Hardships were prevalent in pioneer days. Inga Paulson related that when she was a young girl, the men hauled grain by horse and wagon to Halstad, which was as far as the railroad was built. Women folks and children were left at home to tend chores. They were ever fearful of Indians and constantly watched the tall prairie grass for any sign of Indian visitors. This era was in the horse and buggy days. Because of the slowness of travel and distances involved, social life consisted chiefly in visiting neighbors.

Mr. and Mrs. Peder Paulson settled on a farm adjoining Nels J. Skale’s farm and spent their entire married life there. They had four daughters: Mabel (Mrs. Edward Shanley); deceased, who lived at Milroy and had two children, Terrence and Sheereen, Belva (retired), and living at Nielsville; Inez (Mrs. John Hanson); and Junice (Mrs. Elmer Miska), who lives in Tabor township.

When the Model T became the mode of travel, life became more exciting. We never missed a Ringling Brothers Circus, and Fourth of July was the big event of the year with picnics, bands and ball games. If caught in a rainstorm, we often removed our shoes and stockings, walked home, and left the car stuck in the mud. Attending silent movies was fun, with a piano player furnishing music which didn’t always coincide with the picture.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hanson were married in 1931 and farmed in Hubbard township. Now retired, they are still living on the farm. John was born in Amery, Wisconsin, later moving with his family to Grygla, Minnesota. They have three daughters: Idelle, Mrs. Donald Sandberg, graduate of University of Minnesota, who was a member of the University Chorus, and now teaches music in the Brainerd school system. They have three children: Jean, Paul and Lin; Lorraine, Mrs. Edgar Haugstad, graduated from Interstate Business College and is now employed at Penny’s in Fargo. Their children are: Richard, Jeffrey, Rebekkah and Jane. Both Idelle and Lorraine were organists at St. Petri Lutheran Church; Joan, Mrs. Lowell Vettel, who attended Concordia College, and is now living at East Grand Forks. Their children are: John, deceased, Denise, Mark and Anthony. John Hanson was town board supervisor for a number of years, and also served as trustee in St. Petri for many years; he was also a member of the school board. They are members of the St. Petri Church.

HAYES BROTHERS

The Hayes brothers, James C. and Samuel C., who were associated in business as partners and almost inseparable, were located in farming on what was later known as the Tom Letnes farm. They maintained separate homes on opposite sides of the main road leading through their land. They were some of the biggest and most successful farmers in the Red River Valley, farming several thousand acres of land. Their land was in sections 9 and 16, Hubbard township.

The brothers were born, reared, educated and married in Union County, Pennsylvania and began their business careers as lumbermen there. They were of Scotch ancestry and members of the Presbyterian Church. They also served in the United States Navy. When the lumber trade showed signs of exhaustion in Pennsylvania, they were induced by an editor friend at Pembina to come to the Red River Valley in 1878. They bought the land in Hubbard township at $7.50 an acre, with the usual rebate of $3 an acre for breaking and cultivating the land. In hard years they suffered from crop failures and other losses, and were unable to make the stipulated payments on their land. But they found the railroad company generous in its accommodations and had nothing but words of praise for James J. Hill and his policy in selling land and encouraging settlers. They found the Polk county banks liberal and were large borrowers from these institutions.

The specialty of the Hayes’ Brothers was grain. Seven men were employed by the month during parts of the year and three throughout the year, while 20 were required during the threshing season. Besides a gas engine used for plowing and threshing, they also used forty horses in their work and numerous pieces of modern machinery.

James C. Hayes was married in 1884 to Miss Mary Glover. They had three children, who all died in childhood. Samuel was married in 1893 to Miss Ella Burn and they had no children.

IVER IVERSON

Bertha Marie Iverson, mother of Benhart and Iver Iverson, was born at Solar, Norway, May 20, 1896. Her husband, Iver Iverson, of whom we have no record, is buried at St. Petri Cemetery, Nielsville. She had lived in Southern, Minnesota: Belmont, North Dakota, and near Nielsville, before moving to Buzzle township in the spring of 1899 with her son, Benhart, and family. She passed away at her son’s home, September 26, 1915, and is buried at Osterdalen Cemetery, Pinewood, the first body to be interred there. This cemetery is an acre plot of ground donated for this purpose by her son and family, Iver Iverson.

Benhart Iverson was born November 2, 1866, in Dakota county, Minnesota to Iver and Bertha Iverson. He married Edina Westgaard at Belmont, North Dakota. She was born at Osterdal, Norway, December 29, 1863. They resided near Belmont, North Dakota and Nielsville, Minnesota a few years before moving to Buzzel township, Beltrami county, Minnesota in the spring of 1899, covered wagon, accompanied by five of their children. He was a blacksmith engineer and saw mill operator. Edina was a midwife and assisted in homes during illness. Edina passed away October 13, 1928 and Benhart, July 14, 1929. Both are buried at Osterdal Cemetery, Pinewood. Children born to them were Inge, Regina, Marie, Johnnie, Bennie, George (died in infancy), Alma, Genia, Carl and Tena.

Iver Iverson was born in Renville county, Minnesota, February 4, 1869, to parents Iver and Bertha M. Iverson. Sophie Erickson was born December 29, 1870 in Hedemerk, Norway. They were married in 1890 at Belmont, North Dakota. They lived on a farm southeast of Nielsville until the spring of 1900, when, accompanied by children Bennie, Ella and Irvin, they left by covered wagon for Buzzel township, Beltrami county, Minnesota and resided there until their deaths. Iver passed away August 4, 1932, and Sophie, September, 1947. Both are buried at Osterdal Cemetery on ground donated by them for a church site and burial ground. Children born to them were Bennie, Ella, Irvin, Melvin, Edwin, Mabel, Ragna, Lucy, Bella and Albert. Ella (Oscar) Trones and Mabel (John) Knuston are residents of the Nielsville area.

INGEMAN JEVNING

Ingeman Jevning was born in Vineland township October 9, 1902, son of Karl and Karlotta Jevning; at a very early age he worked on different farms. On April 7, 1925, he was married to Inga Braatin from Nielsville. They have lived in that area except for two years when they lived in rural Buxton, North