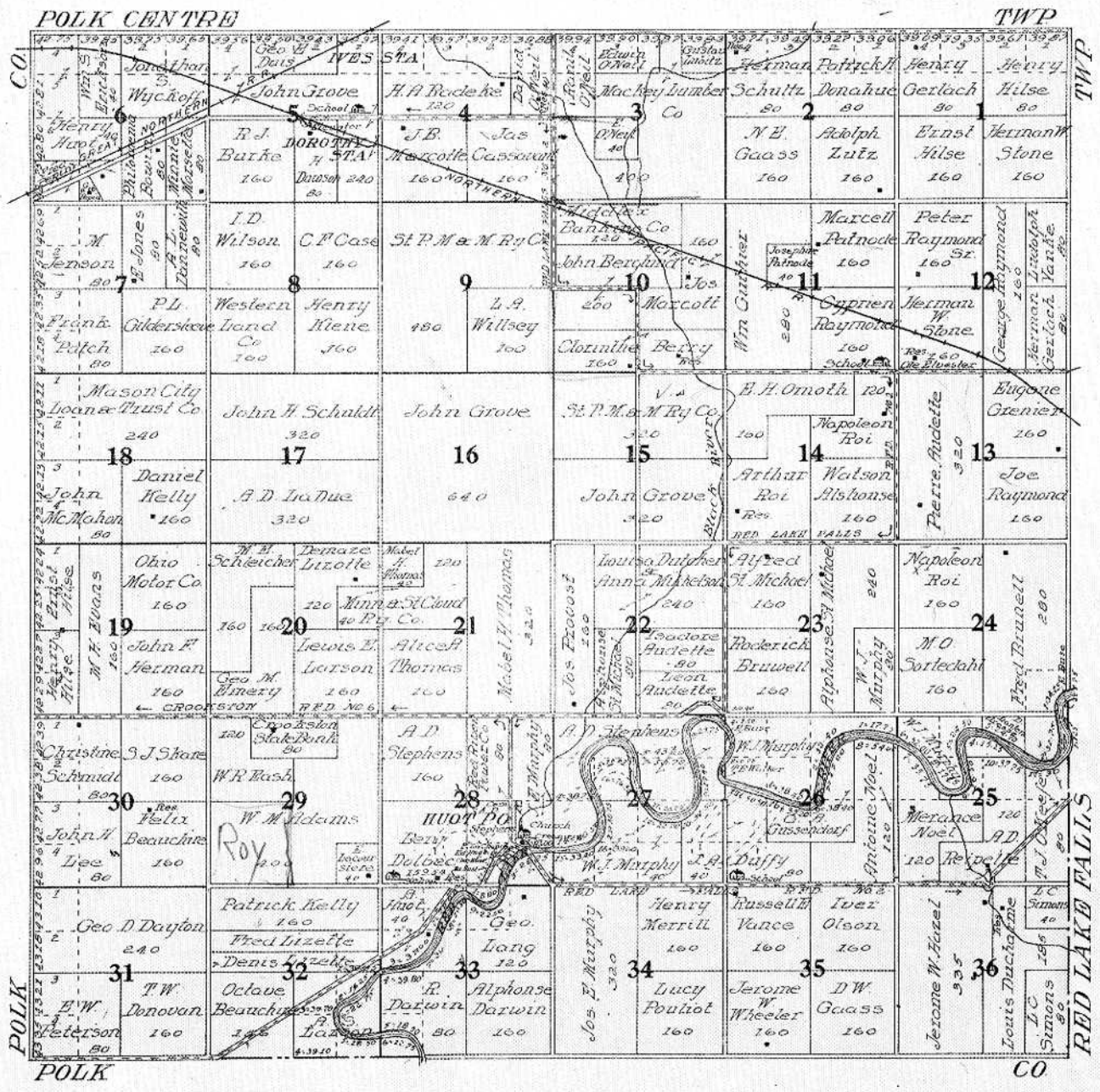



MAP OF
TOWNSHIP 151 N., RANGE 45 W.
 of the 5th P. M.
 Scale 1 1/4 inches to 1 mile

LOUISVILLE TOWNSHIP





Birds-eye View of Huot

LOUISVILLE TOWNSHIP



Interior of Huot Store 1935



Huot Store nearly 100 years old

State of Minnesota
County of Polk

Upon receiving a petition of all the legal voters of township 151, range 45 in said county, asking that the same be detached from the organized town of Red Lake Falls, and be organized as a new town. We, the County Commissioners of said Polk County, did on the seventh day of January, A.D. 1879, proceed to fix the boundaries of such new town. The township to be named Louisville, for Louis Huot an early settler who had founded the village of 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.

In the year 1885 the supervisors were Alec Roberge, chairman, Simon Patnode and Alphonse St. Michel, with Benjamin Dolbec as clerk. Eustache Payment, assessor, Theodore Pepin, justice of the peace and David Coe, constable. Compensation for town officers was \$1.50 per day and it was decreed that each land owner donate one day of labor on town roads for poll tax.

Road overseers were: Vital Major, Elyiar Derouin, Octave Montreuil, France Grenier, J. Jones, Theodore Pepin, Octave Beauchine, Louis Huot and Severe Derouin. A pound for impounding farm animals was established with Marcelle Yelle

as pound master north of the Red Lake River and W. F. Cyr, south of the River. The meeting place was the school house in District #12 across the road from where Max Meyer lived for many years and where Erwin Wetenkamp, Jr. lives today.

Ten years later, on March 12, 1895, the supervisors were Octave Beauchine, chairman, Vital Major and Athans Beauchine, A. D. Berry, town clerk and Edward Huot, treasurer. At this meeting it was decided in favor of building a bridge across the Black River near where Henry Meyer lives today. Cost of the bridge was to be \$120.00 for labor, \$19.60 for rods and bolts, \$21.44 for lumber, \$1.05 for nails and spikes and \$45.50 for delivery of supplies to the site. A. D. Berry was the builder.

On February 20, 1896, a special town meeting was held at the Huot store to vote on a bond issue to finance the building of a bridge across the Red Lake River at Huot. The amount of the bond issue was \$1500.00 to be repaid \$100.00 annually at ten percent interest. Results of the canvass of the votes by secret ballot were thirty in favor and fifty-one against the bond issue, so the bridge was not built at this time. It was built several years later by Polk County and was in place until 1966 when it collapsed and has not been replaced to this date, although it is badly needed.

The town board operated a ferry boat across the Red Lake River for many years at the mouth of the Black River before the bridge was built.

In 1905 the supervisors were Silas Raymond, chairman, Felix Beauchine and A. D. Reopelle, A. D. Berry as Clerk and Joseph Marcotte as treasurer.

In 1910 the supervisors were A. D. Reopelle, chairman, Alfred St. Michel and Arthur Huot. A. D. Berry served as clerk and Joseph Marcotti was treasurer. Town

meetings being held in the Grange Hall on the south side of section ten. Compensation of township officers was two dollars a day.

In 1915 town meetings were being held in the creamery building in Huot. This building was purchased by the township and became the town hall about 1920. The supervisors were Frank P. Grenier, chairman, Alfred St. Michel and D. O. Lizotte. Peter LaChance was town clerk and Charles Huot was treasurer.

The town hall was destroyed by fire in December of 1940 and a vote to rebuild the hall in Huot was taken in March of 1941. It was defeated by a vote of 63 to 59. The town meetings were then held in the basement of the church at Dorothy.

At a meeting at the LaHaise Hall in Dorothy on June 7, 1966, the town board of Louisville Township met with the school boards of Districts 1736 and 1729. The two school boards transferred the ownership of the school buildings and sites to Louisville Township. The school house in District 1736 was burned by vandals a short time later and the school house in 1929 was converted into a town hall and is used for township meetings.

At this writing in 1976 the supervisors are John P. Stich, chairman, John O. Hanson and Arley Schultz. Robert Larson serves as clerk and Chester T. Beyer as treasurer. Compensation of township officials is now \$12.00 per day and fifty cents bounty is paid for pocket gophers and ten cents for striped gophers.

Louisville Township has a great deal of historical interest to Red Lake County as it was here, near Huot, that the Indians signed the treaty that ceded the land in the Red River Valley to the State of Minnesota. In pioneer days the ox cart trains forded the river at Huot. The first pioneer settlers who established homesteads in Louisville Township were French Canadian immigrants from the eastern provinces of Canada. Most of the early residents of Louisville were of French descent, but today it has become a melting-pot of people who can trace their ancestry from France, Germany, the Scandinavian countries and many others.

We the present residents of Louisville Township owe much to the early pioneers who through hard work cleared the land, built homes, churches, schools, roads, bridges and laid the foundation for the community as it exists today.

The rural schools have been consolidated and cease to exist, but for many years they were a very important part of

our educational system. Many of our leaders of today, received their first instruction in one of our rural schools.

A cemetery is maintained close to the place where the Catholic Church was located near the village of Huot until about 1920. This church was moved to Dorothy and St. Dorothy's church and cemetery are now located there. The elevator in Dorothy is now closed after many years of operation because of the removal of the railroad. A locker plant owned by Harry Cassavant serves the people of the area. This building was for many years the site of the Hance Store operated from early pioneer days by James Hance and in later years by his son, Alfred. The Huot Store which dates back to the earliest pioneer days is still doing business with Mrs. Emma Huot as owner.

Louisville Township is a good place to live with its highly productive farm land and interesting scenery along our rivers. There are many opportunities for hunting, fishing, canoeing and snowmobiling, too.

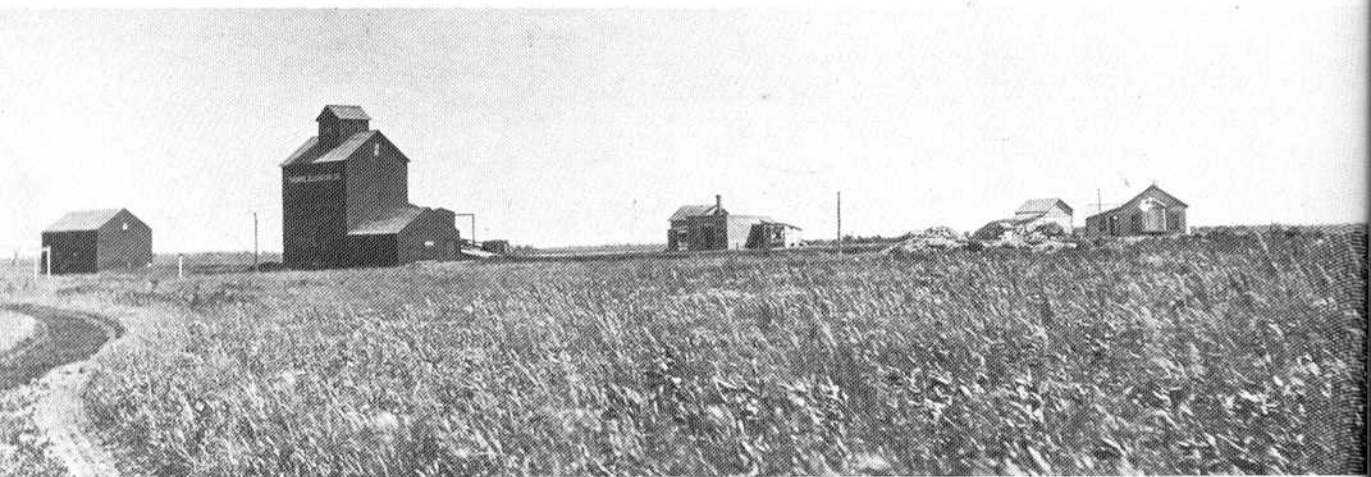
Present township officials are Supervisors, John P. Stich, chairman, Arley D. Schultz and John O. Hanson; Robert Larson, clerk; and Chester T. Beyer, treasurer.



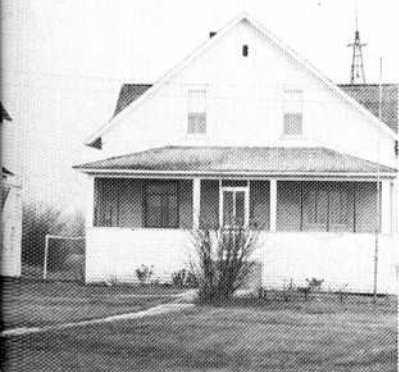
St. Dorothy's Catholic Church at Dorothy



The Raymond family home in Section 11, Louisville



Birds-eye View of Dorothy



ST. DOROTHY'S CHURCH GOES BACK TO LOUISVILLE

The roots of St. Dorothy's Parish, Dorothy, go back to Louisville, where Father Pierre Champagne offered mass at the home of Louis Huot as early as 1880. At that time there were about 25 Canadian families located at Louisville, for whom Father Champagne offered Mass monthly.

Father Alex Bouchard, first pastor at Gentilly, soon took over the duties at Louisville and offered Mass in the homes until St. Aloysius Church was built in 1883.

Father Clement Gamache of Gentilly attended the Louisville Church from 1884 to 1888. During these years Louisville boomed with French-Canadian families.

Father Elie Theillon succeeded Father Gamache at Gentilly and attended the Louisville Mission twice a month, one Sunday and one week day, until 1919.

Rev. Eli Lemire, Pastor of St. Joseph's Parish at Red Lake Falls, saw need for a parish in the area west of Red Lake Falls and north of Gentilly and started the task of organizing a new parish in 1918. He began by taking up a public subscription which netted \$6,000 in cash and 17 promissory notes amounting to \$3,000 (most of them never paid). With this success, Father A. P. Lamy came as the first pastor at Dorothy in 1919, with orders to begin a church and rectory that same year. He purchased the site of eleven acres for \$425.00 and started the buildings in September, 1919.

St. Dorothy's Parish had about 65 families initially. At first Father Lamy attended St. Aloysius Church at Louisville as a Mission but soon asked the residents to attend Mass at Dorothy. The Church at Louisville was closed with some hard feelings.

Father Edward Grimonprez succeeded Father Lamy as pastor of St. Dorothy's on August 17, 1920. He was faced with a staggering debt, so much so that Bishop Corbett ordered a special collection to be taken up in all the parishes and missions of the diocese to help St. Dorothy's. The collection netted \$1,200.00 and encouraged the parishioners to make even greater sacrifices. These were difficult years as farmers found it hard to earn a living in the years after World War I and many left the

area. Worn by the labors of a struggling parish, Father Grimonprez' health began to fail and Father Ernest Bossus was sent from Baudette to help care for the parish and to serve the mission of Fertile. Father Bossus arrived at Dorothy on March 6, 1926, and was there less than a month when Father Grimonprez died on April 1, 1926.

Father Bossus' years at Dorothy were not pleasant because of the depression of the early Thirties. He was able to bring unity into the parish and saw it grow during the years of drought and depression from 40 families in 1925 to 80 families in 1935.

Father Bossus's sight failed in his last years at Dorothy but his eyesight was successfully restored by a cataract operation. In Thanksgiving, he built a shrine in honor of the Blessed Virgin on a knoll across the road from the Huot State Park. St. Dorothy's parishioners still gather annually for services at the Shrine.

Father Bossus retired in July of 1935 because of heart trouble. Father Louis Sullivan, assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Red Lake Falls, cared for St. Dorothy's Parish from the resignation of Father Bossus until Father Victor Cardin became pastor on December 13, 1935.

Many improvements on the buildings were made during the first years of Father Victor Cardin's pastorate. When he was appointed Pastor of St. Joseph's Church at Red Lake Falls in 1942, Father Cardin noted in the Parish Journal: "My brother Paul who succeeds me here will find a parish imbued with a fine spirit and a substantial plant."

Father Paul Cardin served St. Dorothy's Parish for a little over ten years. For the first time in the history of the parish, the debt was liquidated in 1944.

Father J. Warren Regnier became the sixth pastor of St. Dorothy's on June 28, 1952.

Father Arthur Lemire served as pastor at Dorothy from the spring of 1961 to the spring of 1963. He served at the same time as Director of Catholic Social Service Association.

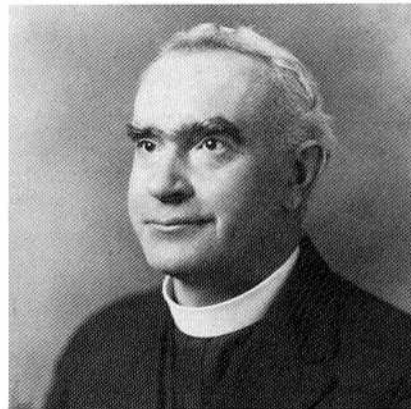
A fire during the late summer of 1962 destroyed the bell tower and steeple on the church. After the fire, the steeple was removed and the exterior of the church

took on a new look. The interior of the church was also painted for the first time. Bishop Laurence A. Glenn presided at investiture services in St. Dorothy's Church giving Father Lemire the title of "Monsignor" in the spring of 1963.

Father Gerald Foley, Director of Catholic Social Service Association, became the eighth priest to serve St. Dorothy's Parish in June, 1963. He has been active in the Red River Valley Historical Society, serving as president and vice president. He is presently Bi-Centennial Co-ordinator for the diocese of Crookston and serves as supervisor of Camp Corbett. His pastorate ended in 1975, when he was transferred to St. Anne's in Crookston. Father John O'Toole is the present pastor.

The history of St. Dorothy's Church is closely connected with the history of the entire community. The annual fall dinner has been widely known for years. In previous times, Dorothy was well-known for its annual benefit picnic and the three-act plays presented by the Dorothy Players.

Nothing has ever been easy in the parish at Dorothy. The area still has a pioneer quality in which hardship and struggle persist. St. Dorothy's is a small rural parish and its face changes as farms become larger and most of its youth migrate to the city. Current parish census shows about 65 families with a friendly spirit and a strong spiritual life.



Father Ernest Bossus

St. Aloysius Catholic Church built at Huot in 1883.



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 co-operation with Don, and gets the latter in trouble with the sheriff (Thane Beyer).

By dint of clever detective work, Don finds the gold mine, exposes the murderers of Jim Manning, and has the satisfaction of seeing the other two villains, Mrs. Harrington and Barbara (Sylvia Paquin and Gloria Drees) on their way to jail, much to the satisfaction of Ellen (Jean Beyer) Golden's chum.

M. W. Drees and others will give musical novelties between the acts. Gazette May 1, 1941.



Huot shrine by Fr. Bossus

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL AT HUOT

In 1966 after seventy-three years of operation, the Little Red School, District 1736, at Huot closed its doors. That spring a reunion was held at the school for former teachers, students and their families with about 200 people in attendance. It was hoped that this school would be preserved as a place of historic interest marking the pioneer beginning of education in this area, but in June of 1966 vandals set fire to the building and it was burned to the ground.

The school, built in 1892 on section six of Crookston Township, was later moved to Huot to accommodate more students. The first classes began in May of 1893 and were held for a six month period. Emma Sutter, the first teacher, received a salary of \$35.00 a month. Twenty-seven pupils were enrolled, but attendance was poor, especially in the fall. The first board members were Athanase Beauchene, Octave Beauchene and Benjamin Dolbec.



District No. 12 about 1913: Lottie Lacoce, teacher. Louis Vickery, Henry Lumker, and *Front:* Annie Meyer, Clarence Meyer, Carl Thode, Olivia Delude, Henry Meyer, Louella Meyer and Helen Wetenkamp.



Little Red School District 1736

THE OLD CROSSING TREATY MEMORIAL

The Old Crossing Treaty monument, erected by the United States government in 1932, in accordance with the terms of a bill introduced in the Seventy-first Congress by Congressman Conrad G. Selvig, of Crookston. It is located on the bank of the Red Lake River in full view from the West and from the North. Trees form a background on the other two sides. Shrubbery and pines have been added, which make the site attractive.

The bill passed by Congress provided that the title to the site be vested in the State of Minnesota. By action of the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners nine acres embraced in the site were purchased by Red Lake County and deeded to the State. A bill was passed by the State Legislature accepting the site, which has been named Old Crossing Memorial Park.

County historical societies of Red Lake and Polk Counties have officially designated three members from each society to form a board of managers which will have general charge of the park and monument. This will assure perpetuation of the "Old Crossing" tract where took place in 1863 one of the most important events in the history of the Red River Valley.

The monument is placed where the historic peace conference between the red man and the white man took place. The picturesque setting as described by the eye witnesses, the prolonged debates and discussions between the United States Commissioners and the Indian Chiefs, and the successful outcome are all events from which the artist-sculptor in designing the monument drew his inspiration. The monument serves not only to perpetuate this dramatic picture, but also to fix indelibly in the minds and hearts of all who see it the importance of this historic event.

Many monuments have been erected to commemorate the bravery of both the white men and the Indians in desperate conflicts between the two. Here at the "Old Crossing" is a monument which commemorates a peace pact. It not only commemorates this great event, but stands a silent witness to the fact that the peace is perpetual. As the descendants of these self-same Indians pause in its shadow they may well say our forefathers kept their faith, and be proud that this was done. As the white men come to this historic spot they will learn that here began the history of the northern section of the Red River Valley, for the event here commemorated made possible the opening of this vast area for settlement and development. The monument is a tribute to the leaders of both groups who made this treaty possible.



Robert Larson farm inundated in the flood of 1969

RED LAKE RIVER FLOOD — 1969

When the Red Lake River went on a rampage on April 10, 1969, and ice jams tore open the dike, the Robert Larson farm in Louisville township was inundated and several lives threatened. The story of the heroism of several youths, the lives saved, and the destruction of property, is retold here from the Gazette.

"The Robert Larson farm, built in a rather low area one mile southwest of Huot in Louisville township on the Red Lake River, had never before been threatened with total inundation by high waters. However, on Wednesday afternoon of last week, it became eminent that the water would rise higher than the permanent dikes banking the river near the Larson farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Larson, with the help of neighbors and friends, began the job of raising the height of the one-eighth mile dike about two feet in an effort to hold the water in the river channel. Five hundred sandbags were brought from Crookston.

On Thursday morning many from Red Lake Falls and 21 boys from Lafayette were called to the area to aid those who had been on the job most of the night. By noon the water had remained at a pretty stable level for about three hours. When it actually began to recede, the danger of flooding was thought over.

In the late afternoon, about 5:30 p.m., an ice jam broke upriver, and about six o'clock jammed four or five miles north of the Gentilly bridge. Immediately the river began a very steady rapid rise. Three carloads of boys, many who had been there previously, answered an urgent call for help. At 7:00 p.m., the water rose rapidly, about three feet in a few minutes, and the Red Lake Falls fire department was summoned. Ice tore open a section of the dike, and the onrush of ice and water about a

quarter of a mile wide flooded dikes and the entire farm area. The workers who had been sandbagging barely escaped by running to the slightly higher ground of the home and to their cars on the road about 200 feet from the house. About sixty ewes and eighty lambs had to be abandoned.

Mrs. Willard Brunelle, with her five children, Michael, 12, Mary, 8, Pamela, 6, Diana, 4, Dannie, 1½, and Mrs. Joe Brunelle, grandmother of the children, had stopped at the Larsons momentarily with a supply of groceries. All except Mrs. Willard Brunelle were in the car when the dike broke. With the Brunelle car already in the water, teenagers who had just driven to the farm to help, took the five children and their grandmother into the car driven by Jim Hofius, and were on the way to higher ground when chunks of ice pushed the vehicle into the ditch. The boys immediately helped those who were trapped out of the car windows and onto the roof. Little Pamela Brunelle fell into the water. Jim Hofius, last in the car, somehow got out, swam to grab the child and brought her to safety. Swift water pushed the others from the car top. They managed to grab an uprooted floating tree and from there were miraculously rescued one by one. It was estimated that Mrs. Joe Brunelle and the children were in the icy water about twenty minutes."

For this heroic deed, the following young men later received the National Alert Youth Award from State Insurance Commissioner, Thomas C. Hunt, assisted by Mrs. Harold LeVander in the Governor's reception room: Michael Altepeter, Richard Altepeter, James Hofius, Clyde Fering, Rodney Fering, John Brummer, John Harren, Scott Brummer, Daniel Juhl, Douglas Kees, Dean LaChance, Michael LaCoursiere, Allen Page, Robert St. Marie and Michael Toulouse.