his wife, Julia, whom he had recently married.

Meanwhile, from 1903 to 1906, S. K. Flaat and family lived in Cass Lake, Minnesota where he operated Flaat's Grocery Store. A wider variety of merchandise was sold here, including "Indian Curios".

He then returned to Bygland where he built a large frame building on his farm south of the Olson Store. The first floor was half store and half living quarters and the second floor was used as a Community Hall. This store opened for business February 6, 1907, and there were now two stores in Bygland. Both stores sold groceries but the Olson Store specialized in farm machinery and parts, while the Flaat store sold clothing, sewing materials and household articles. Mrs. Flaat assisted in the store, a job she was accustomed to, from working in her father's store in Mallory before her marriage.

Much of the merchandise for both stores was ordered by catalog and shipped to Mallory, Fisher or Grand Forks by freight train. From there it was hauled to Bygland in "dray wagons", and later in "dray trucks" or wire paneled trucks. Salesmen came by train to Fisher, stayed in the hotel there, and hired a "rig" and driver to take them out to Bygland and return to Fisher. Oscar Strande was one of these drivers for a time and this information came from him. About 1915 or '16 the equipment and merchandise were sold and business at the Flaat Store was ended. The building was then used solely as a residence. "S.K." was now concentrated on farming and raising purebred Holstein cattle.

When Olson Brothers decided to discontinue their store, S. K. Flaat repurchased it, and in May 1919 was again in business in the store he started in 1897. Family members assisted at different times, but from 1930 until his death in 1952 his son, Clarence, was the mainstay. Clarence was at that time called "Pop" and the store was known as "The Sugar Bowl", from a popular comic strip at that time. Clarence was also the manager for a time of the Bygland baseball team and thoroughly enjoyed it. The store was open daytime and evenings every day except Sunday, and was a congregating place for the boys of the community. With Clarence's passing, his brother Oscar managed the store briefly. He sold it to his sister Helen and her husband, Floyd W. Wickiser, who continued the business until "Wick's" death in 1961. After that Helen "kept shop" until it closed in June 1965. The building was then dismantled and the community was sad to see an old landmark disappear. With the advent of paved highways and super-markets there was too much competition. The era of the "country store" had come to an end.

There were also other smaller "neighborhood" stores in the township. Probably the earliest was the Wig store by the ferry. It housed a post office, and sold "Confections and fruits" and probably tobacco and food staples. Severin Tostenson was the manager of this store and it lasted from the mid-1880's until early 1900's. Mr. Tostenson was a brother of Mrs. Nels Ege- land whose husband ran the ferry.

About 1904 or so, Albert Torgerson started a store in his home several miles west of the Bygland Church. They sold tobacco, candy and some groceries and bought butter and eggs from the customers, as did the Bygland store. About four or five years later it closed.

Several miles southwest of the Bygland store, Osmund Jore started a store first selling tobacco, candy and pop in his home. He was blind, which made it an unusual venture. Soon he added a few groceries. This business began about 1920 and in 1928 he rebuilt at another location after the original store burned. In 1938 this store was sold to Torjus Torgerson who in turn sold it to Selmer Selmanson in 1946. He moved it to another location a little farther south and remained in business until 1966. The building later burned so there is now no tangible reminder of any of the Bygland stores.

There was still another neighborhood store that existed briefly. It belonged to Joseph Beaudin from Gentilly, to which place he returned when the store closed in 1930. He sold the building to John Cariveau Sr., for a residence. Beaudin started in 1920, had living quarters above the store, and is remembered, among other things, for bringing pop and candy to sell at the baseball games which were played in the neighborhood. The location of this store was over a mile west of the main highway to East Grand Forks, on the south side of the road separating Bygland and Huntsville townships.

**MILL WAREHOUSE, GRAIN ELEVATOR AND BLACKSMITH SHOP OF BYGLAND**

Another business venture in Bygland was a feed mill that was begun by Hover Thorson on his farm and was sold to Neil Benson about 1906. His location was east of S. K. Flaat's store on the opposite side of the road. It was there a short time, then sold to Bjorguv Austad who in turn sold it to Torkel Danielson and the last owner was Ed Vigen.

When owned by Torkel Danielson it may have been part of another project. This was the buying of grain from the area farmers and shipping it by barge on the Red River to be sold either at Grand Forks or Winnipeg. His warehouse was situated on the bank of the Red River a short distance north of the ferry. The grain was unloaded by means of the farmers shoveling it by hand, and this operation also included weighing. Upon being loaded the grain was weighed again, passing down a track or chute into the barge. Anchor Wurden and Alfred Berland recall going with their fathers when they hauled grain. Anchor also tells a story about a barge that got stuck in a shallow part of the river in the winter and an outfit had to be hired to haul the grain from the barge. These shallow portions of the river were later remedied by large dredging operations.

There was also a blacksmith shop located on the north side of the ferry road. It was at the top of the river bank, owned by the Trydahl family and did a thriving business in the early 1900's.

**AANUNDSON—AAKHUS**

Our Norwegian ancestors were the builders of much of the Red River Valley in Northwestern Minnesota. They came well prepared to build up a good community from their cultural background. Our families of Greibrook (Aanundson) and Aakhus came well prepared to dig their roots into a new world.

The Aanundson (Greibrook) relationship can be traced back to Norway to the year 1450. From that date, a few new names, new changes, new standards, and new homes have appeared, but the same line has continued, even to the present owners of the farmstead Greibrook.

Now as to the family whose sons went to America: Aanund Knutson was born in 1798. His wife was Sigrid Olavsdatter. Their children were Olav (I), Olav (II), Knut, and Ragnhild. In 1872 the oldest Olav went to America. He was betrothed at the time to Ragnhild Aakhus, also of Bygland. They were married in Kristiansand on their way to America (our grandfather and grandmother).

Olav's mother, a widow who also came to the New World, was an industrious woman. It was said that she was often busy at five activities at the same time — rocking the baby's cradle with one foot, churning butter with an up-and-down dasher, listening to one of the grandsons recite his catechism, baking bread in the oven, smoking a pipe.

Olav's and Ragnhild's children, born in Bygland, Minnesota, were: Sigrid, Andrew, Torbjor, Halvor, Olav, Gunstein, Anne Marie, Gunder, Thor, and Signe.


Anne Marie married Byron England, a resident of Bygland. Their children are: Ruth, Frederick, Raymond, and Mary Leone.

Andrew, Torbjor, Olav (O.T.), and Gunstein took up homesteading land in northern Minnesota, around Effie and Bigfork. Gunstein, later, with wife and daughter Ruby, moved to Bygland township.

Halvor died of T.B. at the age of twenty. Thor married and settled in Saskatchewan, Canada. Signe, the youngest, visited