GUSTAVE GUNSTENSON

Gustave Gunstenson, senior member of the firm of Gunstenson Brothers, was born October 16, 1888, the son of the late Ole Gunstenson, a pioneer druggist who came to Fisher's Landing, as it was then called, in 1879. Up until 1880, Fisher's Landing was the leading business point in Polk County, which had been set aside and established in 1858. Polk County was named after an ex-president, James Knox Polk. One of the first drug stores was owned by a Dr. Lancaster, who hired Ole Gunstenson as manager. Later he bought the store and it remained in the Gunstenson family until 1949, a period of seventy years.

Gustave Gunstenson lived his entire life in the village, graduated from the Fisher School, took a course at the University of Minnesota and later attended the University of North Dakota taking advanced chemistry. He helped his father in the store on vacations and summers since the age of twelve and later, upon his father's death in 1916, Gustave and his younger brother, Alfred, took over and were known as Gunstenson Brothers-Fisher Drug Store.

Gustave Gunstenson served as Mayor of the village. He was a lifelong and faithful worker in the Fisher Lutheran Church having been both baptized and confirmed there. He served for years on several boards of the church. He was a charter member of the Theodore Stalmo American Legion Post having served in World War I.

On May 14, 1929, he married Lottie S. Krostue in the Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. They have made their home in Fisher ever since. Upon his retirement with the sale of the drug store, they spent their time traveling and built a winter home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Later, he disposed of that and they spent winters in Arizona. They traveled extensively in Europe, having spent five summers there.

Gustave Gunstenson died May 8, 1973, after months of failing health. His wife, Lottie, continues to live in the home built by her father, Gunder Krostue, in 1898.

HANS JENSEN

Hans Jensen (1852-1894) and Caroline Goth (1849-1930) were both born in Denmark. Hans came to the Albert Lea area as a young man and moved on to Omaha where he married Caroline Antnelia Goth. They came to Fisher some time before 1880 and established a blacksmith shop. The first blacksmith shop was located in Fisher's Landing, a point of land just north of the present M. E. Larson home.

A shop record book of Hans' for the year 1882 lists good customers such as Ole Knutson, Ole Vattendahl, Jens Wallerback, Andrew Kleven, Griebbeck, Malmberg, Bangen, Gulseth — all good Norske names with an occasional Torkel Lee, Leikness, Furlong, Brewer, Thompson and DeMers and a J. W. Silverthorn. You could get a horse shod for twenty-cents, sharpen a plow-lay for thirty five cents and one dollar and fifty cents for a new whippletree. Buggy and bobsled repairs were also done here.

The Jensens had one daughter, Emily, and a son, Andrew. They lost their father when small children, so became industrious at an early age. Andrew recalled picking mustard for local farmers at twenty-cents a day. He stoked the pot bellied stove at the old schoolhouse and remembered the teacher keeping a tin of melted soap on the stove-top for little tongues uttering bad words.

Andrew graduated from business college in Grand Forks and became depot agent in Mapes, North Dakota and also in Petersburg. He married Sigrid Stortoen in 1913 and moved to Sabin and then later to Baker, Minnesota, where he served as depot agent. Their two daughters, Beryl and Helen were born there. They moved back to Fisher in 1918 and their son Quenin was born in 1919. The Jensens had a carefree, happy childhood in Fisher, spending much of their time fishing, hunting and vacation trips in Northome with the Stortoens.

Mr. Jensen had many papers found in the walls of the old depot showing that the first agent in Fisher's Landing was George W. Bolton, who was also the first agent pensioned off by Great Northern Railroad. Mr. Jensen hears the speech by born in Red Wing, Minnesota, in 1869. My father married Annie Klein in 1884; she was killed in a cyclone in 1885. Years later, he married my mother in 1890. They lived in Argyle where I was born in 1893, later moving to Fisher. They leased the Northern Tier Hotel in 1894, and changed the name to Fisher Hotel. My mother ran the hotel after my father's death in 1922 until 1931 when she retired. I had four sisters and two brothers: Stella, Avis, Ann, Ellsworth, Grace and Donald. I worked for the Post Office in Bagley for four years. Then I went to Grand Forks, North Dakota. I got a job with Standard Oil Company, running the first station in Grand Forks. I married Henrietta Peterson in 1917, and lived in Grafton. My wife died in the flu epidemic of 1919. I served in the Army at Camp Lewis Washington. Shortly after my going into the Army, the war was over. In 1919, I went on the road for Standard Oil. My territory was Edgeley, North Dakota, just south of Jamestown. In 1921, I came back to Fisher and went into the building game, met Marguerite Clifford of St. Paul, a teacher, and was married in 1925.

Our first son, Keith, was born in the Webster house and Barbara Ann and Charles were born in the Hamilton house. Since I retired in 1959, I have spent the winters in California where Barbara Ann and Keith live. Barbara Ann is Mrs. Robert Calhoun and has four children. They live in Long Beach. Keith and wife, Corky, live in Garden Grove and have six children. My wife died in 1962. My son Charles and wife, Olga, have three children and live in Roseville.

I did much traveling in the summer for three or four years seeking out relatives of my father and mother in Canada and found many; so I have a real fine family tree on my mother's side. I have always loved to fish and hunt all my life and have made several trips to the Arctic Circle. Great fun.

When I sold my home in Fisher a couple of years ago, I donated all my treasured tools and some pictures to the Historical Society in Crookston. In 1966, I married my present wife, Gertrude Hafey from Edgeley, North Dakota, whom I had met in 1921 when I lived in Edgeley. Since we married, we have lived at 276 Monte Vista, Costa Mesa, California.

L. C. HENDERSON

I, Leslie Charles Henderson, was not a pioneer in Polk County, but I am among the oldest of my generation still living. My father was born "Charles Henderson" in Newboro, Ontario, Canada, in 1856. My mother, Louisa Siebrasse, was