

employed at the brick yard and was a harvester on various farms. He entered Park Region Lutheran College in Fergus Falls and graduated in 1902. Then he began his business career as clerk for his uncle, Andrew Opheim, and remained so until his uncle's death on April 5, 1915. He was appointed administrator of his uncle's estate and succeeded him in the management of the store and other businesses.

On November 30, 1910, Mr. Eide married Miss Clara R. Nelson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Arne Nelson, at Grand Forks, North Dakota. They were the parents of eight children: K. Arne Eide, New York City; Anna Eide Pagenhart, Rochester, Minnesota; Anders Eide, Fertile; Alfhild Eide O'Mallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Arvid Eide, Hanevek, Minnesota; Alf Eide, Fertile, Minnesota; Roald Eide, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Agnes Eide Cranmer, Vista, California.

Odd Eide served in many capacities during his lifetime. Besides his store business, he was mayor of Fertile, member of the school board, president and vice-president of the Fair Association. He was state representative of Polk county served on the village council, Sons of Norway and president of Concordia church. He was also chairman of the building committee of Concordia church.

He was known as a good mixer and enjoyed discussing politics. He stood for his convictions and treated everyone equal. A staunch supporter was Mr. Eide, and he was untiring in his efforts to improve the village. He was a Republican with great force and sound judgment. His hobbies were reading, stamp collecting and gardening. His death was sudden, occurring July 21, 1952.

HJALMAR ERICKSON

Hjalmar Erickson was born April 16, 1883, to Erik and Johanna Erikson at Bear Park, and moved to Fertile in 1902 at the age of 17. He assisted his father in the meat market and later was owner and manager of the Erikson Furniture Store and Funeral Parlor. Later he was manager of the Erikson Produce and Potato Company.

On June 16, 1915, he was married to Gertrude Hennemuth of Crookston. Mr. Erickson was mayor of Fertile for seven years after serving on the village council for some time. He was a pioneer in scouting in the Red River Valley and organized the first full troop in 1919. In 1953, he was awarded the Beaver award by the Lake Agassiz Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was president, and later vice president of the Polk County Fair Association for over forty years. In 1962, he was awarded a plaque from the Fair Association for his many years of work with the fair.

Hjalmar Erickson was also president of the Polk County Historical Association, and in 1961 was made a Patron of this group. He was a charter member of the Lion's Club of Fertile and was recently made an honorary life member. In 1961, Mr. Erickson was given the "Man of the Year" award by the Fertile Community Club. Mr. Erickson had always been vitally interested in all the affairs of the Village of Fertile and spent nearly his entire life serving the community and county in various capacities.

Hjalmar Erickson died in March, 1965.

ROLF CHRISTIAN AND GRACE (JORGENSEN) ERICKSON

Grace Lillian Jorgenson married Rolf Christian Erickson at Fertile, Minnesota June 30, 1934. They met while students at Moorhead State Teachers College, Moorhead, Minnesota. They built a home in Godfrey Township, Polk County, Minnesota. They have four children: Jacquelyn Grace born June 1, 1935; Sandra Pearl born November 10, 1936; Patricia Louise born June 18, 1940; and Charles Russell born December 6, 1945. They now reside in the home they built in the village of Fertile in 1963. Rolf continues in construction work.

Jacquelyn Grace graduated as valedictorian of the Fertile High School class of 1953. She became a Registered Nurse at the St. Luke's School of Nursing at Fargo, North Dakota, in 1956 and later graduated from Trinity College at Chicago, Illi-

nois, with a degree in Christian education. She married Derwyn LeRoy Anderson of Rembrandt, Iowa, on August 25, 1962. They reside at Pleasant Acres, St. Joseph, Minnesota. Derwyn teaches in counseling and guidance at St. Cloud State University.

Sandra Pearl graduated as valedictorian of the Fertile High School class of 1954. She attended Interstate Business College at Fargo, North Dakota, worked as secretary at the Juvenile Court of the First Judicial District at Fargo and later graduated as valedictorian of the 1960 class at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks with a degree in social work and psychology. She married Rhomas John Robinson of Volga, Iowa, August 28, 1959 and has two boys: Timothy James born September 6, 1960 and Paul Eric born June 27, 1963. They reside at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Tom is a professor of mathematics at the University of North Dakota.

Patricia Louise graduated from the Fertile High School in 1958. She became a registered nurse at the St. Luke's School of Nursing at Fargo, North Dakota in August 1961. She married Richard Clarence Roragen, also of Fertile, September 1, 1961 and they have three children: Tindyl Dawn born April 3, 1967; Tamara Beth born May 8, 1970; and Ross Charles born January 24, 1974. They now reside in Fosston, Minnesota where Dick is Assistant High School Principal and coach.

Charles Russell Erickson graduated in 1963 from the Fertile High School and served in the U. S. Armed Forces from 1966 to 1968, serving one year in Viet Nam. On April 27, 1968 he married Linda Kay Nolte, also of Fertile, and they now have two children: Troy Rolf born September, 1968 and Jamie Lyn born April 9, 1976. They have built a home in rural Fertile. Chuck is employed by Robertson Lumber Company. Linda has been an elementary teacher in the Erskine Public Schools.

ERIK AND JOHANNA ERIKSON

It was more than half a century ago that Erik John Erikson and his wife, Johanna, came to Bear Park in Polk county directly from Sweden. They met in Ada with Mr. Raff, who owned a pair of oxen — the only mode of travel available at that time. You see, the country was brand new. They stayed there for two weeks, when they moved in with Mr. E. G. O. Hoglund in his new log house. There they lived until spring. With the help of neighbors and that of a young man, Carl, whom he had met on the voyage, the log house was built and the family moved into their own home.

That done, father offered the front room to be used as a school room. He hired a teacher, Mr. Kjeland, and paid him his wages for a short time himself so that his children and others could go to school. After five years, specifications having been met, the farm was sold to several buyers and finally Mr. Bergeson and wife became the owner and began to plant flowers and trees which led to the building of a "Green House" business, which is well known and flourishing today.

In the meantime, Dad was busy organizing the first creamery in Rindahl. Father was hired by Mr. Gustafson to work in his general store in Fertile, because of his experience in having had a mercantile business in Sweden. He was also interested in finding a way to remove the strong odor from butter that came to the store. There was no ice to buy nor any cold storage facilities. He succeeded and that renovated butter was sold for a little less than the fresh butter. Father started the beginning of opening a market for farm produce. In a small way he began to advertise that he would buy farm products. The business grew. He built the "Produce House." More farmers increased their flocks of chickens, geese, turkeys, etc. Hides were handled and carloads of eggs and potatoes.

I remember the day that Dad asked Hjalmer to take him out around the country to see the new barns and graineries that were being built. He had a smile on his face when he returned which did not come off for days, because he had made possible an outlet for their products. Another happy day was when he had the first wire from New York to ship them a carload of poultry. He knew then that he was really established. Before that it was mainly Minneapolis, Duluth, and Chicago that bought his produce.

Mr. Erickson was not only interested in the financial side of life as you saw evidenced in the desire for his childrens educa-