The last 48 years by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar G. Brustad.

Ole Brustad worked for the Great Northern Railroad as fireman, when there were mixed trains. There were five children in the family; Arthur, who worked for the Great Northern, and later farmed. He died June 4th, 1975, at the age of 89. Anna worked at the Polk County Courthouse most of her life, in the office of the register of deeds, as deputy clerk of court, and in the treasurer's office. She died in 1973. Oscar left Crookston to serve in World War I in the first draft on September 21, 1917. He worked for the United States post office for forty-seven years, the last ten as postmaster. His first job at the post office was delivering Christmas parcels by hand sledding. Christmas greetings at that time were all post cards with one cent postage. He is married to the former Ethel Gustafson and they have one son, William, living in Maryland. Clarence also was in the service during World War I. He was sent to the front line without any training after weeks in service was killed in the Battle of the Argonne in 1918. The youngest child was Minnie, who is Mrs. D. L. Olson, and lives in Battle Lake, Minnesota.

The West Hotel on corner of Fletcher and Main. Architect: Mr. John Sandberg.

ALLEN BROLSMA

Both Mr. and Mrs. Allen Brolsma claim Polk county for their home community for their entire lifetime. Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Brolsma Sr., was born on July 21, 1918, in Groten, Alberta, Canada, but came to Polk County at the age of one year. Leah, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Seaton, was born July 28, 1919, on the family farm in Fairfax township and lived there until she started employment at the AAA office in Crookston. The only time not spent here was while Allen was in the army during World War II. Allen left for service on June 7, 1942, returning for a short furlough and a wedding ceremony on June 25, 1942, before leaving for Camp Crowder, Missouri for basic training. Both lived in Fresno, California for six months before Allen left for overseas in August of 1943. While overseas, he spent time in Africa, Sardinia, Italy, France and Belgium, serving in the signal corps. He arrived back in the States on September 24, 1945, and came home soon after to see for the first time his son Bob, who was seventeen months old.

Shortly after arriving home, Allen started employment with Bridgeman Creameries and completed 25 years with the company. Working as a route salesman he spent many hours each day to cover the surrounding territory and at that time a working week meant six days. After retirement from Bridgeman's and as of 1976, Allen is doing carpenter work for the George Brolsma Sr. Family: Left to right, standing: Sady, Allen, Charlene, George Jr. and Agnes. Seated, left to right: George Brolsma Sr., John Alvin, Clara Brolsma and Herman.

Brolsma Construction Company. Robert, the oldest of the family, now lives in Rochester, New York. He is manager of the Burrough's Corporation Credit Card plant. His wife, Kathy, is also employed at Burroughs in the accounts receivable department. James, born July 2, 1946, now lives in Newberry, Michigan and is employed by the Kimberly Clarke Company as an accountant. His wife, Janice, is an elementary school teacher. Jim finished his college after spending four years in the navy. He served one year in Viet Nam. This was a rather dismal time for the Brolsma family, as both Bob and Jim received their overseas orders on the very same day. Bob was to serve his year in Korea.

Nancy, born November 3, 1950, married Wayne Capistran in 1970, and they live on a farm eight miles east of Crookston. As of this date they have the only two grandchildren in the family. They are Karen, age three, and Kevin, born January 14, 1976.

Scott born April 29, 1962, is still at home and attends the Highland Middle School. His favorite pastime is the same as his older brother's, playing hockey. Therefore, during the winter the family spends most of their spare time at the Winter Sports arena.

GEORGE, JR. AND JESSIE EPEMA BROLSMA

Most of our life has been spent in Polk county, Minnesota. We were married at Crookston on September 7, 1940. We have three daughters, Janet (1941), Carol (1945), and Cindy (1952). Our first 14 years of married life were spent farming in the Beltrami, Erskine and McIntosh area. It was during the summer of 1941 that George was hospitalized with encephalitis. The kind neighbors in the Beltrami area rallied around with men and equipment to put the second cutting of hay and plowed his summer fallow, and the women provided food for the group. This kindness has never been forgotten. During these 14 years George also did carpenter work around the area. In 1957 we returned to Crookston and he went into construction business full time.

We were interested in building a home, and finally found several lots in an undeveloped area in Washington Heights overlooking the river. This land was owned by the Crookston Community Theatre, Inc. At one time they had dreamed of building a Community Theatre. There was no street in the area. Our lots were on a hillside covered with many large cottonwood trees. Then began the dream about how we would build and landscape.

In 1960, after taking down many cottonwood trees, George put up his shop and capped the basement to our home and boarded up the side of the walk-out basement which was to have a picture window and door. He covered the dirt floor and footings with straw and left it for the winter.

In the spring of 1961, he started on the house again. It was a wet spring, but a good time to get our twenty-two to three foot