Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Ruud (Gloria) live in Moorhead, Minnesota, together with their children: Nancy, Kathy and Darin. Jerome and Connie (Mosher) Larson live northeast of Fertile in Garden Township and they have a family of three children: Timothy, Julie, and Melissa. Charles Larson is single and lives in New York City, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Christianson (Mable), Gary, Minnesota, live on a farm in Norman County. They have a family of three boys: Ronald and Donna Christianson (Johnson) have two children: Becky and John. They live in Sherrard, Illinois. Mark and Judith Christianson (Hedrick) live on a farm in Norman County. They have one son, Braidy. Wayne Christianson is single and lives in Gary, Minnesota.

Gustav A. and Carmen Haugen (Skrien) live on the home farm northeast of Fertile. They have two sons, David and Daniel, both single. David lives in Arizona and Daniel in Moorhead, Minnesota.

ANDREW K. HOLEN

Andrew K. Holen, the youngest of seven children, three boys and four girls. The family immigrated to this country when Andrew was six years old and settled in Iowa, where he grew to manhood. In 1887, he came up here where his two brothers Ole and Hans had preceded him by a few years. By that time the homestead land was all taken so he bought a tree-claim adjoining his brother Ole's claim and set about building a 12' by 16' log cabin. He went back to Iowa that fall and the next spring married Hannah Paterson. Together they came back and established their home here. Andrew didn't do much farming the first year but bought a team of oxen and started breaking the sod. He farmed with oxen for about two years, then bought a team of horses. He bought 160 acres of land, used mostly for pasture and hay, then later bought 80 acres adjoining the home place. By that time the family had increased by two boys, Carl born 1889 and Herman born 1892, so more help was coming up.

I remember them telling that when they first came here there were no poplar groves; the only woods were along the river. They blamed that on the prairie fires, but after the area had been settled a few years, fires were controlled and the poplars got a start. I can remember some of the early winters, the snowfall was heavy and winds terrific, and storms usually lasted three days. They drove across fences as if these didn't exist. My father related one time during the winter they were running short of wood so he took the oxen and left. By early afternoon he had his load cut and started for home. Before he was half way home a sudden storm came up with zero visibility, so he let the oxen find their own way and walked behind the load. Suddenly they stopped, so he struggled forward to see what was the matter; when lo and behold they were standing before the barn door! "Who said Dumb Animals?"

Andrew Holen was always very public spirited and believed that what was good for the community was good for the individual. He was very active in school and township matters and served them in various capacities. He was also a staunch supporter of the local creamery, Farmer's Elevator, and the local church. A large part of his success was due to his wife Hannah, who was always ready to bear her share of the burden. She always placed the welfare and well-being of her husband and family first. In retrospect let us stop and consider the trials and hardships those early settlers went through; the courage and resourcefulness they showed; and let us hope that their sacrifices and hardships have not been in vain.

GJERDE

Andrew Gjerde was born February 4, 1849, at Sogndal i Sogn, Norway. At 21 years of age Andrew came to America on a sailing vessel spending seven to eight weeks on the ocean. Severe storms were encountered while enroute to America. Waves tore everything down on deck including the main mast. The passengers on board feared they would never reach America. After landing at Quebec, Andrew went to Stoughton, Wisconsin, to work. From there he could see the famous Chicago fire of October 1871. From Wisconsin Mr. Gjerde worked in southern Minnesota and later in the Georgetown-Kragness area including employment at the Grandin Bonanza Farms. In 1886 Andrew Gjerde moved to Fertile, Minnesota, where on December 8, 1886, he purchased 200 acres of land in Liberty Township. This remains a part of the present Jerde farm.

On December 8, 1887, Andrew married Martha Markuson. To this union five children were born: Matilda (Mrs. Chris Stauning), August 7, 1888; Mable (Mrs. Harry Halvorson), November 20, 1889; Clara (Mrs. Jack Horan), April 7, 1891; Helen (Mrs. Alvin Weinhart), March 23, 1896; and Albert, March 27, 1900.

After Andrew purchased the farm, he set to the task of building a new log house. This home served as the Jerde family dwelling until 1948, when a newer frame structure was moved to the farm replacing the log structure.

All of the Andrew Gjerde children completed eight grades of school in District 109 located one mile west of the farmstead. It was the influence of one of the teachers in this school that resulted in the dropping of the "G" from the family name. Albert eventually took over the family farm which remains his home today.

Albert married Orpha Berhow in 1939. On January 19, 1940, a son, Lorrie, was born. A second son, James, was born January 11, 1945. As the Albert Jerde family grew so did the size of