farmers brought in their cream or he would walk his township as he never owned a car.

Mr. and Mrs. Strobe were avid gardeners and their flower beds were things of beauty and something they shared with every one.

Lottie Strobe died March 24, 1938 and James A. Strobe died January 23, 1945 leaving a host of friends and neighbors. It is still very interesting to meet people of the older generation who still say, "Oh, I knew Jim Strobe, we drove our horse and buggy with cream to his station."

History of Belgium Township

Mike Biever is the earliest mentioned resident who lived in Belgium Township. Mike Biever left Wabasha, Minnesota and came to Belgium Township in 1882. The following year John Stroot, who had come from Hanover, Germany, five years before, also made the trip to Belgium Township by covered wagon. The trip took him three weeks. He followed the directions that Mike Biever had mailed to him. These two families were instrumental in organizing the first Catholic church. In those days Mass was celebrated as early as 1886 in the Mike Biever home, now located on the Jacob Salentine farm, and the new Belgium schoolhouse. There is no early record to show the exact dates as to when the school district 179 in Belgium Township was started. But in 1886, the school district was first mentioned in the township and church records.

The first recorded birth in the township was on September 1, 1900, she was Julia Salentine, daughter of John and Maggie Salentine. She was listed as the third child of the family.

The first recorded death in the township was on September 1, 1903, she was Clara Bell Brodwell, age three years six months, daughter of Charlie and Anna Bell Brodwell.

Early day residents of Belgium Township about 1880 were:
Mike Biever, John Biever, John Salentine, Jake Koehler, LaRoche family, John Stroot, E. J. Hasseltine, Peter Baker, Nick Engle, John Goergen, Paul Useldinger, Nick Weiland and their families. Space does not permit us to mention names of many other residents in the township after the 1900’s.

The first record of Belgium Township was January 30, 1883, recorded by Ed Hasseltine, Clerk. The first meeting recorded on March 4, 1884, stating that the Township received $142.40 from Polk County and had paid out $125.40 which left the treasurer's balance of $17.22. This record was signed by Mike Wittenger and Peter Becker, the supervisors.

Early records of the Board indicate that the Board consisted of the following: Peter Becker, Michael Wittenger and Nick Hardey were the supervisors; E. J. Hasseltine, town clerk; J. P. Salentine, treasurer; Peter Baker, assessor and Nick Engel serving on the election board. Other early day Board members mentioned are Mike Biever, Christ Meickler and Christ Kohler.

An item in early records of the township show that the board agreed that a charge should be made of two days work, or three dollars in cash, to be paid to the township by voters for poll tax for that year.

Present day wage scale for the Town Board members and for work in the township has increased many times to keep pace with modern times. The number of farms in the township has steadily decreased in the past twenty-five years, but have increased several times in size and productivity. Much of the land in the township that early day settlers thought of as waste land is today in a high state of productivity through the use of modern day machinery and farming methods.

The present Township Board continues to meet in the original school building of District 179, today known as Belgium Township Hall. The present day Township Board includes many second and third generation ancestors of some of the first board members. Board members are: Herbert Kliner, Chairman; Gregor Weiland and Bernard Stroot, Supervisors; John Salentine, Clerk, and Francis Salentine, Treasurer.

This story and dates are compiled from the old Township and Church Records, and also the recollections of the residents. It is submitted by Mrs. Marilyn J. Weiland, wife of Henry N. Weiland.