ARTHUR AND EMMA THOMPSON

Arthur Thompson was born on May 15, 1881 in Vineland Township, the son of Peter A. Thompson, one of the early pioneers. He spent his entire life in the area except for a short time when he had a claim near the Canadian border. He was educated in a country school and baptized and confirmed in the Sand Hill Lutheran Church, where he was an active member. When the Sand Hill Lutheran League was first organized in 1913, he was the first elected president. He served as Sunday School Superintendent, as well as other church offices.

Mr. Thompson was married to Emma Berg on May 9, 1914 in Crookston. Emma was the daughter of Hans H. Berg, also an early pioneer, both sets of parents having come to Vineland in 1873. They had four children, Herbert and Morris of Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Orris (Alice) Hegge of Climax, Minnesota and Mrs. Bennie (Ardelle) Orvik of Silver Bay, Minnesota.

Mr. Thompson was a carpenter and painter by trade and had a small farm with some cattle and chickens. He had the habit of constantly whistling while he was working, sometimes to the irritation of his fellow workers as it would often be the same tune over and over again. He was an excellent violinist and he and his brother-in-law would often play duets for the Luther League. He would often entertain the family in the winter evenings, accompanied by the family dog-vocalizing outside the window.

He kept an accurate diary and anytime there was an argument about the weather, deaths (which he would mark + by), births, weddings, etc., he could look in his diary and settle it. He often built little tables, and rockers, dish cupboards, sleds and cross bows and arrows for his grandchildren. Many of these items are still treasured by his grandchildren today.

In summer the family would sometimes go by boat to the Belmond Store for groceries. The old store owner would often slip in a bag of candy for the children.

Their first car was a Model T Ford. When it was cold in winter, he would jack up the hind wheel and it would start easier.

Mrs. Thompson would churn butter, make lefse and sell them to stores to supplement their income in the lean years. Mr. Thompson died in 1954 and Mrs. Thompson died in 1968.

ALTON THUNE

Mr. and Mrs. Nils Thune immigrated to Minnesota from Norway in the late 1870's. They had six children; the youngest, Helmer, married Annie Loke of Viking, Minnesota, in 1911. They had a family of four: Alton, Norman, Telbert and Anna all living. Alton married Norma Meling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Meling, November 29, 1934. Norma had two brothers; John C. and Bennie Meling and one sister, Anna Meling.

This union was blessed with five children: Annette who married Richard Hegge. He works for Central High School. She is credit manager at Northwestern Clinic, Crookston. They have three children.

Dennis married Kathleen Eia of Beltrami and are living in Chandler, Arizona. He is a member of the Air Guard Reserve; they have two children.

Janet was married to Dale Sorenson of Fisher, where they farm; they have a family of two.

Una Rae was united in marriage to Stewart Smith of Nielsville. They live in Anoka, Minnesota where Stewart is a machinist; they also have two children. Barry, the youngest, is single and the fourth generation to till the soil on the farm that Nils Thune bought from the St. Paul Railway in 1883 for $3 an acre.

They are members of the Sand Hill Lutheran Church, the Minnesota Farmer's Union, Farmers Union Oil Company, the Climax Credit Union, Township clerk for 24 years and member of the board of directors for Farmers Union Oil Company. Main crops grown are small grains and sugar beets.

NORMAN O. AND RUBY G. THUNE

Norman's grandparents were among a group of Norwegian immigrants who settled in the area in the late 1870's. Nils Thune and his wife settled in Vineland Township about five miles north of Climax. They had six children. Helmer Thune, the youngest son, remained on the farm. He married Anna Loge and to this union there were four children: Alton, Norman, Telbert and Anna. Mrs. Thune died a month after Anna was born. She was raised by an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Einar Thune who lived just a short ways from the home farm. Norman, the second son grew up on the farm and attended country school. He married Ruby Larson in 1938 and they farmed for six years.

Ruby Larson was born on a farm in the Bygdal area and later moved to Climax where she was raised and attended school.

In 1946, Norman and Ruby purchased the General Store from John Estenson, Ruby's stepfather, which they still operate. At that time the Store was stocked with clothing for the entire family besides groceries. In 1959, the Store was remodeled, and also an addition was built on the east side for use as a Post Office and is still occupied as such. In 1972, the Store was damaged by fire which started in the warehouse. The smoke and intense heat made all the merchandise unsalable and was disposed of by the Insurance Company. Business was halted for one month for cleaning and redecorating; except for that interval, Norman and Ruby have been in business continually for thirty years.

Norman has served the City as Clerk for five years and Clerk-Treasurer for eleven years. He drove the school bus for eleven years. He has as his hobbies building cabinets, refinishing and repairing furniture and restoring old wagon and farm-wagon wheels. Norman and Ruby are members of the Climax Lutheran Church, where Norman has been on the Church Council for twenty-eight years and Ruby has served as Sunday School teacher and has been an officer in the Ladies organizations. She is a member of the Evergreen Garden Club and has served as an officer of that organization.

They have four children, who are all married and located elsewhere. Ray, the oldest, married Bonita St. Michel of Crookston and lives in Ontario, Oregon. They have four children: Deanne, Todd, Theresa and Cynthia. Nila married to John Rausch and lives in Fargo, North Dakota. They have one daughter, Janel. Corinne is married to Terry Cline and lives in Sylmar, California. She has worked as a nurse in a hospital and is presently working in a Doctor's Office. Rita is married to James Mauritson of Shelly, Minnesota, and lives in Moorhead, Minnesota. They have one son, Jeremy.

MIKKEL G. VRAA

This farm, located one and a half miles south of Climax, is the original homestead of Mikkel G. Vraa, who with his father Gjermund Vraa and three brothers and one sister drove here by horse and wagon from Delavon, Minnesota, where they had stayed a few years on their arrival from Norway. Mikkel