As an early farmer in Hammond, Walter James Dewar was highly regarded as a mechanic and operator of steam driven, community-owned equipment and in 1912 built for his own use one of the earliest gasoline-powered tractors in the area. Walter traveled extensively in the West and South, first by train and later by car. His first trip in a car with his family to Texas was made in 1922. Poor roads were often encountered and on an especially muddy road in Iowa, the total mileage for one day was twenty-seven miles. His daughter, Mrs. Arvid L. Hermodson (Alta), continues to reside on the Hammond township farm, settled in 1882 by her grandfather.

Other direct descendants of James Dewar include the Hermodson children, Arlen, Alden, and Arvadelle; Walter’s son, Dorel James Dewar, on the staff of the Crookston post office since 1938, and his children, Dorel James, Jr., Loleta, and Sharon. The Emersons at Virginia have two children, Ralph, and Ruth and five grandchildren. The Luhman family include James, Wallace, and Gladys and seven grandchildren.

KENNETH MILLER

The children of Kenneth and Merle Miller are the fourth generation of Millers to live on that Hammond township farm, about nine miles south of Crookston. The Ken Miller family are descendants of pioneer Crookston and Hammond Township residents.

Lorenzo Miller homesteaded the quarter-section on which the present farm buildings are located. He came to this area from Ontario with his brother, Nelson Miller, in 1891. Lorenzo married Louise Dodds, also from Eastern Canada. They became the parents of three children. A. Dodds Miller who is now retired from farming and lives in Colorado Springs; Cora Miller who died in her twenties; and Arthur Ross Miller, father of Kenneth, who was born in 1898 and died in 1963.

Arthur grew up on the present farm, attended the “Round” school as the country school in that area was called, and business college in Crookston. He married a Crookston girl, Emma Waterstrat, whose parents were also Crookston residents. Both William and Karoline (Eckstein) Waterstrat came to this county from Germany, he in 1881, she in 1891. Mr. Waterstrat was a carpenter; building, among other homes, the home at 823 North Main, where Mrs. Arthur Miller now lives. Emma Waterstrat Miller is a graduate of Central High School, Moorhead State Teachers College, and taught in several schools before her marriage to Arthur.

Arthur and Emma Miller continued to reside on the original homestead and became the parents of two books, Kenneth and Harlaman. Harlaman married Janice Kuske of Olivia in October 1957, and farmed for a short while before going into service. He was killed in an accident at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in December 1960. They were parents of Gregory Harlan, born in June 1961. Janice remarried and now lives in St. Paul with her husband, Dr. John Sargent and their children: Greg, Louis, Jean Ann and Timothy.

Kenneth married Merle Stone, December 26, 1950. Merle is the daughter of Walter Powell and Alice Lee Stone.

Walter was the son of Nathan Perry Stone, who with his wife, Ada Powell Stone, came to Crookston from Prescott Wisconsin in 1879, and founded N. P. Stone Company: International Harvester dealers, as well as retail coal and stoker merchants. They were in business until 1955. Walter was one of five children, the others being William, Ida, Gertrude and Lucía. Walter and William took over the implement business from their father and continued in it until their deaths. Alice Lee Stone came to Crookston from Hudson, Wisconsin in 1917. She lived in the Crookston Public Schools. She was a native of Hudson and the daughter of John Andrew and Carrie Holter Lee, both of whom had come from Norway at the age of nineteen. John Lee was a contractor and was active in the construction business in Hudson. In 1928 he and his son Arthur, an architect, came to Crookston and built the Walter Stone home at 115 East Eighth Street, which the family occupied until July 1974, then it was purchased by the Dick Maves family. Walter and Alice Stone were parents of four daughters,

This picture taken in early 1900s. W. P. Stone, father of Mrs. Ken Miller is the hunter right behind the car driver.

Merle (Mrs. Ken Miller): Norma (Mrs. Glenn Lewis, Moscow, Idaho); Shirli (Mrs. Ernest Ager, Seattle, Washington); and Margaret (Mrs. Fred Harris, Richmond, Kentucky). Mrs. Walter Stone has seventeen grandchildren and now resides at St. Francis Residence.

Ken and Merle Miller are residing on the original homestead and have been there since their marriage in December, 1950, except for two years during which Ken was in the U.S. Army. Their son, Kenneth, Jr. was born on December 25, 1951 at Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and spent his first year in Babenhagen, Germany with his parents. Upon returning to Crookston, Ken and Merle moved into the Miller home, while Arthur Millers moved to town and took up residence in the Waterstrat home. On May 9, 1955, Janna Lee Miller was born and another daughter, Julie Ann, was born on March 11, 1958. All three children attended the Crookston Public Schools, and were active in music groups throughout the years. Ken is a cellist, studying in Cincinnati, and playing in the Dayton Symphony and String Quartet. He married Linda Baylis, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Shelby Baylis of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan on August 29, 1975. She is also a cellist and studies in Cincinnati. Janna is a junior and vocal major at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and Julie is a high school senior, plays the harp, and plans to attend the University of Minnesota. It might be interesting to note that the Ken Miller children all attended the Franklin Grade School, in which their grandmother once taught, and which their great-grandfather, N. P. Stone was active in acquiring the land for, and in its being built.