T. W. Thorson, instructor in music in the public schools, band leader, civic leader and President of the Polk County Historical Society.

Conventions. He was the recipient of the 9th District Legion Award (1947), Golden Deeds Award (1952), KROX Community Award (1960) and was elected to the Hall of Fame of the Red River Valley Winter Shows. With his wife, Lillian, he and she were chosen as Pioneer Couple at the 1973 Pioneer Day Celebration. He died on September 29, 1973. Memorial gift money was used by the family to establish a "T. W. Thorson Music Award" at Crookston High School.

THEODORE W. THORSON JR.

Born July 17, 1922, at Fertile, Minnesota, the first child of Lillian and Ted Thorson. He moved to Crookston in 1929, and attended Franklin Elementary and Crookston High School, graduating in 1940. He was active in all music groups, earned letters in basketball and golf, and was Region 8 Golf champ in 1939. He attended the University of North Dakota from 1940-42. During the war he served as Marine Air Corps pilot with the rank of captain. He continued his schooling and graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1948, having served as student assistant band director to the late John E. Howard. He was married in 1948 to Margaret Anderson of Manfred, North Dakota. From 1948 to 1950, he taught music in the Perham, Minnesota, schools. While working on his master’s degree in music from 1950-51, he served as graduate assistant director of the University of Minnesota bands. From 1951 to 1955, he taught instrumental music in the Edgerton, Wisconsin, public schools. From 1956 to 1961, he was on the faculty of Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He served as director of the music division of the National High School Institute and as an instructor of music education.

In 1961, Theodore earned his Ph.D. in Music Education from Northwestern University and became Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. He held the positions of Director of Bands, Chairman of the Music Education Department and Chairman of the Graduate Committee in the School of Music. In 1964 and 1965, his band appeared over CBS television during halftime performances at the Chicago Bears' professional football games. He also directed the Decatur Municipal Band, one of the oldest professional bands in the United States.

In 1966, he took the position as Director of Bands and Director of the Summer Music Clinic at Bemidji State College. He served as chairman of the faculty senate during the 1969-70 school year. Active as guest director, he was clinician and judge in the Mid-west. He is a member of Music Educators National Conference, College Band Directors National Association, National Band Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Phi Kappa Lambda, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and Kappa Kappa Psi. He is active in the Lutheran Church and directed church choirs for twelve years.

Mr. Thorson is the father of seven children; two still living at home at 1001 Beltrami Avenue, Bemidji, Minnesota. His wife, Margaret, teaches in the Bemidji Public Schools. His children are: Ted, a music teacher; Robert, a geologist; James, Leif and Erik, college students; Thor, a ninth grader and Ingrid, a seventh grader.

ARTHUR R. THOMPSON

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Thompson moved to Crookston in July, 1945. The Consumer's Gas Co., a propane and appliance business at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, had appointed Art as District Manager for the firm's new Crookston branch. The office was first located on the corner of Robert Street and Main Avenue, later moved to 119 South Main. The company is now known as Northern Propane Gas Co., with office and storage facilities on Fairfax Avenue.

Art, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thorwald Thompson of Oslo, Minnesota, attended the local schools, and later worked at the Citizen's State Bank at Oslo. From 1927-1945 he was employed at Amundgaard's Implement and Hardware Co. of Argyle, Minnesota, previous to becoming a Crookston resident.

Geneva Nelson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Nelson of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Arthur Thompson were married in 1931. Following her graduation from the University of North Dakota, Geneva was a teacher of home economics at Alvarado, Minnesota, and Central High School, Grand Forks, North Dakota. She also taught at Argyle, Minnesota and the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston. From 1965-68, she worked as Assistant Director of Tri-Valley Opportunity Council in Crookston.

The Thompsons have two sons, Robert and Larry. Robert entered grade eight the first year the family lived in the city. After high school, he attended the University of North Dakota; where he received his Bachelor of Arts and 2nd Lieutenant's Commission of the Air Force Reserve, in 1954. Robert and Joan Jacobson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jacobson of Crookston, were married in April, 1954. Bob who is now a Lieutenant Colonel in Strategic Air Command, has served as a Navigator on squadrons assigned to many United States bases, as well as Korea and Thailand. He continued studies while in the service, earning a Master of Arts degree in Business Administration from Ball State University at Muncie, Indiana. He has served 21 years in the Air Force, and feels that it has been the right career for him.