In the fall of 1947, the Millers moved to Moorhead, Minnesota. Mr. Miller was employed at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company until a civil service appointment came through for the Internal Revenue Service. After a training appointment in St. Paul, the family was transferred to Crookston, Minnesota in January 1949. The mobile home was sold and the family rented the farm buildings at the Holte Farm one-fourth mile from Girard Station. Warren was employed by Internal Revenue Service until 1954, when the decision was made to move to East Grand Forks, and work for the Rychar Potato Co. That same year, Mr. Miller opened his office in the old First National Bank Building at 202 DeMers as a public accountant. He attended graduate school at the University of North Dakota and became a certified public accountant. In 1967 the accounting practice was sold to Ivan Ferguson and an appointment at the Auditor General’s office at the Grand Forks Air Force Base was accepted. Mr. Miller is still employed there. The Millers have four children: Mrs. Matthew Ree, (Cheryl), East Grand Forks; Rodney L., Orange, California; Garry L., student at Bemidji State; and Rebecca J., a student at the University of North Dakota. They now have four grandchildren.

Elise Larson was born September 20, 1922, the fifth child of Helmer and Emily Larson at Hillsboro, North Dakota. Elsie attended all twelve years of school at Hillsboro, graduating from the high school in 1940. In 1941 she was hired as a secretary at the City Auditors office in Hillsboro for the sum of $25.00 monthly. Elsie remembers her first train ride, when she and a girlfriend took the Empire Builder to Grand Forks...the date was December 6, 1941... Louie Armstrong, the old Satchmo himself, was playing at the States Theater in East Grand Forks, and they took in the big dance. On Sunday, December 7, 1941, while visiting with an aunt in Grand Forks we heard the radio reports of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and felt the heat ache when President Roosevelt made the announcement declaring the start of World War II.

In the fall of 1942, Ruth Andersen and Elsie made a train trip to Kansas to visit a friend with the intention of going on to California. They ran out of money and both secured jobs in Kansas. It was here that Elsie met and married Warren Miller. Their life thereafter is listed elsewhere in this book.

In 1959 after the children were all in school, Elsie went to work at the East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce. The office was then on a full time basis for the first time, and Elsie was hired to help Howard Kramer out on a half-day basis for $25.00 weekly. The office proved to be so successful she was then hired for all day, 9-5 each day and one-half day on Saturday, and the salary was doubled to $50.00 weekly. She worked at the Chamber with Howard as the manager until 1965, when her husband needed her to help out in the accounting office. In 1971 with Ernest Straus as manager, she was encouraged to come back to the Chamber. Ernest Straus left as manager in 1973, and Mrs. Miller was elevated to the manager position.

The Chamber office had its location at 202 DeMers Avenue, upstairs first; then the A and H Vending Building at 307 DeMers, and finally purchased the Barnard Building at 315 DeMers, which is its present home since 1962.

THE GENE MILLS

Gene Mills, son of Lewis (Lars) and E. Victoria (Munson) Mills, of Cannon Falls, Minnesota. At the end of 1975, Lewis was 76 years old, and E. Victoria was 65 years old. Gene was born in Cannon Falls, Minnesota on March 24, 1932. The Mills were farmers in the Cannon Falls area.

Gene’s wife Janet (Miller) Mills was born in Red Wing, Minnesota on November 7, 1937 to Leonard and Jean Miller of Cannon Falls, Minnesota. The Millers operated Miller Feed Mill in Cannon Falls for many years. Mr. Miller now works for Cannon Ball, a truck stop near Cannon Falls.

Gene and Janet were united in marriage on February 25, 1956 and now have four children: Marilyn, born October 2, 1956; Roy, born October 22, 1958, a junior at East Grand Forks Senior High School; Martha (Marty) born August 23, 1963, a student at River Heights Elementary; and Ruth, born October 10, 1957. Ruth is married to Paul Flaa of East Grand Forks. The Flaa’s are now residing in San Clemente, California while Paul is serving in the Marine Corps. They are the proud parents of a new baby boy, born in January.

Gene Mills is employed as General Manager of the Minnesota Grain Pearling Company, East Grand Forks Division. Janet is employed by the Blue Cross-Blue Shield in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

CALVIN S. NELSON

Calvin S. Nelson was born November 15, 1928 to Albert and Edna Nelson. He was a member of the United States Marine Corps from 1946 to 1948. He married Shirley M. Heggesteven in 1948. Shirley was the daughter of Myron P. and Alma O. Heggestven. She was born November 27, 1928. Calvin is the owner of Calvin Nelson Painting and Decorating Company of East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

They have one daughter, Cheryl R., who was born July 1, 1949. She married Benjamin E. Smith in 1974. Their son, Charles D., was born December 22, 1954. He is now a member of the United States Armed Forces.

JOHN (JACK) J. O’LEARY

A city whose history is as colorful as that of East Grand Forks owes much of that heritage to a few men of determination, fortitude and stamina. One such man was John (Jack) J. O’Leary.

Born in Almont, Ontario on April 16, 1853, O’Leary moved to Grand Forks in 1878, earning his living as an experienced carpenter. Before long, however, he established himself in the real estate business and realizing the potential of the fertile Minnesota Point district, settled a homestead there in 1883. He resided there with his wife, the former Mary Ann Murphy, a Grand Forks resident who was born in Packenham, Ontario, May 2, 1861. Together they raised a family of five daughters, Mrs. Thomas (Mollie) Powers, Mrs. E. J. (Margaret) Logan, Mrs. N. A. (Genevieve) Fischer, Mrs. Lawrence (Cecilia) Norman, Elizabeth, and two sons, Jack and James E.

O’Leary’s interest in politics led him to the post of mayor of E.G.F. for four terms. He was first elected in 1906 and the tall wiry Irishman made an early impression as a man of firm and outspoken convictions in dealing with the growing pains of the rugged pioneer town.

O’Leary’s administration faced corruption in the city government, graft among most members of the town’s underpaid police department, rampant gambling and open prostitution within the city limits. These things were in addition to the standard problems faced by a city whose population at that time had reached 3,500 and was climbing steadily, with an assessed valuation upwards of half a million dollars.

In lengthy speeches, which were to become a trademark of his political career, O’Leary charged head-on into the major problems facing the city. Just weeks before O’Leary took office, the city clerk, C. P. Zimmerman, had absconded with thousands of dollars in city funds. The new mayor ordered a

John J. O’Leary.

Mrs. John J. O’Leary.