When we were still together before Mom died I remember how we kids would run down to the river to see the steam boat heading down the Red River. Also, in 1910, we went down toward the river in a clearing to see Halley's Comet. It will return in 1986, but I don't expect to be around to see it again. I was confirmed Palm Sunday, March 24, 1918 in the Sand Hill Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church by Rev. H. Winter. Sister Alena died November 20, 1972 in Lagunitas, California. Mother Aletta Halvorson died January 29, 1931, and is buried in the family plot at Sand Hill cemetery.

**IRWIN ERICKSON**

Irwin Erickson is the third generation living on his farm in section 36, Tynsid Township. His grandfather, Elling T. Dokken was among the first settlers in the Township, homesteading in the land in 1871, and it has remained in the family since then. Elling Dokken was born in the Hol Hallingdal, Norway, September 22, 1842, and grew to manhood and was educated in that country, where he remained until late in the 1860's, when he immigrated to the United States and located in Worth County, Iowa. He moved to Polk County in 1871 from Iowa. The trip was made with ox teams and covered wagons and the party consisted of a number of families from the same neighborhood in Worth County, Iowa. The journey lasted several weeks, and while there were no real dangers encountered enroute, they experienced all the hardships of pioneer life.

Mr. Dokken married Ingrid Houg on April 2, 1878. They were the parents of six children, three who died in infancy. Daughters Minnie, Thilda and Lena lived to adulthood. Lena passed away at the age of 27. Minnie passed away in 1960. Thilda married Knute Erickson on February 24, 1915. They had two sons: Myron, who lives in St. Paul, and Irwin, who farms the home farm. Knute took over the farm after his father-in-law passed away in spring of 1915.

Knute was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Erickson, also Polk County pioneers. Thilda Erickson, Irwin’s mother, passed away on January 26, 1927. With the help of housekeepers and Thilda’s sister, Minnie, Knute was able to continue farming and keep his boys together. On March 14, 1966, Knute (Irwin’s father) passed away. In 1940, Irwin took over the farm. He married Joyce Thompson on November 14, 1942, daughter of Mrs. Bessie Thompson and the late Anton Thompson of Cummings, North Dakota.

Joyce and Irwin have two children: Jacquelyn (Mrs. Larry Myrmel) of Anoka, Minnesota. They have two children: Laurie and Jeffrey. Wayne, after graduating, enlisted in the United States Army for three years and served two years in Germany. He now lives near Climax and farms with his father. He married the former Erlene Reese and they have four children: Shawn, Michelle and twin boys, Shane and Chad. Irwin and Joyce also had twin daughters born in August 1947, who passed away shortly after birth.

Irwin is active in community affairs. He is a member of the Climax Credit Union board of directors. He has served as director on the Farmers Union Oil Company of Climax, has held various positions in Sand Hill Lutheran Church, of which he had been a member all his life. Joyce is also a member of Sand Hill Lutheran Church and A.L.C.W. Both are members of the Sons of Norway lodge.

**MARTIN ERICKSON**

Martin Erickson was born in Sogne, Norway on August 2, 1862. At five years of age he came to America with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Erik Drydal. Their first home was in Lanesboro, Minnesota (Fillmore, County), where he was confirmed and spent his early childhood. After a few years he came with his family to Norman county, where they took up homesteading near Twin Valley, Minnesota, in 1877. Martin changed his last name by adding "son" to his father's first name, which was a custom at that time for those who came from Norway.

Since Martin had other brothers at home to help, he left and found work at Grandin Farms, located in the Halstad and Hillsboro, North Dakota area. Since it was a large farm of many sections, Martin after working there for two months, was made foreman over many men and mule drawn rigs. To manage these rigs, which involved traveling many miles, he was given a pony and cart. After approximately two years he left the farms and moved to the Fisher area, where he bought some railroad land in section 5 of Roome township, which was four and a half miles east of the Red River. In 1887 Martin married Tilda Johnson. They lived on the farm and for two years in Fisher.

Tilda Johnson was born in Hesper, Iowa, May 18, 1867. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Knute Johnson Brokke, who came to America from Aaseral, Norway in 1861. After living several years in Iowa, they decided to move to Polk county, as the land was rich and offered more opportunities to get ahead. They came to the Red River Valley in two oxen-drawn covered wagons and took up a homestead in section 10, Tynsid Township in 1876. Shortly after they arrived here, the Indians set fire to one of the wagons and they lost much of their belongings. After this they built a log house and settled here. They joined the Bygdal Lutheran Church in 1877. This was a small log church where presently the Bygdal cemetery is located.

Mrs. Erickson was only nine years old when her parents came to the Red River Valley. She was confirmed in the Bygdal Lutheran Church by Hans P. Solstad, who served between 1876-1882. Meeting the minister required Mrs. Erickson to walk seven miles to the church, as the only other transportation at that time was oxen. In 1900 Mrs. Erickson’s parents retired on the Johnson homestead, section 10, Tynsid Township, and at this time the Martin Erickson family moved here and took over the family operations. In 1905 the Martin Erickson family joined the Bygdal Lutheran Church. Mr. Erickson served a number of years on the Bygdal church council. Tynsid township board, and the Co-op Elevator Board of Fisher. Their family included seven children who