cially school publications. He started farming on his own after the death of his father John in 1958. Gary served seven years in the North Dakota Air National Guard in Fargo, North Dakota attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was North Dakota Air National Guard Airman of the Year in 1969. Gary is a supervisor on the Andover Town Board of which he is chairman. Gary is a member of the Crookston Police Reserve of which he is Captain. He also is a member of the Elks, Eagles, Masonic Lodge, Farmers Union, Farm Bureau. Gary and his family are members of the Climax Lutheran Church and he is a member of the Church Council and past president of the Congregation. He is a past board member of the Crookston Farmers Union Oil Co. Gary operates the family farm which consists of 2,000 acres in Hammond, Andover and Vineland Townships. He is also a private pilot. He is married to Nancy Boyer and they have two children, Lisa and David.

JOHN T. PERRY

John T. Perry was born on November 26, 1873 near Humansville, Missouri. His father was a Civil War veteran. John moved with his family to Boone County, Iowa, where he married Laura E. Woodruff on March 22, 1899. With their two children, they moved to Andover township near Crookston in March 1903. The farm was owned by H. F. Woodruff, Laura’s father. The Perrys had three more children after moving to Crookston. Mrs. Perry died on December 16, 1906 after the birth of her last child. Of the five children; Clarence died at the age of twenty-one. Clifford, lives in Florida. Hazel, who married John Alderman of Crookston, lives in Fosston, Minnesota. Charles married a Crookstonite, Clarice W. Thompson and Laura married John Damhoff. They farm and still live in Fanny Township.

Charles later purchased the farm. He and Clarice had five children: Carol, Mrs. Richard Ducharme of Washington, D.C.; Carolyn of Crookston, Patricia, Mrs. Aural Ekvall of Bagley. Janna is Mrs. Del Wall of Minneapolis. Jon married Marlys Hackett and now owns and operates the farm.

Clarice Thompson Perry’s grandparents were early residents of Crookston. Her grandfather is John Alderman, also the father of John Alderman of Fosston. They first came to Crookston when there were only a few log cabins on the river. Later he lived here, operating a livery stable, hotel and a hardware store. In the early 1900’s, he left Crookston and homesteaded a claim in Canada. Her granddaughter, T. G. Thompson, came to Crookston in the 1870’s and operated a saloon. Her mother, Cora Alderman, was born in Crookston. Her father, William Thompson, was born in Moorhead and came with his parents to Crookston as a child.

In 1937 as newlyweds, Marlys Hackett Perry’s parents came to Polk county where they farmed. They were raised in the St. Cloud area.

JOHN S. ROHRER

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Rohrer were both born in Lucerne, Switzerland. In 1849, they settled in Wisconsin, and later moved to a covered wagon, settling near Kasson, Minnesota. Of the six children born to this couple, a son, John S. Rohrer, was the only one who moved to northwestern Minnesota.

John S. Rohrer was born in Newcastle, Wisconsin, on July 24, 1871. He moved with his parents to Kasson, Minnesota where he received his education. Later he graduated from Valparaiso Business College, Indiana where he had studied business and legal law.

John S. Rohrer married Kate Meyer, of Sargent, Minnesota on June 18, 1899. The bride’s parents, Charles and Elizabeth Meyer, were born in Germany. They came by boat to America, and settled in southern Minnesota.

After his marriage, Mr. Rohrer was manager of a grain elevator in the Austin, Minnesota area. Later he was a grain buyer for grain companies in the Austin-Minneapolis area.

It was while traveling for these grain companies that Mr. Rohrer became familiar with the Red River Valley and its fertile farm land. He decided to go into farming instead of pursu-

Mr. and Mrs. John Rohrer, Golden Anniversary 1949: L. to R.: Mabel, Ruth, Mr. Rohrer, Mrs. Rohrer, Ben and Aaron. ing a career in the city.

Mr. Rohrer and his family came to Polk County in 1902 and settled on a farm in Section 11, Andover Township. He became a leader in the business of agriculture. Among his many “firsts” were serving as chairman for the Agriculture Adjustment Act in Polk County, and as director and organizer of the Farmers Union Oil Company. He also served as director of the Red River Valley Livestock Association. He was among the first of the sugar beet growers in this area. He was also a promoter of the building of ditch drainage in this area.

In addition to grain and sugar beet farming, the Rohrer family maintained a large Holstein dairy herd. In 1942, the barn, adjacent dairy buildings, the herd of cattle, and a team of horses were destroyed by fire. This was a great financial loss. The barn was never rebuilt. Mr. Rohrer devoted himself strictly to grain and sugar beet farming after that time.

In addition to his farm activities, Mr. Rohrer took an active part in community affairs, serving on the rural school board, and also as clerk and director of Andover Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Rohrer were members of the Methodist Church of Crookston. Mrs. Rohrer was a member of the Ladies Aid, W.C.T.U., and of the Fairfax Andover Club, of which Mrs. Rohrer was an honorary member.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rohrer were parents of seven children, Ruth, Erwin of Seattle, Washington; Aaron, Raymond, Hazel, Mabel, and Ben, all living except Raymond, who died in 1944. Also surviving are six grandchildren: Beverly Rohrer Rabideau, Audrene Rohrer Rightmire, Donna Rohrer Nelson, Karen Rohrer Morehouse, and Jennifer and Lee Rohrer and thirteen great grandchildren.

Mabel (Mae) became a registered nurse, Ruth, Aaron, and Ben remained with their parents helping with the work on the Rohrer farms.

In 1940, because of the labor shortage, a group of Crookston women worked sugar beets on the John Rohrer farms, supervised by Ruth Rohrer.

Mr. and Mrs. Rohrer retired from farming in 1945 and moved to Groveland Avenue in Crookston. On July 19, 1949, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, which was hosted by the children living in this area: Ruth, Aaron, Mabel, and Ben.

Mrs. Rohrer died on February 24, 1953 and Mr. Rohrer on April 24, 1954.

The children of John and Kate Rohrer treasure the memory of their beloved parents, and are honored and blessed by the heritage of their love and the farm land given to them.

ERIC SAMUELSON

In 1878 Eric Samuelson emigrated from Sweden at the age of seventeen. He landed at St. Paul, Minnesota and stayed one year. He later heard about farm employment on farms in