Ole Roningen Family: L. to R.: Ole, Sam, Anne, Alfred and Andrew.

proud to be United States citizens. To them hard work and thrift were an acceptable, and indeed desirable way of life. Ole died in 1926, and Anne survived him by seventeen years.

The first generation of Roningen children born in this country were Sam, Alfred, Andrew, Oley, and Mary. Sam, who is a veteran of World War I and served a year and a-half in France, lives near Fisher. He has three daughters: Ione (Mrs. James Lillegaard) of Bagley, is a teacher. There are four sons in that family. Lorraine (Mrs. John Nelson) of Dallas, Texas is an anesthetist. They have one son and three daughters. Shirley (Mrs. Earl Lundquist) of Janesville, Minnesota, is a public school principal. They have two daughters in their family. Sam's wife, Sophie, died in 1971.

Alfred and his wife, Esther, with their daughter, Adelaide, live east of Nielsville on the farm known previously as the Hilleboe place. There are three sons. Glen is employed by the Atomic Energy Commission at Elk River. Stanley farms in the Nielsville area. He and his wife Karen live on the farm, which was formerly owned by the late John and Gertrude Skalel. Karen is a teacher. Morris, the youngest son, is a soil scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He and his wife Loretta and their daughter and three sons at present are living in Grand Forks.

Andrew, the third son of Ole and Anne Roningen, became afflicted with a progressively disabling illness in his early twenties. He died in 1970. For many years he made his home at the farm of Oley and Agnes and was cared for by them.

Oley and his wife Agnes lived for many years on the farm known in earlier times as the Amund Eidsmo place. Their lives were taken by a tornado in August, 1975. Their son Vernon is at present in Switzerland doing a period of two years of work with the United Nations. He and his family plan to return to Washington D.C. in 1976. He is employed there by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His wife Jane does work in tutoring and special education. They have a son, Nels Oley, and a daughter, Jeanne Marie.

Mary and her husband, Howard Mullen, lived for many years on the farm originally known as the Anton Horte place, east of Nielsville. Since 1965 they have spent most of their time at their farm west of Deer River, Minnesota, where Mary was a teacher until her retirement in 1974. Howard still does some refrigeration work. They have a daughter, Frances (Mrs. LeRoy Pederson), who also lives at Deer River and operates a kennel there. The Pedersons have one son, Leland.

There are probably few people in the Nielsville area who remember the cemetery at the southwest corner of the Mullen farm. Nine burials were made there at about the time Anton Horte lived on the place. Through the years the wooden crosses disintegrated, and eventually the land was tilled. Some years ago the road by there was rebuilt when a soil bank was provided for the Sand Hill River, and most of the graves are now beneath that road.

JOEL SKALEL

Joel Skalel and Myrtle Johnson were married on March 20, 1940. Joel and his brother, John, were sons of Christian Skalel and Gurine Helland. Christian emigrated from Valdres, Norway, in 1873, settling in Fillmore county, where he was engaged in farming and carpenter work. In 1878 he came by oxen and covered wagon in a caravan to the Nielsville area.

Gurine Helland came to America in 1904 at the age of 18 and first worked on a farm near Crookston. The family settled on a farm at Beltrami, Minnesota. Bertunes, the father worked on the railroad. Other members in the family were Bennie, Eddie, Thomas, Thea, Anna, Lettie and Ida.

Myrtle was the daughter of Oscar and Annie Johnson. She has one brother, Alvin. She was born in Ervin township near the Highland church in Cummings, North Dakota. Her father was one of eleven children of Erick Johnson. When the Erick Johnson family first came from Spring Grove, Minnesota, they lived in a sod house on the Myrland farm. Later they took a pre-emption in Ervin township. When they left the sod house, Mrs. Johnson had one hen which later hatched eleven chicks. This was the start of her flock of chickens, which turned out to be a successful enterprise. Every year she raised around 400 chicks from setting hens. The Ervin No. 1 Country School house was built on their land and during stormy weather, pupils, unable to get to their homes, stayed at the Johnson home.

Myrtle's other grandparents were Johan and Karen Pederson, who came to America in 1884. They first lived in a dugout in the coulee at "Old Nielsville," where Mr. Pederson had his blacksmith shop. He moved his shop to New Nielsville, where he also operated a hardware store. His children were: Annie and Inger (twins), Peder, Julia, Tillie, Jeanette, Clara, Sophie, Clifford and Carl.

After Joel and Myrtle were married, they farmed in Scandia township, where they built a home in 1947. In 1948, they had a great disappointment when the Sand Hill overflowed its banks, flooding the farmland. Water reached up into the first story floor and the basement crumbled. In the fall of 1948, they moved their house into Nielsville into the place where the old livery barn had been located.

They have two children: Karen an L.P.A. who graduated from Wahpeton School of Science. She married Bernard Polestad Jr. and has four children: Desiree, Robyn, Bernard III and Bradley. They live in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Keith, a Viet Nam veteran, graduated from the engineering department at Wahpeton and is manager of Quality Control in Titusville, Florida. He married Brenda Melby, an R.N., and they have one daughter, Gail.

The Joel Skalels spend the winters in Florida visiting Keith and Brenda.

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Skalel.