those first trips. The roads were not yet graveled and the tracks were narrow. They would get an early start, and plan to have their noon meal in Moorhead and then shop for a short time before going on the rest of the way. What a contrast to later years when the roads were paved and the trip could be made in little more than two hours. The Howlands were members of the St. Petri Lutheran church in Nielsville.

Wiener passed away in 1962 and Mathilda moved to Moorhead in 1963.

Their children are married. Carol is Mrs. Otto Nielson of Minneapolis. Harley and family live in Moorhead. Morris and family live in Ortonville and Duane and family live in Moorhead.

Mathilda lives in Moorhead and has eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

LEWIS S. KOLDEN

Mr. Kolden was born on a rented farm in Lom, Norway on August 28, 1857. The farm was in the district Lillhammar Guldbransdal valley. The farms were small; so, Mr. Kolden’s parents, Syver and Livo, decided to take their children, three sons and two daughters, to America, where they hoped to do more for them. They came on a steamship and spent only nine days on the trip from Liverpool to New York. Since they had relatives in Wisconsin, this is where they went.

Mr. Kolden was employed at Sparta, Wisconsin, for seven years by Newton Druggists. From there he went to Ada where he worked for two years at the L. Ramstad Pharmacy. From Ada he moved to the area of the first Nielsville, which he helped establish, having been enlisted by Nels O. Paulsrud in this move.

In 1883 Kolden brought lumber from Fargo to the old Nielsville landing on the steamboat Alsop to build the first store. When the store was completed, the post office was transferred from the Andrew Thompson farm house to Kolden’s store. He was postmaster for nine years.

From 1892 until 1897 he farmed in the neighborhood before he entered the lumber business. He became a banker in 1911, serving as cashier and vice president of the State Bank of Nielsville for 17 years.

Mrs. Kolden was born in the community from which her husband came. She came to America as a young girl with a sister. Her parents were Christian and Kari Dahlbak. Mrs. Kolden met her future husband in Wisconsin. In October, 1883, she came to Fargo and boarded a steamboat which stopped at the landing west of old Nielsville. There waiting for her was Mr. Kolden.

The couple were married in Caledonia, North Dakota, on October 26, 1883, by Henry Shettleworth, the officiating justice. From there they walked to what would be their home for many years. The couple had one child, Lucy, who married David Payne, the first depot agent in Nielsville. The Koldens had six grandchildren and six grandsons. After they retired they moved to Leonard, Minnesota to be near their only daughter.

There were many interesting incidents in the lives of these pioneers. Their home was open to anyone who needed a helping hand. In 1913 a basket social was held at the Kolden farm.

Mr. Kolden retired the first organ for the Nielsville church. Mr. Kolden’s mother is buried in the cemetery between Nielsville and Shelly. The Koldens have been deceased for many years but their daughter passed away in July 1974.

B. J. KOLSTAD

Mr. Børre J. Kolstad was born in Norway in the locality of Hedemarken, August 20, 1854. He came to the United States when he was eight years old with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Johannes B. Kolstad and his brothers, Lars, Mikkel, Evan and sister Bertha. The family settled in the La Crosse, Wisconsin, area in 1862. Børre Kolstad worked at various jobs as a young man and for some time was a cook in the logging and lumber camps of northern Minnesota.

In 1881 Børre married Gønner Hansen and settled on the farm land one and one-half miles directly south of Nielsville, Minnesota. Børre Kolstad received his homestead rights to the farm (two quarters of land) on May 12, 1885. A short time after, his brothers, Mikkel and Evan, acquired the two quarters just to the south. The parents made their home with Børre and his wife until their death. They were buried at the Nielsville St. Petri Lutheran cemetery. Six children were born to Børre and Gønner Kolstad. Three died in childhood and Mable (Mrs. Knute Evje), Melvin and Carlton lived to a good age. In 1890, the mother, Gønner, passed away; she and the three young children are all buried in the family plot in the St. Petri Lutheran cemetery. Then in 1912, Børre Kolstad married Ellen Swenson, who had recently come to the Red River Valley vicinity from Trondheim, Norway, where she was born January 10, 1858. They had a family of six children: Clara (Mrs. Martin Grothe), George, Martin, Blanche (Mrs. T. A. Thompson), Sally and Josephine.

Our daily living and activities centered around our church and school. Each Sunday we all had breakfast together, did the dishes and the chores and took care of the animals. Then, readied in our Sunday best, we were on our way to church service. Mother and Dad always were at hand to give help where and when needed when they could. Dad was a delegate to church conventions and meetings a number of times. He was clerk of the school board at Nielsville, Minnesota for a number of years and was active in the village council.

We bought a home in Halstad, Minnesota about the year 1916, and lived there several years after Dad passed away. Dad died January 25, 1925. The house was purchased by the Opgrande sister.

When we moved to our new home in Halstad, we drove with horse and buggy, a distance of about 15 miles from the farm. In a few years we bought our first automobile, a Dodge, four-door, which had the isinglass side curtains, which were snapped on in a hurry when the rains came. The first time we drove to Moorhead, Dad told of the time when he first settled on the farm: he walked that long way, about 50 to 60 miles, which took from very early morning until late at night. When he did arrive in Moorhead, there was not a room available at the hotel, but he got a cot put in the hallway for the night.

In Moorhead, Dad purchased some lumber, staples: food such as flour, sugar, salt, rice, meal for breakfast food, etc. Dad built a make-shift raft at the Red River front, loaded his purchases on it and floated down the river to our farm. He said he had some difficulty in staying afloat while the steam boat passed by. Now the Red River of the North either has too much water in the spring and over floods its banks or is just a trickle, depending on the season. The railroad and highway run between the two quarters of our farm. The first train passed by in the year of 1897. This helped all the farmers to get staples of food, machinery and building materials more easily.

When Dad first began farming he had only a steer and a horse to pull the crude machinery, but he always kept up with the times in good equipment as time went on. The papers by