bought the first car that was in Beltrami. Hugh bet Tom he could beat him to Crookston on his motorcycle. He claims he won, but I wouldn't like to corroborate that fact.

Hugh lives with his daughter Glenna, Mrs. Walter Mueller, of Crookston. The Muellers have eight children. Only two of them, Roy and Celia, are still in school here. Walter is a car mechanic for Yates. Charles married Lorraine Leguee. He is foreman for the Burlington Northern track crew. Only four of his 16 children are home now. Four of them, Kathy, Mrs. Bill Hultz; John Steffen Peters and his wife Sharron; Mike and his family; and Brian all live in Crookston. Otis and his wife, Gloria, and their three children live in Crookston. Otis drives a semi-truck and so is away from home much of the time.

NELS P. STENSHOEL

Nels Peter Stenshoel was 41 when, in 1906, with his wife Valborg and daughters: Geneva, Lilly, Gladys and Emma, he moved to Crookston as an "undertaker."

Child of an immigrant family from Eidsvoll, Norway, Nels had begun life on a farm in southeastern Minnesota's Fillmore county in 1864, while his father Lars served in the Union Army. After two years of school he joined the family's struggle for survival on the farm. At age 21 he set out to seek his livelihood, beginning with a short "business" course at the Decorah Institute, Iowa.

With modest success Nels sold lightning rods, windmills, tombstones, farm machinery, pianos, furniture, and candy. For five years he ran a confectionery in Valley City, North Dakota, where his older brother Hans had begun a long career as county sheriff. Finally, through apprenticeship in a furniture-undertaking business in southern Minnesota, he found his occupational strength.

The early years in Crookston were difficult. Building a reputation and clientele took time; meanwhile the family had to eat. Encouraged, perhaps, by his brother's elective success, Nels decided to supplement his income: he would run for coroner. Twice elected (and regularly kept busy by the institutionalized mayhem that was then East Grand Forks), he was able, in 1909, to purchase the property on South Main Street, since known as the Stenshoel Funeral Home.

The beginnings of professional success were tempered by personal sorrow: in 1909 Valborg Kirkleie Stenshoel died. Other changes would soon occur: 'Neva married the Rev. Emil Salveson in 1912. For a decade, until her marriage in 1921 to Herbert Wagstrom, Lilly became her father's "lady assistant" at the funeral home. Gladys died in 1918. In 1919, Nels married Mary Jorgenson; born in 1884 near Trondheim, Norway, as "Marit," she had grown up in Norman County and was a nurse in Crookston. A second family followed: Norton, Myles and Nadine.

As a funeral director, Stenshoel interpreted his task as a service to the community and especially to the bereaved. Having begun in the days of the horse-drawn hearse, when "undertaking" was an adjunct of the furniture business, he worked to make it a professional activity. He changed the undertaking parlor into a "funeral home."

In 1920 he introduced Crookston's first motorized funeral carriage, a gleaming silver coach with carved side panels; he invented and patented equipment for embalmers' use; he provided the city with its first ambulance. In the mid-1930's he turned over the funeral home to his daughter, Emma C. Stenshoel, who retired in 1968 after 35 years of building on the tradition of service.

But Nels P. Stenshoel is most appropriately remembered as social critic, political pamphleteer, and economic iconoclast. If his occupation was mortician, his vocation was, in his own words, "fighting for the underdog." Formally untutored in government, politics and economics, he read and argued intensively, corresponding with reformers, preachers, politicians and pacifists. Up and down Main Street he engaged every willing ear; he wrote ardent letters-to-the-editor in English and Norwegian; he was utterly committed to making America and the world a better place. Progressive, populist, free-silverite, single-taxer, Non-Partisan-League, Farmer-Laborite— he was all of these— a midwestern radical who was also a Lutheran, a business man, and a Rotarian. He opposed United

WALTER POWELL STONE

As early settlers in the Red River Valley, we wish to be included in their history. Walter Powell Stone with his father, mother, sisters: Lucia, Ida, Gertrude and brother, William, arrived in Carmen in 1879, which was supposed to be the City of the Northwest. As the population increased, more people moved across the river to Crookston.

Nathan Stone established his business of grain and machinery in 1879 and continued until 1900. At that time, his sons, William and Walter, joined him in the N. P. Stone Company, which continued in business over 75 years at 3rd and Main Street. In June 1923, Walter Stone and Alice Lee were united in marriage at Hudson, Wisconsin, at the home of her parents: Mr. and Mrs. John A. Lee, also early residents of Wisconsin.

Alice Lee had come to Crookston, December 1, 1917, to teach in the public schools. To them were born four daughters: Merle, Norma, Shirley and Margaret. They attended and graduated from Crookston High School. Following high school, they attended the University of Minnesota from which they graduated. Each girl chose her major: Merle, Mrs. Ken Miller, music; Norma, Mrs. Glenn Lewis, dietetics; Shirley, Mrs. Ernest Agar, nursing; and Margaret, Mrs. Fred Harris, physical education.

They all are active in their church and community. Seventeen grandchildren have been born to these families. All were members of the United Presbyterian church. Mr. Stone served as an alderman, president of the Chamber of Commerce and fire department volunteer for many years. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. He died suddenly of a heart attack in 1950.