child. He graduated from Hamline College and then completed his internship in Luther Hospital in St. Paul in 1909. He came to Fisher immediately following his training. In 1911 he married Kally Amundson of Atwater, Minnesota. They had three children: Howard, Mary, and Evelyn. Mrs. Hollands died in 1946. Dr. Hollands was active in community affairs. He served as councilman and mayor, also as health officer, and was at one time president of the Red River Valley Medical Association. Dr. Hollands died in July of 1956. He liked being a “country doctor” and there are many fond memories and stories of his devotion to his profession — making house calls in bad weather when only a horse and buggy could get him to a rural home, his treating patients whether he got paid or not, and his good humor and kindness through it all.

Education in the village began about 1877 in a building in the north section of the village, and the school term then was only five months, divided into a fall and spring term.

Several years later, a two-story brick school house was built in the east part of town, across the railroad tracks, after which the building formerly used for school was used to house the Methodist Church, which had an active membership here for many years. A Presbyterian Church, located also east of the tracks, had a good-sized congregation for a number of years.

The old “Brick Schoolhouse,” as it is referred to, was heated with a furnace-type stove in each room; most of the seats were double, meaning two pupils had to sit together; and the water cooler supplied the drinking water.

Each teacher on the first floor taught two or three grades; but, when pupils entered the sixth or seventh grade, they had classes on the top floor, with teachers assigned to different classes. While most pupils ended their education with the eighth grade, or even before, there were a few who continued taking high school subjects, individually or in small groups, earning enough credits to qualify them for entrance into the so-called Normal School, later called the Teachers College, and recently given the title of University. In 1917 the present school was erected and it has had two or more additions since then, and is now a well established school with a twenty-two member faculty, a fine curriculum, many extracurricular activities, and a good lunch program. A fleet of busses brings pupils from a large rural area. The Parent-Teacher Association and the Music Boosters are active auxiliary organizations. The Fisher school in District #600 of Polk County.

Three churches, with roots extending back into the early history of the community, serve Fisher and the surrounding rural area: St. Francis Catholic Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Fisher Lutheran Church. Their histories are included in another section of this book.

There are approximately four hundred people living in Fisher now; in 1976. The number of business establishments has dwindled since the turn of the century, but the town attracts many families who like the advantages of small town living and who commute to jobs in Crookston, East Grand Forks, and Grand Forks, North Dakota, or to their farming operations in outlying townships. New homes are being built each year and the town continues to grow. As a reminder of days gone by a sign has been erected on the west side of the village designating the site of the old Fisher’s Landing on the banks of the Red Lake River.

FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ALC)
The first settlers came to Fisher in about 1870 but the first permanent settlement was made in 1875 on the banks of the Red Lake River, due to the flourishing steamboat traffic and the promise seemingly of rich soil, lumbering and the easy river traffic. At first life was difficult, the people had little time for anything but hard work, sleeping and eating. But always in the back of their minds was a thought of better things. One of the most important was their church life. These early pioneers were a devout and pious people and felt they must hear God’s Word.

The earliest recorded activity occurred in 1880 on a Sunday afternoon when eleven pioneer Norwegian emigrants gathered at the log home of Grunde Aakhus, the land is still owned by members of the Aakhus family. Two years later, in 1882, a church was built in the village with a membership of approximately one hundred souls. The structure is the same one that is the church of today, but it faced the north and it had a small entrance door and no steeple. Pastor Hans Solstad, who earlier had organized a congregation in Bygland, was their first pastor and organizer. These eleven men sent Pastor Solstad to Minneapolis to buy a carload of lumber. Knute Onstad of the village built the church. Travel was not easy and whole families came, some driving and others walked carrying their family hymnbook.

In 1897 a special meeting was called on July 25th and it was voted to turn the church around to face the west; raise it two feet, add the high steeple, a chancel, a double entry and to replaster to make it warmer. The entire cost was $600.