PETER MALLINGER

The Peter Mallinger family moved to Polk County from Oslo in Marshall County, Minnesota, in the fall of 1854. They came to a farm in the northwest corner of Polk County. This farm, like many others along the Red River, had to be cleared of trees, brush, and stumps. This was a lot of hard work, most of it hand labor, but the land when cleared was very productive and well worth the effort.

Peter Mallinger had come to this country from Luxemburg in Europe in 1895 and to Oslo in 1905. He had learned the butcher trade in Europe and had worked in butcher shops in Grand Forks and Meckinlock, North Dakota, before coming to Oslo. He ran his own meat market most of the time in Oslo from 1905 to 1917. He had bought two farms while in the butcher business to use mostly as summer pasture for cattle.

He was married to Hjelda Loff in 1908. She had come to Erskine in Polk County from Niagara, North Dakota, about 1890 as a child with her parents. Two of their seven children, Felix and Earl, continued the farming operation as a partnership after Peter retired in 1938. This partnership continued until 1970, when Felix retired. Felix and his wife, Marion, now live in East Grand Forks. Earl and his wife, Julia, now live in Oslo after many years on that original home place. Of the other children two, Roy and Irene, are deceased. Marian (Mrs. Norman Lien) now lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Ina (Mrs. Lernever Dahulum) lives in Moorhead, Minnesota; and Dr. Ralph Mallinger lives in San Bernardino, California.

Hjelda died in 1935 and Peter in 1952 at the age of 77. Peter was remarried in 1941 to Kate Roberson Swenson, who is still living in Oslo.

Like most farms in this area, that original unit had been expanded greatly and many times, both when Peter ran it and even more so during the Mallinger Brothers partnership. Peter was among the first sugar beet and potato growers near Oslo, having started commercial production of potatoes in 1924 and signed his first beet contract in 1927. Substantial acreages of sugar beets and potatoes have been grown every year since then.

Peter used to make trips to Grand Forks, a distance of about 20 miles, with horses, taking livestock and other products to market. Field work was done mostly with horses, the two bottom gang plow, and walking all day behind a harrow, until about 1926. He bought his first car, a Ford delivery truck in 1912 and despite many misgivings by some people, it was still running in the early 1920's.

Felix and his wife, Marion, are the only members of the family now living in Polk County. They moved to East Grand Forks in 1965 after many years near Oslo. Marion (Ugland) came from Minneapolis to Oslo in 1943 to teach in the high school there. Both have been active in church and community organizations. Felix was especially active in sugar beet organizations and was a member of the Red River Valley Sugar Beet Growers' Association board of directors for 22 years. Felix and Marion were one of 17 couples honored by the Sugar Beet Growers' Association and North Dakota State University on November 1, 1975, as pioneers of the sugar beet industry and for their contributions to the industry.

HOWARD AND MABEL MEYERS METCALF

Charles Metcalf was born in London, England, 1832. At the age of fifteen he left his home in foggy London, and worked his passage on a sailing ship to New York, and then West to Ann Arbor, Michigan. He married his employer's daughter, Miss Hulme, in 1855. Her father, the head of the Hulme foundry, in Ann Arbor, was a soldier in Wellington's Army, and fought gallantly through the war that brought to a close the reign of the last Napoleon.

Mr. Metcalf went to work for the railroad, and in 1852, was one of the crew that brought the first engine, the "Little Monro," into Chicago from the East, and announced to the world that Chicago was no longer on the "Wild Frontier". It was a time of wild celebration; all the city could afford was at their disposal, when the "Little Monro" arrived on a frosty February morning.

He made his home in Brainerd, Minnesota and retired there after sixty-three years, except for the simple routine duties involved in running a Northern Pacific yard engine. Charles Metcalf was a man whose life story runs side by side with the history of railroad development in the West. He had visited this city many times at the home of his son, Fred Metcalf, and grandson, Howard.

"Fred Metcalf came to East Grand Forks in 1887. Transferred here from Brainerd, Minnesota, as an engineer for the Northern Pacific Railroad. In 1891 he married the former Margaret Scanlan in St. Michael's Church, Grand Forks, North Dakota. She came to this country from Ireland in 1865. Her father, Michael, also pioneered in railroad and the Hastings, Minnesota area.

"Mr. Metcalf was featured in Ripley's "Believe It or Not" cartoon, because he had travelled one million eight hundred miles in a locomotive cab, between Fargo and Pembina. Often picked as engineer, he piloted trains for every Northern Pacific Railroad President. One of the highlights of his early years was when he was at the helm of a special train carrying Henry Villard, President of N. P. Railroad, and General Ulysses S. Grant in the late 1880's, who were returning from a ceremony making completion of the railroad to the West Coast. He was engineer of the first locomotive purchased by the N. P. Railroad, the "Minnetonka." His last run was September, 1930, fifty-five years of railroad work in three states. He served as member of the East Grand Forks Water and Light Commission, until 1939. Mr. Metcalf resided at 327 North Second Street, where the original home still stands."

Mr. and Mrs. Metcalf both died in 1940. F. Howard Metcalf was born in East Grand Forks in 1892, received his education here, and was a 1911 graduate of East Grand Forks Public School. After attending the University of North Dakota for two years, Howard enlisted in the United States Navy, and served aboard a Mine Cruiser in World War I. After his discharge from service, he went to work as a stenographer for the First Savings Bank in Grand Forks, which was located in the space now occupied by J. C. Penney Company.

He married the former Mabel Meyers in 1920, and they made their home at 515 North 4th Street.

In 1925, Mr. Metcalf began working for the American Crystal Sugar Company and remained until his retirement in 1957 as cashier. Being right-minded, also Howard served on the Water and Light Commission for eleven years taking over for his father, who had retired in 1939 because of ill health.

Howard did not come from a large family, having only one sister, but went on to have a large family of his own, however; and of his thirteen children, five still reside in this area. Mr. Metcalf died in 1970, and Mrs. Metcalf in 1975. The children in East Grand Forks are Terry and Howard, Patty Kramchuck, Margaret Lewis, and Rosemarie O'Leary.

WARREN E. AND ELSIE LARSON MILLER

Warren E. Miller was born in North Ferrisburg, Vermont, January 14, 1921, the son of Louis H. and Eta Higbee Miller. He attended the little country school near their farm and high school in Vergennes. While he clerked in the country store, the feed store, and was employed as a milk tester and worked in a plant making precision machinery.

In 1942 he enlisted in the Air Force, serving until 1945. On February 14, 1945 Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Elsie Larson, daughter of Helmer and Emily Larson of Hillsboro, North Dakota.

After his discharge from the Air Force, Mr. Miller enrolled at Bentley College of Accounting and Finance in Boston, Massachusetts. A mobile home was engineer which was to be their home for the next few years.

Following graduation in 1947, the West beckoned — and the mobile home, pulled by a 1934 Pontiac, made its way back across the United States. Harvest was in full swing that August of 1947, temperature 108, when the Millers arrived at the home of Elsie's parents.