and marching in the drum and bugle corps. After graduation, she worked in a music store, Harris Music Center, until the fall of 1957 when she enrolled in a two year X-ray technology course at the Northwestern Clinic in Crookston and also attended the University of Minnesota. She received her American Registry Certificate in December, 1959, and continued working at the Northwestern Clinic. She was married to Ronald Peterson on August 27, 1960.

Ronald C. Peterson was born May 7, 1937, to parents Vincent and Gladys Peterson at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Until 1939, he lived with his parents and one brother, Verle, on a farm in Section 12 of Bygdal Township. After that they moved to the farm where Ron and his family now live in section 1 of Fisher Township. He attended grade school and high school in Fisher, where he graduated in May of 1955. From 1955 to 1958, he attended North Dakota State University at Fargo. He enlisted in the North Dakota Air National Guard serving from 1959 to 1965. Active duty time was spent at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

On August 27, 1960, he was united in marriage to Jean Amiot at Trinity Lutheran Church at Crookston, Minnesota. From 1960 to 1969, they resided on a farm in section 9 of Roome Township during which time four daughters: Brenda, Carol, Anitaette and Mary were born. In 1969, the home farm was purchased from Ron’s parents and in March of that year the move was made.

The four girls all attend school at Fisher where they are involved in music and athletic activities. They also are 4-H Club members and Jean is active as a 4-H leader. The family belongs to the Fisher Lutheran Church where Ron and Jean are on the Sunday School teaching staff and have held various offices in church organizations while the girls are busy with youth activities.

Ron was elected to the school board of District 600 at Fisher in 1969 and presently serves on that board as chairman. He also serves on the advisory committee to Adult Farm Management in the Agassiz Valley Vocational Center at Crookston and has been past secretary of West Polk County Farm Bureau.

SWAN PETERSON

Swan August and Amanda Peterson lived in Polk County from March of 1917 until the time of their passing. Swan, or Sven as he was known earlier in life, was born in Hvna, Smaland, in Sweden on December 12, 1859. He arrived in America in 1885, coming to Galesburg, Illinois, where he worked in a brickyard. On December 8, 1891, he was married to Amanda Emilie Gustafson, daughter of Nels J. and Emilie Gustafson, also of Swedish descent. Amanda was born in Woodhull, Illinois, on June 14, 1872, and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church of America in Woodhull on May 21, 1885. She had worked in a laundry in Galesburg before her marriage. After their marriage, they settled on a farm near Lynn Center, Illinois and became members of the Andover Lutheran Church in 1895.

Nine children were born to them: Myrtle, Mrs. Victor Erickson, deceased; Delman of Fisher; Mabel, deceased; Dorothy, Mrs. Robert Jenson; Vincent of Crookston; Ruth, Mrs. Richard Peterson; Alpha of Illinois; Etta, Mrs. Mike Koehmsredt, of Fisher; Linnea, Mrs. Dillard Wastewest, Redwood City, California; Virgil, Argyle, Minnesota; and Carl, Pleasantville, New Jersey.

The family moved to Fisher in March of 1917. Eight horses, two cows, a 1914 Model T Ford, machinery and furniture all were loaded into two freight cars, and accompanied by Delman, headed north, spending five days and nights on the road. The rest of the family rode the train and were met at the depot in Fisher by Fred Erickson, father of Mrs. Paul Stalemo of Fisher. The horses and cows were placed in the livery barn in Fisher for a few days. The family remembers there was a great deal of snow which impeded their moving considerably, but they soon got settled in their home in Section 13, Bygdal Township, four and one-half miles west of Fisher.

The children went to School District 222 where Tillie Aslakson, sister of Arley Aslakson of Bygdal, was the teacher. Some of the pupils they remember from those first school days were: Ruth Egeland, Josie, Julia, and Gertie Salverson, Theodore and Gunder Stalemo, Olaf, Gerald, Rolf, Martha, Kenneth, Ingvald, Sophie, and Hannah Anderson, Gertrude, Thorvald, and Orrin Olson, Tillie and Agnes Stalemo. Olaf Anderson took care of fires in the stove at the school.

On the farm small grain and potatoes were the main crops; and like all farmers of that time, they had some milk cows, chickens and turkeys. The ‘freezer’ of that day was the outdoors in winter and non-existent in summer, and the refrigerator was an old well in which milk, cream and butter were lowered by a rope to keep cool until used or taken to town to be traded for groceries.

All machinery was pulled with horses, but tractors were being talked up; so in 1917, they purchased a Titan tractor which was made by International Harvester and burned kerosene. To start it one had to turn a big fly wheel by hand.

There were many hardships. Hail, grasshoppers and rust took much of the crop some years, so at those times the cows and poultry provided what little income there was. And with a garden, much of the food was produced right on the farm.

Vincent, Ruth, Linnea, Virgil and Carl were confirmed in the Bygdal Lutheran Church. The other children were confirmed in Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson left the farm in 1935, lived a short time in Crookston, then moved to Fisher to the home where Mr. and Mrs. Mike Koehmsredt and Delman Peterson now live. Mrs. Peterson passed away in June of 1940, and Mr. Peterson in April of 1952, and are buried in Fisher Lutheran cemetery.

WALTER J. ROSS

Walter J. Ross and Bertha Ross, have three sons, Armin, Lyle and Harold, and eleven grandchildren.

The Rosses began farming in Fisher Township in 1933. The major crop grown was sugar beets. Wheat and barley were also raised.

The Rosses retired from farming in 1970, but continue to live on their farm. The land is operated by their son, Armin and grandson, Jim. Their sons, Lyle and Harold operate farms in Lowell Township.

Walter has been active in the community, and has served on various boards for many years. These include township, church, hospital, bank, soil conservation, elevator, Winter Shows, and Farm Bureau. He was the first president of the Red River Valley Sugar Beet Growers Association, and was president of Great Western Beet Growers.

Bertha has also been active in church and community affairs.

The Rosses are continuing to help out where needed, leading an active life and also enjoying the freedom from responsibility which retirement brings.

Walter Ross Family, Fisher, Minnesota.