Euclid Township History

History as compiled from town and county records and accounts of present day residents by Loren W. Parkin, town clerk — 1976.

The St. Paul and Pacific Railroad laid tracks from the north end of the line at Glyndon, Minnesota, crossing the Red River at the site of Crookston to a point three miles south of Warren, Minnesota, in 1872. This enabled them to retain huge land grants given them by the Federal government. This new line ran through an uninhabited area only previously served by Red River ox carts. It was known as the Red River Line. Trains were run intermittently during winter months, when there was no steamboat traffic on Red and Red Lake Rivers. This railroad went bankrupt in 1873 and J. P. Farley was appointed receiver and continued until the property was sold to Mr. James J. Hill and his associates in early 1878. During this period Mr. Farley, who had not acquired any locomotives or rail cars, was only able to provide occasional service on this line, when he could rent equipment from the Northern Pacific Company at St. Paul.

Mr. James J. Hill and partner, Norman Kittson, who owned the steamboat line on the Red and Red Lake Rivers, had difficulty providing services in 1873, due to dry weather and low water in the rivers. They entered into agreement with Mr. Farley to construct and operate a line from the new town of Crookston to Fisher’s Landing. Mr. Farley was to furnish the rails, which were to be taken up from the end of the line south of Warren, Minnesota. A total of 10.5 miles of rails were removed and placed on this new line. This was the original railroad line of James J. Hill, later known as the Empire Builder. The line then terminated at a point some four and a half miles north of Euclid. This lends credibility to the story of Peter Stuhr that in 1880 he had arrived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carsten Stuhr, by immigrant car on a railroad from Lake City, Minnesota. They unloaded at a rail siding, known then as Mr. Cielan’s Coulee, and transported their livestock and possessions southwest across-country to their new home on the south half of Section 4, Euclid township.

The reorganization of the railroad in 1878 brought construction to the line to St. Vincent, Minnesota and connected it with the new Canadian Pacific railroad to Winnipeg, Manitoba. The new rail line brought a tremendous flow of new settlers and immigrants to the area. During the ensuing period of 1879 through 1915, the freeholders of the territory petitioned the new Polk county commissioners to organize a township in the area of township 152, range 47 and asked that it be known as the township of Euclid.

Charles Lockart and Springer Harbough, who had come from Columbus, Ohio, held large holdings near and around the new railroad station site. Euclid was the name of the street in Columbus, Ohio, the boyhood home of these two friends. The petition was granted on July 22, 1879, according to the proceedings on page 94, book A of the Polk county commissioners.

The records of that date further state that L. A. Charboneau, R. O. Neal and George Charboneau were appointed first judges of election and Ed Charboneau and W. A. Perkins were appointed first clerks. The place of the first election was in the home of a Mr. A. M. Stuart. No present day residents recall