Laurie Volland

Representing the second generation of his family in Andover Township, Laurie Volland, now retired, chose to live on the farm where he was born. Ole Volland, born in Norway in 1861, came to Crookston in 1882. He worked as a farm laborer here, and also in the state of Washington. In 1892, he bought his farm of 160-acres in Section 14, Andover Township. This had been the homestead of Gust Olson and the only building there was a small log cabin. In 1893, he married Julia Anderson also a resident of Andover. They built a basement barn three years later and a house eight years later. They had four children: Andy, Stella, Laurie and Edna.

Laurie was born September 20, 1907, and has lived all his life on this farm. In June of 1938 he married Hildegard Gustafson, also a resident of Andover. Gust Gustafson, Hildegard’s father, moved his family to Minnesota from Nebraska in 1927. He purchased a farm in Section 36 in Andover Township. He was a native of Sweden and had married Amelia Nelson in Fremont, Nebraska. On one of his trips to Sweden, he and his wife brought back to America a niece, Hildagard. They adopted her as their only child. She graduated from Central High School and taught seven years in the rural school in this area.

The Gustafsons moved to Crookston because Mrs. Gustafson was a sister of Mrs. Ebbe Anderson who were also farmers in Andover. The Laurie Volland’s had four children: Loren, now living in Burbank, California where he is a machine operator at Disneyland; Larry, deceased; Carol, a mother and housewife living in Minnetonka and Wayne a student at the University of Minnesota.

The Volland’s, in their retirement, live on the building site on Burnham Creek. As a hobby, they have a large garden and sell farm produce.

History of the Angus Community

The township of Angus was organized in the year 1879 and is a part of Polk County which was organized in 1872. It was first started with the railroad stop in the year 1878. This first stop was located near what is now the former Leroy Wood farm and where the Clarence Arnolds now live. At that time it was known as South Angus.

Some of the first businesses of the community were a blacksmith shop started by John Nadvarnick in 1890 and another blacksmith shop in 1884 by John Staska. The first store was built in 1880 with G. C. Winchester as owner and it was later sold to J. F. Montgomery, but it has been closed for the past six years. The last owners were Mr. and Mrs. William Stewart who had the Post Office along with the grocery store. The first postmaster was William Lemen in 1882 and the first mail carrier was Ole Iverson.

The first church was a Presbyterian Church built in 1881 and was torn down in 1952 and a new building was erected on the same site. The first school was built in 1890 and it was later moved away and a two room building was erected in 1908. This building is now being used as a town meeting place. The first depot burned in 1904 and the present building was built on the east side of the tracks. At the present time we have no train service only for the freight cars for grain as needed for the elevators. One of the early business men of the Angus area was Jim Stroble who bought cream worked in one of the elevators and the lumberyard as well as acting as town assessor for this township. He walked many miles in taking the information needed for the county.

The first Modern Woodman Lodge was organized about 1890 and their hall was built in 1895. That hall has now been sold to Hubert Anderson who uses it for storage. No longer is there a place in the community to have gatherings such as was had in the past. There are no more Christmas programs, community clubs or other social events. The first lumber yard in Angus was started in 1888. At one time there were three oil line elevators but one burned to the ground in 1923 which was owned by the Great Western Company. The Farmers Elevator was built in 1916 and it has had additions added in the past years. The St. Anthony and Dakota was sold to the G.T.A. in 1943.
The first telephone company started in Angus by J. F. Montgomery in about 1907. At first it could only be used between the business in town and later it was extended out to the rural area. Marshall Mitchell built a hotel in Angus in 1916 and the first bank building was erected the same year and operated by Mr. George Confer and Ray West until 1928. It was a branch of the State Bank of Warren.

The Minneapolis, Manitoba Railroad Company plotted the Angus township. The land was owned by the Angus Farming Company which was owned by Cyrus B. Angus. Supposedly that is where the town got its name.

The following information was gathered by the families in 1958 and just a few facts have been changed to bring it up to date. Some of it may be repetitious and yet it was hard to make a complete story without telling it as it was sent to those who were putting the information together.

The pioneer settlers of the township of Angus consisted of five families, all homesteading in the spring of 1878. Most of them came from Wisconsin. These first families were Mr. and Mrs. William Campion and family; Mr. and Mrs. Homer Evans and family; Mr. and Mrs. Carlton and family; and Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Davis and family; and Mr. and Mrs. Dunk McClennan and family. Mr. and Mrs. Homer Evans and family homesteaded in the Angus township in 1878 and he took a soldier's tree claim of 80 acres on the same section 2½ miles south of the town of Angus. At first he lived there until 1916 when they built a new farm home one mile west of Angus and now is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kasprick and family. The Evans family retired in 1919 and moved to Los Angeles, California and their son, Everett, operated the farm. Four of the girls live at Long Beach and Santa Rosa, California and another live in Williston, North Dakota. Everett lived in Grand Forks until his death.

In the spring of 1890, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stark, Amel, Will, Arthur, Lawrence, Minnie, Ester and Walter moved into the community from Illinois, and they bought land at $40 per acre from G. N. Morkassel, Real Estate Agent. They settled on the farm which is still occupied by Mrs. Walter Stark. The Starks bought their first Model T Ford in 1915 and up until that time had only used horses for transportation.

The Oberg family moved to this area in 1910 which consisted of Mr. and Mrs. John Oberg, Walter, Forest, Lawrence, Clyde and Jennie. They came from Illinois and bought the farm known then as the Winchester farm and it is still in the family and operated today by Mr. and Mrs. Elton Oberg. They tell us Walter Oberg moved up here in a box car with four horses and the other members of the family came by coach on the train. John Oberg retired in 1916 and moved to Warren and the farm has been in the Oberg family at all times.

In 1883 Louis Osterloh came to this vicinity and worked on the Key-lemore Farm for a few years and later moved to the Osterloh farm in 1890. There were three children, Louis, Arthur and Amber. He lived on the same farm all his life and now his son Arthur makes his home there.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Osterloh moved into Angus about 1889 and purchased the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dale Parkin. They lived there until they sold the farm to the Harold Parkin’s.

John Goodwin came from River Falls, Wisconsin in about 1897. He married about two years later and there were three children in the family. He lived on that place until his death and his son George took over. At the present time, George’s son Murray and his family make their home there.

Some time before 1907, Samuel Evans of Lincoln, Illinois acquired 760 acres of farm land in Angus township and in the spring of 1908, his son-in-law, E. Johnston and his family of Redgranite, Neb., moved up here. The family consisted of Clarence, Raymond, Lloyd, Leila (Mrs. R. E. Miller), Earl, Herbert and Wilbur. They too moved up here by rail with some members of the family in the cattle car with the stock. He operated this land and in a few years purchased it and made it his permanent home. It has been in the Johnston family since that time and at present Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Johnston and family make their home there. Mr. Johnston was well known for his horses and it was his practice to go south in the winters to bring back carloads of horses which he sold at auctions in the spring. His harness race horses were entered in the county fairs of the area. The Johnston children attended school in District 59 which was built in 1891. This building is still standing but now used for grain storage.

Mr. and Mrs. George Confer came from Indiana in 1912 and lived on their farm which is now known as the Grega farm. They moved and made their home in other parts of the community, but at the present time both sons, Harry and Charles, are farming east of Angus.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Anderson homesteaded in Rosewood and moved in 1893 to the Angus area where they lived one and a-half miles north of Angus. These buildings have all been torn down. There were five children in the family, William, Carl, Lawrence, Ester and Florence.

In 1886 Frederick Stroble and his eleven year old son, Abram, came to settle at Angus. They came from Carlyle, Pennsylvania and settled south of the coulee near the Roy Woods’ corner. The Strobles stayed with a bachelor and did chores for board and room for the first winter. In the spring they settled on a homestead east of Angus. The rest of the family came later. A few years later they bought the farm west of Angus from Mr. Lemen and paid $11.00 per acre. William and Abram farmed this farm as long as they lived. Maggie, a sister, married H. D. Strickler. Jim Stroble, another brother, lived on the former Daby farm and then moved to Angus where he ran the farm. He later worked in a lumberyard and bought cream. This farm is still in the Stroble family with Merrill and his family owning it at the present time.

Another of the first residents of the town were Mr. and Mrs. John Nadvornick who came in 1890 from Tabor township. Mr. Nadvornick operated a feed mill, did woodwork and kept bees and sold honey. His location was the place just south of the old service station and now belongs to the Glass family.

In about 1894 Mrs. and Mrs. Frank Taus came to Angus from Tabor and made their home at the farm which is still occupied by a Taus, Donald Taus and his family. They had lived in Tabor for five years before moving to Angus. There were four boys and three girls in the family.

One of the first houses built in this town was built by Mr. and Mrs. Ole Iverson and it was in the place that is now owned by the Srsnky Brothers. Mr. and Mrs. Iverson moved here in 1898 and built their home in 1901. Mr. Iverson was the first mail carrier out of Angus and he started in 1906 with a horse and buggy and carried mail until 1927. He was even held up on one occasion by some Canadians and robbed of $6.00. His son, Henning, and family still make their home in Angus.

One of the first families was William and Arabelle Campion, who homesteaded in this area in May of 1883. They later sold their farm to Jess Campion in September of 1924 where the Campion family lived until 1928. The farm was then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George Maruska, then the Havely and Maruskas and now Mr. and Mrs. Gary Johnston are living there.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kobetsky came to this community in 1890 from Two Rivers, Wisconsin. They settled on a farm which is now operated by Donald Kobetsky, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kobetsky. There were four children in the family, Mr. and Mrs. Anton, Maud, Laura and Emma. They farmed the land for 35 years and then retired and moved to Thief River Falls.

H. D. Strickler came to Angus township in 1901 from Iowa to homestead the Strickler farm which is still in the Strickler family with Mr. and Mrs. William Strickler and their son, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Strickler making their home there now. Mr. Strickler married Maggie Stroble in 1906 and there were two boys and three girls in the family. He lived on this farm as did his wife until their deaths.

Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman is another of the firsts in the area and Mr. and Mrs. Julius Zimmerman came to Angus in 1906. Mr. Zimmerman had a livery stable and carried mail three times weekly on the Star Route to Noble station which was located at the Ole Gjerde farm east of Angus. He had a threshing machine and hired out for threshing every fall. There were eight boys in the family and one girl, Henry, Jack, George, Tony, Julis, Paul, William and Mrs. Walter (Clara) Miller.

Other old family names which were listed but on which information was not available were the D. H. Miller family.
Fritz Mallow family, Andrew Anderson, William Palmer, L. J. Lake, E. A. Brush family, J. F. Montgomery, W. Lemon, Mrs. and Mrs. F. Stevens family, and Mr. and Mrs. William McClellan and family.

ANGUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The First Presbyterian Church of Angus was organized in June of 1881 with eleven members. They were as follows: Arthur and Julia Brush, William and Mary Carleton, J. M. and Hannah Palmer, A. and Agnes Finlayson, John A. and Elizabeth Hand, and Mrs. Laura V. Laugbridge.

It was reorganized on July 26, 1889 with seventeen members listed in the records: William Stroble, Mrs. F. E. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. King, Mr. and Mrs. S. Hurmer, Misses H. H. and L. Palmer, O. A. Abelson, Miss Myra McLennan, Mrs. R. H. Campion, Mrs. Snelling, Miss Alive King, Mrs. William Campion, A. T. Abelson, Mrs. William McLennan and Mrs. William Rose.

The next minutes recorded state that William Stroble was ordained and installed as the first ruling elder on November 28, 1909 by the Rev. D. K. Laurie, pastor Evangelist of Adams and Tabor Presbyterian churches, and moderator of the Presbyterian. Rev. Laurie was located in Thief River Falls and traveled the area, helping organize new churches. The church was served by summer students until March 16, 1913 when the Rev. C. L. Wilcox was issued a call to this pulpit.

The church has been active since that time but at time it was served with supply pastoral care in the intervals between resident pastors.

On November 4, 1951, a merger of the congregations of the Angus and Tabor Presbyterian churches, produced a new Angus-Tabor Congregation. A new church building was built in 1952. This church was originally a member of the Adams Presbytery and at the present is a part of the Red River Presbytery which was established in 1961.


EZEKIEL AND MARY JANE JOHNSTON

Ezekiel and his twin sister were born on January 1st, 1860 to Ezekiel and Ann Johnston in Illinois. The Johnston family immigrated to the United States from Ireland. Ezekiel grew to manhood in Illinois where he met and married Mary Jane Evans, daughter of Samuel and Ann Evans, on January 13, 1887. In 1908 Mrs. Johnston's father urged them to move up to this area and live on some land he had acquired. Here they made their home and in a few years purchased the land from Mr. Evans. He had bought several sections of land, but due to the depression, a stroke and his sudden death, most of the land was lost. At the present time, a large part of this land is back in the Johnston name and being farmed by grand and great-grandsons.

Ezekiel and Mary Jane had ten children; Samuel, Clarence, Lelia, Raymond, Lloyd, Earl, Wilbur and Herbert. Two children passed away in infancy.

Herbert, my dad, attended grade school in South Angus and graduated from the Northwest School at Crookston. He married Anna Madsen on June 26, 1920. They have made their home in this community most of their lives where they were engaged in small grain farming, had a good dairy herd and kept the Johnston family love of horses. At one time, Dad had a running horse which he entered in the county fairs. My sister and I loved to train the horses as we were allowed to ride early and late each day to exercise the mare. Dad spent many hours in public service. He was on the South Angus School Board, a township officer, served as a member of the ASCA committee and a member of the Angus Co-op Elevator board. In 1975 upon his retirement after thirty-nine years of active service on this board, where he had served as chairman for many years, he was honored at their annual meeting. My folks had never had an opportunity for traveling while in the dairy business but in the past years have taken advantage of their freedom to visit both the east and west coast. They did some salmon fishing in the west, and visited many historical sites in our eastern and southern states.

My folks first rented the farm where they still make their home, until they borrowed money for the down payment and purchased the house in 1944. This house and all the livestock both has been very ill but recovered to lead very useful lives. Mother's hands are never still as she loves to make things for her family. Children, grandchildren and now even great-grandchildren are never forgotten at Christmas or on their birthdays and many times it is a gift of love made with her nimble fingers. Dad too has started a new hobby while in retirement and that is to make lead fishing weights which are very popular up at the Reservoir.

I am the oldest and I married Leroy E. Peterson on November 1, 1942. We lived for a time in California and then moved back to Angus after the war and bought a farm east of Angus. The land was all in wild hay when we started the farm in 1944 but with a lot of work and some poor equipment we finally got a fair start on a profitable farming operation. We built a set of buildings and had the first loose-housing dairy barn to be erected in this area. We had a large dairy herd, raised turkeys, chickens, pigs and raised feed. We farmed until Leroy died as a result of a fall while we were remodeling our house in July of 1956. We remained on the farm until 1970 when we decided to sell a part of the farm as the family was all in other fields of work. Our family consisted of Robert, who married Barbara Robinson. They have two children, Roberta and Michael and they make their home in Coon Rapids where Bob is a realtor and his wife is a librarian for 3M. Dean is a doctor of veterinary medicine at the Bloomington Clinic Center. He married Carol Fehr and they have a son Craig. They make their home in Apple Valley. Karen is an accountant with the Hewitt Plumbing and Contract Company in Minneapolis. Larry is an attorney with the Fech and Johnson Office in Minneapolis and his wife Judy (Scott) teaches in Anoka in the Home Economics department. I was employed as an office assistant in the Production Credit Office in Warren for six years. On October 24th, 1971, I married Morris Maruska and we make our home on his farm west of Angus.

My sister, Eleanor, was a rural school teacher, met and married Orval Wittman while teaching at the Burnside School. They make their home northeast of Warren where they farm and now Orval is employed for the summer months at the Nelson Motor Company in Warren. They have two children Kay, Mrs. Dan Finley, and they have a son Matthew. They live in Grand Forks and Dan is employed for Northwestern Air Lines. Their son, Gale, and his wife Jolene, have a son Eric. Gale is employed as parts man for the Nelson Motor Company in Warren also.

Stanley married Mary Ann Fanfulick and they make their home on the original E. Johnston farm settlement. They lived in the original house built by the Johnstons until about two years ago. They are grain farmers and had a dairy herd until recently. They have eight children; Jim who is married and he and his wife, Jan, live in Warren. Jim is employed at the Angus Co-Op Elevator. Terry is a school teacher out at Rugby, North Dakota. Sandra, Mrs. Dough Camp, and her husband and daughter Jody live in Park Rapids. Kimberly is a student at Bemidji State College; Scott, Jill and Jennifer are all attending the Warren schools.

Gene married Jean Parkin and they have taken over the family home farm and are living on the same site as my folks have their home. He has a very large and modern dairy operation which is a family project and he also is a grain farmer. Their son Gary is married to Carey Erstad and they have a son, Jason. They have purchased the former Hareydal Maruska farm and are making their home there but Gary works with the rest of the family in the dairy and farming operations. Vickie is a student at Minnesota Technical at Crookston and Diane, Todd and Jay are students at the Warren High School.

We grew up in the 1930's but never felt the depression as we always had plenty to eat and new clothes once in a great while. One of my fondest memories of home was our family enjoyment of certain radio programs on Friday and Saturday eve-
nings and then the very special practice we had of making a
gallon of ice cream with the hand freezer on Saturday after-
noons. Our special Saturday evening treat was a dish of this
homemade ice cream and mother’s famous buttermilk choco-
late cake. We made our own butter so had fresh buttermilk for
pancakes which was another of mothers specialties. We were
and still are a close knit family as we have all lived most of our
lives in this area and have had the opportunity to share in each
other’s joys and sorrows. A family tradition which still exists is
our annual Christmas eve at Grandma and Pops. My folks
have had fifty-five years together and we realize how lucky we
are to have had them to guide and lead us and how the grand-
children and great-grandchildren are a big part of their lives.

NELS AND KATHERINE MADSEN

Thomas and Freda Bang lived in Tystad, Denmark. He was a
fisherman, sold fish and delivered them and also repaired
watches and clocks. Their daughter Katherine met and mar-
rried Nels Madsen who was a soldier with the Danish army
under compulsory training. There were rumors of a war with
Germany so he decided to immigrate to the United States.
With his wife, two children and Katherine’s brother, Ole Jen-
sen, who had previously been to the U.S., they sailed to Ame-
rica in the year 1898. They arrived at Doliver, Iowa where his
sister, Mary, lived and they stayed with them until he got a job
working as a section hand. In the spring of 1902 they came to
Minnesota. Brother Ole also came and they filed for home-
steads in Grove Park Township, north of Mentor, Minnesota.
They were charter members of the Grace Lutheran Church at
Mentor and helped to build their first church at Mentor.
Grandpa was a farmer. He and his sons put up a great deal of
hay which they baled and shipped in box cars where ever there
was sale for it. Later another brother of Katherine’s, Jens, also
came over to this country. There were several Danish families
in the Mentor community. They organized their own school
and built a new school house. They raised their families and
lived on farms until they retired. My grandfather, Nels Mad-
sen, never attended a school in this country, but he was a self-
educated man as he learned to read and write by using the
textbooks his children brought home from school. He loved to
read and was very well informed and interested in local and
national politics. He had been raised under a different form of
government and he felt we should never take our democratic
government for granted.

Nels Madsen was born in Denmark in 1871 to Mads and
Anne Christiansen, but a request was made to all families with
common names to change their names so Grandpa took a part
of his father’s first name Mad and to be Danish the sen was
added. My grandfather passed away in 1957 after a lingering
illness of several years.

My mother was one of ten children born to the Madsens.
Her older brother, Peter, married Ruth Ohn and they had a
family of four daughters and one son. They still make their
home in the Mentor Community.

Rena married Gust Gustafson and he worked for the rail-
road until they moved to the Iron Range where he worked in
the iron mines. They had four sons and three daughters and
they all make their homes up in the Hibbing area.

My mother, married Herbert Johnston and they lived in
Mentor for a short time until a fire destroyed their home
and all their belongings the day after the birth of their second
daughter. There were no lives lost in the fire but all their house-
hold and personal belongings were lost. They moved to
Angus in 1928 and have made their home in this community
since that time. The rest of my folks’ family history can be
found in the Johnston biography.

Uncle Thomas and his wife Clara make their home in Web-
ster City, Iowa. They have one son, Roger.

Aunt Laura, Mrs. Jesse Halversen, lives in Fertile where her
husband was a Case Dealer until his retirement. They have one
daughter, Katherine, who lives in Libby, Montana and has two
children.

Maurice married Bessie George and they make their home
in Indianapolis, Indiana. Uncle Maurice was crippled when he
was about four years old with infantile paralysis and mother
lost another of her brothers at the same time, when this
dreaded epidemic hit that community. Maurice and his wife
worked in Washington, D.C. until they retired and built a new
home in Indianapolis. They have five children.

Viola was a rural school teacher, married Jens Harboe and
they made their home in Crookston until her death. She had
two daughters, Joanne and Christine.

Eva was a rural teacher. She married Edgar Smith. They had
one daughter, Barbara. They lived in Mentor and were
engaged in farming until they moved to Idaho. She passed
away in 1962.

Lila was a rural teacher too, and married Harold Hart. After
his discharge from the service they made their home at Becker,
Minnesota. He operated a cafe and service station. They had
three children and she died very suddenly on July 25, 1956.
The Madsen name was well known and respected in the
Mentor community.

JOHN FRAIZER MONTGOMERY

In 1919, John Fraizer Montgomery married my Aunt Laura
Hummer, and soon after that, I went to live with them and
from that time on, was known as the Montgomerys’ little girl. I
still remember the stories he used to tell about his first years in
Angus.

J. F. Montgomery came to Angus in 1883 from Christiana,
Pennsylvania at the age of 23. The town consisted of a store
building, depot, and a flat house for the storage of grain. Dur-
ing the first summer, he slept in the depot and worked for the
railroad. The arrival of a new agent in the fall cost him his job
and sleeping quarters. Because of this, he was forced to spend
one night in the grain, and often told of being awakened by a
mouse chewing on his nose. The next day, he looked for other
sleeping quarters.

Several large farms were in existence when he arrived in
Angus. Among these were the Cross, Tullar, Evans and Cam-
pion. The Andrus farm was being operated by the
McLennons.

After losing his job in the depot he worked in the grain stor-
age elevator for Mr. Lemon, and during the slack season he
helped in the store. In 1885, he purchased the store from Mr.
Winchester, who was also the postmaster, so he was appointed postmaster, a position he held until he died in 1932.

In the early 1900's, he realized the need for a telephone system, so formed the Angus-Tabor Rural Telephone Company. He made a trip to the cities to purchase equipment and to learn how to operate and maintain the lines and switchboard. I remember helping him as a small child by riding with him and looking for crossed wires, which meant a break in service. I enjoyed getting to stop at farms along the way where everyone invited us to have refreshments. Angus received all weather reports for the northern area and had to relay them to the eleven other towns. They also received the grain market reports and had to relay this information to the other elevators along the Great Northern.

He eventually added a lumber yard and a cement storage house, and sold most of the lumber for the farms in Angus. In the early twenties he almost lost everything because the farmers built large barns in the spring, intending to pay for them in the fall when they sold their crops. Their crops failed and they were unable to pay.

In 1905 he bought a Haines-Apperson Automobile which he claimed was only put in high gear once during his ownership because the pace was too fast. At that time, gas was bought at drug stores. He told of going to Crookston and filling up with five gallons of gas, and as he came down the road, travellers would unhitch their teams from the buggies and drive them into the fields until he passed.

Another story he told was of the first sweet clover grown in the garden of an old couple north of Angus, that was used solely to hang from the kitchen ceiling as a fly preventative. The old couple died but the sweet clover continued to grow, in fact, it thrived and spread. Soon the farmers of the community were crying out against the new weed that was rapidly invading their district. There was no thought at that time that the sweet clover would become one of the farmer's best friends.

J. F. Montgomery was a Thirty-second Degree Mason and a Life Member of the Shriner. He was one of a year dues that went in support of the Crippled Children's Hospital was his best investment.

### JOHN OBERG

John and Johanna Oberg arrived at Angus, Minnesota, March, 1910, having bought a Section and one half of land, including the farmstead headquarters of the then extensive Winchester Farms. They shipped their house and farm belongings by train, coming from Galva, Illinois.

The Oberg's came to America in 1882 from Ostervala, Vemland, Sweden, and settled near Bishop Hill, which is now a State Park commemorating the famous Swedish Colony, which settled there some 150 years ago. A few years later they moved to a farm near Galva, Illinois.

Friends of the Oberg's, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stark, also former Illinois farmers, had moved to a farm northwest of Angus in 1909.

Johanna Oberg's parents, Eric and Margareta Larson, who had come to America with the Oberg's, migrated with them to Angus, Minnesota and with many of the Oberg children at home — made it a rather large household.

Oldest of the Oberg children was John Emil, who was born in Sweden. He became an accountant and was employed a lifetime by a furniture firm in Seattle, Washington. Their oldest daughter, Emma, also born in Sweden, married Carl Ostrum in Illinois. They moved to Angus with the Oberg's and farmed near Angus many years. William C. Oberg and his wife, Nellie, moved to Angus a few years later. The "Bill Oberg Garage & Car Sales" was a well-known business in Angus. Jennie Oberg and Amel Stark who were married at Angus went back to farming at Galva, Illinois, and returned in 1923 to farm the former Will Stark place. Walter Oberg and his wife, the former Minnie Stark became owners of the Oberg farm when John and Johanna Oberg retired, and moved to Warren Minnesota. Several of Walt Oberg sons and daughters presently live in the Angus and Warren, Minnesota area. Lawrence was known as "Swede Oberg" in athletic circles. Forrest Oberg married Clara Sollie, a teacher at Angus, and they now live near Apache Jet.

in the Phoenix, Arizona area. Clyde Oberg, a Warren, Minnesota Postal employee, whose wife was Eva Earhart of Warren, was in long-time employment at Skokie, Illinois. A snowstorm, April 10, 1910, a few weeks after the Oberg's arrived at Angus, was something to remember. A heavy snowfall, so heavy that all machinery out in the fields during grain-seeding time was covered entirely for several days. This was a surprising welcome for Illinois people not used to such heavy snows.

My memory of younger days before World War II centers around the Angus Community baseball team. This team played other baseball teams in the areas, as Crookston, Eldred, Brantd-Helgeland, Warren, Alvarado, Euclid, and the Red Lake Falls Indians and even other teams in the Northwest Baseball Tournament.

Among the early-day players on the Angus Baseball Team were Bob Miller, team manager, Charles Sewall, Lawrence Oberg, Walter Miller, Jack Clover, Everett Evans, Harry Miller, Forrest Oberg, Dick Clover, Orin Shoop, Louis Ferrel, and Iverson. There were others who joined the team from time to time. Thinking back to our first years at Angus, I have memories of pioneer families who had built the well-organized farming community we found there. Among these pioneers, I recall are names such as Campbell, Stroble, Osterloh, Sewall, Stickler, Iverson, Dobias, Staska, Taus, McClellan, Store Manager Montgomery, Zimmerman, Clover, Evans, Nodvar and many more.

We came from Illinois to become part of the Breadbasket of the World, and found an area where farming is still the chief industry, and where people love the land they own and work!

### DON STRICKLER

In 1944, I was born in a Crookston Hospital to Jean and William Strickler. I have one older sister, Marilyn, who is now Mrs. Stan Sirek of Wahpeton, North Dakota. I have lived all my life on a farm near Euclid. I first attended school in Warren and as a freshman, I transferred to the Northwestern State School of Agriculture in Crookston. I graduated in 1962. Then I spent four years at North Dakota State University in Fargo graduating with a B.S. Degree in Animal Science. While there, I was an active member in the Alpa Gamma Rho Fraternity.

In the fall of 1965, I married Ellen Fillipi from Warren. She is the only daughter of Art and Esther Fillipi. She has three brothers, Donald, Marlin and Duane. She enjoys a local homemakers group and the St. Paul's Lutheran Ladies Aid. We have four children: Brent, 7; Kari Lynn, 5; Kristen Marie, 4; and becky Jo, 20 months.

In 1968, I entered into a family-farm corporation with my father, William. The raising of Registered Angus Cattle has been a family project for two generations, but now we have added the growing of sugar beets, small grains, corn and sunflowers.

My interests in livestock have involved me in the State and local Angus Association and the Northwestern Livestock Association. Presently I am chairman of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Euclid and serve on the Board of Directors of the Angus Co-op Elevator.
HARVEY D. STRICKLER
Harvey D. Strickler came from Eldora, Iowa, in 1901. He had bought railroad land in Section 35 of Angus Township. In January 1906, he married Maggie Stroble, who had come with her family from Pennsylvania by covered wagon in 1880 at the age of three. They were headed for North Dakota. They arrived in Angus late one afternoon and inquired for a place where they could spend the night. The storekeeper sent them to a vacant farmstead two miles west of town. They forgot about North Dakota, and there are Strobles still living on the farm today. Mr. Strickler served on the Angus Town Board for many years, and on the board of the local school district. He was also instrumental in forming the Polk County Farm Bureau.

The Stricklers had five children: Marie (Mrs. William Duden), deceased; Ester, deceased; Nellie (Mrs. Howard Masters); Bennie and William. They all attended and graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture.

Bennie and William started farming with their father in 1927. In 1932, they each bought an Angus cow with a calf at side and that was the start of their Angus herd. They farmed as Strickler Brothers until 1961 when Bennie had to retire because of his health. William married Jean Teideman in 1939.

In 1935 Bennie married Margaret Pester. She was born at Rhodes, Iowa, and went with her folks to a farm west of Manvel, North Dakota in 1916. They lived there until 1925 when they moved to Johnstown, North Dakota. She attended high school at Johnstown and a term of business college at Fargo, North Dakota. The Pester family moved to Crookston in 1929. She attended teacher’s training at Crookston and taught school for two years before her marriage. In 1935 Bennie and Margaret bought the farm located on Section 2 in Euclid Township, which was just across the road south of the Strickler Farm. They have made their home there all of their married life. One of Bennie’s remarks was that he felt sorry for people who had to move from a community and start over again in a new community, getting acquainted and making friends. He’s moved just across the road from his birthplace. Bennie has been very active in community affairs, serving on the Euclid Town Board for about thirty years; the Angus Cooperative Elevator Board for thirty-six years and on the Production Credit Board for twenty-five years. He worked many years with the Farm Bureau on the local and county level. He served three terms on the Warren School Board after serving many years on the local level before it was consolidated with the Warren district. He was very active in the Angus-Tabor Presbyterian Church, serving both as an officer and on the Building Committee. Both Bennie and Margaret spent many years working with the 4-H Programs. Margaret was active in Homemakers Club, Farm Bureau and church organizations, having served as organizer for several years and taught Sunday school many years. She is serving her fourth term on the County Extension Committee.

They have one son, Wayne Lee, who attended school in Warren. He married Charlotte Vansickle in 1968 and in 1975 their son, Bryan Wayne, was born. Wayne and Charlotte took over the operation of the farm in 1975.

Since Bennie’s retirement, the Stricklers have spent part of each winter where it is warmer. Now they spend about half of the year in Phoenix and the summers in Minnesota.

JAMES STROBLE
James Albert Stroble son of Fred and Mary Naylor Stroble was born August 15, 1870 at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. At the age of 15 he moved with his parents to Angus where he resided for the rest of his life. The Strobes homesteaded for awhile east of Angus and had a tree claim farm at the present location of the Merrill Stroble farm two miles west of Angus. Jim Stroble, as he was better known, farmed and ran a threshing rig until his marriage on February 8, 1907 to Lottie Hummer.

Lottie Hummer, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Milton Hummer was born on September 26, 1885 at McComb, Illinois. In 1900 she moved with her parents to Angus and the following year she moved to a farm northeast of Warren.

To this union eleven children were born. James Arthur of California, deceased, Lottie Mae, who died shortly after birth; Fred of Seattle, Washington; Milton of California, Harold of Thief River Falls, Helen, Mrs. Jack Van Pelt of California, Lola, Mrs. A. F. Jorgenson of California, Marjorie, Mrs. Richard Vanek of Warren, Minnesota, Olive, Mrs. L. W. Moyer of Warroad, Minnesota, Doris, Mrs. Chester Johnston of Warren, Minnesota, and Warren, who retired after 21 years in the Army, and lives at Columbus, Georgia. They have 20 grandchildren.

Jim Stroble assisted with the work at the J. F. Montgomery store after his marriage and they made their home in Angus. He managed the lumber yard for Montgomery until it was discontinued in the 1930’s. Besides this he operated a cream station at his home until a few years before his death. He served as assessing was done either at the cream station when the
farmers brought in their cream or he would walk his township as he never owned a car.

Mr. and Mrs. Stroble were avid gardeners and their flower beds were things of beauty and something they shared with every one.

Lottie Stroble died March 24, 1938 and James A. Stroble died January 23, 1945 leaving a host of friends and neighbors.

It is still very interesting to meet people of the older generation who still say, “Oh, I knew Jim Stroble, we drove our horse and buggy with cream to his station.”

History of Belgium Township

Mike Biever is the earliest mentioned resident who lived in Belgium Township. Mike Biever left Wabasha, Minnesota and came to Belgium Township in 1882. The following year John Stroot, who had come from Hanover, Germany, five years before, also made the trip to Belgium Township by covered wagon. The trip took him three weeks. He followed the directions that Mike Biever had mailed to him. These two families were instrumental in organizing the first Catholic church. In those days Mass was celebrated as early as 1866 in the Mike Biever home, now located on the Jacob Salentine farm, and the new Belgium schoolhouse. There is no early record to show the exact dates as to when the school district 179 in Belgium Township was started. But in 1886, the school district was first mentioned in the township and church records.

The first recorded birth in the township was on September 1, 1900, she was Julia Salentine, daughter of John and Maggie Salentine. She was listed as the third child of the family.

The first recorded death in the township was on September 1, 1903, she was Clara Bell Brodwell, age three years six months, daughter of Charlie and Anna Bell Brodwell.

Early day residents of Belgium Township about 1880 were: Mike Biever, John Biever, John Salentine, Jake Koechler, LaRoche family, John Stroot, E. J. Hasseltine, Peter Baker, Nick Engle, John Goergen, Paul Useldinger, Nick Weiland and their families. Space does not permit us to mention names of many other residents in the township after the 1900's.

The first record of Belgium Township was January 30, 1883, recorded by Ed Hasseltine, Clerk. The first meeting recorded on March 4, 1884, stating that the Township received $142.40 from Polk County and had paid out $125.40 which left the treasurer's balance of $17.22. This record was signed by Mike Wittinger and Peter Becker, the supervisors.

Early records of the Board indicate that the Board consisted of the following: Peter Becker, Michael Wittinger and Nick Hardey were the supervisors; E. J. Hasseltine, town clerk; J. P. Salentine, treasurer; Peter Baker, assessor and Nick Engel serving on the election board. Other early day Board members mentioned are Mike Biever, Christ Meickler and Christ Kohler.

An item in early records of the township show that the board agreed that a charge should be made of two days work, or three dollars in cash, to be paid to the township by voters for poll tax for that year.

Present day wage scale for the Town Board members and for work in the township has increased many times to keep pace with modern times. The number of farms in the township has steadily decreased in the past twenty-five years, but have increased several times in size and productivity. Much of the land in the township that early day settlers thought of as waste land is today in a high state of productivity through the use of modern day machinery and farming methods.

The present Township Board continues to meet in the original school building of District 179, today known as Belgium Township Hall. The present day Township Board includes many second and third generation ancestors of some of the first board members. Board members are: Herbert Kliner, Chairman; Gregor Weiland and Bernard Stroot, Supervisors; John Salentine, Clerk, and Francis Salentine, Treasurer.

This story and dates are compiled from the old Township and Church Records, and also the recollections of the residents. It is submitted by Mrs. Marilyn J. Weiland, wife of Henry N. Weiland.

HISTORY OF THE DOUBLE B 4-H CLUB
The Double B 4-H Club was formed in 1943 with fifteen members. The name Double B stands for Belgium and Brant, the two townships in which the members live.

Its first officers were: president, Esther Armstrong, vice-president, Harriet Brantl and secretary, Irene Brantl. Adult leaders were: Mrs. Dorn Wavra and Frank Armstrong. Meetings were held in the homes.

In 1957 with twenty-six members enrolled, it was decided to hold meetings in the Presbyterian Church in Euclid. With many of the Euclid youth joining, by 1960 the club had grown to sixty-one members. It seemed too large, so they voted to divide. The original Double B returned to east of Euclid and the Euclid youth formed a new club called the Euclid club. Double B had twenty-eight members and Euclid had thirty.