service in France, to return to work at the store. This was
granted in a signed letter from Pershing. Andersen's Drugstore
after 34 years was sold to N. C. Schreiter in 1922, later this busi-
ness changed to Osmon's.

The Andersen home was at 224 South Broadway, next door
to Dr. Holte. His house was later the Northwestern Clinic. The
corner home was sold to the Clinic in 1945, and was demol-
ished for the present parking space in 1969. A. G. Anderson
married Clara Johnson, Maple Bay, in 1915. Their children are:
Margaret, Mrs. Norman Moen, Crookston; Cleora, Mrs. T.
Newbery, El Cajon, California; and George who died in the
service in 1945. Grandchildren are: Alan Anderson, Arlene,
James, Silvia, Cleo Moen and Craig and Cindy Newbury. Mr.
Andersen died in 1932; Mrs. Andersen in 1969. Once while she
was living in a nursing home in Grand Forks she received a
$10 bill in the mail with an unsigned card which explained
"Bill owed to Andersen's Drug Store." An anonymous person
with a conscience paid a drug bill after a lapse of at least forty
years!

ANDREW AND CLARA ANDERSON

Andre (A. J.) Anderson married Clara Thomforde after a
five year courtship on June 23, 1928, in Oklee, Minnesota.
Andy wanted a “June bride” but didn’t have vacation coming
until July so they decided to elope, telling only their parents
about the event and honeymooning later on in July.

Andrew was born in Crookston in 1896 to John and Maria
Andersen. He was reared on farms in Thief River Falls and
Fisher. In 1920 he started working at the Northwest School
of Agriculture as bus driver and mechanic. He retired 37 years
later in 1957.

Clara Thomforde worked at Dickels and the Red Owl Store
in Crookston before marrying Andy. She was born in 1905 to
John and Sophia Thomforde in Crookston.

One of the first purchases Clara and Andy made was their
home on 533 Summit Avenue. It was more convenient to live
at the “A. C.” so they rented it out until 1945 when their family
became too large for the housing available on the campus.

Their favorite pastime of the Andersons has always been and
still is, people. Their home often overflows with friends and
relatives. When their children were all in school, Clara often
referred to their home as Grand Central Station.

No matter how many activities were going on at one time,
Clara always had time to help with a math problem, or Sunday
school lesson, sew on a button, help somebody making fudge,
give advice on a sewing project, and make certain a piano
lesson was being practiced.

Their dinner table set for the seven family members often
swelled to eight, ten or more when friends dropped in. The cof-
fee pot is never idle at the Andersons and it’s unheard of for
anyone to visit without staying for coffee and lunch.

Clara, of German descent, learned to make Scandinavian
specialties to keep Andy happy. The only German dish the
children can remember their mother making was sauerkraut,
and that only when Dad was not home.

Andy passed on his love of automobiles to his sons and
when they were growing up, there were always lots of extra
"jalopies" around that somebody was working on.

Andy’s brothers Richard and Warner lived in Minneapolis
so at least once every summer a trip was made to the “Cities.”
Andy would lead the children in “sing-alongs” to help shorten
the long trip, and frequent stops were made for ice cream
cones. Visiting the Hillmon family in International Falls was
always a treat and often an annual event. Picnics to Maple
Lake, Spring Lake and Itasca Park were memorable events
and usually took place on the holidays in the summer and
sometimes on Sunday afternoons.

Clara’s skill at sewing and love of cooking and baking
inspired two of her daughters to major in home economics
college. Clara has been active for years with the Riverview
Hospital sewing guild.

Like most parents of that generation, education for their
children was very important to Andy and Clara. Because they
didn’t have the opportunity, they were determined that all five
of their children would receive college educations.

Their children are: Wayne Elwood, born in 1931, a former
teacher and owner of Anderson’s Camera and Gift Shop in
Crookston. He is married to the former Arline Larson of
Fisher. They have one son, Mark, born in 1958.

June, born in 1934, is a home economics teacher and mar-
mied to Robert Fredericksen. Both are instructors at Wausau,
Wisconsin Vo-Tech College and they have two sons, Robert
Allen, born in 1962 and James, born in 1965.

JoAnne, born in 1936 is married to Robert Abbott, an elec-
trical engineer for Sandia Corporation in Albuquerque, New
Mexico. They have two children, Nancy, born in 1958 and
David, born in 1962.

Marilyn, born in 1941, a former teacher, is married to Rob-
ert Mann, a registered pharmacist. They own and operate a
pharmacy in Plentywood, Montana. They have two children,

John Douglas, born in 1945, is manager of the Minneapolis
branch of Abbey Rental Service. He is married to the former
Joan Brandt of Park River, North Dakota. They have two

JOHN AND MARIA ANDERSON

John and Maria Anderson were married in Crookston in
1895. They had four children: Andrew, born in 1896, lives in
Crookston; Richard, born in 1897, died in 1974 in Minneapo-
lis; Warner, born in 1899, lives in Minneapolis; and Anna,
born in 1905, died four years later.

John came to America at the age of 29 from his home in
Ljungboro, Sweden, where he was born in 1853. Two brothers
had previously settled in Crookston and he joined them in
1882.

John worked on the Korsor farm, which was a bonanza farm
where they had 66 horses and many men working. He also
worked for a time on the Great Northern Railroad.

Maria Jacobsen was born in Silkeborg, Denmark in 1864. In
1891 she came to Crookston with her mother, brother and
mother’s cousin, where they joined another brother who was
already here.

After their marriage, John and Maria farmed at Thief River
Falls for nine years, then moved south of Fisher, where they
farmed. They lived in the Fisher community for the rest of
their years, where John died in 1935 and Maria in 1941.

Like most Scandinavian families, English was learned at
school by the children. Danish was spoken in the Anderson
home. Andrew recalls that he was confirmed in Norwegian in
the Fisher Lutheran Church. He says the Scandinavian lan-
guages are so similar there was no problem understanding the
Norwegian minister. Maria never did learn English but her
daughters-in-law remember very well how the gentle little lady
was always able to make herself understood despite the lan-
guage barrier.

The boys walked a mile to go to school at the rural school-
house in Fisher, but only when there was no farm work to be
done. Plowing and work at home came first before school.

Andrew was stricken with scarlet fever when he was 12 years
old. He said it must have been a mild case, because it only left
him hard-of-hearing in both ears — most cases of scarlet fever
were fatal at that time.