versity. Our daughter and her husband are also teachers as are our son and his wife.

We, Mr. and Mrs. Art Amiot, celebrated our 35th Wedding Anniversary on August 26, 1975.

CHARLES LeBLANC

Charles LaBlanc came from Canada in 1877. He had four sons: Charles, Louis, Dominque and Joe. LeBlanc's addition in Crookston was named after his family. Dominque married Clara LeMay from Mankato, Minnesota, and homesteaded in Kertsonville Township in 1879. They had six sons and three daughters: Fred, Art, Alfonse, Delphis, Ernest and Ovid and Anna, Blanche, and Laura. They lived on their homestead until they passed away. Later Fred LeBlanc lived there and eventually sold it to Dennie Plante. Dominque bought land in Gentilly Township from George Gachache. That land was farmed by Delphis and Art LeBlanc. Delphis later rented this land to the pioneers. The LeBlanc family had four children: Vivian, Vernon, Gerald and Claudia. Delphis died in 1964. The farm was then sold to Gerald who married Marilyn Yon. They have five boys: Greg, Dan, Mike, John and Duane, and three girls: Suzanne, Janine and Lori all living at home.

Godfrey Township

Godfrey Township was given its title at its organization August 4, 1881 for Warren N. Godfrey, an early settler at the southwest end of Maple Lake in the township. He later moved to the state of Washington, according to Warren Upham, Minnesota historian. First township officers were: W. N. Godfrey, Tosten G. Lee, David Vavander, supervisors; Michael Horton, clerk; Alexander Adams, treasurer; P. W. Horton, justice of the peace.

Besides Godfrey, earliest settlers were two Hortons, Jacob Gerstner and Arthur Neron, who filed on claims in 1879.

Maple Bay School district 90 was organized in 1883. School was held at the W. N. Godfrey home and taught by Lottie Dennison. The first school house was built in 1884 by Simon Solberg, with Sara Houkom as first teacher.

At one time Godfrey had four school districts: No. 95 Woodland Nook, No. 86 Pleasant View; No. 90 Mapley; and No. 113 Roadside. All have consolidated.

Maple Lake was one of the most beautiful lakes in Northern Minnesota when the first settlers arrived. It was nine miles long and from half to a mile and one-half wide. Its shores were surrounded by heavy timber and the big birches bent out over the water and shaded the shores. It was certainly a sight to behold. No wonder that an early townsite was laid out and platted at the west end of the lake in 1882, and a general store was established by Markham from Crookston. A Post Office was also established at the same time called the Maple Bay Post Office, which is run at the present time by Mr. Ness, who also has a general store at the same place.

Later another store was located near the county highway and operated over the years by Chester Ramberg, Leonard Rambert, Luther Johnson, Fred Johnson, and Adolph Brandwick. Maple Bay Store is now operated by Mrs. Brandwick and her son, Dr. Kenneth Brandwick, a chiropractor.

PETER BERTILS

Peter Christian Bertils was born November 5, 1848 in Hur- dahl Prostgjold, Norway to Mr. and Mrs. Bertil Norgaard. He emigrated from Norway to Fillmore County in Minnesota in the year of 1874. He married Gunhild Hellickson in the year of 1881. He and his wife and two children Bertil and Albert with three other families drove horses attached to covered wagons to northern Minnesota. They herded livestock ahead of the teams. Peter brought four cows, three head of young stock and six sheep. Naturally this sort of traveling was very slow and the travelers were a whole month on the way. They slept in their wagons at night and on the road. The men walked much of the time while the women and children rode in true pioneer fash- ion. When they reached the Wild Rice River they found it too high to ford, and they were obliged to detour three miles to cross on a bridge. This sort of detouring really caused delay.

The resourceful travelers milked their cows morning and night and traded the milk for butter and bread. The Bertils family went to Godfrey Township where he selected land eight miles north and one mile west of Fertile. They had a very hard time at first. Peter built a sod house which had only a dirt floor and two small windows. The glass was purchased at Crookston. They traded first at the Aldahl store and also at the one kept by John Ladue. They went to Red Lake Falls to have their wheat ground. The first year they did some breaking of the land and the next summer they had five acres of grain.

In 1936 Peter Bertils was recognized as Chief Raconteur of Early Tales by the St. Paul Newspaper. The Bertils family, like its neighbors, worked hard to improve the land and develop the farm. Peter and his wife, who died in 1912, wit- nessed the remarkable development of the section which they first knew as a frontier into a smiling, prosperous countryside.