WARREN M. WOOLERLY

Warren M. Woolery was born on a farm near Elmore, Minnesota on September, 1908, and attended school the first year in a Little Red School House located near by. In 1915, his family moved to Hazen, North Dakota, where they lived till 1917; when the family moved to Dunn Center, North Dakota. His father operated a butcher shop and dealt in livestock. He attended school, but did not finish high school because he was needed in the business. In those days bicycles were a luxury, but we were given a horse to ride, that was our transportation! I can remember the times we would pick up buffalo horns on the prairie and polish them to a shiny ebony color. If we didn’t like the one we picked up, we would look for another as they were not hard to find.

In the early 1920’s, Warren heard his first radio broadcasts and became interested. In 1926, he came to Minnesota looking for work. He found work at the telephone company as a ground man on a heavy construction crew, which was just completing the northern telephone line. He worked as a lineman; splicer; foreman from North Dakota to Nebraska to the state of Maine. In 1941 at the start of the war, he was transferred to the telephone exchange at Crookston, Minnesota.

In 1935, Warren Woolery married Beatta Fritz at Killdeer, North Dakota. Beatta Fritz’s parents were German and were trying to come to the United States. They could not come directly, but had moved to the Crimean Peninsula, U.S.S.R. where they met and were married. Beatta was born there in 1905. Later they moved to Turkey and then to England, finally to the United States. They landed at Boston. In 1915, they were the last immigrants able to come because of the start of World War I. They came to Halliday, North Dakota, where they lived in a straw barn for a year. They later moved to a homestead north of Dunn Center where Gottfried and Emma Fritz and their family farmed. Beatta attended school at the country school and worked in Dunn Center. After her marriage, she came to Minnesota to live with her husband.

Warren, being interested in electronics, had a radio license under the call of W9SFF, later WOSFF. This license was granted in 1934. He also had a commercial license as well as one with the telephone and radio in the area. He helped get KROX radio on the air, set up the first microwave radio telephone service and maintained it out of Crookston till he retired in 1973.

They have one daughter, Mrs. Dwight Thibert, “Betty,” and three grandsons who live at Red Lake Falls, Minnesota.

The City of East Grand Forks

The City of East Grand Forks had its beginning after the Civil War as a trading center and stopping-off place for teamsters who drove the Red River Valley ox carts between Winnipeeg and St. Paul. Resources, ideas and human ingenuity help explain the diversity of the community. No single development would sufficiently in itself explain the specific character of the community established by W. C. Nash in 1896.

Nash had been up and down the Valley for five years as a fur trader and government mail carrier between Abercrombie and Pembina. The community was first known as Nashville when permanent settlement took place. James Deering became the first entrepreneur when he brought in a stock of goods in 1871, and set up the first store in a tent on the banks of the Red River.

With the establishment of a post office in 1873, the name was changed to East Grand Forks. Eight years later, the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad, later renamed the Great Northern, extended its lines to the community and a building boom began.

East Grand Forks is located in one of the world’s richest agricultural areas. The Red River Valley produces an abundance of grain, sugar beets, sunflowers, soybeans and potatoes each year. The principal manufacturing enterprises are for the most part tied closely to the native economy, the processing of agricultural products. Barley was also grown extensively, a brewery was built and beer was exported over a seven-state area. Prohibition ended the enterprise.

At one time the town was well known as a lumbering center, having one of the largest sawmills in the country, producing forty million feet of lumber annually. For some years the manufacture of lumber exceeded all other local industries. The Red Lake River provided an excellent means of getting the logs from forest to mill.

When the timberlands were exhausted and the mill closed, the community turned its attention in earnest to agricultural development. Sugar beets were grown experimentally for several years. When it was established that the soil and climate were adequate for beets, the development of a processing plant became advisable. The American Crystal Sugar Company built the local plant in 1926.

About that time, the first World War, having ended, the importance of potato growing was recognized. The production has steadily increased bringing about the building of potato processing industries.

East Grand Forks prides itself on its greatest asset — its civic minded citizens. With a population of 8,397, determined