Air Force, they began farming in partnership with their father. He retired from active farming in 1970. Then Lester and his family moved to the farm, and his parents built a retirement home for themselves on the farm. James and his family live in East Grand Forks, but they expect to move to their farm soon. Another son, Arnold, lives with his family in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. He is a machine designer.

LESTER AMUNDSON

Lester Amundson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Amundson, was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota on February 24, 1935. He was graduated from the East Grand Forks high school in 1952, and from the North Dakota State University in Fargo in 1956. After that time he spent two years in the army, most of the time at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey in the Signal Corps research and development laboratory. When he had completed his army service, he returned to the North Dakota State University in 1959 for graduate work. It is there he met Anna Marie Paulson who became his wife on July 2, 1961. She was born on December 12, 1933 at Fort Ransom, North Dakota, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Paulson. After graduating from high school and the Valley City Teacher's College, she taught grade school for a number of years. She then returned to the North Dakota State University where she majored in Home Economics. Later she taught at Larimore and in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

They live on a farm five and a half miles north of East Grand Forks and are growers of certified seed potatoes and grain. Lester is active in church and farm organizations, and has served on the board of the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, and on the Red River Winter Shows Board of Managers. He is also a licensed ham radio operator. Mrs. Amundson is active in church and 4-H activities.


GORDON L. BRIDGEFORD

I, Gordon L. Bridgeford, am the oldest son born to John K. and Annie Bridgeford. I was born in Grand Forks Township on June 27, 1902 on the Alex Lammy Farm which my father rented at that time. We moved to the Point in Bygdland Township in February 1908 when I was six years old. I attended rural school in Huntville Township and worked on the family farm. My family was among the first to grow potatoes. I can remember our first potato planter, an assist-feed Eureka. Our neighbor, John Guerard, walked beside the planter and drove the team while my father hand fed the machine. I remained with my father on the farm. In 1918 we moved to a larger farm. When I was seventeen years old, I received a small acreage of potatoes as my reward for working. For extra income, I cut and delivered cord wood to Grand Forks for our neighbor. On July 11, 1921 I married Lillian Bushee. To our union were born eight children: three sons and five daughters: Dorothy, Jeanne, Douglas, Colleen, Robert, Joyce, Monica and Patrick. After my marriage, I continued to farm with my father and younger brothers. We rented land close to the home-farm at $15 per acre, cash rent. I sold my first crop of wheat for $1.26 per bushel, but potatoes sold from 18¢ to 27¢ per bushel. Conditions improved somewhat the next few years; but in late July, 1927 our local bank failed. This wiped out my entire savings. My good bachelor friends came to my rescue with a small loan for which I was thankful. In 1932, I went into partnership with O. J. Barnes, a pioneer potato grower and dealer. This partnership lasted for seven years. We grew Certified Seed Potatoes mostly Irish Cobblers and Bliss Triumphs. I bought my present farm in 1931 and moved to this farm on November 9, 1937. We continued to grow Certified Potatoes, wheat and barley. I discontinued potatoes in 1972 due to wet weather and poor prices. My wife, Lillian, passed away March 25, 1956. On January 22, 1965, I married Clara Winchester who had one son Robert. I now grain-farm at 73 years of age.

The Gordon L. Bridgeford Family: Standing, L. to R.: Dorothy; Robert; Joyce; Jeanne; Douglas and Colleen. Seated, L. to R.: Monica; Gordon, Lillian, Patrick.

JOHN K. BRIDGEFORD

As the oldest of the Polk County Bridgefords, I will relate something about my father and mother and their early experiences in America and in Bygdland Township. My father, John K. Bridgeford, came here from Aberdeen, Scotland when he was twenty-one years old. He worked for his passage on a cattle boat. He went to Canada first, where he worked for a time; then moved on to the west coast and later to Larimore, North Dakota. He told some interesting tales about the early harvesting days and eating in cook cars. Later on, he settled north of East Grand Forks, Minnesota and started farming on his own. He met his wife, Annie Fraser, while she was working for her uncle, Robert Anderson. Annie, born in Canada came from Dundalk, Ontario, and because she had lost her parents had come to live with her uncle. The Bridgefords were married in 1900 and raised a family of ten children: Lovina Boehme, now living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Gordon, a farmer in Esther Township; Zona Shannahan, Grand Forks, North Dakota; Arthur, Percy, John, Ansel, all retired farmers living in Bygdland; Jessie, of Milwaukee; Esther of Washington, D.C. and Leslie, who farms in Bygdland.

About 1908 John, Annie and four children moved to a farm south of East Grand Forks, now the property of Mrs. Arthur Fillion. Then in 1918, they moved to another farm in Bygdland, which he bought from Frank Fillion. There John and Annie lived out their days: he to almost 97 years; and she to 93. They were grain and potato farmers but also raised cows and chickens. Annie found time in her busy life to milk cows, make butter to deliver to customers in Grand and East Grand Forks. She made butter, baked bread and cooked and cared for her husband and ten children. John retained his Scottish brogue all his days and it was a source of pleasure to listen to him talk. He always referred to his children as lads and lassies.