In the 1950's began snow-plowing of township roads with a notation of $4.00 an hour paid for snow removal. Before that time county roads were opened but township roads were opened by the individuals who used them.

The township is divided by the Red Lake River running through it in a westerly manner and has made for distinct settlements: the Scotch in the Northeastern and Mallory parts, with Irish on the way towards East Grand Forks — all north of the River; the Scandinavians and Irish in the southeastern part and the French in the southwestern part south of the River. The first bridge over that river went down in the 1880's and in 1888, a new bridge was constructed with Thomas White as the contractor and costing $10,000.00. $800.00 of the cost was carried by the county and $200.00 by the township.

That bridge crossing the Red Lake River along the section line between sections 34 and 35 was built high enough to accommodate steamboat traffic between East Grand Forks and Fisher. In the 1930's there no longer was river traffic. The bridge was hazardous for the new car and truck traffic, so it was lowered by one section or about six feet. In the 1950's and '60's spring floods were hard on the bridge. It was repaired many times. Finally after the 1969 flood, it was declared unsafe and in 1970, it was completely dismantled. A new site to cross the Red Lake River was chosen and the new bridge was opened in the fall of 1975. It crosses the River in the middle of section 17 with a new road built on the half section line connecting State Highway 220 with United States Highway 2. It was contracted to Eckhoff and Company of Crookston at a cost of $1,000,000.00 from Federal and County funds.

Farming has been the chief business in Huntsville township starting with the wheat farming, almost entirely and gradually being brought over to a very diversified type of farming: grains, corn, beans, peas, legumes, potatoes, livestock, dairying, poultry, sugar beets, fruits and vegetables.

The wooded areas have been cleared and drainage ditches dug to make way for cropping very nearly all of the land in the township. Most of the drainage has been accomplished by open ditches to the extent that control is needed to avoid the severe flooding as the devastating flood in July of 1975, when many acres of crop were destroyed. Much work is needed on the problem.

Attendance at township meetings is interesting. In the early years thirty to one hundred people were general with a record 157 recorded for the annual meeting in March 1895. Attendance then again went down with another surge in 1937 and 1938 when 160 and 147 are recorded. Grass roots rule is a basic form of government and where can it be found more basic than in a township? May it be preserved forever!

It has always been the rule that the board of supervisors be composed of persons living so each side of the River is represented on the board. The following listing is of persons serving five or more years on the board: Darragh Geddes — 42 years; James Driscoll — 28; Williard Guerard — 26; Charles DeGagne — 17; Ludger Monda — 16; T. M. McVeety — 12; E. Enright, W. J. Cumming, and Joe DeGagne — 9 each; Richard Barrett, James Cumming and Joe Jeffrey — 8 each; M. Johnson, Dave Will and John Enright — 6 each; O. Osmundson, Lee Coulter and Walter Rogers — 5 each. Clerks serving five or more years are: Albert Osmundson — 31 years; Osmund Osmundson — 22; D. B. Ferguson — 11; O. Osmundson — 7. Treasurers are: T. D. Lee — 29 years; Harvey Kirk — 27; T. D. Stewart — 21; Thomas Nisbet — 13.

Assessors have been: Charles Ryan — 36 years; Mrs. Esther Danielson — 13; James and Gerald Enright — 10 years each. Present officers are: Herbert Nisbet, chairman, Keith Driscoll and Truman Danielson, supervisors, Mrs. Esther Danielson, clerk, John Cumming, treasurer and Mrs. Esther Danielson, assessor.

Education of the youth was not neglected by the pioneers. At Mallory, a special meeting was called on March 15, 1879, and the first school was off to a start with the building being built on one-half acre of land donated by C. L. Coulter in the Northwest quarter section 26. By 1881, that building became too small, so a larger one was built in the southwest quarter section 23. This became school district #11 and school was held there for grades one through eight until 1958, when the school district was consolidated with East Grand Forks and became district #595. The land became a building site and the building became a workshop on the Walter Roberts farm. The next school to be established was the Fontaine school district #42 as it came to be called. This school was south of the River on the coulee bank in section 18. It too served for grades 1-8 until consolidation in 1958 when the building and site were sold as a dwelling place.

The Cumming school district #84 served the northeastern corner of the township and was built on the Maiais on a piece of ground donated by James Cumming in Section 14. Upon consolidation in 1958, the building became a shop in Nesbit township and the land reverted back to the owner. At very nearly the same time, the Driscoll school district #85 was established for the northwestern corner of the township on land donated by James Driscoll. It had grades 1-8 and was in use until 1942 when Sacred Heart Grade School was opened in East Grand Forks and the children (100% of them were Catholic) were bussed there for school. In 1958, this district had to consolidate as well with district #595 in East Grand Forks. The building was torn down for other construction work and the land went back to the owner.

The Timberline school district #93 was established for the southeast portion of the township on land donated by Osmund Osmundson in section 34. This school was truly a "melting pot" of nationalities. There were French, Irish, Swedes, Norwegians and Bohemians. The first school became too small so it was sold and a new one erected in 1915. It served the area until consolidation in 1958, when the building was sold to become a warehouse on the Hedstrum farm and the land reverted back to Osmundson's son, Albert.

The French school district #248 served the southwestern corner of the township. The first school was built in 1898 on ground purchased in the southwest quarter section 30. That soon was too small, so it was sold and moved away and a new building was put up in 1914. It was a very modern school with two rooms — one for grades 1-3 and the other for grades 4-8. It had a full basement and recreation area plus indoor plumbing. Since the folks in the district were predominantly Catholic, the school was closed in 1942 and the children were bussed to Sacred Heart Grade School. In 1958, it too was consolidated with district #595 and the building was torn down for lumber, and the land sold. All the rural schools served as community gathering places for programs, socials, 4-H Club meetings, Farm Bureau meetings, etc. Consolidation has all but eliminated community spirit and solidarity, sad to say.

The Methodist Church was organized in 1885 and was built at Mallory. Little is known as to what happened, because records are scarce. At any rate in the early 1900's, the building was sold and moved to the Rhutell farm. Members evidently either went to the Grand Forks church or joined the Bethel Presbyterian Church, by then established.