1940 November 11—Terrible blizzard and cold wave.
1941 March 15, the most terrific blizzard to hit the Red River Valley of Minnesota. Some 70 lives lost.

December 7, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor involving the United States in World War II.
1954 American Crystal Sugar Company opened in Crookston.
1958 Agitation for new buildings on a new site to relieve overcrowded conditions for Winter Shows and Sales.
1959-60 Goal of $450,000 set for new buildings on a new 20 acre site purchased from University on U. S. Highways 2 and 75.
1976 January — Area Correctional Center was occupied.

The Last Arrow
By Ed Boh

Civilization was moving west at a rapid pace. The Sioux, the Chippewas, and the White Man were all struggling for supremacy in the Valley. The trouble between the Sioux and the Chippewas still smoldered. The Red River Valley was to see the final battle between these two enemies. The area we now call Polk County was not over-populated with Indians, because there was not an over-supply of food, as was found in the forests and woods of the eastern part of the County. Here deer and animals were plentiful and easy to find. The few Indians found in Polk County were Crees. The Crees were Blood Brothers of the Chippewas and were part of the Algonquin movement of long ago. They were not found in any number in Minnesota until late in the 1700's when a few had moved along the Red River as far south as the lower part of the Valley. It is believed, that these few were driven south in search of food, as a cold winter in the north had driven the deer southward into the valley, where they found food.

The Hudson Bay Company took advantage of the Crees, who were very friendly to the white man. The Crees were over-joyed with the guns and knives traded to them for their furs and pelts. To the Indian, these were great bargains, as they had little trouble finding furs and pelts in their wooded homelands. The Crees, hearing of the deals given by the Hudson Bay Company, moved back into Canada. By 1820, only a small band of Crees remained in the northern part of the state.

The early war between the Sioux and the Chippewas had driven almost all of the Sioux from this area of Minnesota. A small pocket of them remained west of Lower Red Lake and to the west. They were hidden along the Thief River. In an effort to hide their village from the eyes of the Chippewas they constructed a high wall of dirt and placed their lodges behind it. They hunted with bows and arrows, rather than with fire arms, living with the fear that the sound would attract the Chippewas.

While a treaty of peace was being negotiated between the Sioux and the Chippewas, word came from a hunting party of Crees that they had found the hiding place of the Sioux. Treaty or not, the Chippewas listened to the words of their blood brothers, and went into a war party to attack the helpless Sioux. The war party attacked the Sioux, destroying the lodges and killing all within the walls of dirt. Details of the attack were given years later by Wa-non-je-quon, a Chief of the Red Lake Chippewas. It was his father who had led the attack on the Sioux village.

The Chippewas called the Sioux hiding place Ke-moja-ke, their word for secret hiding place, or secret place. The French mis-pronounced Kemojake, as Kemed a-ke, which means stealing. As the event had taken place along the river, it became known as the stealing river, and also the Thief River. When Nicolllet made his map in 1842, he marked it as the Thief River, and it is named by this name ever since.

The Minnesota territory was first occupied by French and English, mostly trappers and traders, associated with the Hudson Bay Company. There were many of Scottish descent working for the Hudson Bay Company, and they acted as store keepers and purchasing agents for the company. Hudson Bay records show that they had trade with the Sioux and the Chippewas as early as 1770. Records also show that a Captain Gra-