MR. AND MRS. ELLING VILLAND

Elling Villand was born February 8, 1862, in Hal, Hallingdal, Norway. He married Guro Iarsgaard, born September 22, 1859, at Hal, Hallingdal, Norway. After their marriage they immigrated to the United States where they homesteaded at Buxton, North Dakota. They sold their farm and moved to Reynolds, North Dakota. In 1900, they purchased a farm in Hubbard township where they lived until 1937, when they moved to Bottineau, North Dakota. Christ and Doris Braaten purchased their farm and still own it.

Guro and Elling
Villand

Elling and Guro had two daughters, Gena and Clara. Gena, who was born at Reynolds, North Dakota married Louis Vignes of Climax in 1922. Louis was a veteran of World War I. They have seven children: Ethel, Clarice, Gladys, Lloyd, Agnes, Bernice and Emery. Clara, who was born at Reynolds, North Dakota in 1895, married Leonard Stave of Leeds, North Dakota, and they farmed there. They have four children: Golin, Lydia, Sidney and Ernest. Gura is remembered with deep affection for the many times she helped the neighbors. She was truly an angel of mercy walking for miles to help where there was illness and when babies were born.

BORRE VIGNESS

Borre I. Olson Vigness was born October 25, 1863, in Norway. His parents, Ole Hanson Vigness and Bertha Olsdatter Vigness, were born, raised and married in Stavanger. Their family of five children were all born in Norway: Johannes, Berget, Olaus, Borre and Gabrielle. Johannes died in Norway at the age of 26 years. While in Norway the family lived in the territory called “Vigness” and therefore took the name Vigness. Borre, at the age of 22 years, came to America in 1886 with his sister Berget. Her husband Jacob Vigness had already come to Norman County and settled on a farm. He worked two winters around Nielsville before he started to farm. In August, 1888, he bought a quarter section of land from the railroad company for $4 an acre, three miles east, a half-mile north from Nielsville, in Hubbard township. In 1888, Miss Bronla Skigelstrand Pederson came from Stavanger with her brother, Ole Pederson. She left her parents, a sister Marie, and brother Berent, in Norway. That summer Borre and Bronla were united in marriage. They drove to his sister’s home seven or eight miles south with oxen. Jacob and Berget drove the rest of the way to Ada, Minnesota with a team of horses; with them also were their attendants. They had three sons, Emil, Oscar and Peder, all born at rural Nielsville, baptized and confirmed in the Norwegian language at the St. Petri Lutheran Church in Nielsville.

Borre farmed with three oxen for six years before he bought a team of horses. Borre walked across the swamp to Crookston, which is 25 miles northeast by road, to pay his taxes. On one trip he lost the envelope which contained the $9 for his taxes. He walked many times to Beltrami (ten miles east) for a gallon of kerosene. Their main shopping was in Nielsville at the Bye Store to sell their eggs, cream and butter to buy grocer-

ies and clothes. A record book shows some prices from 1901 to 1904: boys’ overshoes, $1, child’s overshoes, 75¢, shoes $1.75, boys’ overalls 75¢, shoe laces 5¢, three pairs of suspenders 50¢; butter sold for 12¢ to 15¢ a lb., eggs 9¢ to 12¢ a dozen.

On July 15, 1902, a tornado destroyed the barn and a new granary. The house was tipped over on the roof. The family was safe in the cellar. The house was put back on the cellar. Six years later a new house was built and is still in use.

Borre Vigness 78 years old 1942. Last time he used his team of horses.

Bronla died November 17, 1940, at 78 years of age. Borre died May 15, 1948, at 84 years of age. Olaus Vigness came to America after his brother Borre. He married Carena Olson. They had a little tract of land southwest of Climax. They had three children: Betsy, Clara and Louise. Carena died December 28, 1939, at 79 years of age. Olaus died June 2, 1941, at 81 years of age. Gabriel O. Vigness came to America with his parents and settled in Climax. He learned the meat cutting and butcher’s trade. He worked in the Nielsville Butcher Shop sometime before moving to Thief River Falls. He married Tina Efteland of Shelly. They had five daughters: Bella, Gladys, Clara, Frances and Bernice. Gabriel died December 16, 1951, at 83 years of age. Tina died April 23, 1957, at 71 years of age.

PETER VIGNESS

Peder was born April 5, 1894, at the farm home of his parents in Hubbard township. He was baptized by Reverend J. Villesvik. He attended the Prairie Queen School in district No. 23, two and one-half miles southwest of his home until 1905, when a little schoolhouse was moved into district No. 19, one mile east of home. In February, 1918, he was called into the army. World War I ended November 11, 1918, but Pvt. Vigness was not discharged until January 14, 1919. He was a member of the Nielsville American Legion Post 336. In 1942, Peter and Margaret Richards of Moorhead were married by Reverend Hans Finstad. They had two children, Donna and Ervin. He lived all his life on the home farm, except for a couple of summers he worked out and the year in the Service.

The highlight of farming was at threshing time, when five or six neighbors got together. They always had time to rest and visit after dinner and at coffee time in the afternoon; quitting time was 7 o’clock. Threshing days were over in 1948, when the combine took over. Peter retired in 1959 and rented out his land until 1962 when Ervin took over the farming for the third generation. In October, 1971, Peter had a stroke and lost his speech. He was in the Ada hospital five weeks before he was transferred to Eventide Nursing Home in Moorhead on November 20. On March 12, 1973, he died of pneumonia at 78 years of age. His wife Margaret was a member of the Nielsville School Board for 14 years until district No. 605 joined the Climax Independent School District No. 592. She was a member of the St. Petri A.L.C.W. In November, 1971, she joined the American Legion Auxiliary; in November, 1973, she joined the Nielsville Garden Club and has been a Sunday School