Ken is a graduate of the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston, served in the United States Army for two years, and attended the University of Minnesota. He is treasurer of Hammond township, on the board of the Crookston Farmers Co-op Elevator, a member of the board of the Farmers Home Administration, a deacon of the First Presbyterian Church, and past elder and trustee of the church. Merle is a graduate of Central High School, the University of Minnesota, and has her M.A. degree from Columbia University. She was a string teacher before her marriage, and has now retired after seventeen years in the Crookston Public Schools. She recently retired as choir director of the Presbyterian Church choir after twenty-two years in that position. She is a member of, and past president of the Crookston Woman’s Club, member of the board and president of the Crookston Civic Music League, and a member of the Grand Forks Symphony since 1950.

MARVIN REITMEIER

In 1946 we were married and settled on the farm where we have lived ever since. It was previously owned by Louis Larson. Few farms had electricity then, but in about three years power lines came through and also telephone lines. We had a few milk cows and chickens. Until we acquired a beet contract together with Lester and Clifford Skriverseth, we farmed only 160 acres. We later rented and bought more land, which we now farm in partnership with our son Leroy.

Our oldest daughter, Janice, is married to Edward Beil. They live in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, have two children, a son, Paula, six; and Jeffrey, three. She is a registered nurse and Edward works with Burlington Northern, personnel division. Leroy, 27, lives in Crookston, married to the former Mary Thibert. They have two girls, Shauna, four, and Shelby, two. Leroy is kept busy with the farm, Lou Anne, 24, South Saint Paul, a graduate of University of North Dakota is now employed by Cenex as matchmaker, matching applicants to jobs in a nine-state area. Jolene, 15, a sophomore at Central high school at Crookston, is kept busy with her horses and school activities. She’s an active member of Agassiz Riders Club and rides in area horse shows.

We are members of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Crookston where Marvin has been past council member, Jolene sings in the senior choir and I belong to the Ladies Aid, of which I was past president.

Our parents were Edward and Ida (nee Wentzel) Reitmeier. Crookston and Isaac and Julia (nee Anderson) Jorgenson, Fisher. My grandfather, A. G. Anderson of Fisher, was the first person to take out homestead rights in Polk County. My mother, Mrs. Jorgenson, now lives at Tuft Manor, a retirement home in Grand Forks. Isaac Jorgenson, now deceased, farmed west of Fisher and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reitmeier, both deceased, farmed northwest of Crookston.

As the years pass, it seems to be more busy with the use of chemicals and fertilizers in farming. Marvin was elected County Commissioner last fall. This also keeps him busy with meetings etc. I am kept busy with church and community activities, and keeping up a farm home.

We have experienced many changes and improvements in nearly thirty years of farming south of Crookston.

MARTINUS L. SKRIVSETH

Martinus L. Skriverseth came to America at the age of seven, the youngest of six children of Lars and Molli Skriverseth. They sailed from Trondheim, Norway in 1872 and first settled in Freeborn County (Albert Lee), Minnesota, where they lived in a sod house for a short time.

The eldest son, Lars L. stayed in Freeborn County and farmed. The rest of the family went by oxen and horse and wagon to the Mayville and Hillsboro area, in North Dakota, and then to Buxton, where they farmed nearby. Bustjen L. remained there for the rest of his life. Lars and Molli, and their sons, Jacob L., Tore L. and Martinus L., resettled in Crookston. A daughter, Anna, married Ole Flaten of Moorhead, Minnesota, who owned and operated the Flaten Photo Gallery.

Jacob L. opened a photo studio and built the Skriverseth Block, a two story brick structure now occupied by the Houske Funeral Home. He stayed in Crookston for several years and then sold out and became a veteran photographer in North Dakota; first at Minot, then at Williston. He was credited with locating the largest petrified tree east of the Rockies in the Williston area in 1931.

Tore L. purchased farmland in Russia Township and built his own home and farm buildings. His property was one mile east of that purchased by his brother, Martinus. Several years later Tore traded his farm for one north of Bemidji. In his spare time he built a number of fine violins.

Martinus L. bought the southeast quarter of Section 12 in Hammond township, on December 4, 1899 from Charles Duval for $2750. Then on November 21, 1905 he obtained one-half section adjoining land in Russia township from the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad Company for $3285.48.

In 1903 he married Bertig Brokker, who was born in Kristiansand, the southern most point in Norway, although the family farm was 103 miles inland. She sailed to America in 1889 at seventeen years of age with her brother Osmund and sister Julia in a three-week crossing. They arrived in Quebec, Canada. From there they went by train to Chicago, and finally to Grand Forks, North Dakota. During her years there she operated a weaving machine in a Woolen Mills Company as their first female employee.

Lars and Molli, the parents of Martinus, lived with him the last years of their lives. Lars, at 82 years of age, would walk to Crookston and back in one day, a distance of twenty miles.

From 1915 to 1918 Martinus sponsored and paid passage for three of Bergit’s nephews from Kristiansand: Knute, Drenge, and John Jerden, one each year. They would work for him one year, learn the language, and then move on to make...