turned their attention to farming in the nearby area.

In 1891 they moved to the area of Red Lake Falls in Wylie Township and built their home. They continued to work the land until their retirement in 1930. The Wielands had a son, Carl, who became a teacher and later a doctor. He married Anna Neven, and they had three children: Marilyn, Lucille, and Donald. Carl died in 1950 and Anna in 1953.

In 1939, Walter married Charlotte Harris, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Harris of Oklee. They were married in Red Lake Falls and settled in the town of Oklee. Walter worked for the Minnesota Power and Light Company and later as a doctor. Charlotte was a teacher and later worked as a nurse.

The Wielands had two sons, John and David. John became a lawyer and later a judge. David became a farmer and later a teacher. Both sons married local girls and raised families of their own.

THE WILCOX FAMILY

In October of 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Wilcox and their two sons, Roy and Clifford, traveled to People's Point, North Dakota, where they intended to buy a service station. The family had sold their farm because of the drought and economic depression of that time. The stop in Red Lake Falls on their way to their new home, as they liked the community so well they decided to make it their home.

They purchased a building from Charles Eveson which had formerly been a post office. The business located in this building at the time was a grocery store and living quarters were situated in 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 the family used 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. The cafe was managed by Bob Sellman. Both the station and the cafe were open twenty-four hours a day.

Roy recalls that although the times were tough on the farm, they kept the business going in the years from 1934 through 1940 and were well managed. The boys traded their snow machines and tires for heat in the winter. Stewart and Gladys Wilcox 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 and settled in 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 Clatey 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 service station. In November of 1956, Ada died and the store was sold to Steve Kanybus.

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...
Dr. John C. Wilkinson Family

Dr. John C. Wilkinson, physician and surgeon, lived in Crookston 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 Ada 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 and buggy. If the patient lived too far "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.

The coming of the "horseless carriage" was a shock to the country 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 when one was short on seats, and if the driver had to climb on a hill, they expected to get out and push, or at least, to try 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 Lakeville High School in 1922 and attended the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Dr. Wilkinson was a member of the Crookston Legion and the Crookston Auxiliary. He was also a member of the Crookston Odd Fellows and the Crookston Masonic Lodge.

Ruth worked at the Hitchcock Nursing Home for approximately twelve years.

There were three children in the Wilkinson family. One, who was married and living in Crookston, has two boys and a girl. The oldest son, Dennis, lives near St. Hilaire and is a welder 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 and holds a degree in the Bachelor of Arts. He is now employed as Assistant Administrator of the Community Hospital in Grand Forks, 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.

JOHN WILLIAMS FAMILY

Joannes Baptiste Williams was born in Eeclo, Belgium, June 1873, son of Louis Williams and Roselia Frederick. He married Maria Sophia Vervinck June 1900. Maria was born in Eeclo, Belgium, June 1880, daughter of Eduardus Vervinck and Amelie Verhass. 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. Williams came first, followed by his wife and their 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 foreman 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. Williams set forth and purchased an 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. Williams 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 John or John Williams.

Times were hard and farms needed to be self efficient. A walk to town with extra butter and eggs to sell was a means of earning money for things that 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 talked, exchanged news, ideas, and danced to the music of the old piano and fiddle. Everyone brought a dish of food for the lunch.

Mr. Williams died in December 1936 and Mrs. Williams in March of 1935.

Of the ten children, four survived: Rose of remarkably long life, 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. Helens, Nebraska, and attended schools there. His seminary training included Crozier Seminary, Orono, Resurrection College at Kitchener, Ontario, and St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul.

Father Wieseler was ordained in 1960 and assigned to St. Peter's Church at Rapid City. He was transferred to Sacred Heart Church, East Grand Forks, in 1971, and appointed pastor of the parishes of St. Joseph, Brookings, St. Anthony in Terrebonne, and St. Vincent de Paul in Plymouth, August 1, 1972.

WOODROW WILSON FAMILY

Woodrow C. Wilson and Harriet Vinge 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 Kandiyohi 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 Botlouet 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 Karla Lea, daughter of Darlene.

Zaiser Family

John Zaiser was born in 1825 in Germany and came to Red Lake Falls from Fergus Falls in 1866 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 and Pete had his choice of land. He filed a homestead on land near the Marshall Dam. Later Mr. Zaiser sold his power site to Charles Kreischnar 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. When they first arrived, John Zaiser built a log cabin south west of Red Lake Falls in what is now Red Lake Falls Township section 33, and now known as the Carmony Farm. Later John Zaiser built a permanent dwelling on Champagne Avenue, the house that still stands today south of St. Joseph's Church. This house has been converted into a residence for the family. The structure is of hewn logs, now covered with siding and is one of the very first dwellings in Red Lake Falls.

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 1/4 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 26, 1901. Meanwhile, the Wyles had separated in 1896 and Mrs. Wylie married Andrew LeVig, a well digger. Mary Jane Wylie LeVig died in Wylie on October 6, 1901 and Mr. LeVig in 1947.

Jessie Wylie married Frederick Michael Schutz and their descendants are still in the county.

Cor and Lee Woodard Family

Corwin C. and Lee Woodard with their daughter Sue moved to Crookston in January, 1962 to open the Detroit 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 Detroit Mobile Homes, Inc.

In 1967 Cor and Lee moved to Red Lake Falls leaving the Skala home and in 1970 built their present home on River Drive.

Cor Woodard, before joining Detroit Mobile Homes in 1959, was district manager for Seftert Ice Cream Division of National Dairy Products now Kraft 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 Seftert Ice Cream Division of National Dairy Corporation.

Cor and Lee have two daughters, Linda Sue and Mrs. Carolyn Lashier, and one granddaughter, Kimberley Anne. Sue is laboratory technician for Dr. Quick in the University of Minnesota Hospital under cancer research. Carolyn Lashier is the private secretary to John Fetzer, owner of the Detroit Tigers and several Radio Sta-
The Zaisers. Back: Myrtle, Jan, Gus, Louise and Hazel. Front: Alice, Mr. and Mrs. Zaiser and Robert.

Theym. Their children were Robert Zaiser, Mrs. Alice Baker, Mrs. Hazel LaCrosse (Henry), Mrs. Myrtle (Mel) Jorgenson, Gustav Zaiser, Mrs. Louise Huest 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 Rebsolution. According to his obituary dated June 9, 1893, which he filed for pension purposes, he had chopped a toe off while cutting tree stumps down in Virginia, contracted rheumatism from marching and sleeping in mud and water, acquired sight because he was moon struck, and failing hearing which he attributed to concussion caused by heavy cannon fire while he was loading a battery 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 1880. In 1881 the 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.

ZIMPET FAMILY

Albert Zimpel was born in West Prussia, Germany, in July of 1861. He was a farmer from 1861-1900, having worked with the United States Government 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 Otilie Clara Kurtzweg in Arlington. Miss Kurtzweg was born during the Indian uprising in 1862. The Albert Zimpels moved to the Red Lake Falls area where they ran a farm and built their own home. He was a builder and contractor and built many of the homes in the Red Lake Falls and Plummer areas. Many of these houses are still in use. Albert also helped build the Steinitzer Mill which at this time is being torn down. He also constructed many elevators in the newly settled areas of northern Minnesota and Southern Dakota.

In 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Zimpel moved to Gervais Township. They had five children, Melba, Mrs. Ernest Gagnon of Terrebonne, and Ivy, Mrs. Newell Dale of Red Lake Falls. One son, Russell, still lives in the original homestead where he has lived for over sixty years.

Otilie Zimpel also had two children by a previous marriage; Mrs. Pauline Hennings and William Nieland, both deceased. Mrs. Albert Zimpel died in April of 1931 and Albert passed away in 1934.

Russell Zimpel continued to farm the homestead and married Hulda Westerlund in September of 1923. She 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, has one son, Roy, Jr., Mrs. Roy Dale is a teacher in the Bloomington school system.

The Zimpels also had a daughter: Russell, Jr. (Bud), 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.

Their home is in Plum Creek, Duane, in a car accident is residing at the Fargo Veterans Hospital, Richard died at the age of nine months of complications from which James is engaged in farming and trapping in the Plummer area and is married to Ardis 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 Swans Lake in Nicollet County. He had six brothers: Correllius, Joseph, (who also came to Red Lake Falls to live), Peter, Henry, Adam and Hubert, and two sisters, Katie and Louise. He died in 1914. Elizabeth born in 1869 and died in 1909. 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 Lake Falls town 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 planned an event to encourage the Lindy tree.

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 Kishman farm, across the street from the Lindy tree. The Zins family was overjoyed. Anton 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.

In 1942, 1921 Edward Adam Zins married Irene Rose Schussel, 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, playing infrequently, he would accompany his teams to the Minneapoli-St. Paul Twins, with the pleasure of a car radio, Irene would have to plan to spend some time at the field and every round of the field she would stop for a play-by-play report of the games.

Two daughters were born to Ed and Irene: Mary on March 12, 1925 and Jean Marie on March 30, 1930. Phyllis graduated from Lakeville 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 Oak Park, New York. When the family returned to California on May 9, 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 J. Hunter home. Phyllis became the receptionist-bookkeeper for the Red Lake Falls Clinic until 1970 when she married Adrian Marchildon, an Elgin 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 1965. Renee Mary Theroux graduated from Mt. Iron 1970 and went on to graduate from the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing.

Jean Marie Zins graduated from Layette 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. Arthur now works as a banker in Rice County and they reside in Fairbault. Five boys were born to them: Brent Arthur in 1950; Gregory Edward in 1954; Lee Jonathan in 1959; Todd Mathew in 1962, and Eric Jason 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.


Irene 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 farm and later in a farm east of town which Joe and Richard had opened for farming. Meanwhile, Mr. Zins was a well-dressed, at first using horses for power, later graduating to a Fordson tractor which Richard and Roman used for several years to till the land.

The first child, Antonette, 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 swim in, which they did on the way to Washington school, after St. Joseph's school in town. Later Highway 32 came in and horse transportation gave way to the Model T, then 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 farmer 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 grandchild, Maxine Aldrich and her 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 (Schulz) Zutz who came to the United States with his parents and his brother, John, in 1853 from Prussia, Germany, where he was born in 1852. They settled at Buffalo, New York, and then moved to Red Lake Falls where they farmed. Charles started school in 1867 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. The first log cabin was torn down and the logs were used to build the one-story house that stood in 1880. The cabin was torn down and the logs were used to build the one-story house that stood in 1880. From then on, he and his wife lived in the old log cabin, where they raised their children, and where they lived until their deaths.

Charles participated in the farm program of the extension service and worked with the 4-H Club, helping to improve agricultural practices. He was also involved in the local union of the United Auto Workers, representing workers at the Red Lake Falls General Electric plant. In his later years, he served as a member of the local school board and was involved in community events.

VEENA ZUTZ FAMILY

Veena, was a telephone operator for Garden Valley under Charles Kundert. She was married to Dwayne Mellam in 1940 and moved to Richland, Washington, where Dwayne is employed as a steel mechanic.

Faith, born 1926, graduated from Lafayette and completed a nursing program at Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was married to Allen Hult in 1947. They had six children: Thomas, Steve, Brenda, Jeffrey, Carol and Alan. Allen died in 1986, and the family moved to Moorhead where Faith worked as a nurse supervisor at 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 married to Rudolph Helt in 1915. He was a World War Veteran and for many years was the painter and decorator in Red Lake Falls with his father, Nick Helt. He served as a city alderman on the council for several years.

Elise was married to William Houseman and farmed near Deli, 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 High School. Louis was engaged in trucking for many years and served as town clerk.
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 Bonds
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