son received prizes at the fair and peony shows several times. Mr. Swenson exhibited farm produce at the Grand Forks fairs, and "Minnesota Day" at the fair was a big all-day event for the family. They had one son who died in infancy, and two daughters, Esther and Alice. Mr. Swenson served as trustee on the Church council for many years, and also on the township board. Mrs. Swenson was active in the Church Ladies Aid, serving as president two terms. They lived all their married life on the seven-acre home place, and bought an additional forty acres in Rhinehart Township, and a tractor. They celebrated their forty-ninth wedding anniversary in the Augustana Lutheran Church. This event was attended by a host of relatives and friends. Mr. Swenson died the next April, 1951, after a short illness. Mrs. Swenson passed away in January 1953. They were a modest, quiet couple whose way of life was: "A man's word is as good as a bond; Give good measure and good quality of produce. Extend a helping hand!"

Roome Township

Roome Township was organized in 1879 and was named in honor of J. B. Roome, who was one of Polk County's pioneers. Mr. Roome was born in New Jersey in 1829. In 1854 he came to Wisconsin and later to Wabasha County, Minnesota. In 1877 he contracted with the Manitoba Railroad Company for a half-section of land in Polk County, Minnesota. In March of the following year he "squared" at the land which is located in the west half of section 13. His wife died in Wabasha County in June of 1878 and Mr. Roome then moved the family of four children — William, Frank, Mary, and Orilla — to Polk County. He was a carpenter by trade and built his own house on the farm, as well as the other buildings. Roads were so bad it was almost impossible to haul a load of supplies out from Crookston most of the time, so he constructed a corduroy road west of Burnham Creek for a distance of 25 rods. He had charge of much of the road work and grading done in his township. Mr. Roome was a leader in township matters and was instrumental in organizing this township.

A petition to organize township 149-48 was brought before the county commissioners and was granted in March of 1879. The meeting was held in the home of J. B. Roome, W. C. Roome and Andrew Fenseth were appointed judges and Peter Larson and Peter Karstad were appointed clerks. The new township was to be named Elm Creek, but later the name was changed to Roome.

The first officials who took office in 1880 were: J. B. Roome, Ole Knudsen, and Peter Boukind — supervisors; W. C. Roome — town clerk; Peter Berg — constable; J. B. Roome — justice of the peace; Ole Knudson — assessor: Frank Roome — treasurer.

The original papers, which were found in the original home of J. B. Roome when the house was remodeled in 1965, state that the supervisors and their successors were to be paid the sum of $50. These papers have the official seal and are dated March 31, 1880. They were in an envelope with a one-cent stamp on it and it was postmarked Crookston, March 18, 1880.

The following were people who lived on the farm J. B. Roome homesteaded: Sid Lytle (Mary Lytle was a daughter of J. B. Roome), Rowe Morford, Ernest Rolsh., and Anton Peterson. Peterson moved there in March, 1916. Clarence and Albert, sons of Anton, now reside there.

The present officers of the town board are: Alton Arness, John Brower, Vernon Ostgaard — supervisors; Mrs. Irwin Beiswinger, clerk; Roger Odegard — treasurer; George Irwin and Vernon Buness — justice of the peace; Dale Charris and Loren Wollin — constables; Ingman Thoresen — assessor.

THE ROOME RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

In the spring of 1908 a group of men met at the Andrew Malmberg home to organize a rural telephone company. The following men were present: Wendel Stucky, Christ Wallerbeck, Andrew Malmberg, Halvar Brevik, Pat Murphy, L. H. Locken, Axel Erickson, Jules Boucher, Ole Knudson, Charles Matson, Erick Samuelson, Nels Malmberg, P. M. Aune, and Ole O. Knudsen. On April 6, 1908 they voted to form the Roome Rural Telephone Company. The first officers elected were: President — William Malmberg; Vice President — L. H. Locken; Secretary — Peter Aune; Treasurer — Wendel Stucky; Directors — Halvor Brevik, Erick Samuelson, and Christ Wallerbeck.

The manager of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company was present at the meeting and said his company would allow the use of their poles at a fee of five cents per pole and the cost of connections at $2.50 per phone.

The main line was to go west from Crookston along the county road, then branch off north and south. Wendel Stucky was construction manager and the phone patrons were to help build the line. Salary of construction work being $1.50 per hour or a share in the company for six days of work. The company voted to expand on March 1, 1912 and build a line from Kath-mans' corner two miles south, then three miles west to Kroging's corner, then one mile south to Mariners' place. The first line men for the company were Youngve Samuelson and Peter Aune. Their salary was set at 20 cents an hour. Other linemen through the years were Henry Helgeson, C. J. Rodal, George Helgeson, Clifford Brevik, Hans Aune, Wilbur Ryan, Charles Pesier, Andy Dragseth, and Clarence Peterson. Arthur Arness was secretary of the company from 1934 through 1938.

Roome Rural Telephone Company continued until the early 1950's, when it was taken over by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. The last officers were: President — Youngve Samuelson; Vice President — Welfred Boucher, Sec-Treas. — Clarence Peterson.

Bardo Church

1886-1939.

BARDO NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Bardo Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was named for a community in northern Norway. On July 17, 1877 a meeting conducted by Pastor Hagboe initiated the organization of the congregation. On December 1, 1878, at the district 18 schoolhouse in Fisher Township, organization was completed by Pastor C. Saugstad. Services led by various laymen were held at the school until a church was built. The charter members were Mathias Christianson, O. K. Quamme, Ole Olson, John J. Bonnes, Jens F. Aspaas, Aners B. Anderson, Martin Finseth, John P. Olson, Samson G. Hilde, Christian M.,