farm. As they lived closest to the Pleasant View School, they roomed and boarded the teachers for seventeen years. Most of their social events were church activities. Everyone went to Luther Leagues and even the men attended the Ladies Aids.

Thresholding bees were always a time of excitement. However, they were not too great for the women as they involved lots and lots of cooking and baking. Pies were a must for dinner and sandwiches and cakes for both morning and afternoon lunches.

Gunnar bought his first Model-T touring car with side curtains from Johnson and Morgan in 1920 for $740.

They had two children: Raymond Walter and Evelyn Margaret, both graduates of East Grand Forks Central. Ray served overseas during World War II. He married Gertrude Becker of Fargo. They built a home on the Matts Erickson farm. They have two boys: Brian, who manages Eastport Clothing in East Grand Forks, and Mark, who is an industrial arts teacher in Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Evelyn taught in a country school and later at Kennedy, Minnesota. She married James Kelleher of East Grand Forks. They have four children: Mary Kay, a kindergarten teacher in Anoka; Richard, a radio announcer in St. Paul; Kathleen (Mrs. Mark Erickson), a speech therapist in East Grand Forks; and Paul, a student at Moorhead State University.

On December 9, 1975, Selma and Gunnar Erickson will be celebrating their 61st anniversary with their children, grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**LUDVIG LARSON**

Johannes Larson was born February 16, 1834 in Katralen, near Askim, Norway. His parents were Lars and Gunhild Gunderson Katralen. Mrs. Johannes Larson was born on June 17, 1839 also near Askim, Norway. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Gjellestad. They were married in the Askim Church in 1862. They lived on their farm, called "Borregard" until it was sold. On May 4, 1872, with their children, Ludvig, Anton, and Gina, they emigrated to America in search of opportunities to make a better living. Having relatives in Renville County they went there, and with their help, rented a farm near Sacred Heart, Minnesota, where they lived for five years. Two more boys were born, Juel, and Carl Larson. Carl was only an infant of three weeks when four families, Mr. and Mrs. Kristian Quern, Mr. and Mrs. Bernt Larson, Gullick Kollin, and Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Larson decided to come up to the Red River Valley to homestead free land.

They traveled in covered wagons drawn by oxen. Gullick Kollin was the only one who owned a team of horses. They brought their chickens, potatoes, lots of flour and groceries, and seed grain with them. The young boys rode horseback on ponies and herded the cattle along the way. After several weeks of slow traveling and many inconveniences, they fortunately hit the place of Hans Hanson who had homesteaded here and had built a home in what is now West Polk County. Hanson was doubtful, and not at all pleased with a colony of people moving in on his property, but as soon as he became aware of the fact they talked the same language as he. Nonetheless, they were greeted with the most generous hospitality. Hanson's wife was ill in a hospital at Crookston, Minnesota, so he was alone with his young five-year-old daughter, Caroline.

All the women and children stayed in the house. They made beds for the children out of hollow trees, the length of the bed according to the length of the child. The men all bunked in the covered wagons.

Johannes Larson was a carpenter and had been in the logging business in Norway. With the help of the others, they built their log houses. Luckily it happened to be an open winter in 1877-78, so they could finish their homes in the short time that was left. The summer months were full of long hours of rough and hard work, clearing and breaking land.

It wasn't always pleasant living here in those pioneer days. There were Indians living here, and they were not always friendly neighbors. Yet learning to know them, handing out loaves of bread and other food helped. A sure treat to them was tobacco. This managed to keep peace when they called.