Gust was one of the first sugar beet growers in the Red River Valley, beginning with twelve acres in 1923: he never missed a planting in 44 years. At that time all work with the beets, such as planting and lifting was done with two-horse machinery, including the hauling of the beets to the Sprague siding where they were shoveled into gondola cars.

Gust Aakhir always had a good rapport with his Mexican beet workers. This resulted in many of them returning year after year. Two men, Felix Heredia and George Negrete, were with him during his entire 44-year period of raising beets. When not working with the beets they learned to help with the haying, shocking during harvest, and pitching in the fields during threshing.

ALLEN AND MARY BARRETT

Richard Barrett bought the farm located three miles east of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, on section 17 from Boyd Sproat about 75 years ago when the Sproat family moved out west. He had built a large barn, and had a large herd of Jersey cattle. The barn has since been torn down and steel buildings put up nearby.

The Richard Barretts had five children, Allen, Fred, Richie (who drowned in the Marais at the age of 12), Grace (Mrs. H. Whiteaker), and Elsie (Mrs. James Chaplin), all deceased.


Mrs. Barrett's great-grandfather was John O'Neil, who came from County Cork, Ireland. He was married to a Driscoll, and they had nine children, grandmother Enright being the oldest. She had also come from County Cork, Ireland. John O'Neil's second wife was Margaret Mulloy, and they had eight children, Mrs. Mike Driscoll being one of them.

Catherine O'Neil was married to Dennis Enright. They had 12 children, and reared two more, one being Charley Hertweck. Thomas Enright was fourth in line in the family. He was born in 1855, and died in October 1942. He was married to Margaret Malone, and they had nine children: Mary (Mrs. M. W. Barrett), Catherine (Mrs. J. R. LeClair), Cora (Mrs. Frank Austin), William, Gerald, Edward, James, Leo, and Earl.

Dennis Enright came from Ireland when he was 21, and settled near Almonte, Canada. Later he married Catherine O'Neil, and they had three children. They moved to Sarnia, Canada, and later to East Grand Forks, a tiny place at that time.

From Sarnia, they took a boat to Duluth, then went by train to Fisher, as that was as far as the train went. Dennis Enright met the family as he and three of his sons had been there for some time, and they rode to East Grand Forks in a lumber wagon, being 12 miles to the Sullivan farm. They settled in a place nearby, which is now the Hangsleben place.

Allen Barrett's father, Richard, came from Watertown, Wisconsin. He and Ellen Salisbury were married in 1878. He broke 90 acres of land, and also built a log house. They were married at Winona, Minnesota, and came by train as far as Fisher. Five years later a five room house was built on the homestead (as it was called), a mile east of this place.

Mary Barrett's parents also came from Ireland. Her father came when he was eight years old from Kilkenny, Ireland, and her mother came from County Mayo, Ireland. They settled in Almont, Canada. In later years they were married and had four children. Years later they moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Robert farms the family place and other farms nearby, and raises wheat, potatoes, barley, and beets. He lives at Fisher, Minnesota.

RICHARD W. BARRETT

Richard W. Barrett was born February 2, 1924, in Huntsville Township, the son of Fred M. and Sadie (Austin) Barrett, and he is a lifelong resident of the township.

His grandfather, Richard Barrett, arrived here in 1878 after a 22-day journey from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His parents were natives of Ireland, and moved to Jefferson County, Wisconsin, from Rutland, Vermont, in 1830. He brought his bride, Mary Ellen Salisbury, to the homestead in 1879 after their marriage in Winona, Minnesota, a year earlier. She was a native of Columbia County, Wisconsin. As with many early settlers, she arrived at Fisher's Landing.

Their first home on their claim was a log house, which was replaced by a frame house about 1880. About this time they purchased the northeast quarter of section 4 in Huntsville Township, which adjoined their homestead.

He served as chairman of the Huntsville township board for 20 years. He was the first treasurer of the school board for district 85, serving in that office for 25 years.

Their children were: Allen W., Fred M., Elsie (Mrs. James Chaplin), and Grace (Mrs. Hall Whiteaker). A son, Richie, drowned in the Marais at the age of 12. Two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Fred (Sadie) Barrett, and Mrs. A. W. (Mary) Barrett, still live in the area.

In 1914, Fred M. Barrett married Sadie D. Austin, whose parents were Francis R. and Clara V. Austin, also early residents of the county. They came to Huntsville township about 1901, and operated what is known as the "Riverside Truck Farm" in section 31. Their parents had settled in the Dresden, Ontario, and Bathgate, North Dakota, areas. The Austin children were Andrew, Walter, Frank, Stewart, Sarah (Sadie) and Grace.