LeRoy was born September 8, 1930. Magus Larson, Alfred’s brother, lived with them a few years until he bought “The Ranch”, section 10, Scandia Township. In September 1946, the Alfred Larsons sold their land, section 2 and moved to “The Ranch”. Alfred died in July 1967 and Ella passed away in May 1970.

Evelyn Will married Gunnard M. Herman, September 23, 1931. They lived in the Beltrami area, where three daughters were born: Deloryce Elaine was born June 21, 1932 and married Vernon Bertils. They made their home in Crookston, Minnesota. They are parents of six children: Ruth, Philip, Daniel, Lois, Ann and John. Gloria Mae was born June 6, 1933 and married Reverend James Thvedt of Crosby, North Dakota. They are parents of James Junior, Kristin, Jonathan, Karen, Joel and Joseph. Janet Diane was born November 23, 1946 and married Dale Hoiberg of Devils Lake, North Dakota. They are currently living in Taipei, Taiwan. James Larson married Phylis Melin of Grand Forks, North Dakota in October 1960. They lived in a short time in Beltrami, Minnesota; later moved to “The Ranch”. They have four sons: David, Allen, Gary and Craig. They have two adopted daughters, Wendy and Beth. Orlin Will married Julie Lall and lives in Jamestown, North Dakota where he is teaching.

Rhinehart Township History

Rhinehart Township was originally organized in 1874. Officers in 1891 were Oscar Wick, clerk; Joseph Kirk, chairman of the board; Hans J. Rohalt and Knut Woldal as supervisors; B. Denny, assessor. The main road was graded up by J. O’Leary.

In April of 1905 residents of Rhinehart Township started to build a board sidewalk from the city limits of East Grand Forks to section 13. The city of East Grand Forks contributed $40 and the remainder was contributed by the citizens involved. The township gave $125. Citizens also contributed free labor of building the sidewalk.

On November 2, 1920, 48 ballots were cast, of which 17 were women votes. This was the largest poll of votes yet cast in this township, probably being partly accounted for by the fact of its being the first year of women voting at a Presidential election. Polls were opened from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thirty cents an hour was paid during elections.

On March 22, 1932, the township named the main road of Rhinehart Township Rhinehart Drive. Mr. Frank Gorman headed the petition. Section 11 and 12 went into the City of East Grand Forks in August, 1974. Rhinehart now has sections 13, 24, and 25, with 35 residential or dwellings in agricultural land.

JOHN A. CROY

John A. Croy was born on September 5, 1897, in a two room log house in what is now Rhinehart Township, Polk County, Minnesota.

He was the second child of a family of five children born to Joseph and Anna (Steans) Croy, born in Iowa and later of near Chamberlin, South Dakota, where they had filed on a pre-emption claim. However, because of drought conditions there at that time they came to this Red River Valley location.

John attended the country school for two years, and then the family moved to near the city of East Grand Forks, Minnesota where he attended elementary and high school. In the country school there was an enrollment as high as fifty-three at one time, in all grades, with one teacher, who in one instance, rode out from town on horseback.

John missed registering for World War I by four days, as his birthday was September 5, and he was not of eligible age until September 5 and the war ended the next year.

John was married to Mollie N. Johnson on May 4, 1918. She was one of eight children born to John H. and Maren (Morgen) Johnson of Winger, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were both in Norway, the former having served in the Norwegian Navy. Mrs. Croy’s father came to America and Minnesota in 1876; her mother came in 1881. They married and filed on a homestead at what is now Winger, Polk County, Minnesota. They farmed there until retirement some time in the 1920’s. At that time they started farming there were no roads, schoon Scarlet 2es or village of Winger. Children were taught at home and religious services were held in the homes.

The John A. Croy families grew to the parents of three children: Joseph Clayton, who farmed with his father until John A. retired. He died in July, 1975; Donald John, who served three years in the Army, mostly overseas; was graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in accounting and now resides in Hood River, Oregon; Carolee Jean Lovick, a resident of East Grand Forks, Minnesota attended the University of Minnesota at Duluth, the University of North Dakota and the Union Commercial College of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Joseph Clayton took post-graduate courses in agriculture at Crookston, Minnesota.

The John Croy’s started farming in a partnership with Joseph Croy in 1917 and did so until Joseph’s death in 1928. John continued to farm his father’s land, and at times bought land in the area. Progress was steady through the 1920’s and a new home was built in East Grand Forks, Minnesota in 1928.

The 1930’s and 1940’s period was different, as there were depression, drought, poor prices, and a serious sickness and surgery at Rochester, Minnesota for John. During that time there was no progress and it was just a question of hanging on and trying to keep from losing what you had. John comments, “I think I saved my farming future by going into debt and buying a portable irrigation system in 1934. With this, one of the driest years, I was able, by running it twenty-four hours a day, to grow a good crop of vegetables on about twenty-five acres of land and marketing them in Grand Forks and selling to truckers who came in from all over North Dakota for supplies that were non-existent, also operating a vegetable market of my own for five years.

When the drought was over and World War I started, demand and prices became better and the Croy farm grew in size and trivial gardening was taken over by larger acreages and carlot shipments of potatoes, onions and grain. Croy further comments, “Some of the prices received in the early thirties were as follows: Potatoes, 20¢ per bushel, onions 50¢ per 50-lb. bag; cabbage, 65¢ per 100-lb. bag and as cows and hogs were a part of the farm then, I can remember when the market on hogs was 21¢ per pound at the local Armour Plant; and at one time I received 97¢ for a five-gallon can of rich cream, much better than the shipping cream we now buy.”

“The going wages for labor were 15¢ per hour in the early 1930 period.” Many young men employed by Croy at that time were between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and had never before had employment. They were eager to find a job where they could earn one dollar and fifty cents for ten hours work. Of course, it was correspondingly as difficult to pay these wages from the profits of products sold at the prices obtained at that time.

Approximately thirty-five acres of land farmed by the Croys during that time has now been platted and sold as residential sites, and twenty-eight acres rented from others is now taken over by the Crestwood Elementary School and a large supermarket. A church and residences also occupy some of this land.

Approximately two hundred acres of Polk County land remain in the Croy name. John comments: “As I look back over the period of the last sixty years or more, I think I can see where during the Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the legislation of that time did more to raise the standard of living for more of the people of this country than at any time before or since that time. I am referring to such acts as the Bank Guarantee of deposits, the Rural Electric Act, the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Wagoner Labor Act. The former