have two children: Jeffery Charles and Michelle Marie. Nancy graduated from Licensed Practical Nursing Training at Wahpeton, North Dakota February 3, 1974. She married Calvin D. Melgard, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin D. Melgard of Warren, Minnesota. Calvin, her husband, served four years in the Navy and now attends Moorhead State College majoring in Art. Nancy works as receptionist at Ramada Inn in Fargo, North Dakota. Lois returned to work in 1961. She was employed nine campaigns in Payroll at American Crystal Sugar Company of Crookston. She is now employed as full-time bookkeeper at Barlow Furniture in Crookston, Minnesota.

Brislet Township

Brislet is a “short” township of Polk County, for it does not have sections one through six or the north halves of sections seven through twelve.

The records of the township go back to July 3, 1882 at which time the main business was laying out the new roads. Eighteen landowners had petitioned for these roads. A second meeting was held on July 19 to further discuss roads. The roads of this first petition were east-west roads and include the county road which presently runs through the township.

Early records show clerks recording chattel mortgages, notes, and contracts — the first one was in 1879. People of the area borrowed from each other, from businesses, and later from the Bank of Warren. The smallest note was for $1 and a few for $10. The highest mortgage recorded in the ‘80’s was for $900; in the ‘90’s, $1,000; and in 1900, one was recorded for $5,000. James Strader was appointed meat inspector in 1889.

The minutes of the township in 1889 states, “each male inhabitant being assessed for one day’s work plus a special road tax of 5 mills. If a man could not do the day’s work, he was to pay $1.50 as an extra road tax. This tax was increased to $2 in 1906. For many years this was the method used for payment of roads and their construction.” In 1890, the minutes state that “a plow could be purchased for road work for $16 if it gives good satisfaction.” The same year the board of the township agreed to make a loan of the treasurer’s excess money at 7% interest. In 1891, the Brislet Township had a meeting to make a registered list of eligible voters. In 1894, it was difficult to find a man who would serve as treasurer. Two people refused the office, one elected the other appointed. John Nelson, the third man, finally accepted.

Three cases of smallpox broke out in the township on October 10, 1901. “It was made the duty of the chairman of the board of notify all parties exposed to infection to have their houses and articles likely to be infected or retain infection, disinfected.” N. O. Roan was hired to attend the wants of N. C. McDonald, Taylor and Van Hanson until quarantine was lifted. He was paid $2 per day for this service. After serving these cases for twelve days, he resigned and John Edgar was hired for $3 per day. The first telephone came to Brislet in 1902; also in 1902 Dr. Bratrud was appointed a member of the Board of Health for the year.

An interesting note on bridge repair from the 1903 minutes of the Board meeting of Brislet Township follows: “On motion resolved to repair bridge at A. P. Franks place in the following manner. The hole under the bridge to be filled with dirt to 12 inches below the surface, and then covered with willows bound into bundles 6 inches in diameter. Willows to be loaded down with 10 loads of stones — running in size from 6” to 10” in diameter.” Contracts to repair the bridge to be let at a later meeting of the Board.”

In 1910 a petition was signed by Swante Hanson and others for a public cartway. This cartway was to transport children to school. There were two schools in the district; one-half the term was taught in each school. This cartway was established on the quarterline in Sections 11, 14, and 23 and was two rods wide. O. A. Omdahl, who had a fence that had to be moved, was allowed $50 for damages and Frank Jadeke was allowed to leave his cottonwood trees unmoled if they were on the right-of-way. Jadeke was allowed $10. The records of 1910 mention a “Poor Fund” to be allowed to a pauper for the purpose of purchasing: one ton of soft coal, one-half ton of hard coal, one cord of wood and 200 pounds of flour — all for $21.65!

By 1913 the town line was divided so Brislet would take care of the east three miles of roads; and Angus the west three miles. Most of the board meetings were held at the home of the town clerk. For the next forty-four years the records are missing, but by 1955 the gopher hounds had increased from 10¢ to 15¢ and in 1956 to 25¢.

In 1958, the township signed and paid for fire protection from the Warren Fire Department. The floods struck the area in 1966 and after the waters receded, fourteen culverts need to be filled in. The impassable roads were blocked off and warning flags were set up where needed. Applications were made to the government for disaster relief for repairing roads. When the gas pipelines were installed through Brislet in 1965, more problems arose as the frost made it necessary to widen the trench for the pipelines, also there were culverts that were damaged.

The present Board members are: Henry Harlowe, Clerk; Bennie Rood, H. Willis Jadeke, and Gordon Torgerson, Supervisors.

GEORGE ANDRESEN

George Andreensen was born in Arendal, Norway to the Georg Andreensen’s in 1871 and came to McCrea Township, Minnesota with them in 1883. He later homesteaded in Brislet Township, Polk County. In 1898, he married Ida Louise Sorenson of Rosewood, Minnesota. Their first home had two rooms, one up and one down. A kitchen lean-to was added within a year or two and a large addition was made in 1911. Water was hauled in barrels from coulees or rivers until a well was dug. This home was also used by the Harold Andreensen’s after their marriage in 1945.

One of the first projects was the planting and cultivating of trees around the house. Part of this grove was destroyed by a tornado which swept through the area in 1973. It struck at 4:00 a.m. and everyone awoke at the same time and ran into the basement. There were branches all over the yard and even on top of the house, uprooted trees in the middle of the grove and the TV antenna was down. The Dallas Ways, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Malnar and myself were home at the time.

The older children had to go about three miles to school. There were two schools in the district and they attended one-half the term at each school. Once Art got so cold coming home during a snowstorm he wanted to lay down in a straw-tack, but Clarice insisted they keep going.

The George Andreensen’s had seven children, four are now dead. Mrs. Wm. (Clarice) Cleveland who spends summers at Mendota, Minnesota near Two Lakes and the winters at McAllen, Texas. Arthur Andreensen married Mrs. Evelyn Bigelow and they lived in the Grand Rapids, Minnesota area until his death in 1968 at age 67. Mrs. Clayton (Alvilde) Cleveland lived in Warren, Minnesota and Illinois until Clayton passed away in 1962. She is now married to Lloyd S. Olson and they do a lot of traveling. He was from Illmo, Missouri. George Lawrence was single and he helped with the farm work. He died at age 32 from abscessed tooth complications. Pearl married Willie Larson. She died at age 22 when their daughter Eileen was only three years old. Harold married Mable Dim men and they farmed until his death in 1970 at age 53. Myrtle married Edward Malnar of Joliet, Illinois, and they still live in Illinois as do their four children.

George was active in community affairs. He served on the school board for thirty years and was clerk of the Township

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Board for over forty years. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary two years before his death in 1950. His wife died in 1962.

**HAROLD ANDRESEN**

Harold AndreSEN was born in Brislet Township in Polk County in 1916, and lived most of his life on his parents’ farm except one summer he helped out at a chicken ranch in California; and the three and one half years he spent in the field artillery of the army. He served in Camp Claiborne, Louisiana; Northern Ireland: North Africa and Italy. He was discharged in 1944.

In 1945 he married Mable Dimmen of Thief River Falls, Minnesota. She had taught in Pennington County rural schools for eight years and worked at International Harvester, St. Paul for two years.

The Harold AndreSens lived with his parents and operated the family farm until the parents’ deaths. George died in 1950 and his wife in 1962. Harold continued on this farm and engaged in dairy and grain farming. He also acquired another 160 acres in Marshall County. They had four children. Joyce, Mrs. Dallas Way, graduated from Warren High School and Bemidji State College. She taught music in the schools in Brainerd, Minnesota, for two years before her marriage in 1970. Joyce’s father passed away about three and a half months before her marriage so the event was not as happy as it might have been. The Ways now have two girls, Melissa nearly four and Angela nearly two. They live at Bemidji, Minnesota, where he teaches at Junior High.

Robert attended North Dakota State University in Fargo and graduated as a pharmacist. He is now working at New Albany, Illinois. He interned at Thief River Falls and Crookston, Minnesota, and Anderson, Indiana. Harvey went to University of Minnesota and graduated as a chemical engineer. He now works for Union Carbide at Charleston, West Virginia. He was married in 1974 to Susan Schmitz of New Prague, Minnesota. LeRoy was one of two chosen to go to the National Youth Science Camp in West Virginia in 1973. He is now in his third year at North Dakota State University, Fargo. He is majoring in pharmacy.

All the children were active in extra activities in school. Harold was a member of the Town Board for several years and was active with farm work until the day he died from a heart attack February 28, 1970. Joyce Way rents out the land, but still live in the same house where Harold’s father brought his bride in 1898.

Two other children remained in Illinois. Isaac who is now married and lives in Orland Park, Illinois; and Elizetta who is also married and lives on a farm near Joliet, Illinois.

Mary passed away in 1960 at Marley, Illinois; Isaac passed away about 1964 and Clayton passed away in 1962.

Adelbert and Katherine Cleveland farmed for several years, then went back to Illinois where they both passed away. Clayton and wife Alvilde took over farming, but later they, too, went back to Illinois. After they left, William and his wife, Clarice, took over the farm. They farmed it together with other land until they sold it in 1972. Mary and Jesse Marshall farmed for a few years near Warren, Minnesota in Marshall County, before going back to Illinois. Their daughter, Elizetta, is still living and is in a nursing home in Joliet, Illinois. William and his wife are now living in Wadena County, Minnesota.

**PETER HAPKA**

Peter Hapka, son of Adolph and Mary Hapka was born May 1, 1953, at the Karlstad Hospital. He grew up on a farm northwest of Warren and attended school in Warren. After graduating in 1971, he furthered his education at N.D.S.U. in Fargo, North Dakota. After one year he decided to return to the Warren area to farm with his father.

Sandra Arnold, daughter of Kelly and Barb Arnold of Angus was born January 17, 1954, at St. Francis Hospital of Crookston. She grew up in Angus and attended the grade school there until it closed in 1964. She finished her grade school years and took her senior high years at Mount St. Benedict Crookston. After graduating in 1972, she attended Agassiz Valley School of Practical Nursing in Crookston. On December 29, 1972, Pete and Sandy were married at St. Mary’s Catholic Church of Euclid. Farm life was what they wanted; so in spring of 1973, they bought L. D. Daby’s quarter section and Ray Edgar’s adjoining quarter section. They raise small grains and potatoes. They live on the Edgar farmsite. They have planted 2,000 trees around the yard in the past three years. They have two sons: Mike Patrick, age 2 and David Jon, 7 months. The two boys occupy much of Sandy’s time, but she also enjoys gardening and sewing. During the winter months, Pete and Sandy bowl, their favorite pastime however is fishing on Lake of the Woods any time of the year!

**EDWARD JADEKE**

My grandfather, Frank Jadeke Sr., came to Winona, Minnesota, from Hamburg, Germany, at the age of 27. After his arrival, he spent his time working for different farmers. In 1887 Frank Sr., married Wilhelmina Peiper of Winona. She came to Winona at the age of 19 from Pommen, Germany. They moved to Marshall county and settled in Comstock township until 1904 when lightning struck their home and burnt it. They lost most of their belongings. They traded their land in Marshall county for land in Polk county, Brislet township where they lived with their family of five children: Frank Jr., Bertha, Herman, Clara, and Emil. Frank Sr. passed away in 1910. The farming was left up to the boys. In 1915 their mother married Frank Schulz and moved back to Comstock township where they made their home until 1918. After this time, they built a home in Brislet township close to her sons Herman and Frank Jr. Mr. Schulz passed away in 1936 and Mrs. Schulz remained in her home until her death in 1943.

In 1918, my father, Herman Jadeke married Rose Schulz, a daughter of Frank and Othilia Schulz. They lived in Comstock township, Marshall county, until the fall of 1919. After that time they moved back to Brislet township, Polk county, where they made their home. My mother was born in Pratt, Minnesota. She moved with her parents to Marshall county at the age of two. As the years went by, the Jadekes built a new home in 1927 and a new barn in 1928. Every summer for about six years, barn dances were held in the new barn. Herman Jadeke raised grain crops and Registered Angus Cattle. They had six children: Evelyn, Martha, Edward H., Willis, Warren and Clarence. Edward went to the country school through the eighth grade. This school later consolidated with the Warren Schools. I graduated from the Warren High School. I was also a member of McCrea 4-H. My parents retired from farming in 1988.

![Harold and Mable AndreSEN](image)

**ADELBERT CLEVELAND**

Adelbert and Katherine Cleveland of Lemont, Illinois and three children immigrated to northern Minnesota in the spring of 1911 and settled on a 160-acre farm of Section 8, southeast quarter of Brislet Township, Polk County. They brought with them six horses, a cow, furniture and other household goods. The children were William, Clayton, and Mary and her husband, Jesse Marshall.
Frank Jadeke Sr., came to Winona as a young man from Germany, on arrival he worked on farms for a few years. From Winona he came to Marshall County where he homesteaded land in Comstock Township. He married Wilhmina Pieper of Winona who came from Stettin, Germany. They lived in Marshall County until 1904. The summer of 1904, their home was struck by lightning and burned. They lost nearly all of their belongings.

After this, they traded their land in Marshall County for land in Brislet Township, Polk County, where Mr. and Mrs. Jadeke and children; Frank, Bertha, Herman, Clara, and Emil lived in a shanty until 1908. They later built a new home.

In 1910, Frank Jadeke Sr., passed away leaving the boys to take over the farming. In 1915, Mrs. Jadeke married Frank Schulz of Marshall County and they lived in Marshall County. In 1918, they built a small home near the home of her children. They lived there until the passing of Mr. Schulz in 1936 and Mrs. Schulz in 1943. Bertha, the oldest daughter, married Abe Gehrke of Marshall County. In 1918, they moved to Turlock, California. Clara, the younger daughter, married Patrick Taylor of Bovey, Minnesota. In 1918, Herman married Rose Schulz of Marshall County and in 1921 Emil left to work in the iron mines in eastern Minnesota. In 1921, Frank Jadeke married Agnes Kateley of Ceylon, Minnesota. They lived on the farm until his death in 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Jadeke have one daughter, Mrs. Luella Potter of Rosemead, California, with whom the Jadekes spent part of the last few winters. Mrs. Jadeke still lives on the farm and spends the coldest part of the winters with her daughter in California.

By the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schluz.

Arthur known as Art, was born June 3, 1891 near Melvin, Minnesota in Onstad Township, Polk County. His middle name was given him in honor of President Grover Cleveland. He came with his parents, Johan and Regine Olson, at the age of three weeks to Brislet Township. He attended school up to the Sixth grade in Helgeland Township. Art and Elma Eleanor Johnson were married April 17, 1927, by Reverend Halvorson at the Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Elma was born July 3, 1903, the daughter of Oscar and Emma Johnson of Farley Township. (See Oscar and Emma Johnson in Farley Township.) Elma graduated from Warren Teacher's Training in 1922. She taught school in Tabor (1922-1923); Giese School near East Grand Forks (1923-25); and Four Corners School in Helgeland Township District #279 (1926-27).

Art farmed the homestead of his father. This land is still in the ownership of his family. Art died in the Warren Hospital November 28, 1946, at the age of 55. His death was due to stomach cancer. He is buried near his son, Dale, in the Melo Lutheran Church Cemetery.

After her husband's death, Elma rented out the farm. About 1949, she moved to St. Paul with her son and daughter. She worked for many years at the Minnesota Highway Department near the Capitol and lived in Bloomington, Minnesota. Art and Elma Olson had three children: Dale Tiedam or, who was born July 26, 1928, but died in infancy on August 16, 1928; Gerald married Marilyn Richardson. Gerald is a barber and in real estate business in Forest Lake, Minnesota. They have two children, Pan and Steve; Arlene married Robert Jacobson who works for Northwest Bell Telephone Company and resides in Bloomington. They have three children: Susan, Sandra and Gary.

Elma remembers that in their home in Brislet they always had lots of company on Sundays. There were usually thirty-six for supper. They always had someone living with them. Some of these were: Art Olson before he was married; Knute Knutsen: August and Jimmy Kramer; Lena and Katherine Johnson and Grandma Olson who lived with them until Elma moved off the farm. Every Sunday evening, the family and neighbors would get together for parlor games, bingo, Skip to My Lou, checkers, making posters and puzzles. This was tradition in her family.

Johan Markus Tindemand Olson

Johan M. Olson married Regine Elizabeth Morits in Meloy, Norway in a double wedding with his sister Jakobia and Elling Olson in June, 1886. Two weeks later both couples together with a group of fourteen others left for America. Regina paid her own fare of $70 from an inheritance. She became so sick on ship that the group considered leaving her in England. From Chicago they took a train to Crookston and the Alderman Hotel, where they rested and bathed. Johan's brother came for them with an oxen team to take them to Onstad Township to stay with friends. Regina thought she was being taken to the barn instead of the house, for it was a sod house!

In 1891 Johan Olsons and Elling Olsons came up to their homesteads in Helgeland and Brislet Township. They made their trip in two days in a wagon pulled by oxen. They were fortunate to have had good weather as they had no covering for their belongings in the wagon. First they lived in a tiny shack but in 1912 the family purchased an elevator nearby. They used this lumber to build a big house and a barn. Johan did farm labor work for farms near Warren and some for himself. He had a wooden plow and some haying equipment. Buying groceries meant walking to Angus or Warren. They started out early in the morning and got home late at night, carrying the groceries home on their back. Regina would walk to Church and Ladies Aid as far as seven miles one way. She carried a child on her back, knitting and crocheting in her hands, singing all the way. She preferred to walk rather than drive a horse after a bad experience she had with the horses. It was a custom to take “Barsing Sup” (fruit soup) to a mother who had just given birth to a child. Regina had made a batch of soup and she put it in the buggy. When she started the horses, they went around in circles and ended up in a haystack, tipping buggy, soup and Regina all together! She, undaunted, made a new batch of soup, washed her dress and the next day, she walked straight across the prairie with her gift.

Regine loved to sing, and music was a great entertainment in their family. She had great Faith in Jesus and tried to teach the Lord's Prayer and the Twenty-Third Psalm in Norwegian to her grandchildren.

Recollections of their daughter, Gene include: Johan enjoyed the feeling of “being important” and at times was a braggart, but could be conned into deals, such as the day he came home with a stack of bolts of cloth someone had talked...
him into buying. Regina was upset but the girls got some new dresses with the help of one of the older girls.

Threshing was a big affair, with three tables filled with hungry men, starting with breakfast! Anyone who wasn’t a Scandinavian was considered a “foreigner”. The Olsons were the first to build a new house. Gene recalls plenty of food with the meat stored in the granary, deep in the oats’ bin to keep it cool. Eggs were kept in brine during slack seasons and always there was a big garden. There was much teasing of the oldest girl during her “courting” days and the remembrance of crates of oranges the groom brought for everyone on the wedding day. It was a beautiful outdoor wedding! One of the bride’s attendants became quite upset when a puppy chewed up her fancy brown shoes.

John and Regina had nine children: Hannah, a teacher in Helgeland Township and an excellent tailoress; Otto, a well driller whose wells are still in use on many farms in the township; Arthur, who farmed the homestead until his death. The farm is still in his family: Alma; nurse; Inga, a teacher in Helgeland Township; Gina, a teacher in Helgeland Township. She and her husband and niece visited her parents’ homeland in Meloy, Norway in 1973; Martin, a barber; Leonard, a tailor; and Melville and Evelyn who both died in infancy.

BENNE ROOD

Bennie Rood was born in Emmet County, Iowa in 1902 to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rood. His parents died a week apart from pneumonia in 1911. He then went to live with an aunt and uncle in Argyle, Wisconsin until 1927. In 1927, he and his brother Lewis moved back to his parents’ farm which they had bought. They farmed this land until 1936. In 1937, Bennie moved to Brislet Township in Polk County, Minnesota. He had a team of horses and two hundred head of sheep when he came to his undeveloped farm in Brislet. He had some machinery, and with this he worked up the farm, he also built the buildings that are still there.

He met and married Dorothy Halso in 1940. They continued on the farm. He later went into more dairy and grain farming, he also raised a few beef cattle.

They have one daughter who attended the Warren high school and is now married and lives in San Bernardino, California. They have one grandson, Michael.

Bennie was active in Community affairs. He was a Brislet Township supervisor and chairman of the Town Board for many years. He and his wife are both retired now and still live in Brislet Township.

# Bygland Township History

Bygland Township Polk County No. 150 Range 49 West. Population: 356. Bygland Township consists of 25 full sections and 7 part sections of land because the Red River runs on the west side of the township. According to the early pioneers, Bygland Township may have been formed in 1877. No definite date can be established. The first birth recorded in the township is a boy girl born to Mr. and Mrs. Tarald Gunderson on January 13, 1880. Township records also show that state, township and general elections were held at school houses or homes within the township. Most town board meetings were held at the clerk’s home or at the S. K. Flaats Store. The township purchased the present town hall, which was an old church, from the Bygland Lutheran Congregation for $350. It was moved across the road to the south on a site leased from Arne Flaats, Section 10.

The first record of an annual town meeting was March 10, 1890. The officers of the township were: Supervisors: Anton Lindem, Sven Sveningson, Feder Grunderson; Town Clerk, Halvor Grunderson; Treasurer, Jacob Jorgenson; Assessor, August Jorgenson, Justice of Peace, A. C. Asseltin and Tom Benson; Constables, Edward Monson and Fred Wurden.

ROADS: The Minnesota State Highway 220 is a paved concrete road which runs the length of the township from north to south. It divides the township in half from east to west. Bygland has approximately 23 miles of Polk County roads with state and federal aid. There are approximately 22 miles of improved gravel township roads to maintain. The Town Board of Supervisors hire contractors with modern equipment to maintain these roads. All roads must be kept in good condition for the school buses. School District 595 of East Grand Forks, Minnesota picks up most of the school children. However, in the east side of the township, School District 600 from Fisher, Minnesota serves that part of the township. All the township has mail service from East Grand Forks, Minnesota, R.R. 1 and Fisher, Minnesota, R.R. 1A. Both areas are served by the same mail carrier.

DITCH DRAINAGE: There are approximately 12 miles of County ditches. There are several miles of ditching done by the farmers on their own land. There are several coulees within the township, some of which empty into the Red Lake River on the east of the township. There are others that empty into the Red Lake River on the west side of the township.

FLOOD CONTROL: The Township had a problem with flood waters from the Red River backing up into the coulees. During the spring flood of 1969, the whole community helped to sand bag. This prevented serious damage to coulee crossings. When the flood waters receded, the Town Board hired a contractor to build the old dikes higher and build a new dike in Section 33 at the south end of the township. In 1970, the Township erected a huge dike on the coulee crossing between Section 8 and 17 near the Arnold Moe farm. To keep flood waters from backing up into the coulees, there is a 36-inch culvert with a trap door on the north side of the dike for drainage.

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION: In 1961, Bygland, Huntsville, Rhinehart, Grand Forks, Sullivan and Keystone Townships formed a Rural Fire Department. They purchased a fire truck and signed a contract with the East Grand Forks Fire Department to furnish Rural Fire Protection. Since that time, another truck for additional protection and a 3,000-gallon tank has been purchased. This equipment is housed in the East Grand Forks Fire Department.

LIGHT AND POWER: The entire township receives its power from the R.E.A. of Halstad, Minnesota. The east side of the township has had R.E.A. power since 1940; but because of World War II, those living in the west of the township had to wait until February, 1947 for electric power.

TELEPHONE SERVICE: The R.T.A. Phone Company of Halstad, Minnesota, serves most of the township with buried-line private phones. However, the Northwestern Bell of Grand Forks, North Dakota, serves the western corner of the township with the same type of service. The R.E.A. of Halstad, Minnesota, also have a high tower and exchange building to serve the Mobile Phone Customers in a large area. This tower is located near the old Bygland Store, Section 16. At the annual town meeting March 11, 1975, the voters approved authorization to the Town Board Supervisors to adopt a Bygland Township Zoning Ordinance and to adopt the Polk County Zoning Ordinance.

The present Bygland Township Officers are: Supervisors Oscar Bestland, with twenty-four years of service; Manvel Krostue, with twenty-two years of service; and Chairman Ernest Engleland with eleven years of service; Town Clerk, Ansel Bridgeford with thirty-three years of service; Treasurer Helmer Rystad with twelve years of service; and Constables, Ray Bestland and Ray Anderson.

# BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Bygland Lutheran Church, located nine miles west of Fisher, was organized on November 8, 1874 by a small group of Norwegians who had immigrated to the area two years prior to that date. Most of them had come from a parish called Bygland in Norway, so they chose that name for their new congregation. The charter members were Halvor and Osmund Thar-