Dorothy, the youngest member of the Olaf Amundson family, and her husband, Donald Fore, bought a home in the newly-developing district on Nineteenth Avenue North in East Grand Forks in 1956, where they lived with their daughters David Renee and Diane Ellen, until moving to California in 1962. Dorothy and the girls returned to East Grand Forks in 1963 and have lived here since that time. Dorothy was employed in the office of Sylvania Company while they were laying cable for the missile sites here, later working for Colborn School Supply. Since 1967 she has been employed at the University of North Dakota where she is now secretary in the chemical engineering department.

In 1973 she married John Howard Olson, a driver for White Seal Sales Company for more than twenty-five years. They live at 520 Seventeenth Avenue North with the two girls. Dawn, a graduate of East Grand Forks High School, is a student in medical technology at AVTI. Diane is a student at Central Junior High School where she participates in chorus and band. She is also actively working with the Humane Society and is a member of the choir at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.

ARTHUR AMUNDSON

When Arthur Melvin Amundson and his wife, Alva, moved to 519 7th Avenue South in East Grand Forks from Grand Forks in 1950, it seemed an ideal spot to raise their children. There was a football field and playground on one side, a congenial bachelor on the other, and just a few blocks to walk to school or church or the downtown area. The home, a duplex, was destroyed by fire on a cold March day in 1954, but fortunately everyone, even the old cocker spaniel, escaped without injury. The house was rebuilt, and with it friendships that will last a lifetime! The football field has long since given way to the Valley Elementary School, so there has been no shortage of playmates for children or Jeffie, the funny little dog who has been every child’s friend for the last ten years. There have been some broken windows and trampled flowers, but the enjoyment of seeing happy children at play more than compensates for them.

Arthur was born in Grand Forks, the son of the late Olaf and Rune Amundson, and attended school there. For two years he enjoyed life in a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where he played on the hockey team. He then worked with his father, a cement contractor, for a few years before starting a rural dry-cleaning route. He was affiliated with States Cleaners as long as they were in operation and the last few years had been with American Cleaners in Grand Forks. His dry-cleaning route extended from Halstad area to the Canadian border, and for more than 32 years he watched this area and the hard-working people in it change and grow. But wash-and-wear fabrics came along and, with the rising cost of gasoline, he reluctantly retired.

Alva, the daughter of James and Otta Amble, was born in St. Hilaire in Pennington County, and moved to Grand Forks as an infant. She graduated from Central High School and for many years was a reporter at the Credit Bureau of Greater Grand Forks. In 1966 she became office manager for Leonard Driscoll and Son Potato Company of East Grand Forks, and now holds the same position for Jerry Driscoll’s farming operation. She enjoys meeting and working with people and for eighteen years her avocation has been demonstrating Stanley Home Products at parties, ever widening her circle of friends and acquaintances in this area. In raising their nine children, she has been involved in PTA, Brownies, Cub Scouts and Sunday School activities, as well as Women’s Club and circles at First Lutheran Church. Her greatest satisfaction, however, has come from her part in organizing a Golden Circle at First Lutheran Church early in 1971, when her mother returned to East Grand Forks to live — and working with this group since that time.

Mr. and Mrs. Amundson are members of First Lutheran Church and both are sustaining members of Polk County DFL. They are avid sports fans, but enjoy a quiet week-end of fishing at a nice little lake.

Yes. East Grand Forks has been a good place to live and raise their children.

Throughout the years, the Amundson home has been “much lived-in,” with friends of the children gathering there and the family room resounding with music and laughter. The children have grown now but the grandchildren are all close enough to be frequent visitors.

With the exception of Carol, better known as “Corky,” who is married to Tim Lavelle and operates a furniture store in Redding, California, all of the children live right in this area. Ronald married Sandi Clemenson and they live in Grand Forks. He travels the entire country as a semi-truck driver. Janice and William Ferguson lived in his home state of Ohio for a few years, but returned to Grand Forks as a better place to raise their children — Richard, Robin and Jenny. Bill is an electrician for Three Star Electric. Judy, twin sister of Janice, married Dennis Jenson, the son of Elmer and Thelma Jenson of the Bygland area. When Dennis joined the Grand Forks Police Force, they moved to Grand Forks and live there with their son, David.

Bonnie married Donald Vonasek, son of Frank and Nettie Vonasek of Tabor, and they live in a home they built in Huntsville township, with their three children — James, Gary and Beth Ann. Jimmy and Gary are students at Crestwood Elementary School and both play on the basketball team there. Don is a skilled cabinetmaker as well as an employee of Northern States Power Company. All are members of Sacred Heart Church.

Thomas also lives in East Grand Forks and is following his father’s line of work with C & R Laundry and Cleaners. Richard Noyes, Darlene’s husband, is the son of Michael Jerome (Jerry) and Margaret Noyes, formerly of East Grand Forks but now living in Fisher. Rick is also an electrician for Three Star Electric. They have two daughters, Stacy and Jody. Linda Diane is employed in East Grand Forks and lives at home.

One son, Gary, died in 1960 after being extensively burned while working in Bismarck, North Dakota.

ELMER AND MINNIE AMUNDSON

In December of 1939, Elmer, the eldest son of Otto and Jennie Hegstrom Amundson, was married to Minnie Nelson, the daughter of Charles and Amelia Linstad Nelson of Newfolden, Minnesota.

Charles Nelson came to East Grand Forks in 1900 — at the age of sixteen — and made his home with his uncle, the late Ole Hanson. In 1908, Charles was united in marriage to Amelia Linstad, daughter of Martha and Berger Linstad of Adams, North Dakota. They made their home in Grand Forks, where he was employed by the police and fire departments of that city. There Marie and Edwin were born. In 1915, Charles and Amelia and their two young children left Grand Forks and took up a homestead at Roseau, Minnesota, where Minnie was born. Marie and Edwin became of school age and, with no school available at Roseau, they moved to Newfolden and bought a farm, which became the family home. There Ivar,