miles from Storm Lake, renting the land.

In 1903 the Erdmanns all came to Crookston, Minnesota to farm twelve Northeast in Parnell Township. A farm of 320 acres was bought from Mr. Sam Blue for $23.50 an acre. Half of the land was prairie. They came here from Storm Lake, Iowa, on an immigrant train bringing cows, horses, pigs, chickens, a dog, machinery and household goods. The train stopped in Crookston, Minnesota, and the cows were driven to the farm. Emil and Henry took care of the animals and chickens on the train, which took four days to get here. The rest of the family came by passenger train.

In 1934, Henry and Fred took over the farming. The farm was sold to Vance Schipper in 1942. Henry, Fred and Emma then bought a home in Crookston, Minnesota. To the Erdmann union there were born eighteen grandchildren, forty-two great-grandchildren and twenty-three great-great-grandchildren.

Anna Erdmann married Emil Pankonin. They had eight children: Elsie, Ernest, Fred, Alfred, Walter, Emil, Esther and Arthur. Mr. and Mrs. Pankonin have passed away. Emil Erdmann married Louise Heydt of Crookston, Minnesota January 20, 1909. They lived on what was then known as the Vance farm two miles south of Crookston, Minnesota. In 1914, they bought a 160 acre farm four miles south of Crookston, Minnesota Section 13 in Andover Township. They had five children: Martha, Edna, Walter, Harold and Loren. Harold and family are now living on the home farm. Emil passed away March 1, 1956. Rudolph married Marie Nielsen of Euclid, Minnesota. They bought a farm southwest of Crookston, Minnesota in Andover Township. They had three boys: Albert, Elmer and Irwin. Rudolph, Marie and Irwin have passed away.

Marsha married Albert Krenge. Albert lived in Parnell Township and after marriage they made their home in St. Paul, Minnesota. They had two children: Donald and Ardella. Albert and Ardella have passed away.

The Erdmann families have contributed much in the way of producing food by having large dairy herds, flocks of chickens, and by the raising of all small grains and sugar beets.

**VANCE SCHIPPER**

Vance Schipper was born in Crookston, Minnesota and attended country school in Parnell Township, near the home of his parents, Edward and Sylvia Frisbee Schipper. He graduated from Central High School in 1948 and was called into active duty with the 47th Viking Division in 1951. While at Fort Rucker, Alabama, he met June Segler of Dothan, Alabama, whom he married in 1954. They bought the old Erdmann homestead in Parnell Township that year and have lived and farmed there ever since.

Their daughter, Ila, is married to Charles Pahlen, and they live in a new home in Parnell Township. Quinn Schipper, son of Vance and June, is a student at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture in Scottsdale, Arizona. Their daughter, Vana, is a student at Central High School in Crookston, Minnesota and Leah is at Highland Middle School. Vance has served eleven years as Parnell Township assessor. June worked as a copywriter at KROX Radio from 1966 to 1976.

**Beltrami Village and Reis Township**

The village of Beltrami owes its place on the map today to the farmers of the community. Even now a building housing a mall and business center is near completion, having been constructed by Cenex, the cooperative farmers’ organization so well known in the Midwest.

There are fifty-four homes in Beltrami, all occupied. Fifteen of these family units are gainfully employed in the village half of them by Cenex.

Three adults live in the house in which they were born: Oscar Aanden, Andrew Anderson and Gladys Johnson. Other adults who have lived in Beltrami since birth are Mrs. Luther Erikson (Lois Johnson), Frank Regedal, Mrs. Norman Mjelde (Hulda Olson Skaug), Jack Webster, Mrs. Clifford Webster (Elmira Johnson), and Keith Webster and children.

People began settling in the Beltrami area about 1870 and by 1885 it had become a thriving community with the Great Northern Railroad built through the center of the town. The post office, however, was three miles south of the train station and was called Edna, named after the postmistress, Edna Webb. Not until 1900, was the post office moved to its present location and named Beltrami. The village was incorporated in 1902.

At the turn of the century, Beltrami boasted a business section comparable to many larger communities today: three hotels; the Regedal, the Stanning, and the North Star, managed originally by J. P. Johnson; two department stores, the Kimberley and the Mott, several saloons; three elevators; the Thorpe, the St. Anthony and Dakota, and one individually owned; and three banks. There was also a bustling newspaper, drug store, shoemaker’s shop, blacksmith shop, barber shop, photography shop, millinery store, creamery, meat market, hardware store, lumber yard, livery stable, a dentist, and a doctor. Of these businesses and professions only the hardware store has run continuously. Originated by James Regedal and Henry Budd, it was subsequently owned by Louis Johannesen (who also was the village photographer), Knemhus and Kise, Hamburg Brothers, Tom Logan and Luther Erikson, who recently retired after forty years in the business.

The department store owned by Mott was later sold to Charlie Ford, a thrifty and ingenious business man. He willed the store to his son, Charlie, who lacked his father’s interest in the business, and soon sold it to Budd and Elwood. E. W. Johnson, a young clerk in the store, eventually bought the business, along with his brother, Herman, and Carl Lekue. Later Herman bought Lekue’s share, and Lekue built and operated a grain elevator which stood at the site of the present Farmers Union Elevator. In 1914, E. W. Johnson and Company burned to the ground. A new store was set up in the theater building at the north end of town. This store burned in 1918, along with the Lekue elevator, a bank, barber shop, shoemaker shop, warehouses, and Boyer’s Store, established by Theodore Boyer and his brother, Milt, in 1908. Both E. W. Johnson and Company and Boyers began Johnson again in a new theater on the site of the original store, and Boyers in the recently vacated postoffice on the corner of Highway 9 and County Road 1.

A pioneer business man in Beltrami was Knute Flakne. He