South Dakota, where he worked on a ranch until he had paid
back the fare for his transportation to this country. He then
went to Minneapolis, where he got a job hauling milk for the
Minnesota Milk Company, delivering milk from house to
house in the city. This he did for about ten years, using a team
and wagon.

In 1909 he married Amelia Kleven. She was born in 1889 in
Gudbrandsdal, Norway, and had immigrated to the U.S. with
her parents. Matt and Amelia had one son, Trygve, who was
born in 1910.

In 1917 they left Minneapolis and went to Halbright, Sas-
katchewan, to try farming; but after a few very dry years, in
which there were no crops, they decided to come back to the
United States. Then they went to Roscho!t, South Dakota. A
couple of years later some of Amelia’s relatives had come to
Fisher, Minnesota, to work; so the Odegaards moved there.
Trygve was now in the sixth grade and had gone to three dif-
ferent schools; namely in Minneapolis, Canada, and South
Dakota. His father farmed for a while in Bygland township;
then they moved to a farm north of Fisher where they contin-
ued to farm until two years after Amelia’s death. She passed
away January 7, 1947. After that Matt made his home with
Trygve and his wife and family on their farm west of Crook-
ston. Three years ago Trygve and Mildred moved to Crook-
ston and Matt still resides with them. He is now eighty-nine
years old.

TRYGVE AND MILDRED PETERSON
ODEGAARD

Mildred Odegaard was born in Roome Township north of
Eldred. Her parents were Anton and Lena Peterson. She had
five brothers: George, Clarence, Harold, Wilbur, and Albert;
and one sister, Anita, Mrs. Clarence Larson of Grand Forks,
North Dakota. Both of her parents and three of her brothers,
Wilbur, George and Clarence have passed away. The story of
her parents and family is included in the Anton Peterson fam-
ily history.

Mildred attended the Eldred school, district 281, through
the eighth grade and then went to Central High School in
Crookston. There were no school buses then to transport chil-
dren from the country, so she stayed in town during the school
week. After graduation from high school, she attended one
year at the teacher training department, getting a certificate to
teach in rural schools. This class, which was held in the Frank-
lin School, was taught by J. Alice Jennings for many years.

In September, 1932, Mildred began her teaching at district
39, which was located about one-half mile north of the Arness
farm near Fisher. Later she taught at district 285 (north of
Melvin Station) and also at the Round School, about 12 miles
south of Crookston. There were several hardships in teaching
then, such as; walking to school in bitterly cold weather and
doing your own janitor work after you got there. The schools
were heated by a large, jacket-type stove in which coal was
burned. She recalls that she would “bank-up” the coals at
night so there would be a little fire left in the morning. How-
ever, she remembers once in the 1930’s when she returned after
Christmas vacation and found the temperature in the school
room had dropped to 30º below zero.

On June 15, 1941, Trygve Odegaard and Mildred Peterson
were married at her parents home by the Rev. E. A. Schuett,
with Harold and Anita Peterson as attendants. The first year
they lived about a mile west of Fisher, and Trygve farmed with
his father. His folks lived directly across the river, so each
morning he used a little boat to cross the river to his folks place
and to come back again at night.

In April, 1942, their first son, Roger, was born. In Novem-
ber of that year they bought a farm six miles southwest of
Crookston and moved there. They were happy to have electric
lights and plumbing here, as not too many farm homes were
“modern” at that time. A few years later they added to their
farm by purchasing land just a few miles south of their place.

In 1943, their daughter, Janice, was born. Then Wayne was
born in 1946, and Lyle in 1949. The children attended the
Burnham Creek School which was just across the road from
their home. Since there was no well at the school, the pupils
had to take turns (two each week) carrying the water from
Odegaards.

Upon completing the eighth grade, Roger, Wayne, and Lyle
attended the Northwest School of Agriculture and graduated
there.

Janice continued school at Central and graduated there. She
then went to nurses training at St. Lukes Hospital in Fargo and
became a registered nurse. She married Dale Sitz of Drake,
North Dakota. He is a consulting engineer, and they live in
Butte, Montana. They have two children, Lorinda and David.
Roger joined the National Guard and after completing six
months of service in California, he came home and began
farming with his father. In 1966 he married Gail Buness of
Eldred. They have three children, Kevin, Karen, and Karl.