1875 when he moved into southern Minnesota. He worked on farms, besides teaching school until 1882, when he came to Aldal, Minnesota and entered into partnership with Dr. Arne Nelson in general merchandising and drug business. Business flourished. In 1887, business moved to Fertile. The partnership continued until 1893, when it was dissolved by mutual consent. Opheim taking over the general merchandising and Nelson the drug stock.

In 1895, Mr. Opheim erected a fine building which bears his name. Mr. Opheim was one of the founders of the First State Bank and served as director and vice-president until his death, April 5, 1915. He took active interest in the Brick and File Company, serving as one of its directors. As a member of the Republican party, he was a very ardent worker of the party, he was a very hard worker for its success in campaigns. He served as president in the village of Fertile for ten terms. Since Mr. Opheim never married, he was able to give earnest attention to every public interest, and did it diligently.

THEODORE O. PROPP

Theodore O. Propp moved to Fertile, Minnesota in 1904. He was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, December 21, 1700 of German immigrants. He was raised on a farm in southern Minnesota. After two years of college, he taught elementary school.

After teaching a few years, he decided to go into business. His first enterprise in Fertile was a clothing store. This he sold to go into the hardware and farm machinery business. He traveled throughout the farming area, trading farm machinery for cattle, and selling these on the St. Paul Market. He was active in civic affairs of the city, serving on the city council, the school board, and as president of the Polk County Fair Association. His wife Elise was a partner in the business.

They raised four daughters: Mildred, Mrs. Elmer Gamme, who passed away February 13, 1932; Vivian, Mrs. Earl Harvey, East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Doris, Mrs. K. D. Sayther, Mound, Minnesota; and Theodora, Mrs. K. V. Ingerson, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Shortly after the death of his wife Elise on March 30, 1927, he moved to Minneapolis to be with his two daughters, Theodora and Doris.

In 1943 during World War II at the age of 72, he was called to work for the General Accounting Office in Washington, D. C., where he served for six years. He returned to Minneapolis and continued to live there until his death on January 11, 1954.

OLE SYVERSEN VIKEN

Ole Syversen Viken and his wife Ingebrit Olsdatter Rud Viken together with Mr. Viken's old mother Anna Knudsen Viken, and their three daughters Anna, Alice (Olaug), and Thora immigrated to the United States from Nesbyen, Hallingdal, Norway in 1880. They arrived first at Lanesboro, Minnesota, where Mr. Viken had a relative. Later Mrs. Viken's two brothers, Jurgen and Jens Rud, convinced them to take a homestead near them at Fertile in Polk county. They arrived at Edna (New Beltrami) by train and took a claim near Red Lake northeast of Fertile. Four sons were born in America: Syvert, Henry, Otto and Olaf. Anna Viken married Andrew Stovern and pioneered at McIntosh; Alice Viken married Luther Fowler and resided in Two Rivers, Wisconsin; Thora married a Fertile school teacher, Mr. Orvik. Syvert married and became a pioneer farmer near Portland, Oregon. Henry was Chief of Police in Grand Forks. Olaf married Anna Larson and resided at Blackduck. Otto Joel Viken married Rose Morvig of Fertile. Rose and Otto had seven children: Albert, Anges, Dora, Olga, Otis, Orpha and George.

City of Fisher History

The Village of Fisher, now referred to as the City of Fisher, has a 1970 listed population of 383. It is situated on the banks of the Red Lake River, in the rich Red River Valley of the North.

Fisher is one of the oldest settlements in Polk County, having received its first settlers in the early 1870s. These were Norwegians or of Norwegian ancestry, Irish and many Scotch from Canada, and Swedes and Germans from Wisconsin. Some were also of mixed Indian blood.

The village, first called "Shirt-tail Bend" because a shirt had once been tied to a stick to warn steamboats of a bend in the river, was re-named Fisher's Landing, which name it retained for years before having it shortened to the present Fisher.

The settlement, back in 1875, was located down on the river bank, several blocks west and north of the present site, and owed its location and growth to the then flourishing steamboat traffic on the Red and Red Lake Rivers. Boats plied regularly between Winnipeg and Fisher's Landing, then the head of navigation. This encouraged early railroad building to meet the boat traffic at this point.

Mr. Fisher, a civil engineer for the St. Paul and Pacific Railway Company, was sent here to survey for the laying of tracks, and it was his name which made the settlement known as "Fisher's Landing." Rails that had been laid north of Euchid were taken up and used for the line to Fisher's Landing, in 1875.

The town at that time was a rough, frontier settlement and usually the scene of much activity and excitement. Many tales of fights involving both Indians and whites have been handed down from the early settlers.

Captain Russell, a steamboat skipper, was given credit for a peacemaker role in at least one riot which threatened to develop into a massacre, brought on by the liquor traffic and gambling, so prevalent around 1876 and 1877.

The fertile land in this vicinity was another inducement for early settlers, as well as one of the deciding factors in getting the railroad laid here. It is reported that James J. Hill, railroad builder and financier, owned ten acres at the present site of the Fisher school. He is said to have engaged a settler here to plow it with a team of oxen, and to plant wheat. He reaped 50 bushels to the acre.

This convinced him that future grain marketing would warrant establishment of a railway terminal here. Land at that time sold for about $2 an acre and outside capital bought up tracts, some of which contained several thousand acres. Flour mills were soon built, and later a cheese factory.

When the railroad was extended to Grand Forks later, the importance of river traffic decreased and consequently the village site was moved up from the river bank to the present location. About 1895 Fisher had its largest population, about 550, which was more than that of either Grand Forks or Crookston at that time.

Fisher then had a thriving business section, including a weekly newspaper, the "Fisher Bulletin", first publisher of which was a cousin of Admiral George Dewey of Spanish-American War fame, and also a distant relative of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The printing office was at that time located on what was known as "Ketten's Corner", but later was moved up the street to what is now the Post Office parking lot, where it was published by a Mr. Shire and later by a Mr. Shaughnessy. The Bulletin ceased publication about 1900.

Fisher was given its village charter of incorporation by a special legislative act in 1881. Fisher had several early pioneer doctors, but best remembered is Dr. William Hollands, who was the community doctor for forty-one years. Dr. Hollands was born in Wisconsin in 1881 and came to North Dakota as a