The three older boys are members of the Triangle 4-H Club. Donavon is treasurer. The boys are taking dairy as one of their projects. The boys attend school in Warren and are going out for basketball. They also enjoy bowling and sno-cattting.

Warren and Dorothy enjoy bowling in a couples league. Warren received the trophies for the high game and for high series in 1975. He has several trophies from the Farmers League and for a couple of tournaments he has won. Dorothy was on the winning team in the Monday afternoon coffee league so added her trophy to the shelf.

MELVIN E. JOHNSON

Melvin was born on November 3, 1914, to John and Elida Johnson on the farm where he and his wife now live. Melvin’s father bought this farm (which was originally a homestead) from Peter Sandvik, a Norwegian immigrant. Melvin’s father had come from Norway as a young boy. He grew up in Iowa and migrated north to the Moorhead, Minnesota, area. He worked out as a foreman on a large farm. He met and married Elida Ellingson of Rothsay. They moved up to the Radium, Minnesota, community when the Soo Line Railroad came through. He had a team of white mules and operated a livery, hauling supplies and mail in this area while the towns were getting built up and until the Soo Line was set up for this hauling. There were so many Johnsons in the area at that time that he was known as “White Mule Johnson,” a nick-name that remained with him all his life.

John and Elida Johnson raised a family of six children: Agnes, Ella, Harold, Esther, Melvin and Mildred. To supplement the family income Mrs. Johnson was a dress-maker and she also knitted stockings and mittens. From the Radium community they moved to Polk County, Helgeland Township, and to the present farm home now of Melvin and Pearl Johnson.

Melvin has operated this farm since his father’s death in 1933. His mother passed away in 1952. Melvin has been engaged in diversified farming. His farm has grown from 80 acres to 960 acres, which he presently owns. Before all the land was plowed into fields for grain, there were a lot of virgin hay meadows, so Melvin would stack, bale and ship hay. This was his living along with raising of cattle and sheep. Following the trend and with better equipment, now he raises small grain and some alfalfa hay.

Melvin married Pearl Bar from Viking, in Marshall County, on August 8, 1941. She was a town girl who had to adapt herself to country living. There were no modern conveniences. They burnt wood and lignite coal and read by kerosene lamps. In 1958, they bought a 1500-watt Kohler light plant and put in a jet pump for running water, which really was a luxury. In 1949 the REA came in, so they have had REA electricity from that time on. So, running water, electric lights, and indoor plumbing would have to be the best thing that has ever happened in their rural lifetime of farming.

Melvin and Pearl Johnson have one son, John, who lives in Moorhead, Minnesota, with his wife, Cheryl, and four year old daughter, Cassondra. John graduated from Warren High School in Marshall County in 1962 and from Moorhead State College in 1966, with a math major. He taught math at Howard Lake, Minnesota, for one year; worked at Univac Sperry Rand at St. Paul for one year and enlisted in the United States Navy where he spent the next four years. He came back and got his master’s degree at Moorhead State College and is now employed as Placement Director of Moorhead State University.

The Melvin Johnsons are members of the Melo Lutheran Church of rural Angus, Minnesota. Melvin has served on the church board and has been a member of Helgeland Township board for over thirty years. Pearl has held various offices in the Melo ALCW and together they have been past leaders for the Triangle 4-H Club, participating in hayrides, roller skating parties, demonstrations, fairs and etc.

OLE MORUD

Ole Enoksen Morud was born near Vaaler, Solor, Norway on December 14, 1869. His parents owned a small farm there. In 1889, when Ole was 20 years old, he emigrated to America, bringing with him his most prized possession — a large chest of carpenter tools, with which he hoped to make a living. He went first to Fergus Falls, Minnesota but found the homestead land in that area already taken up; so he went north to the land office in Crookston, where land was still available. After looking the land over, he decided to claim the southeast quarter of section 14 as his homestead. First he built a sod hut about 16 feet square. For a bed he turned his carpenter bench up side down and filled it with shavings. He lived in this sod hut for several years while he planted trees, worked up some ground for potatoes, vegetables and a little grain. He used a neighbor’s equipment for this work, and repaired him in labor. A few years later, when he was planning to be married, he built a one-room frame house 16 by 18 feet, with a loft. He made the cellar using blocks of stone, which he mortared smoothly together. Later this cellar served as a refrigerator in summer; and although it was small, it held the winter’s supply of potatoes, vegetables, crocks of meat in brine, hams and bacon, jars of homecanned fruits and vegetables, as well as dairy products and eggs.

Ole Morud and Ella Halden were married on December 9, 1895. She was born near Fergus Falls, Minnesota, the daughter of early settlers there, who had also come from Norway. As the nine children arrived one by one, the house became crowded, so Ole built a lean-to on the west, the north and the east side of the one room. Because money was scarce, they all worked to make ends meet so the children could attend high school away from home. Putting up the prairie hay was one way even the