Fisher, where I spent 25 years teaching a variety of subjects in the high school, and served a few years as high school principal. My extra-curricular duties included coaching plays, speech events, and being advisor for the school newspaper.

I retired in 1958, but continued to do substitute teaching for a few years. It was the great variety of teaching assignments that made my career interesting and enjoyable, but, I must say it is also great to be retired.

So what do I do now to keep busy? Plenty.

I work on the lawn and in my garden: harvest and can or freeze the fruits and vegetables; take the school census; am correspondent for the Crookston Daily Times and the Grand Forks Herald; have served on the Polk County Nursing Board since 1956, nine years as chairman, which I resigned last year, but am still on the board; work with the ALCW of Fisher Lutheran Church, and served one year as treasurer of the congregation.

All hasn’t been work, of course. I have enjoyed trips that have taken me to every state, several Canadian provinces, and jaunts into Mexico, but I am really not one who craves a lot of traveling.

I enjoy driving my car, watching television, and there are plenty of social activities here to take up the slack.

So life in FISHER and the RED RIVER VALLEY is pretty GREAT!

MICHAEL KOEHMSTEDT

Michael (Mike) Koehmstedt was born July 31, 1902, at Formosa, Ontario, Canada. His father, John Joseph Koehmstedt, was born in Demestin, Ontario, Canada, May 16, 1869, and died in Langdon, North Dakota, May 20, 1946. His mother was born in Formosa, Ontario, Canada, August 25, 1871, and died in Langdon, North Dakota, November 30, 1956.

Mike’s sisters and brother are Mrs. George, (Agatha Kathrena) Reidhammer, born October 29, 1893 and died July 7, 1967; Anthony Albert, born March 3, 1895; Joseph John, born May 20, 1897, and died September 13, 1920; Mrs. William, (Oihilda Mary) Kortes, born May 1, 1900 and died March 22, 1973; Michael, born July 31, 1902; Mrs. Olivia, (Pauline Annie) Derosier born June 27, 1905; Mrs. Roman (Theresa) Metzger, born May 1, 1907; Mrs. John (Kathryn Mary) Hoffarth, born March 29, 1910; Lawrence Charley, born October 1, 1912, and Mrs. Don, (Rhoda Cecelia) Bowen, born March 2, 1917.

In the spring of 1903, Mike’s mother and children left Formosa to join Mike’s father in the Langdon, North Dakota, area where Mike’s father had gone to establish a home for his family. Mike remained on the farm and later helped his father with farming until his younger brother was able to take over. It was in 1936, that Mike first came to Polk County, Minnesota, where he worked as a farm hired hand. Those were the days when a dollar per day or $20 a month was good wages.

During World War II, Mike left Minnesota to work at the Black Hills Ordinance Depot as a mechanic. He was later transferred to Sacramento Air Depot. After the war, he came back to Minnesota and established his own repair shop at Fisher.

On September 20, 1948, Mike married the former Etta Peterson, daughter of the late Swan and Amanda Peterson. Etta was born at Lynn Center, Illinois, September 30, 1908. She attended grade and high school at Galesburg, Illinois, while living with a sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs., Myrtle, Carl Victor Erickson. After the death of her sister, Myrtle, in 1930; Etta stayed in the home of her brother-in-law helping care for her sister’s and four children. Later, Etta came to Fisher to be with her folks.

Etta graduated from East Grand Forks Training Department, received her bachelor of science degree from Bemidji State College and her special education qualifications were met by attending Moorhead State College, Monmouth College, Illinois; and University of North Dakota. She taught in rural one-room schools, grades one through eight and the Fisher Public School. It was at one of the adult plays in Triple Two that Mike first saw Etta. She finished the 1948-49 school term at Fisher Public School and then decided to assist her husband in his business, as well as help care for her aged father. Mike and Etta went to live in the home of Etta’s brother, Delman, and her father, where Delman, Etta and Mike presently still reside in Fisher. Etta and Mike purchased the former Leonard Berg, Sr. Implement location in Fisher where Mike established and managed Mike’s Garage and Standard Oil Filling Station for seventeen years. The garage and station were totally destroyed by fire September 18, 1973.

On April 22, 1952, Etta’s father died. Her mother preceded her father in death, July 21, 1940.

Etta’s son, Michael John, was born at Deaconess Hospital, Grand Forks, North Dakota, December 5, 1952. Some of you may remember “Mickey” as your “Grand Forks Herald Paper Boy”. He worked on the farm for his Uncle, Vincent Peterson, during some summers. He also played lead guitar in a band, “The Cocoon”. He graduated from Fisher High School and attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He went with a group from the University to Europe in the summer of 1972. He is presently working on the Oil Pipe Line in Alaska.

Etta went back to teaching in Fisher Public School in 1960 and taught through the 1973-74 term. She was “Teacher of the Year” of Fisher School in 1968-69. On September 23, 1973, Mike and Etta celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. Now they have retired. This will give Mike more time to enjoy his hobby of gardening.

Etta and Mike Koehmstedt.