GUUNDER KROSTUE

As a large land owner, an enterprising and successful merchant, a member of the State Legislature, the Mayor, President of the bank, the postmaster for many years of the town of Fisher and a prominent, influential and highly esteemed citizen, the late Hon. Gunder Krostyle dignified, adorned and admirably represented the best manhood and citizenry of Polk County.

Gunder Krostyle, one of the pioneers of Fisher's Landing was born June 7, 1851, on a farm named "Krostyle" in Setesdal, Norway, emigrating with his parents at the age of ten. The family, which consisted of his parents, five brothers and sisters, of whom he was the youngest, settled on a farm in Wauapaca, Wisconsin. Here he grew to manhood and obtained a limited education. He worked on the farm and later found employment as a lumber jack driving logs down the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Missouri. He found these occupations too precarious and they held no future. Therefore, he decided to strike out on his own. He arrived in Fisher's Landing in 1879. For a time he served as engineer with a threshing crew and then worked on the survey of the Great Northern Railroad between Grand Forks, and Crookston. He became a close friend of the late James J. Hill. In 1881 he moved to a homestead in Grand Forks county, which he later sold.

This same year he decided to locate in the village and was employed as a clerk in a general store owned by the late Marcus Johnson and Hugh Thompson. He later bought it and became an independent merchant selling general merchandise and farming implements, huge barrels of salt, and so forth. This proved to be the most successful of his many activities and carried him to a prominent place in connection with many business interests in Polk County. He was the first president of the Fisher bank from the time of its organization until his death. He was twice mayor of the village, served as postmaster for many years, held several offices in the Fisher Lutheran Church and was a faithful worker. He later became an extensive land owner and at one time owned 2,100 acres in the Red River Valley.

In public life this far-seeing gentleman was a trusted leader and in the fall of 1902 his fellow citizens selected him as their representative to the State Legislative House. He served on several committees being chairman of grain and warehouse, roads, bridges, house committee on drainage. He also succeeded in getting a bill through for the destruction of gladdened horses. This was a decided victory for Mr. Krostyle and of great importance to the farmers of the state. He was re-elected in the fall of 1904 and in 1905 was chairman of committees on, binding twine, public health, dairy and food products.

Mr. Krostyle was married December 12, 1883, to Christene Benson, a daughter of Lars Benson of Wauapaca. Here she was born and confirmed. The family later moved to Goodhue County, where they resided on a farm until the accidental death of the father by drowning at Red Wing. After that sad event the mother and the seven children moved to rural Glen-

wood in Pope County, where Christene resided until her marriage to Gunder Krostyle. There were seven children born to this union. The lone survivor in 1976 is Lottie (Mrs. Gustave Gunstenson) of Fisher. The Krostyle's first born son, Lawrence, a farmer, died at an early age leaving four children, all successful farmers in the Bygland area.

In 1898 he built a large, beautiful home for his family in which one daughter, Lottie, now widowed, has resided for the past 46 years. Mr. Krostyle remained active in the village until his death, July 7, 1912, in his 61st year. In his memory, his widow donated a two manual Moller pipe organ to their Fisher Lutheran Church. She continued to live in the old home until her death November 28, 1926.

Mr. Krostyle belonged to the class of men who rise to success and influence through their native ability and industry and win the regard of all who know them. He had sterling qualities and an admirable manhood. He left the memory of many commendable accomplishments as a citizen and many wise and useful achievements.

ARNOLD LARSON


Agnes was born October 18, 1916, at Pine Creek, Minnesota, and grew up and attended school in Pine Creek, Minnesota. Agnes' father, Ole Skogstad was born March 30, 1886, at Portland, North Dakota, and passed away January 1, 1958. Ole Skogstad, born in 1891; at age of five years, moved to Pine Creek, Minnesota, with his family. On December 3, 1915, he married Mabel Davidson. Mabel Davidson was born September 1, 1895, at Pine Creek, Minnesota, and died November 7, 1964, at Roseau, Minnesota.

Nine children were born to Ole and Mabel. Ole was a farmer and worked as a road maintenance man. He was a familiar figure around the neighborhood. There was always time to visit and he would be asked to come in for a chat and coffee, and then continue on the road. The evenings we spent around the fire listening to him sing the old Norwegian songs, which we gradually learned to sing. Occasionally he would play the mouth organ, which was a treat for everyone. But, the