that he built in Little Falls was sold to a Hamm's family. It still stands in Little Falls as a landmark; it is well preserved and is located at Seventh and Broadway. In 1897, Remi moved to Crookston, Minnesota and purchased the Grand Central Hotel. Crookston at that time had two railroads.

Arthur Marotte, Remi's oldest son, married Delia Fochelleau, daughter of Felix Rocheleau and Clarice LaVigne in Little Falls. They were married in 1898. Delia's parents were born in Gentilly, Quebec, Canada. They had nine children and settled in Belle Prairie nine miles out of Little Falls, Minnesota.

Arthur and his wife lived in Crookston and he and his brothers and sisters helped their father, Remi, operate the Grand Central Hotel. This Hotel was a wooden structure and in 1900 the Marottes rebuilt a three-story brick building, the new Grand Central Hotel, at the present site of the Crookston Times.


After the Prohibition Act, Remi sold the Hotel and moved his family to Oakland, California. Arthur and his family remained in Crookston and bought the bakery on Main Street, located next to the Erickson Meat Market. He operated the bakery until his retirement in 1945. Louis Marotte was associated with his father in the bakery until Arthur's retirement.

Arthur was a member of the Elk's Lodge and U.C.T. (United Commercial Travelers). Arthur and Delia are buried in a Crookston Cemetery.

Benjamin J. McLorinan

Benjamin J. McLorinan and his wife, Mary Ann, came to Carmen in 1881, now known as the fifth ward of Crookston. They established a harness making business in the 1600 Block on Main Street. They lived here for the rest of their lives. His widow, Mary Ann McLorinan died at the age of 94 in the spring of 1954. A daughter, Mrs. Katherine Saver lived on the same property and died in 1967. Another daughter, Mrs. Bertha Woelk, now lives in the old family home. She was born October 26, 1901, in Carmen.

The first shop and home burned down on August 4, 1902, and was replaced by the present home site. A grandson, Robert E. Holmes, Jr. is with her. Her brother, Lester McLorinan, lives in Tacoma, Washington. A cousin, Ralph D. Childes, age 93, lives in Yakima. The E. D. Childes family were among the first settlers in Carmen. Mrs. Childes was a sister of Mr. McLorinan. Another sister, Mrs. Groecky also lived in Carmen. She later moved to Tacoma. Mr. E. D. Childes started in the first business in Yakima with his son, Jesse, and a daughter, Ruth.

I think I am the oldest person born here and still living on the home site.

Julia Eriksen Michelsen

They tell me that I was born during a snowstorm at 2 o'clock in the morning. My father had to hitch up and drive a mile to get Mrs. Stephanson, who was a trained "midwife". They arrived home just in time to usher me into this world. I must have resented coming, because I did such loud crying. But then I fell into a long sleep.

When I was six years old, I began going to school. My brother, Hjalmar, and I took the shortest way, which was over our newly plowed field. Other children stayed on the main road. I didn't know any English, but I was learning by listening to other children who were reciting. When I finished grade school, I went to St. Cloud Normal to prepare for teaching.

My first teaching was to finish up the spring term for a teacher in the Waite Park School. Then I went to Kensal, North Dakota, where a sister lived. I taught there for three years. My next school was at Ely, Minnesota, for three years. From there I went to St. Cloud, because I wanted to be near Minneapolis. When spring came, I left for the city on Saturday morning and put in my application with the Board of Education. I was accepted and taught there for 31 years, first at Lincoln Junior High and then at Edison High. I continued my education by attending evening and summer schools until I received my bachelor degree diploma from the University of Minnesota. I thought I was through with teaching when one day the superintendent of St. Charles phones me and asked me to come there because two of his teachers had left and there didn't seem to be any available teachers to get, I accepted. My husband was retired as well as I. We left Crookston as soon as the year was up. My sister, Lillian Thorsen, lived there. We occupied an upstairs for eight years. Mick, my husband, died of a heart attack. I stayed on there until the Teachers' Retirement Home in Minneapolis was finished when I moved into an apartment there.

Alma Wermager and Martin Arnold Melhouse

Alma Wermager and Martin Melhouse were married in the Trinity Lutheran church, April 20, 1939, by Rev. Abner S. Haugen. Alma, daughter of Oscar and Amanda Wermager, and Martin, son of Andrew and Marie Melhouse, lived in Aitken from 1939 to 1942 and worked for the late Roy F. Quaintance. They moved back to Crookston in 1942 and purchased a home at 350 Spendley, where they still reside. Their daughter Marlys was born August 5, 1942 and now is a school teacher in Oceanside, California; and Alana, now Mrs. Robert C. Roe, Junior, was born June 25, 1947, and lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. We have one grandchild, Margaret Jean Roe, three years of age.

A. A. Miller and H. L. Marsh

My mother, Annie Miller, was born on June 30, 1882, in Waukesha, Wisconsin to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Miller. When she was seven years old, the family moved to Crookston, Minnesota. The Millers also had two sons, Lucius and Harold. Grandfather and J. P. Foote established the law firm of Miller and Foote. The family home was at 242 Houston Avenue, and here my grandparents resided all of their lives. They were very active in many early organizations in Crookston. Grandmother was instrumental in the organization of Women's Club in Crookston and was a charter member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Grandfather was active in the Masons. They were diligent members of the Congregational Church and it was not surprising that when their children finished Crookston High School they were graduated from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. Grandfather died in 1926, and grandmother died in 1934.

My father, Harry L. Marsh, was born in Bridgewater, New York, September 19, 1881, to a family that was also very active in the Congregational Church in that village. He also chose Oberlin College. In those days there were various boarding houses for the students. Dad had seen Mother around the campus and found out where she boarded. After Christmas he changed boarding houses so he could be properly introduced to Annie Miller. By the end of the school year, he had given her a diamond and they were engaged to be married. He graduated from college a year before my mother and after graduation, during the summer of 1903, he came to Crookston to visit mother and the Millers. Across the street from the Millers lived J. W. Wheeler, president of the First National Bank. Apparently my father impressed him, because in early January of 1904 when there was an opening in the bank, Mr. Wheeler sent a telegram to Utica, New York, where father was employed, offering him a position. Dad started work at the First National Bank of Crookston on the 14th of January.

Mother was graduated from Oberlin in June, 1904, and they were married in June, 1906. Mother and Dad were very active in church throughout their lives in Crookston. They attended the Congregational Church until it disbanded. They joined the Methodist Church then, when Mother was a member of the Ladies Aid and was president of the organization twice. Dad