JOHN LETNES

John Letnes was born in Norway October 30, 1867. He immigrated to the United States in 1888 via Canada and first settled in St. Thomas, North Dakota. In 1891, he came to Vineland Township where he was employed by Andrew Steenerson, who was Sheriff of Polk County. He was prudent and thrifty and bought land in Vineland Township where he erected buildings and farmed for two years.

In 1894, he sold this land and bought 320 acres of land in Andover Township. Mrs. Letnes lived in the southeast quarter of Section 30 Andover, northeast quarter of Section 31 Andover, northeast quarter of Section 32 and finally the northeast quarter of Section 33 Andover in 1920. The crops in 1915 amounted to 8,000 bushels of oats, rye, wheat. He had good herds of cattle and horses and erected most of the larger buildings himself. His methods of farming were modern and progressive and the land was well drained and cultivated. He had a gas tractor and his other equipment was up to date. He used such implements as a shock loader and manure loader. He also operated his own threshing rig. Mr. Letnes was an active board member on the Andover Township Board and also served as chairman.

In 1894 he married Margaret Oustby of Climax also a native of Norway, and they were the parents of ten children: Lawrence, Thomas, Pauline, Anna, Lars, John, Magnus, Daniel, and Isabelle. A daughter, Dolly died in infancy.

Lawrence Letnes (1896-1959) was born in Andover Township and worked for N. P. Stone Co. in Crookston, Minnesota before starting farming on his own in 1929. He farmed in Andover, Vineland, Scandia, and Hubbard Townships. It is reported he had the first combine in the state of Minnesota. He quit farming in 1932 and became the Massy Harris Implement dealer in Crookston and later Grand Forks, North Dakota. Lawrence was an active flyer and helped organize the Great Grain Harvest Brigade in Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska during World War II. He built new houses in Grand Forks from 1946-1948 and retired in Seattle, Washington in the early 1950's. He was married to Lillian Tiedman and had two children, Virgil and LaVonne.

Thomas A. Letnes (1897-1972) was born in Andover Township and was a student at Dakota Business College in Fargo, N.D. He worked in a bank in North Dakota before going into the army during World War I. He started farming in 1929 and farmed extensively in Hubbard, Vineland, and Andover Townships. Tom was active in the American Legion and D.A.V. and was also a pilot and had his own airplane and hanger on his farm in Hubbard Township. He was Minnesota State Representative in St. Paul in 1947. Mr. Letnes married Marie Ayotte in Minneapolis, Minnesota and had three children: Marilyn, Marjorie, and Thomas Jr. A son Donald died in infancy. Marie passed away in 1953 and he later married Charoleette Kunkel and resided in Nielsville, Minnesota. After retiring in 1959. He later moved to Tucson, Arizona.

Pauline Letnes Giernes (1899-1971) was born in Andover Township. She attended the University of Minnesota and taught school in North Dakota and Minnesota. She married Adolph Giernes of Oklee, Minnesota and they were the parents of three children, John, Margaret, and Alf.

Anna Letnes Johnson (1901-1972) was born in Andover Township. She married Oscar A. Johnson in 1922 and they had four sons, Wallace, Lucuscis, Roger, and Douglas. Anna lived in Hammond Township all her life before moving to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Lars (Louie) Letnes (1902-1972) was born in Andover Township and farmed with his brothers, Dick and John. Later he farmed his own land of which he had considerable holdings in Vineland Township. He was on the Climax School Board, and Climax Church Council. He was married to Clara Dale and they had two daughters, Darlene and Fern. He retired from farming in 1966 and died in Phoenix, Arizona in 1970.

Magnus Richard Letnes (1908-1945) was born in Andover Township and started farming with his brother, John, in 1931. He also farmed on his own. He was an avid pilot and spent many hours flying. He was killed when his plane crashed in November 1945. He was married to Ina Thompson and they had three children, Richard, JoAnn, and Ronald.

Daniel S. Letnes (1911- ) was born in Andover Township and worked on his father's farms before attending the North-West School of Agriculture, Crookston. He attended the University of North Dakota and graduated in 1936. Dan served in the Navy in World War II as ensign and was Assistant States Attorney of Grand Forks County in North Dakota. He has been secretary of Masonic Blue Lodge for twenty-eight years. He is married to Alpha Bruin and has two children, Gwen and Richard.

Isabelle Letnes Hudson Sailor (1912-1968) was born in Andover Township. She taught school and was a beauty operator in North Dakota. Bell married Donald Hudson and they had two children, Donna and John. Mr. Hudson died in 1965 and she married R. J. Sailor and lived in Bismarck, North Dakota where she died in 1967.

John (Jack) Letnes (1906-1958) was born in Andover Township and started farming on his own in 1931. He bought land in Hammond, Andover, and Vineland Townships and farmed all his life. He and his brothers plowed up much of what was called The Great Beltrami Swamp and transformed it from hayland into virgin farm land. Jack had one of the first crawler tractors in the area and was one of the first innovators of multiple hitch pulling of farm equipment. He served on the Andover Town Board for many years and was also chairman. Mr. Letnes was one of the first directors on the R.E.A. Board at Halstad, Minnesota and was a member of the Elks, Eagles, Shrine, and a member of the Climax Lutheran Church. He was married to Vivian Vigness and they had one son, John Gary. Mr. Letnes also had his own airplane and flew from his own airstrip on his farm.

The Letnes Brothers: Laurence, Tom, Louis, Jack, Dick and Dan.

JOHN GARY LETNES

John Gary Letnes (1939- ) was born in Halstad, Minnesota September 22 and attended Crookston and Climax Public School. Gary was active in many school organizations espe-