DR. RUSSELL SATHER

A physician for 38 years in the Crookston community, Dr. Russell O. Sather feels fortunate to have witnessed during that time "the golden years in the history of medicine." "Discovery of new drugs and implementation of new methods in the treatment of patients," he stated, "have been a boon to physicians since the late '30's."

Dr. Sather was born in Kenora, Ontario, lived on a farm in southern Minnesota for a brief period of time and was raised in Minneapolis. Four years of college at the University of Minnesota were followed by six years in the University medical school, where he received his degree in 1933. While interning at Minneapolis General Hospital, he met his future wife, Inez, who was a registered nurse at the hospital.

In 1933 he joined the CCC (Civic Conservation Corps) and became a staff physician for four years at Fort Snelling Hospital. During this time he received much of his specialized training in internal medicine.

In 1937, Dr. Sather joined Doctors M. O. and Chester Oppegaard, Mercil, Brown and Uhley on the staff of Northwestern Clinic. "Those were days," he recalled, "when infectious diseases, scarlet fever, pneumonia and TB were some of the biggest problems in this area."

Dr. Sather was also instrumental in establishing the first school of licensed practical nurses outside of the Minneapolis and St. Paul area, based at the former Bethesda Hospital. It was the forerunner of the present Agassiz Valley School of Practical nursing today. "The training of LPN's in a local nursing school," he emphasized, "is of prime importance in supplying the need for nurses within the community. I also personally feel that the Polk County Mobile Unit has been an asset to small outlying communities, in helping to assess the need for physician referral and arranging transportation for the patient to the clinics." Throughout his busy life Dr. Sather managed time for civic duties. He served on the local school board for 16 years, resigning to devote more time to his services on the State Board of Medical Examiners. He is also a member of the Minnesota State and American Medical Association, the Red River Valley Medical Association, Association of Internal Medicine and the American Association of Internal Medicine.

The Sathers have one son and one daughter. Alan Sather is a physician on the staff of the University of Oklahoma, serving as assistant instructor at the medical school in the family residency program. Karen, Mrs. Harold Hendrickson, lives in Glencoe, Minnesota and is married to an attorney. Contributing also to the Sather's happiness are four grandchildren; Julia and Kristin Sather, six and four years old, and Eric, five; and Kirsti Hendrickson four years old.

FRED AND ISABEL SCHMUNK

The compilation of Polk County history has brought back to me a renewed interest in the early days of this section of Minnesota.

I was born in Beltrami, Polk County, the daughter of Linus and Ada Johnson. My parents were married in 1901 in the Congregational Church in Crookston, which is now the Dutch Reformed Church, and they made their home in Beltrami. My father emigrated from Stockholm, Sweden in 1890 when he was eighteen years old. After farming with his brother a short while, he built a livery stable in Beltrami.

As a youngster I can remember riding a buggy with a fringe on top. My father's horses were much in demand. Many times he used to accommodate men from Minneapolis, who were making inquiries about the land in this area. He would accompany James Hill on his rounds to investigate land possibilities for the railroad.

My sister, brother, and I all attended Beltrami High School and I lived there until I moved to Crookston to attend Business College.

My grandparents, on my mother's side, were of Norwegian heritage and were born in Iowa. They met on a wagon train as they moved from Iowa to Minnesota. They were married in Moorhead and was here my mother was born. Grandfather worked as a carpenter and worked on the building of Concordia College. I remember grandmother telling stories of her experiences working as a waitress on the river boat on the Red River as it made its trip from Fargo to Grand Forks stopping at Fisher's Landing. Wish I could remember more of her stories of homesteading in the Fertile area.

In 1925, I married Fred Schmunk whose parents came from Germany and were members of the German Lutheran Church here, now called St. Paul's. Fred was in the Infantry Division in World War I and fought through the extreme hardships of the Argonne and other battles without incident. After returning from the war he worked for Great Northern Railroad and had 55 years of service. Fred died in 1967.

Crookston has been my home all my married life and I have seen many changes.

We had two daughters, Eileen Jackson, who lives in Grand Forks with her husband Richard and daughters: Kathryn and Mary Ann; and Janet Johnson living in Minneapolis with her husband John and children: Paul, Julie and Lee.

ANDREW AND CLARA SIMPSON

At the age of six in 1881, Clara Aarnes came from Oslo, Norway with her parents, Carl and Martha Aarnes, and her three-year-old brother, Oscar Conrad. She was born Decem-