where he was manager of Bang’s General Store. With W. H. and E. L. Matthews of Ada he had the opportunity to establish the First National Bank in Fertile and to become the first cashier of that institution. Twenty-five years later, in 1914, Mr. Hanson purchased the Matthews’ interests and became president. Under his guidance the banking business in Fertile grew and developed, locally owned and controlled, and continues today as the First State Bank with David E. Hanson, a grandson of Norman, as president. David’s father, Elmer B. Hanson, immediately succeeded Norman Hanson and held the presidency from 1922 until 1947, the year of his death. Norman Hanson also had interests in other banks in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana. His son, Lloyd V., was cashier in the Montana bank and later continued his career at International Falls, Fargo, and Hudson, Wisconsin. G. Orvis Hanson, the youngest son, served as assistant cashier in the Fertile bank until he became district agent for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Mr. Hanson was actively interested in church and civic affairs. He served as councilman and mayor of the village; as trustee and financial advisor of the Concordia Lutheran Church board; as a member of the local school board of education for twenty-five years; as a member and treasurer of the Polk County Fair board; and for twenty years he was director and treasurer of Bethesda Hospital at Crookston—a work to which he was especially devoted. On May 15, 1922 he died at Bethesda Hospital, the institution to which friends frequently alluded as “his self-erected monument.”

On June 12, 1881 the first couple to be married in Little Norway congregation was Norman Hanson and Julia Christianson. Their daughter Olive and Anna Christianson, of rural Fertile. (The Hanson and Christianson families had settled in Allamakee County, Iowa when they arrived from Telemark and Hollandal in Norway.) From 1881 to 1887 the Norman Hansons resided at Ada, where two of their children were born. The family grew to seven children, one of whom died in infancy. In addition to the three sons previously mentioned, there were three daughters: Effie (Mrs. W. A. Barnard), a talented artist and teacher to many young people in the community; Lola, a public health nurse with extensive foreign service; and Norma (Mrs. Edgar Broden), a high school teacher. All members of the family including also three grandchildren and two great grandchildren have attended or been graduated from St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minnesota. Julia Hanson survived her husband, Norman, and was 85 years of age when she passed away in September 1945.

**HELMER HAUGEN**

Most of the members of the Helmer Haugen family have remained in this part of the States. Helmer was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Knute Haugen and was born in Fertile, Minnesota. He had two older sisters, a younger sister and a brother. Of this family only two sisters remain, namely Mrs. Arthur (Selma) Henderson of Fertile, and Mrs. Eva Manning of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Knute Haugen came to Fertile from Kenyon, Minnesota, in the 1800’s. His wife Anna (Stokke) was born in Iowa, and came to Fertile when a young girl. Knute Haugen owned a livery stable in Fertile for many years. In 1900, he and his family moved to their farm, one and a-half miles from Fertile. Mrs. Haugen passed away in 1932, at Thief River Falls. Mr. Haugen passed away in Fertile, in 1944.

Helmer Haugen was the first draftee to leave Fertile during the First World War. He served his country for two years, in France and Germany. A few years after he returned home, he married Berghiot Pederson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sivert Pederson. She was born in Menomonie, Wisconsin, and moved to Crookston, Minnesota, with her parents and brother, where they lived for several years. Later, they moved to Fertile where she attended high school. Both her parents were born near Trondheim, Norway. Her Mother came to Fertile with her parents and brother. Her father had settled in Menomonie, Wisconsin. He passed away in 1925, and her mother in 1944.

There are eight children in the Helmer Haugen family. Six of these are still living in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Lyverne married Wm. Swanson of Fertile. They live in Whittier, California and have two children and three grandchildren.

Gene served his country in the Pacific theater. He and his wife Irene live in Portland, Oregon. They have four children. Gene is in the newspaper business in Portland.

Myron served in Germany during the War. It was there that he met his future wife. They live in Devils Lake, North Dakota, where he has a fiber glass plant. Betty is married to Erman Urdal. They have three children. Erman teaches at University Minnesota Technical College.

Beverly, Betty’s twin sister, is married to David Duckstad of Fertile. He works with the SCS, and they live in Warren. They have four children.

Yvonne is married to Lyle Nelson of Gary. He is the depot agent at Gilby, North Dakota. They have two children.

Howard and Pat have two daughters. They live in Hallock, where Howard is city manager. Pat is also from Fertile. Howard served three years in the Army here in the States.

Lois and her husband have three children. They live in Fertile, where Dale owns the Bauer Honey Company.

Knute Haugen, Helmer’s Father, owned the property in Fertile where several businesses are now located. This property is now again in the family, following its recent purchase by Dale Bauer and Wm. Swanson.

Helmer Haugen, his wife and daughter had lived in Fertile for about two years, after which they moved to the home farm, where they lived for more than forty years. All eight children were baptized and confirmed in Concordia Lutheran Church in Fertile. Six of the children were also married there.

**OSTEN G. HAUGEN**

Osten G. Haugen was born in Telemarken, Norway, to Gunnuf and Syneve Haugen on February 28, 1873. He immigrated to the United States at the age of 26 years. He came to Fillmore County. He later moved to Thief River Falls, Minnesota, where he began farming. While there, he was united in marriage to Adina Rindal on April 10, 1909. They moved, in 1910, to a farm four and one half miles northeast of Fertile, Minnesota where they resided until 1950; they then moved into Fertile. Haugen visited his native country twice after coming to America. Mrs. Haugen was born January 11, 1889, near Thief River Falls, and was raised in that community. Osten Haugen died May 8, 1952 and Mrs. Haugen passed away January 31, 1957. They were buried at the Little Norway Church cemetery, where they had been active church members. They had a family of four children, Selma C, Alma G., Mable J., and Gustav A. Mr. and Mrs. Ingvar Johnson (Selma) live in Fertile, Minnesota. They have one son. Roger and Cleo Johnson (Larson), Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. They have three sons and one daughter: Jeffrey, Brain, Eric, and Amy. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Larson (Alma) reside in Garden Township, Fertile. They have three children: Gloria, Jerome and Charles.