have two children: Jeffery Charles and Michelle Marie.
Nancy graduated from Licensed Practical Nursing Training at Watertown, North Dakota February 3, 1974. She married Calvin D. Melgard, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin D. Melgard of Warren, Minnesota. Calvin, her husband, served four years in the Navy and now attends Moorhead State College majoring in Art. Nancy works as receptionist at Ramada Inn in Fargo, North Dakota. Lois returned to work in 1961. She was employed nine campaigns in Payroll at American Crystal Sugar Company of Crookston. She is now employed as full-time bookkeeper at Barlow Furniture in Crookston, Minnesota.

Brislet Township

Brislet is a “short” township of Polk County, for it does not have sections one through six or the north halves of sections seven through twelve.
The records of the township go back to July 3, 1882 at which time the main business was laying out the new roads. Eighteen landowners had petitioned for these roads. A second meeting was held on July 19 to further discuss roads. The roads of this first petition were east-west roads and include the county road which presently runs through the township.
Early records show clerks recording chattel mortgages, notes, and contracts — the first one was in 1879. People of the area borrowed from each other, from businesses, and from the Bank of Warren. The smallest note was for $1 and a few for $10. The highest mortgage recorded in the ’80’s was for $900; in the ’90’s, $1,000; and in 1900, one was recorded for $5,000. James Strader was appointed meat inspector in 1889.
The minutes of the township in 1889 states, “each male inhabitant being assessed for one day’s work plus a special road tax of 5 mills. If a man could not do the day’s work, he was to pay $1.50 as an extra road tax. This tax was increased to $2 in 1906. For many years this was the method used for payment of roads and their construction.” In 1890, the minutes state that “a plow could be purchased for road work for $16 if it gave good satisfaction.” The same year the board of the township agreed to make a loan of the treasurer’s excess money at 7% interest.
In 1891, the Brislet Township had a meeting to make a registered list of eligible voters. In 1894, it was difficult to find a man who would serve as treasurer. Two people refused the office, one elected the other appointed. John Nelson, the third man, finally accepted.
Three cases of smallpox broke out in the township on October 10, 1901. “It was made the duty of the chairman of the board of notify all parties exposed to infection to have their houses and articles likely to be infected or retain infection, disinfected.” N. O. Roan was hired to attend the wants of N. C. McDonald, Taylor and Van Hanson until quarantine was lifted. He was paid $2 per day for this service. After serving these cases for twelve days, he resigned and John Edgar was hired for $3 per day. The first telephone came to Brislet in 1902: also in 1902 Rev. Bratrud was appointed a member of the Board of Health for the year.
An interesting note on bridge repair from the 1903 minutes of the Board meeting of Brislet Township follows: “On motion resolved to repair bridge at A. P. Franks place in the following manner. The hole under the bridge to be filled with dirt to 12 inches below the surface, and then covered with willows bound into bundles 6 inches in diameter. Willows to be loaded down with 10 loads of stone—running in size from 6” to 10” in diameter.” Contracts to repair the bridge to be let at a later meeting of the Board.”
In 1910 a petition was signed by Swante Hanson and others for a public cartway. This cartway was to transport children to school. There were two schools in the district; one-half the term was taught in each school. This cartway was established on the quarterline in Sections 11, 14, and 23 and was two rods wide. O. A. Omdahl, who had a fence that had to be moved, was allowed $50 for damages and Frank Jadeke was allowed to leave his cottonwood trees unmoleds even if they were on the right-of-way. Jadeke was allowed $10. The records of 1910 mention a “Poor Fund” to be allowed to a pauper for the purpose of purchasing: one ton of soft coal, one-half ton of hard coal, one cord of wood and 200 pounds of flour — all for $21.65!
By 1913 the town line was divided so Brislet would take care of the east three miles of roads; and Angus the west three miles. Most of the board meetings were held at the home of the town clerk. For the next forty-four years the records are missing, but by 1955 the gopher bounties had increased from 10¢ to 15¢ and in 1956 to 25¢.
In 1958, the township signed and paid for fire protection from the Warren Fire Department. The floods struck the area in 1966 and after the waters receded, fourteen culverts need to be filled in. The impassable roads were blocked off and warning flags were set up where needed. Applications were made to the government for disaster relief for repairing roads. When the gas pipelines were installed through Brislet in 1965, more problems arose as the frost made it necessary to widen the trench for the pipelines, also there were culverts that were damaged.
The present Board members are: Henry Harlowe, Clerk; Bennie Rood, H. Willis Jadeke, and Gordon Torgerson, Supervisors.

GEORGE ANDRESEN

George Andreesen was born in Arendal, Norway to the Gorgen Andreassen’s in 1871 and came to McCrea Township, Minnesota with them in 1883. He later homesteaded in Brislet Township, Polk County. In 1898, he married Ida Louise Sorenson of Rosewood, Minnesota. Their first home had two rooms, one up and one down. A kitchen lean-to was added within a year or two and a large addition was made in 1911. Water was hauled in barrels from coulees or rivers until a well was dug. This home was also used by the Harold Andreesen’s after their marriage in 1945.
One of the first projects was the planting and cultivating of trees around the house. Part of this grove was destroyed by a tornado which swept through the area in 1973. It struck at 4:00 a.m. and everyone awoke at the same time and ran into the basement. There were branches all over the yard and even on top of the house, uprooted trees in the middle of the grove and the TV antenna was down. The Dallas Ways, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Malnar and myself was home at the time.
The older children had to go about three miles to school. There were two schools in the district and they attended one-half the term at each school. Once Art got so cold coming home during a snowstorm he wanted to lay down in a straw-tack, but Clarice insisted they keep going.
The George Andreesen’s had seven children, four are now dead. Mrs. Wm. (Clarice) Cleveland who spends summers at Menahga, Minnesota, near Two Lakes and the winters at McAllen, Texas. Arthur Andreesen married Mrs. Evelyn Bigelow and they lived in the Grand Rapids, Minnesota area until his death in 1968 at age 67. Mrs. Clayton (Alvilde) Cleveland lived in Warren, Minnesota and Illinois until Clayton passed away in 1962. She is now married to Lloyd S. Olson and they do a lot of traveling. He was from Illmo, Missouri. George Lawrence was single and he helped with the farm work. He died at age 32 from abscessed tooth complications. Pearl married Willie Larson. She died at age 22 when her daughter Eileen was only three years old. Harold married Mable Dimmen and they farmed until his death in 1970 at age 53. Myrtle married Edward Malnar of Joliet, Illinois, and they still live in Illinois as do their four children.
George was active in community affairs. He served on the school board for thirty years and was clerk of the Township