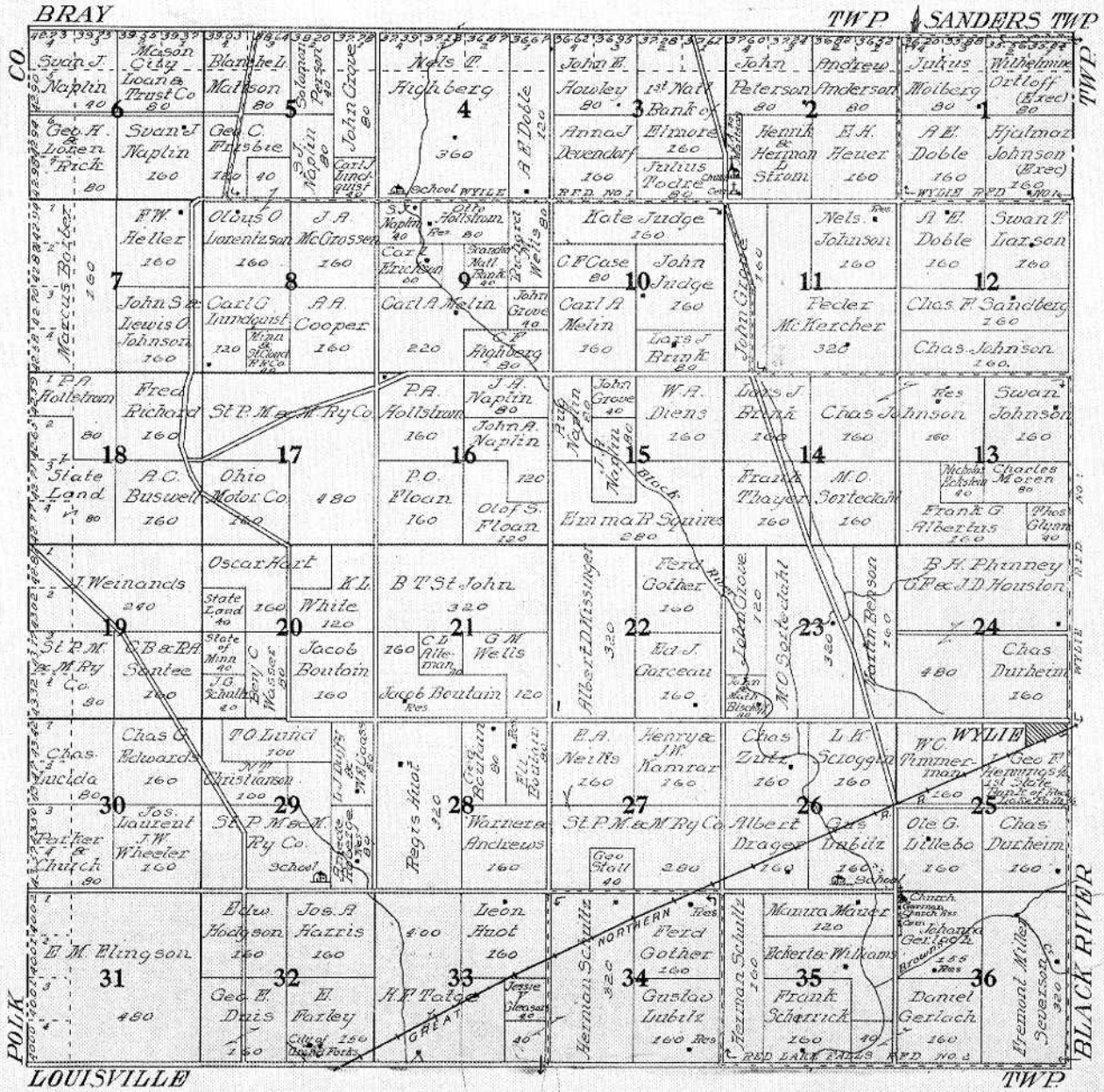
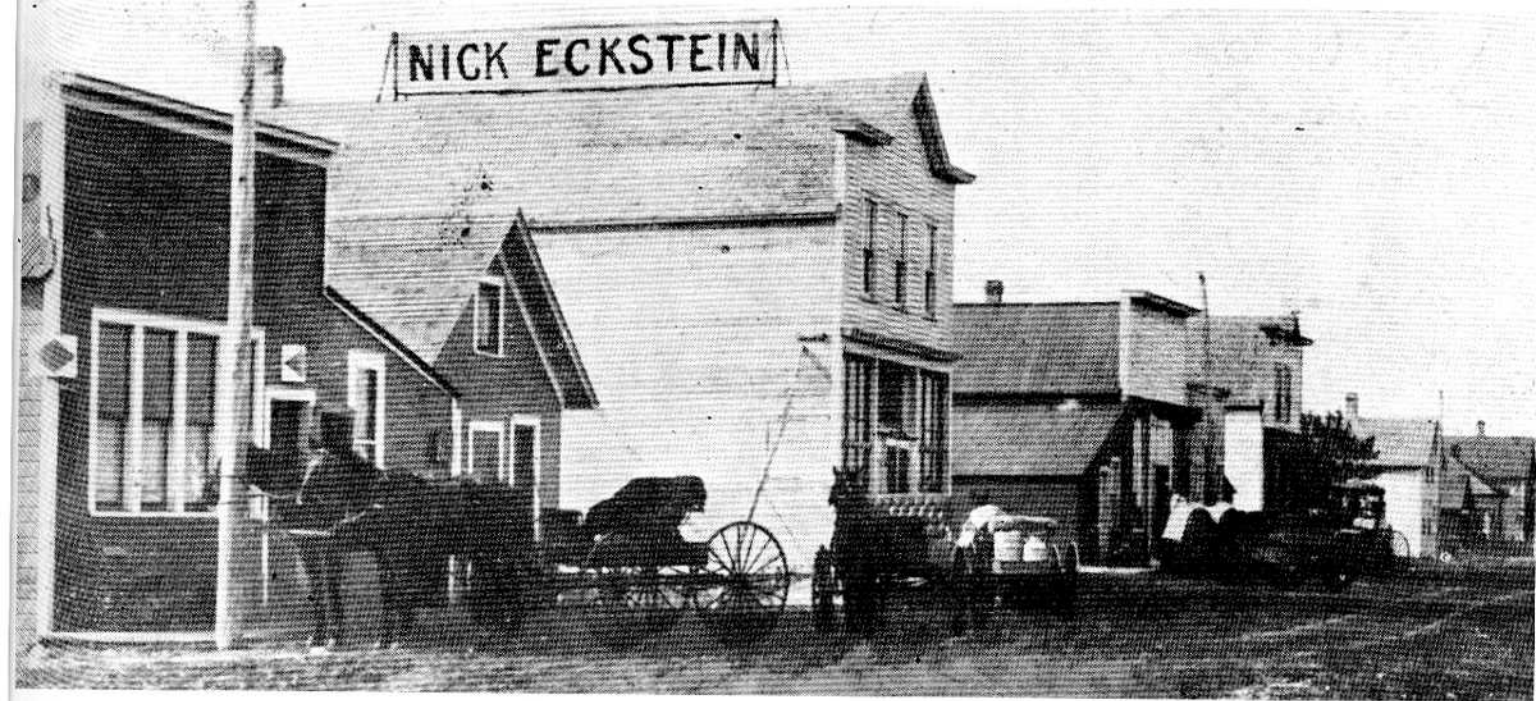




MAP OF
TOWNSHIP 152 N., RANGE 45 W.
 of the 5th P. M.
 Scale 1/4 inches to 1 mile

POLK CENTRE TOWNSHIP





Street Scene at Wylie

WYLIE TOWNSHIP

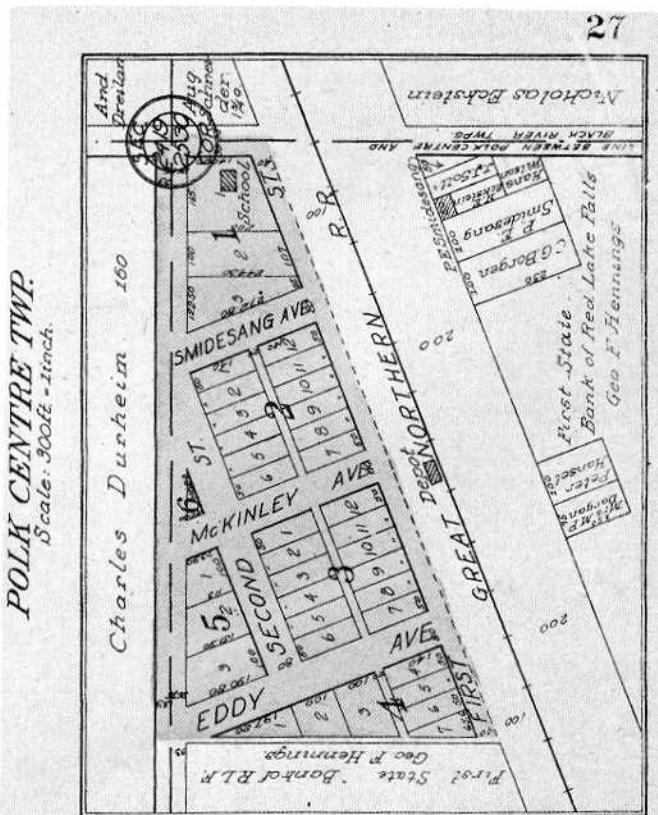
A meeting of the board of supervisors of Polk Centre township, Pennington County, and the board of supervisors of Polk Centre township, Red Lake County, was held on May 18, 1911, for the purpose of dividing all assets of the township and to form new separate units of government. Previous to 1911, the entire township had been a part of Red Lake County. Red Lake got the short end of the split and the new Polk Centre, Red Lake County, was only two by six miles in area, a size shared by two other new townships to the east, Brown's Creek and River. Most of the board members present were residents of the Village of Wylie.

The following new officers were elected: Ferd Gother, chairman; Leon Huot and Charles Zutz, supervisors; Thor Smidesang, clerk; P. E. Smidesang, treasurer; Richard Gother, assessor; C. G. Gerlach and Anton Anderson, Justices of the Peace; C. G. Gerlach and Richard Gother, constables; Nick Mauer, overseer of the roads in District I; and Albert Landa, overseer of roads in District II. The judges were Charles Zutz, Leon Huot, and Ferd Gother. Later about 1913, the small township took the name of Wylie from the village.

At the turn of the century the community of Wylie was a hustling village and the center of all business and social activities of the township. It was located on the main line of the railroad from Crookston to Thief River Falls at a time when the latter was just another inland settlement.

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Eckstein established a store in 1890, and when fire destroyed it in 1902, it was replaced with a two-story structure stocked with dry goods, groceries and variety items. The upstairs of the store was used for a community hall where dances were often held.

Besides the Eckstein general merchandise store, there were two more grocery establishments, one operated by Mr. Smidesang and the other by the Rosmos Brothers. Smidesang had been in business



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POLK CENTRE TWP.
Scale: 300ft = 1 inch.



Peter Hansel Blacksmith shop and home in Wylie. *Standing, Left to Right: Louis and Peter Hansel, Manie and Anton Anderson.*

in St. Hilaire. In seeking a better location he had considered both Thief River Falls and Wylie, but it appeared to him that Wylie had the better possibilities and that is where he located.

The Rosmos store building was also used for a courtroom in 1902. The store was started in 1898 by the older Rosmos and in 1912, the younger brother became a partner. Pete Smidesang started his store in 1886. Later the name was expanded to Smidesang and Sons. Still later the business was taken over by the Gothers. There was a harness and shoe store started by Chris Borgen. He also ran a successful cobblers business.

The Leppert Brothers, Sam and Fred, operated a hardware store and lumberyard and Fred Leppert was also the local barber. Wylie businesses seldom closed and were open seven days a week.

The town of Wylie boasted three elevators: Hanson and Barzen Elevator, the Wylie Cooperative, which also handled the Wylie Livestock Association, and a branch of the St. Anthony Milling Company run by S. J. Swanson. Peter Hansel was the village blacksmith, and was considered one of the ablest workmen of the area and county — nothing was too intricate for him, and he could engineer almost anything in his shop. Jack Swollanberg was the stonemason. There were two cream stations, one run by Anton Anderson, and another run by Richard Gother. The hotel was run by Maurice Dargon and Andrew Letvig was the well driller.

The bank was started as an experiment in the fall of 1901, but became a big success. C. N. Bourdon was the bank president. S. J. Swanson was an assistant cashier in addition to running the elevator, and he was also a Justice of the Peace and Judge in the courtroom at Rosmos Store. His name also crops up in relation to the Board of County Commissioners and the Wylie Town Board.

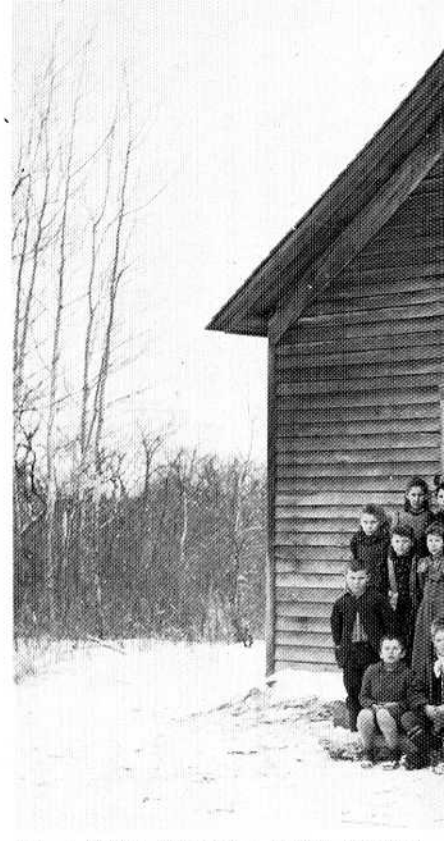
The cheese factory was owned by Ted Fournier and met with disaster on May 23, 1912 when it burned to the ground. The origin of the fire was thought to be in the boiler which had been fired up the previous day in preparation for the new season of cheesemaking. The factory was never rebuilt.

The train came through Wylie and service was provided for passengers and freight to and from Wylie twice each day. Mail was also carried by train and at various times the post offices were at the Rosmos Store or at Nick Ecksteins. The section boss was Tom Drielan. In 1903, rural mail service was established and a watchmaker, Anderson, became the first mail

carrier. In 1904, Henry Schneider was appointed mail carrier and held that job until 1936. Several years later, the post office closed.

There were three schools in Wylie Township. The largest school, located in the village of Wylie, is still standing. In 1902 the school had over fifty students and the teacher was Professor Todd, a well-known educator in the area. There was also a school in Section 26, presently used as a township hall. The school in Section 29 is also still standing, though it is in poor condition.

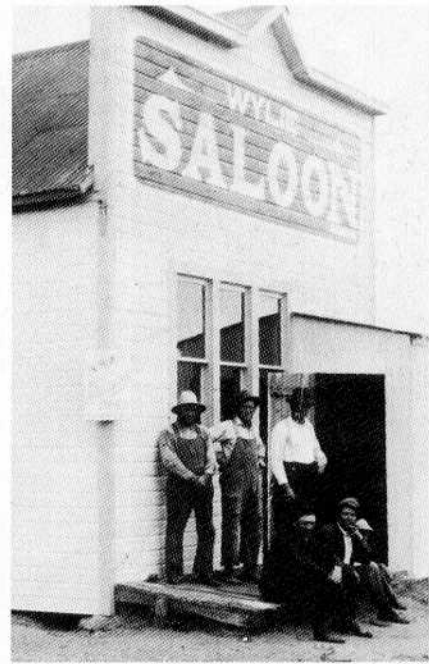
Presently serving as board members in Wylie township are Victor Gaber as chairman; Donald Huot and Harvey Casavan as supervisors; Louis Zutz as clerk and Kenneth Wieland, treasurer.



School District #17 in the 1890's. Ida Koke, Mrs. Joe Salley, was the teacher.



Wylie School about 1900. Professor Todd was the teacher.



Wylie Saloon



School District #124 in 1899, known as Black River School and presently serving as the town hall at Wylie.