JULIUS WAGNER
Julius Wagner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wagner, who were natives of Germany, was born August 12, 1853, on a ship coming across the ocean to America. He was the youngest of four brothers: John, Daniel and Paul. The family settled at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, where they were engaged in farming and lumbering. One incident in his early life was being in the great Chicago fire October eighth and ninth, 1871, and having to swim out into the lake because of the great heat of the fire.

Mr. Wagner was married in 1875 to Miss Emelia Klinger. She was two years old when she came with her parents, Wilhelm and Anne (Dallie) Klinger, natives of Germany in 1856. They settled at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. She was sixth in line in the family of twelve children.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagner lived at Ruckland, Wisconsin, for three years. Having relatives and friends in the Fisher, Minnesota area, they moved to Section 23, Fisher Township, Polk County, and settled on a homestead one mile east and one-half mile south of Fisher, Minnesota along the Red Lake River. Their first home there was a cave built into the side of a hill until they could build a more permanent house. They were the parents of the following eleven children: August, Adolph, Gustave, Amil, Wilhelm, Anna (Liebert), Bertha (Klema), Emelia (Hinz), Martin, Amos and Alfred. Alfred is the lone survivor at the present date. The family belonged to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation organized on December 3, 1886, and Julius held the first office as trustee. Prior to the organization, church services were held in homes and served by pastors that worked in the territory from 1879. Julius died April 2, 1927, having become a successful farmer in the Red River Valley.

LLOYD WAGNER
Lloyd Wagner, son of Martin and Ida Wagner, is the owner of his grandfather Julius Wagner's farm and lives in the farm house built in 1886. This was his and his father's birthplace.

Lloyd married Harriet Meyer whose parents are Theodore and Marie Meyer who had immigrated to America from Germany. They are parents of Tamra Jurchen who lives in St. Paul, Minnesota; Deborah (Anderson) who lives in Australia; Timothy who is married and lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota, but farms with his father; Linnette and Joel, students at North Dakota State University at Fargo, North Dakota; and Jill, a sophomore at Fisher Public School.

Garfield Township History

Garfield Township, organized in 1880, was christened in honor of James Abram Garfield, who was elected president of United States in 1881. A few months after his election he was wounded fatally by James Guiteau, a disappointed office seeker.

Two of the earliest frame houses in Garfield Township were built by two of the first settlers here: Knute Bolstad Nelson and Thomas Johnson Lensegrav. The Lensegrav house was built on the edge of the Sand Hill River, with a barn and other farm buildings on a lower level, in a beautiful setting reminding them of Norway. Their "place" was near the Old Mill.

When in 1886 the N.P. Railroad came through, a huge embankment was built separating the house from the farm yard. In modern times, there would be an underpass or the house would be moved; but there it was, literally a huge barricade leaving the house stranded.

The Indians in the 1880's would often camp in the land around the river below what is now Paul Hegre's home. They were very fond of bread. Grandma Anna Morvig told her sister, Mrs. Ole Opheim, that one day her cabin door was pushed open and there stood a huge Indian. She tried to speak to him, but he spoke mostly French and some broken English. Nevertheless, he soon told her that he wanted bread. Indians often visited their home. Grandmother Rose would search in the woods for snake root which she sold to the Indians for a penny each.

KNUTE BOLSTAD
Knute A. Bolstad was born at Evanger in Voss, Norway on November 30, 1839, and immigrated to America when he grew up. He came to Dodge County, Minnesota where he worked on a farm. He was a member of the 11th Minnesota Infantry Regiment in the Civil War. He married Ingeborg Rovang and moved to Garfield Township, Polk County in 1880. Along with seven children aged twelve to several months, he came by train to Ada, where he unloaded their household goods, machinery, and livestock. They drove overland by wagon and settled on a homestead about two miles east of the present site of Fertile. Knute's brother, Lars, homesteaded a quarter Section in 27 on the south and another brother, Nels, settled in Section 26, a short distance east. The seven children, all born in Dodge County, were Gurina, age 12; Arne, age 9; Eddy, 8; Will, 6; Nille, 5; Otto, 2; and Oscar, 3 months. The other children who were born on the homestead in Garfield were Ida, Julia, Thea, Emma and Mabel. This was his and his father's birthplace.

Knute was a farmer as well as a township and school officer. The district's first school was on his land. Much of his land had to be cleared before crops could be planted and of course, this was all done by hand. Knute was 78 years when he died in 1917. His wife died in 1930.

Their eldest child, Gurina married Hans O. Strem. Their eight children were: Ingebella, Cora, Ruby, Frances, Rosella,