him into buying. Regine 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 Olson's 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 born to last for years. 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. Flaat 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 Flaat, Section 10.

The first record of an annual town meeting was March 10, 1890. The officers of the township were: Supervisors: Anton Lindem, Sven Sveninson, 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. No specific dike for the Big Garden and Big Garden Annex.

BENNETT 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.

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. from 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 Engleman with eleven years of service; Town Clerk, Ansel Bridgeford with twenty-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-
Byland Lutheran Church built in 1961.

aldson, Knut Sorensen, Ashjorn Olson and Torkel Bjornson. The first church, 16' x 24' in size, was built in 1876 from logs hauled to the site on a wagon pulled by oxen. The Ladies Aid was organized the next year and by 1882 church membership had increased to 237. It is interesting to note that records of 1879 show the pastor's salary as $82.50 in cash for one year, plus one bushel of wheat and one of oats from the farmers who raised those grains, and a load of wood from the families who had enough to furnish that amount.

The log church soon proved to be inadequate and a new church was erected in 1887 at a total cost of $1,450. This building still stands and serves Byland township as a town hall. The congregation again voted to build a new church; the contract was let to the lowest bidder for $8,345 and early in 1917 this edifice was ready for use. In 1921 the membership reached 400, the largest number in Byland Lutheran's history.

Improvements were made on the church from time to time, and a Sunday school wing was added in 1958. The congregation was deeply saddened when in March of the next year a fire of unknown origin destroyed the sanctuary. A brisk north wind helped firefighters to save the new annex.

A new building program was soon under way, and in 1961 the new church was dedicated. Still another building project, a joint effort with Fisher Lutheran, our sister congregation, was a reality in 1964 when the new parsonage was dedicated.

In 1974 the Byland Lutheran Church marked its Centennial year. It was a happy and exciting time for both present and former members and a number of special events took place as a part of the year-long celebration. A Reunion Picnic held on June 30th began with an early worship service in the Norwegian language conducted by former pastor, Carl J. Field; the second service featured music by a "Reunion Choir" directed by Alfred Lindem. The Centennial Festival Sunday was November 10 and former pastor Clayton C. Engan preached at the worship service with special music again by the Reunion Choir. The afternoon audience heard music by the Concordia College Choir, addresses by Cecil Johnson, President of Northern Minnesota District, and Joseph Knutson, President of Concordia College. A special feature was the burning of the mortgage.

The Church Women were active in many ways during the Centennial Year. A group enacting a typical old-fashioned Ladies Aid and using the Norwegian language presented the program at a special meeting, titled "Kvindeforening." Some, skilled at painting, fashioned 500 wooden medallions done with "Rosmailing" that were given as souvenirs of the 100th year.

"Laborers together with God," a quote from Scriptures, was the theme for the Centennial Year. It was felt to express esteem for the pioneer founders of Byland Lutheran Church and a hope for its present and future stewards of a great heritage.

EARLY MEMORIES OF BYGLAND
These are some of the random memories of the early days in Byland:

Wolves howling at night:
Men carrying lanterns when they ventured out after dark.
Hunters bringing wolf paws to Township Treasurer to collect "bounty."

The sound of the steamboat's whistle on the Red River:
Crossing the Red by ferry in summer and on the ice in winter to visit relatives in North Dakota.

Walking to school in winter and to Norwegian parochial school in summer:
Walking to the neighbors with my parents on a cold wintry night Enjoying the moonlight and crunching snow underfoot.

Listening to the Byland Band practicing in The Hall as I fell asleep.
Other memories of the Hall: A traveling company that showed "Magic Lantern Slides" every evening for one week.
Another company that had roller skates for rent one week and the sound of the skaters could be heard a mile away.

Being allowed to attend special meetings of "The Twentieth Century Climbers."

Playing Drop the Handkerchief, Run, Sheep, Run and Last Couple Out at noon and recess in the country school.

— Mrs. F. W. Wickiser

EARLY DAYS IN BYGLAND TOWNSHIP
When asked my name, when I was a little girl, I said, "Geneva, but I am Susy to Onkel." Susanne was my Grandmother's name. On one sea-going voyage when Onkel Nils landed in New York, he came to visit us — far west then. He liked the country and contemplated bringing his family to America. Sailors were away from home so long, even as long as three years at one time. Onkel was such a wonderful guest — told Mother to go with Father on trips for the day. He would bake her bread (already started) and take care of the children. We listened to his stories; he played checkers with us and built us a huge platform swing (holding 6 to 8).

He was by profession a skids tommersand-ship builder, and our county, Polk, soon acquired him for many projects such as building bridges, etc. The Red River was navigable for ships; therefore no bridges from Minnesota to North Dakota between Grand Forks and Fargo, where there were swing bridges for vessels to pass through. About 15 or 18 miles south of Grand Forks, Uncle erected cables, and built a ferry which took passengers from shore to shore. He lived on the Minnesota side and signals from the Dakota side of the river gave Uncle the call to "ferry over" and get them.

Uncle Severin (by name only) had built a little post office called Vig, and also sold confections and fruit. Uncle Nils had built a nice dwelling on top of a high bank overlooking the ferry and river with a good view of the bank on the North Dakota side.

It was a busy time for all. Tante Maia had a growing family (five or six born in Norway, but am quite sure Alfred, and I know August, were born at Vig) — five boys and three girls in all. They were a musical family, everyone playing the violin and organ. They also had a folding organ which they could carry in the buggy when they were playing elsewhere. How we enjoyed going to Uncle's place; but we were quite a band, too, so Mother thought it best to arrange us in groups.

I remember once I got up early when a trip was planned and I sewed, replaced buttons on my shoes (hit top with so many buttons), thinking if I were thus prepared, I would stand a better chance of going along. Uncle, with some of his children, would often come to our place for dinner on Sunday after church (near us), but as always someone dependable must take care of the ferry. The two oldest sons, Halvor and Thomas, were quite capable of taking care of the ferry, but Uncle felt so responsible.

When we were sick in August, 1889, of diphtheria, Uncle was not afraid to help, indoors and out. Aaron died one evening and the orders of the state were very strict. Uncle made the coffin, painted it black, lined it, and Mother made the shroud. The next afternoon a little service was held in our yard, with burial in the church cemetery. Dr. Lancaster's wife cut all the red geraniums she had in the house, and sent them out for the service. Aaron's school teacher came, but I still remember her holding her handkerchief over her nose, fearing
contamination. No one else we knew of had diphtheria, either before or after our case. Camilla and I were sick first and when recovered were left with infected tonsils (later removed), but Aaron and Byron had great difficulty breathing, but the Doctor said Aaron had a weaker heart. Fumigation followed and we could again associate with others, but how our Mother mourned for her first-born son — the sorrow never left her. She often said, "How well my little boy is taken care of in heaven. I know, but it leaves an empty chair" . . . Aaron was nine, a slender lad, so obedient. Alice was twelve, I was seven and Byron, six; Camilla was four, Marcus, two and Minuel was a baby.

"A CHRISTMAS IN THE NINETIES"

It was the year that snow came early in the fall. The wheat harvest in the Red River Valley of Minnesota had been heavy. All the grain was cut and the bundles piled in conical stacks ready for threshing.

Threshing machines were large, expensive and few in number, so each farmer waited his turn when the machine moved into the neighborhood. We had made preparations to house and feed the twenty-man crew. The summer kitchen had been cleared and straw and bedding had been placed on the floor for sleeping quarters. A hog and a beef had been butchered and stored in a deep well.

Just as the threshers were finishing in the south valley and preparing to come north to us, a heavy snow fell, followed by cold weather. This retarded threshing operations and as the cold weather continued, the crew became discouraged and left for their homes. Then the boss decided to cease all threshing for that winter.

Father and mother held serious conversations with the children listening in — Where would they get the money to pay the year's grocery bill? (It was paid only once a year when the grain was sold.) Our family of eight should have shoes and overcoats. The taxes were paid for another year — also the interest on the farm mortgage, but Dr. Lancaster, the kindly gentleman who was so sympathetic when little brother died and who made so many trips with his one horse and topless buggy — he must be paid. Then there was our church pledge to be met.

Early one day father went to the little village of Fisher where he stopped first at Sam Torrison's, the grocer. Sam knew the situation and said that father, "your grocery bill can run until spring when you get threshed. Anything you need in the store is yours for the asking. Here is a new passbook" (an account book listing groceries purchased each time). Father next called upon Mr. Kingsland, the banker. Yes, Father could borrow money at ten percent interest. When he came to the doctor's office, father found the bill reduced to half.

Grandmother at Mantowoce sent us a box of coats and dresses to be made over. Mother always planned so each of us had a new "outfit" for Christmas. She, being a milliner by trade, fashioned bonnets for us and I know we were prouder of them than of any expensive hats worn since.

In those days all of the religious instruction and much of the common school education was given by the parents in the home, for the district school offered but four months a year. That fall, as usual, we rehearsed the Christmas songs and poems as we performed our household duties. Mother repeatedly said she couldn't sing, not even lullabies for the babies, but, nevertheless, we found when we grew up that we had the right melodies for the Norwegian carol, "Jag er saa glad her Jule Kveld" (I am so glad each Christmas Eve), and "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" and "Darling Nellie Gray."

After the lamps were filled and cleaned and the lantern ready to take to the stable for the evening chores, we would sit awhile in the dusk and make plans. We knew there couldn't be a tree or gifts this year, but mother suggested that if we agreed not to eat butter until Christmas, she could sell enough to buy nuts, candy, popcorn and maybe oranges. We entered into the agreement wholeheartedly.

When the woodboxes had been filled and supper was over, we gathered in the "front room" or parlor — such a little room with wall to wall carpeting, and a "Welcome" sampler over the door. A hanging lamp with a white shade hung over the oval mahogany table and in some way we all managed to sew, read or write by the light of this one lamp. Father carved and polished a pair of wooden shoes which were to be filled with oats and placed on the hearth for Santa Claus' reindeer on Christmas Eve. Nearly sixty years have passed but it still seems I can hear the ending of Father's evening prayers, "Heavenly Father, we pray Thee to take care of our sailors out at sea." He knew how safe and secure he was in our little farm home, but he had not forgotten the perils of the sea as he experienced them in his younger days.

Christmas Eve came at last. Early in the afternoon the wash tub was placed near the kitchen stove and each in his turn took a bath, beginning with the smallest. Then to dress in our new clothes!

The dining room had been closed for over a month to save fuel, but tonight it should be heated and the doors opened. We children were to stay in other rooms until called for supper. Then the surprise — when we entered the dining room, we were speechless. Right there in the corner was a beautiful tree decorated with strings of white popcorn and red cranberries and dozens of colored candles, and — most wonderful of all, underneath the tree were presents! For me there was a doll cradle which I still have. There were two pairs of homeknit stockings for each of us from Grandmother in Wisconsin and also from her brother in Illinois. We were almost too excited to eat, but the Julekage with butter for which we had been mouth-watering all afternoon, the spareribs, the rice pudding and even two kinds of cookies were a feast I shall never forget. Then, with supper over, father read the Christmas story and we had our little program of carols and recitations after which he made an extra trip to the stable to give the stock an extra measure of feed as a holiday gesture.

Our happiness seemed quite complete but still we thought we should hang our stockings by the hearth in spite of the fact that father said he didn't think Santa Claus could find our house on such a stormy night.

Early the next morning we came downstairs before the fires were started, and there we saw the oats gone from the wooden shoes and, our stockings filled! Santa had brought me a little piece-quit, sheets and a pillow case to fit my new cradle. How could he know what size to bring? No matter, I had them, and that was enough. My happiness and that of my brothers and sister was Three times over on the Christmas that had loomed ahead with prospects none too bright but instead brought us added pleasure because we did not expect it. Blessed is the memory of my parents and the many other Christmases we spent together.

Written in 1949 —

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CLIMBERS

On February 8, 1901, a number of young people met for the purpose of organizing a youth group. Their meeting place was the schoolhouse of District #4, Byland Township. The chairman at this first meeting was S. Momb, and it was decided that he appoint a committee to draw up a constitution to be submitted for approval at the next meeting. The constitution which was finally adopted contained the following: I. Name of society — "Twentieth Century Climbers". II. Object — General improvement of its members in literary work. III. Membership — Any person — by signing the constitution and paying the initiation fee (10¢). IV. Officers — President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Marshal and Literary Committee.

The officers were to be elected by ballot to serve for regular meetings, except the Literary Committee to be appointed by the President each meeting. Officers were to perform traditional duties (listed), that of the Marshal being "if necessary he shall by order of the President, restrain nuisances or disturbances." The By-laws stated that regular meeting be held every two weeks, Friday 8 p.m. (sometimes changed to Saturday); and there were regulations concerning dues, attendance and "willingness to perform according to the assignments of the Literary Committee."

The first officers were: President — S. Momb, Vice-President — Annie Danielson, Secretary — Severina Thompson,
Treasurer — Jennie Lindem, Marshal — Albert Osmundson. The first Members to sign the Constitution were: Mathilda Thompson, Tilda Osmundson, Severina Thompson, Alice Lea-los, Albert Osmundson, Sever Thompson, Dan Aakhus, S. Momb, George Olson, Ole Jorgenson, Ingeborg Finstad, Jennie Lindem, Olaf Moe, Gunder T. Anderson, Isaac T. Andersen, John B. Shanner, Annie Daniels, Bennie Daniels, Tide-mand Solstad, Josie Daniels, Christen Volden, Adolph Grundyson, Daniel Daniels, Minnie Jorgenson, Elmer Thompson, Thor Thorson, S. K. Flaat, Peder Solstad.

Members signing later were: Thora Daniels, T. Salveson, Ole Moe, Ole Ose, Ole Legvold, Daniel Aakhus, Aanend Olson, Alfred Solstad, Ole A. Moe, Ole T. Halvorson, Augusta A. Berland, Emma Grundyson, Mary Thompson, Julia Thompson, Martin H. Solstad, P. H. Solstad (repeat), Rolf Moe, Knute Grundyson, Gerty Grundyson, Clara Legvold, Tilda Hegland, Anne Ryssstad, Gertie Austad, Anton Svenningson, Gina Daniels, Hortense Worden, Joseph M. Hegg, Ellen Solstad, Tillie Ryssstad, Albert Worden, Adolph Skyberg, Ole Osmundson, Lewis Berland, Daniel O. Danielson, Thor H. Thorson, Olga Skyberg, Dora Worden, Alma Skyberg, Annie O. Danielson and Gunnuf Moe.

Meetings consisting of a program and business were held regularly. Meetings were not held in August, September, October and November, 1901 — a busy time of year for farmers. At the December seventh meeting they decided to give a Christmas program on December 28. The program was practiced, a stage seven by fourteen feet was built, coffee, sugar and a box of apples were purchased and three members were appointed to get an organ. Admission charge was twenty-five cents for adults and ten cents for children. The “regular” meetings in December included two debates: “Resolved that the mind gains more knowledge by observation than by reading” and “Fear of punishment has more influence on human conduct than hope of reward”.

1902 — The society voted to have a paper, the name of which was “The Climber” and first editor was Sever Thompson, with Thor Thorson and Emma Grundyson as assistant editors. Succeeding editors were Peter Solstad, S. Momb, Martin Solstad, with associate editors: Tillie Thompson and Ole Anderson, and S. K. Flatt with assistants: Clara Legvold and Peter Solstad. (In later years Tideman Solstad had the job longest and is best remembered.) Activities, other than regular meetings were picnics to celebrate May 17 and July 4. Much time was spent planning for the Fourth of July picnic. Announcement was made in “Normanden”, hand bills were distributed and badges purchased to be worn by members (ribbon colors were pink, green and white). The program was planned and practiced and the necessary stands, platforms and seats were erected.

There was now $76.19 in the treasury. It was again voted to suspend meetings during the busy season. Resumed in mid-September, they were denied the use of the schoolhouse in District 4 and also District 93. There had been much discussion about building a hall and at one point it was decided to build a hall twenty-four by forty feet. A committee reported that this would cost about $250. A subscription committee reported that $112 had been subscribed. Debating was very popular now and a debate upon the subject “Resolved that a library would be of more benefit than a hall” was held with the judges deciding in the affirmative.

Other subjects debated were: “Resolved that railroads are of more benefit to mankind than steamboats”, “that baseball is of more benefit than debating”, “that lawyers are of more benefit to mankind than doctors of medicine”. From the minutes of one meeting we learned that after the business it was decided to have a debate. The subject was “Resolved that it is better to go home than to stay”. Attempts were made to resume meetings in 1903 and 1905, but there was no place available to hold meetings.

1909 — There were no more records of meetings until April 17, 1909. Meetings were held regularly, since Flaat’s Hall (above the Store) was available. Flaat’s Store opened in February, 1907, and meetings started again. The new Constitution was much like the original one with the addition of being a “Social Committee of five members to promote social interests”. At their meetings they now often played circle singing games, some of which were: The Needle’s Eye, Bingo, Four-in-the-Boat, and Skip-to-the-Moon.

Entertainments were given — the minutes of the April 17 meeting showed that the proceeds of the entertainment they were planning were to go to the Bygland Band. They had masquerades, suppers, picnics, basket socials and many plays, in addition to their meetings every two weeks.

They now had both a hall and a library. Some of the library books were obtained from a traveling library, through the Minnesota Library Commission, and others were owned by the society. They also owned an organ.

The Twentieth Century Climbers (T.C.C.) finally disbanded, about 1915 or 1916, with the closing of Flaat’s Store, the advent of the automobile and movies, but there were many fond memories and many tales told about the good times they had.
BYGLAND TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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BYGLAND TOWN
his wife, Julia, whom he had recently married.

Meanwhile, from 1903 to 1906, S. K. Flaat and family lived in Cass Lake, Minnesota where he operated Flaat’s Grocery Store. A wider variety of merchandise was sold here, including “Indian Curios”.

He then returned to Bygdal where he built a large frame building on his farm south of the Olson Store. The first floor was half store and half living quarters and the second floor was used as a Community Hall. This store opened for business February 6, 1907, and there were now two stores in Bygdal. Both stores sold groceries, but the Olson Store specialized in farm machinery and parts, while the Flaat store sold clothing, sewing materials and household articles. Mrs. Flaat assisted in the store, a job she was accustomed to, from working in her father’s store in Mallory before her marriage.

Much of the merchandise for both stores was ordered by catalog and shipped to Mallory, Fisher or Grand Forks by freight train. From there it was hauled to Bygdal in “dray wagons”, and later in “dray trucks” or wire paneled trucks. Salesmen came by train to Fisher, stayed in the hotel there, and hired a “rig” and driver to take them out to Bygdal and return to Fisher. Oscar Strande was one of these drivers for a time and this information came from him. About 1915 or ’16 the equipment and merchandise were sold and business at the Flaat Store was ended. The building was then used solely as a residence.

When Olson Brothers decided to discontinue their store, S. K. Flaat repurchased it, and in May 1919 was again in business in the store he started in 1897. Family members assisted at different times, but from 1930 until his death in 1952 his son, Clarence, was the mainstay. Clarence was at that time called “Pop” and the store was known as “The Sugar Bowl”, from a popular comic strip at that time.

Clarence was also the manager for a time of the Bygdal baseball team and thoroughly enjoyed it. The store was open daytime and evenings every day except Sunday, and was a congregating place for the boys of the community. With Clarence’s passing, his brother Oscar managed the store briefly. He sold it to his sister Helen and her husband, Floyd W. Wickiser, who continued the business until “Wick’s” death in 1961. After that Helen “kept shop” until it closed in June 1965. The building was then dismantled and the community was sad to see an old landmark disappear. With the advent of paved highways and super-markets there was too much competition. The era of the “country store” had come to an end.

There were also other smaller “neighborhood” stores in the township. Probably the earliest was the Wig store by the ferry. It housed a post office, and sold “Confections and fruits” and probably tobacco and food staples. Severin Tostenson was the manager of this store and it lasted from the mid-1880’s until early 1900’s. Mr. Tostenson was a brother of Mrs. Nels Egeland whose husband ran the ferry.

About 1904 or so, Albert Torgerson started a store in his home several miles west of the Bygdal Church. They sold tobacco, candy and some groceries and bought butter and eggs from the customers, as did the Bygdal store. About four or five years later it closed.

Several miles southwest of the Bygdal store, Osmund Jore started his first store selling tobacco, candy and pop in his home. He was blind, which made it an unusual venture. Soon he added a few groceries. This business began about 1920 and in 1928 he rebuilt at another location after the original store burned. In 1938 this store was sold to Torjus Torgerson who in turn sold it to Selmer Selmanson in 1946. He moved it to another location a little farther south and remained in business until 1966. The building later burned so there is now no tangible reminder of any of the Bygdal stores.

There was still another neighborhood store that existed briefly. It belonged to Joseph Beaudin from Gentilly, to which place he returned when the store closed in 1930. He sold the building to John Cariveau Sr., for a residence. Beaudin started in 1920, had living quarters above the store, and is remembered, among other things, for bringing pop and candy to sell at the baseball games which were played in the neighborhood. The location of this store was over a mile west of the main highway to East Grand Forks, on the south side of the road separating Bygdal and Huntsville townships.

MILL WAREHOUSE, GRAIN ELEVATOR AND BLACKSMITH SHOP OF BYGLAND

Another business venture in Bygdal was a feed mill that was begun by Homer Thorson on his farm and was sold to Neil Benson about 1906. His location was east of S. K. Flaat’s store on the opposite side of the road. It was there a short time, then sold to Bjorgvus Austad who in turn sold it to Torkel Danielson and the last owner was Ed Vigen.

When owned by Torkel Danielson it may have been part of another project. This was the buying of grain from the area farmers and shipping it by barge on the Red River to be sold either at Grand Forks or Winnipeg. His warehouse was situated on the bank of the Red River a short distance north of the ferry. The grain was unloaded by means of the farmers shoveling it by hand, and this operation also included weighing. Upon being loaded the grain was weighed again, passing down a track or chute into the barge. Anchor Wurden and Alfred Berland recall going with their fathers when they hauled grain. Anchor also tells a story about a barge that got stuck in a shallow spot of the river in the late 1800’s. Her cliff was too heavy to be hauled to the grain from the barge. These shallow portions of the river were later remedied by large dredging operations.

There was also a blacksmith shop located on the north side of the ferry road. It was at the top of the river bank, owned by the Trydahl family and did a thriving business in the early 1900’s.

AANUNDSON—AAKUS

Our Norwegian ancestors were the builders of much of the Red River Valley in Northwestern Minnesota. They came well prepared to build up a good community from their cultural background. Our families of Greibrok (Aanundson) and Aakhus came well prepared to dig their roots into a new world.

The Aanundson (Greibrok) relationship can be traced back in Norway to the year 1450. From that date, a few new names, new changes, new standards, and new homes have appeared, but the same line has continued, even to the present owners of the Aanundson store.

Now as to the family whose sons went to America: Aanund Knutson was born in 1798. His wife was Sigrid Olavssdatter. Their children were Olav (I), Olav (II), Knut, and Ragnhild. In 1872 the oldest Olav went to America. He was betrothed at the time to Ragnhild Aakhus, also of Bygdal. They were married in Kristiansand on their way to America (our grandfather and grandmother).

Olav’s mother, a widow who also came to the New World, was an industrious woman. It was said that she was often busy at five activities at the same time — rocking the baby’s cradle with one foot, churning butter with an up-and-down dasher, listening to one of the grandsons recite his catechism, baking bread in the oven, smoking a pipe.

Olav’s and Ragnhild’s children, born in Bygdal, Minnesota, were: Sigrid, Andrew, Torbjor, Halvor, Olav, Gunstein, Anne Marie, Gunder, Thor, and Signe.


Andrew, Torbjor, Olav (O.T.), and Gunstein took up homesteading land in northern Minnesota, around Effie and Bigfork. Gunstein, later, with wife and daughter Ruby, moved to Bygdal township.

Halvor died of T.B. at the age of twenty. Thor married and settled in Saskatchewan, Canada. Signe, the youngest, visited
Norway, married and remained there raising a family of eight children. Gunder was a sailor. The last card received from him (by Anne) carried the address of the Philippine Islands. No more was ever heard about him.

The descendants of Olav and Ragnhild number roughly three hundred at the present time.

The first record of the Aakhus family dates back to 1612, when Kristen Aakhus owned a very large farm (gaard) in the Bygland Valley of Norway.

About two hundred years went by, but in direct line, the land now went to Halvor, born in 1816 (died in 1876) who married Torbjørn Ose. Their children were: Brigade, Ragnhild, Anne, Kristi, Gunnar, Aslak, Knut, Tallak, and Sige. By 1875 all of the Aakhus brothers and sisters were in America — except one of the Annes, who remained in Norway. (In 1835 Halvor entered into an agreement to have an agricultural experiment school buy a big share of his land. This school in Bygland, Norway, is still in operation.)

Ragnhild, second child of Halvor and Torbjørn, married Olav Greibrok at Kristiansand, Norway, on their way to Minnesota. They changed their name to Aanundson, also Aanenson, in the new country. They had ten children, who have been listed under “Aannundson” relationship.

The Aakhus relationship has a reunion every two years. The numbers who attend add up to two hundred. They come from the Red River Valley in Bygland, Fisher, McIntosh, Effie, Bemidji, and various parts of the United States.

HERMAN ANDERSON

Herman Anderson began farming in 1939. The following year he was married to Evelyn Strande, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Strande of Nesbit Township. Over the years they have raised grain, potatoes, corn, sugar beets, dairy cattle, hogs, chickens, sheep, and beef cattle.

The Andersons have four daughters and one son: Judy, Mrs. Paul Helland, of Mankato, Minnesota; Susan, Mrs. Allan Natvig, of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Gayle, Mrs. Lloyd Meyer, of Byron, Minnesota; Carolyn, Mrs. Paul Otto, of Eagle Lake, Minnesota; and Peter of Fisher, Minnesota. Until 1955 the children attended the rural school, District 222, at which time this district dissolved and became a part of the Fisher school. They were all active members of the Riverside 4-H Club, with their parents serving as adult leaders for many years. The four daughters all graduated from Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato and the Mankato State College with degrees in education. Peter attended North Dakota State University at Fargo and UMC at Crookston and is presently employed as parts manager at Massey-Ferguson Inc. at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson also have 11 grandchildren, five boys and six girls. They are members of the River Heights Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

PETER ANDERSON

Peter Anderson (later spelled Anderson) came to America from Saetardslen, Norway in 1889 at the age of 21. Two years later, his parents and five of his six brothers — Evan, Rolf, Tellef, Olaf, and Gunnuf, and a sister, Ingeborg, joined him in Bygland Township. Another brother, Ole, serving in the Norwegian army at the time, came here later. As was customary among Norwegian immigrants, Peter used the name Anderson, because he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andres Pearson, whereas the rest of the family chose to be known by the name of the farm on which they had lived in Norway — Moe.

In 1895 he married Sigrid Anenson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Anenson, also of Bygland Township. Their first home was in Section 11, on land owned by Tellef Hoverson, part of which he later purchased. In 1907 he bought another piece of land of about 80 acres along the Red Lake River in Section 2, on which there were a few crude buildings. In the spring he moved his family there and they lived in a small blacksmith shop through the summer while a new house, barn, and granary were being built. Peter and Sigrid had 19 children, 17 of whom grew to adulthood. They were: Andy, Helga (Mrs. Arthur Eggberaaten), Ragnhild (Mrs. Minuel Engeland), Olafr, Martha (Mrs. Clarence Belcher), Gerald, Hannah (Mrs. Herman Nelson), Sophie (Mrs. Theo. Thureen), Rolf, Kenneth, Ingvald, Esther (Mrs. Alfred Danielson), Ingeborg (Mrs. Harold Tiedeman), Herman, Gertrude (Mrs. Sigurd Tjernagel), Marie (Mrs. Peter Tjernagel) and Sigrid (Mrs. Howard Christenson).

Mr. Anderson later acquired another 240 acres in the area on which he raised grain, potatoes and corn. His children were all very much involved in helping to produce the crops, hand-picking and hauling in as many as 80 acres of potatoes, milk- ing from 20-25 cows year-round, as well as caring for chickens, geese and hogs. During the summer large amounts of currants, gooseberries, plums, wild grapes, and raspberries were picked and canned or made into jelly. Annually, Mr. Anderson hauled a load of wheat to the flour mill to exchange for approximately a ton of flour that was stored in an upstairs room for the daily bread-baking. Wheat was also ground with a roller mill on the farm for use as cereal. The chickens more than supplied the family with eggs, so the rest were “traded” for groceries, although it was understood that the eggs gathered on Sunday were to be sold and the money given to missions. Spare time in the winter was spent cutting wood for the cook stove used year round, although a large hard coal heater supplied heat for the house.

The large number of children attracted a great number of their friends, and the “Horseshoe Lake” and hillside behind the buildings were often the gathering place for 20-30 young people enjoying the skating and skiing there — or in the summer playing baseball in the adjoining field. All of the children attended the rural school, District 222, before some of them went on to higher education in Crookston or East Grand...
Forks. After the Riverside 4-H Club was organized in 1930, the eight younger children were all active members, giving demonstrations and exhibiting at county and state events. 4-H was an important part of the social life of the community, along with school socials, and winter parties in the homes.

Mrs. Anderson passed away in June, 1920. Friends of the family, the Jacob Hofstads, cared for Sigrid, who was only a few days old at the time of her mother's death, until she was 18 months.

Mr. Anderson was instrumental in re-organizing the Bygland Lutheran Synod congregation, and donated the land and erected a church building for the group in 1928. This congregation relocated in East Grand Forks in 1956 and is now known as the River Heights Lutheran Church.

Mr. Anderson passed away in 1933 at the age of 65. A few years later, part of the farm, including the buildings, became the property of the youngest son, Herman, who still lives and farms there.

TARAAL ANDERSON

Mr. and Mrs. Taraal Anderson were early settlers in the township of Bygland in West Polk County. Mr. Anderson was born October 30, 1854, in Nestet, Satersdal, Norway. In 1861, Taraal and his father and mother, Gunner and Taarond Aan- mondson, and another brother and sister, crossed the Atlantic in a sailboat, making it a treacherous and difficult journey. Mrs. Aanondson died in 1861. Her death resulted from her journey across the sea to America.

Taraal's father at first intended to claim a quarter of land where Grand Forks now stands, but instead decided on a quarter of land in Polk County, Minnesota.

Mrs. Taraal Anderson (Asbjor Isaksen) was born January 13, 1862, in Madison, Wisconsin. In 1876, her father, Isack Osmondson, moved to a homestead just northwest of the present day Bygland Lutheran Church.

It was December 25, 1877, Christmas day, that Pastor Solstad united Taraal and Asbjor in marriage.

Asbjor had three sisters and two brothers, Osmond and Ole; Anna Isaken who married Jacob Jorgenson, and Helga Isaksen, who married Torkel Benson; Bertha Isakson who married K. K. Knutson. Ole and Bertha were twins. Three of the sisters were married on that same Christmas Day at the Bygland Church in 1877. The bridal couple included our grandmother and grandfather.

Mr. and Mrs. Taraal Anderson farmed successfully in Bygland for many years. He cut and hauled the logs for the first Bygland Lutheran Church with oxen. Grandfather Taraal Anderson served as Deacon. Every holiday, such as Easter, Christmas and New Year's, he rang the church bell one half hour before services. They usually walked to church because they lived just east about three-fourths of a mile. When Grandfather Taraal would see the pastor coming with his horse and buggy a mile away, he would start to ring the church bell. Grandfather Taraal also furnished feed and hay for the horses at the church.

The Andersons had seven children: Tarrond Kveste, Tone Gunderson, Berget Nangle, Gunnder Anderson, Isaac Anderson and Nere Anderson. Mrs. Taraal Anderson died October 3, 1908, at the age of 46 and Taraal died May 18, 1920, at the age of 66. The same month that Grandma died, her youngest son, Nere, got married to Gunhild Loyland of Walle Township, October 30, 1908.

Nere and Gunhild Anderson settled on farm land two miles southwest of the present day Bygland Church. Nere and Gunhild raised six children: Mrs. Gunnder Stallmo (Alice); Julien Anderson; Mrs. Leo Fish (Berget); Thelmer Anderson; Mrs. Orvin Jenson (Mabel); and Norman Anderson.

Nere Anderson died at the very young age of 37 years on December 18, 1926. Mother was left with six children to raise. I, Mabel, remember that as a child of five years with my brother, Thelmer, would drive by dog sled to the Bygland store for groceries. When we started school, that was always our transportation in the winter.

Our youngest brother, Norman Anderson, graduated from East Grand Forks Central High School and St. Olaf's College at Northfield, Minnesota. He served in the Armed Forces during World War II. Norman is currently teaching English, Speech, and Debate at South High, Grants Pass, Oregon. Currently he is president of the Southern Oregon University Council.

I, Mabel Anderson, granddaughter of Taraal Anderson and John Nelson Loyland, married Orvin Jenson of Bygland Township, December 20, 1939. My husband was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jenson. Both families were members of the Bygland Church. We purchased a farm in Brenna township, Grand Forks, North Dakota. We reared two sons, Orlin Merle and Gene Ellard. They were active in farm work, the Brenna Livestock Club, and the Evanger Lutheran Church.

In 1961, we built a new home in East Grand Forks, and rejoined the Bygland Lutheran Church. We still farm in Brenna township.

Orlin served six years with the 82nd Army Airborne in the Dominican Republic, Okinawa, and Viet Nam. Rank-Sergeant E-5 — He was wounded in Viet Nam. He was awarded the Purple Heart for Military Merit. He also received the good conduct Medal and Expeditory Service Medal.

Gene served two years in the Army and was stationed in Korea. Gene, Rank-3/P4, received the Good Conduct Medal and both received Honorable Discharges in 1967.

Orlin is married to Alexandra Mary Young. They have one son, Sean Matthew. They reside in South Minneapolis. Orlin is in the aluminum steel siding and roof business.

Gene married Frances Mary Fischer. They have one son, Craig Gene. They make their home in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Gene is employed at the F.M.C. Corporation.

Orlin and Gene and their families are members of Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.
ALFRED BERLAND

Dora Engebretson and Alfred Berland were married January 30, 1926, in Climax, Minnesota, by Rev. Ludvig Peterson.

Their first home in 1927 was on Section 2, Bygland Township on land he purchased from Ole Osmundson. Farming was done mostly with horses at that time and when his brothers, Lewis and David borrowed a team of horses from Alfred they brought them across the highway and the team walked home.

The Berlands have been active in the Bygland Church and the Ladies Aid. Alfred has served as trustee in the Bygland Church for thirty years. He served for twelve years on the Town Board of Bygland. Serving with him were Halvor Helle, Aamund Bestland, Joe Bushee and Adolph Skyberg. Ted Solstad and Edwin Gunderson were clerks at that time.

Some of their many chores were dragging the roads and repairing bridges and washouts. The worst snowstorm that Alfred experienced was on Armistice Day, November 11. When he sold some turkeys to a fellow by the name of Walker who lived in Grand Forks, the wind was so strong that the horses refused to face it. When he returned after delivering the birds, the snow was belly-deep on the horses on Third Street in Grand Forks. He returned home the same day. They purchased their first combine in 1940. It was an International. They moved down to the K. K. Knutson place in 1940. They built a new house in 1948, and of course, everyone remembers the four day blizzard in 1966. It began on Wednesday and continued into Sunday with Sunday services cancelled at Bygland. Many people have dubbed it the March Third Storm. Alfred had a flock of prairie chickens in his yard. Another storm well remembered by the pioneers as well as some of the younger people was the March 15, 1940, storm.

As young men in 1905, Alfred and his brother, Lewis Berland bought a Minneapolis steam threshers and with this outfit threshed every fall for the neighbors and themselves up until 1920. Alfred generally ran the separator and Lewis was the engineer until his health failed and Alex Johnson, formerly of Bygland and later of Middle River, ran the steamer. They were known as the Berland Brothers Threshing Outfit. They had a crew of ten: bundle hauler, separator man, engineer, one flunky, a fireman, a water hauler and grain haulers. They usually had a 25 or 30 day run. Many teams in the harvest fields didn't need much driving while loading bundles. The horses knew just where to turn and how long to stop at each shock of grain.

Sometimes Berland Brothers furnished the complete crew and sometimes only part of it. Many were the times when some of the small farmers could not get anyone to thresh for them so they would ask the Berland Brothers as they passed by. Often they set up the machine and threshed for them immediately.

In later years they added a cook car which took care of the feeding of the threshers. They had a crew of 18 or 20 men who were served three hearty meals a day and two lunches. The cooks were Mrs. Minnie Gorman and Lenora Berg Paulson. David was a flunky.

In 1920, due to pressing work at home, they quit threshing a couple years. Each brother purchased his first combines in 1940, and each brother ploughed, cultivated and seeded his own land. Alfred farmed his own land until 1968 when he retired some to Oscar Bestland and then to Helmer Rystad.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Berland celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on January 30, 1976, a celebration was held at the Bygland Lutheran Church.

ANNIE MABEL BERLAND

Annie Mabel Berland was born August 2, 1891 at Bygland in Polk County, Minnesota, to Thor and Anlag Berland. She attended school in District #4 in Bygland, high school in Grand Forks, North Dakota and normal school at Moorhead, Minnesota. She later taught school in Bygland and other places in Minnesota, North Dakota and a Whittetall, Montana. There she met Frank Walker, our future father, and they were married at her home in Bygland. They lived in Montana for several years where he was employed at a lumberyard.

Frank came from Durham County, England in 1903 and lived at Torquay west of Estevan and north of Portal, in Saskatchewan, Canada. He married Mary in 1905 and they adopted Dorothy Morris at about 7 years of age. Dorothy stayed at Church's with her brother following Mary's death about 1918 and came to live with mother and dad shortly after their marriage on November 23, 1920.

They saw an ad in the paper where land was available at 10¢ an acre in Ontario, Canada and while Dad went to look things over, Mother, their daughter, Mildred Joyce, who was born in Sheridan County, Montana October 11, 1921, and Dorothy stayed at Berland's. Dorothy attended school in Bygland. They moved to Canada in 1923 and Mother returned for a visit. It was on one of those rare occasions when I, Frances Louise, was born in 1926 on November 3. My parents had six children all living. They are Mildred, Mrs. George Gunderson, at Climax. Her children are Donna, Mrs. Donald Williams, David and Shirley. (See the Gunderson write-up at Climax.)

Alfred Tyndal born June 4, 1924 in Canada lives at home in Blake Township. Frances Louise at Fisher, Minnesota. Ruth Eleanor Reid lives in Thunder Bay, Canada. She was born January 10, 1928 and married Cliff Reid on September 17, 1948. Cliff is now deceased.

David Lester was born September 28, 1931 at home. He married Nancy Mae Hunter May 2, 1953. They have seven children.

George Milton was born January 22, 1934 in Fort Arthur, Ontario, Canada. He married Phyllis Violet Pearce on October 6, 1962 in Ft. William, Ontario, Canada. They have two children Susan and Jared born in 1964 and 1967.


The Thor A. Berland Children: Back row: Alfred and Lewis. 2nd row: Amanda, Annie and cousin, Lanora Berg. 3rd row: David and Augusta.
Annun had two sisters, Augusta, born January 15, 1884, and married to Hans Valor in 1919. She lived on a farm in Climax and passed away on July 25, 1967. Amanda was born October 27, 1896, and passed away March 6, 1957. She had three brothers: Lewis, deceased, Alfred and David. A cousin, Lenora Berg, at the age of five came to live with the Berlands because both her parents had died within a short time. Lenora married Halvor Paulson and lived in the Climax area. (See the Antton Paulson write-up for more detail.)

Annun was baptized and confirmed in the Bygland Lutheran Church. She passed away October 27, 1971, at the age of 80. She was buried in the Bygland cemetery. Frank passed away November 10, 1953, and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery at Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

Frank and Annun returned for a visit in the summer of 1948 at the Berland's home where their two daughters were employed. They returned to their farm home in Blake Township, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. During World War II, Annun taught school in Blake No. 3 School and Frank was employed first as a carpenter and later as a scaler for Great Lakes Paper Company. After Frank’s death, Annun continued to reside in Canada returning to visit in Bygland several times over the years. She returned to Bygland November 3, 1970, and lived with her brother David and daughter, Frances. It was her greatest wish to be able to reclaim her United States citizenship which she treasured dearly.

Lenora Berg was born November 13, 1891, at Park River, North Dakota, to parents Christian and Dagny Roholt Berg, their second child. There was an older sister, Tilda, age twelve and a younger brother, Herman, age two. Since she was the same age as Annie, they felt it would be good if they would be together. Her sister, Tilda, born in 1884, went to live with relatives at Park River and her brother, Herman, born in 1893, went to live with relatives at Grafton, North Dakota. Lenora, came to the Thor A. Berland home in 1896 and was raised as a sister with the other children. She attended District #4 School, was confirmed in the Bygland Lutheran Church and was a member of the choir. She was a member of the Climbers, a youth group that met each month at the Flat Hall. The Climbers usually had a program, played games and served lunch. Occasionally, a basket social was held to raise money.

Lenora and Mrs. Minnie Gorman were the cooks in the cook car for the threshers for several years and also helped at home as well as other places in the Climax area. Here she met Halvor Paulson, her future husband. Halvor was a farmer in Tynsid Township and a caller for dances. Lenora Berg and Halvor Paulson were married February 16, 1916, at Crookston, Minnesota, by Rev. P. E. Moen. Their attendants were Alfred Berland and Halvor's sister, Mathilda Paulson Hetland. They moved to the Paulson farm where their five children were born. The children were: Ole Paulson, March 26, 1917, at Crookston; Grand Forks, North Dakota; Hardin, East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Aanund on a farm near Climax; Delmar at Crookston and Oleen at home. (See Anton Paulson write-up.)

**ANNUND BERLAND**

Aanund and Gunhild Berland of Norwegian descent immigrated to America from the seaport of Skien, Norway, with their four children. The children were: Annie, Johan and Thor, who was ten years old. Aanund, son by his first wife, came also. Aanund was born in Norway and was from Ovre-Uplands Telemarken, Norway. His second wife, Gunhild Overland, came from Telemark also. Her brother's sons built the Overland car. They landed at Quebec in 1861, Mrs. Berland and the children attended church in the Catholic Church. When chided about it, she reminded her atheist husband that God was there too!

They took the immigrant train west to the Highland Prairie Settlement and settled in Fillmore County in Southern Minnesota. At the family farm more children joined the family circle. They included Bergit, Tone, Ole, Marget and Gunnar. As the years passed, the children attended the local school and the Highland Prairie Menigheds Kirke (Lutheran Church). Some of the children married, others remained single. The boys grew to manhood on the family farm in Southern Minnesota.

When the area around Nielsville, Minnesota, was opened up for homesteading, Johan and his brother, Thor, moved to Polk County. They staked their homesteads across the road from each other on the southwest quarter of section 8 in Hubbard Township. Thor proved up on his and later bought a homestead at Byland. For a time, he farmed both places, walking back and forth with his horses. They later sold at Nielsville and kept the place in Byland.

Johan never married. Later he moved to the same farm and after a short time returned to Fillmore County and farmed the home farm. Their parents Gunhild and Aanund Berland passed away and are buried in the Highland Prairie Cemetery in Southern Minnesota, as are several of their children.

Thor married Anlaua Roholt on March 23, 1883, in the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Their attendants were her brother, Hans J. Roholt of Grand Forks, and Julian Gox. They were married by Judge of the Peace, Russel W. Butts of Grand Forks. Before her marriage, Anlaua was employed at the hotel in Grand Forks.

Six children were born to them. Augusta, born at Nielsville, January 15, 1884, married Rudy Valor, and later Hans Valor. They lived on a farm near Climax. They had a son, Alvon, who lives at Minot, North Dakota. Their daughter, Marian Grey (see the Cameron Grey story) lives in Climax. Lewis, who was born at Nielsville, May 12, 1885, never married. He passed away January 31, 1962. He farmed the home farm with his brother, David. Alfred, born at Nielsville, January 8, 1889, married Dora Engebretson on January 30, 1926, and farmed his own farm. Annie, born August 2, 1891, at the farm home in Bygland married Frank Walker November 23, 1920. Both are deceased. Amanda T. born October 27, 1896, never married but lived on the home farm with her brothers and passed away March 6, 1957, at age 61. David M. A. was born April 16, 1899, at Byland. He never married. He attended the Agricultural College at Crookston and returned to farm the home place with his brother, Lewis.

Thor A. Berland and his family joined the Bygland Lutheran Church in 1894 and were active members. When the Ladies’ Aid meetings were held in the homes, it always meant to clean the house from attic to basement before the guests were invited. Thor Berland was trustee in the Church and served as director on the School Board.

The Thor A. Berlands’ was the home chosen for Lenora Berg to be raised in, following the tragic death of her parents when Lenora was five years old. Her father was Christian Berg and her mother was Dagne Roholt Berg. They were married about 1883, and immigrated to America from Ovre-Telemarken, Norway. They lived at Park River, North Dakota, where the children were born. Dagne passed away following an appendicitis operation and three months later he passed away. Lenora married Halvor Paulson February 16, 1916, at Crookston.

Thor A. Berland’s purchased their first car in 1915, a Model T. Ford. Although they never mastered the art of driving it, the children did.

Thor died August 4, 1920, at his farm at age 70. Anlaua died in 1932 at age 75. They were both born in Norway, Thor in 1850 and Anlau in 1857. Both are buried in the Bygland Cemetery.

**LEWIS AND DAVID BERLAND**

My uncle's, Lewis and David Berland were of Norwegian descent and born to Thor and Anlaua Berland. Lewis Jasmin was born at Nielsville, Minnesota, May 12, 1880, and passed away January 31, 1962, at the age of 77. David was born at Bygdal on April 16, 1899, and lives on the home farm. Their sister, Amanda T. lived with them. They were members of the Bygland Lutheran Church and attended the local schools. David was a member of the Bygdal Band.

As a young man, Lewis and his friend, Bert Morris, went to the woods in the winter to cut wood. They took a train to Deer River and worked in a logging camp in that vicinity during the winter months sometimes working on a saw mill. Later on Lewis, his brother, Alfred and Louis Olson took eight horses to Bemidji, returning in the spring to farm.
My uncles kept many horses while farming their land in the 30's. Their first tractor was purchased in the 30's but they still kept several horses for the numerous jobs around the farm.

Before harnessing the horses in the morning, they were brushed and curried. Some horses were shod.

Bergit Hanson Anderson from Oklee, Minnesota, worked as a housekeeper for David and Lewis for fifteen years. Then my sister, Mildred, worked for thirteen until she married George Gunderson on July 18, 1954. Since then, I have continued to take care of the house.

They milked ten Holstein cows, selling milk and cream to the Sweet Clover Dairy in East Grand Forks. Later the milk truck came to the farm yard for the milk which was a real convenience.

Milk was used right from the cow, after separating the cream from it, for feeding calves, pigs, cats and the dog, as well as for cooking and baking and drinking. Those days are gone now. In 1976, our milk comes in square cartons with a handy pour spout and delivered to the farm homes. David has a few beef cattle which he keeps as a hobby.

Farming in the 40's was mostly with a three-bottom plow and a ten foot cultivator. A two-ton truck was appropriate for their farming as compared to the monsters that are now used.

David and Lewis had about 150 acres of spuds together as well as their grain and cattle.

The farmers, including Lewis, purchased shares in the Rural Electric Association in 1939 for $5,000, which brought electric power to this area. After Lewis retired from active farming, David continued to farm and in 1968, rented to the Tri-Mack Potato Company.

Lewis and Amanda are buried in the family plot in the Bygdland Cemetery as are their parents. When their parents lived at Nielsville, Minnesota, an often told tale was about a neighbor of theirs. When a prairie fire was threatening their farm build-

ings Thor Berland and his neighbor, Ole Dale, saw it and rode their horses to the place to help them put out the fire. When they arrived the neighbor and his family were outside on their knees praying to the Lord to stop the fire. While they continued praying Thor and Ole, who were firm believers in "God helps those who help themselves", proceeded to use their jackets to beat out the flames of the grass fire. Needless to say, their jackets were burned to shreds but the fire was out. At different gatherings when the incident was discussed the neighbors could never quite agree if the Lord had answered their prayers in that way or not.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bridgeford have been residents of Bygdland Township all of their married life until late this past year. In October of 1975, they moved to a new home on Big Wolf Lake near Bemidji, Minnesota. Their ancestral history can be found elsewhere in this book.

Percy and Orva have four children: Lyle Daniel, who lives with his wife, Reba, and daughter, Rhonda, in Nashville, Tennessee, and works for the U.S.D.A.

Another son, Glenn Warren, lives in Bemidji, Minnesota, with his wife, Marie, and two daughters: Jennifer and Lisa. Glenn is employed by Bemidji Distributing Company.

A daughter, Marilyn, is a registered nurse, now married and living on a farm near Worthington, Minnesota, with her husband, Richard Greve, and children; Daniel and Ann Marie.

A second daughter of the Bridgefords is Harriet, also a registered nurse, married to Ray Gibbons, who is principal of schools in Enderlin, North Dakota. Harriet and Ray have three children: Jared, Nathan and Erin.

MRS. BENNIE DANIELSON

Mrs. Bennie Danielson, Bessie Kjelleberg, was born in 1894 in Walls township, Thompson, North Dakota. Her parents were Ole and Thora Loyland Kjelleberg, both born in the United States. Bessie has two sisters, Anna Kjelleberg and the late Mrs. H. G. Thompson, Tillie. Bessie was married to Ben-

nie Danielson in 1915. They farmed in Bygdland township until his death in 1958. Bennie and Bessie had six children: Opal, Mrs. Loyd Peterson, Tucson, Arizona. They have one daugh-


Hazel, Mrs. Ben Sauerman, lives with her husband and daughter, Sherry, in California. Another daughter, Nancy, is married to Jeff McNair and lives in Huntington Beach, Vir-

ginia.

Willa is married to Odis Walling and they live in California.

Nancy, Mrs. Michael Gorman, and her husband, Michael K. Gorman, of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, own Gorman Cabinets, Inc. They have four children: Stephen married Max-

ine Benson and lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota. They have one daughter, Sarah. David, married to Lori Gulbranson, lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Mary Beth and Peggy live at home.

Thomas Danielson is married to the former Herminia Qui-

nola and lives in Hawaii. They have four children, Mina, Earl Richard, Sandra, and Lori. Thomas is employed by the United States government.

Donald Danielson is married to the former Florence Grove, and lives in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. They have three children, Karen, Gayle and Paul, all at home. Donald is music instructor and supervisor in the public school and choir direc-

tor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

ERNEST EGLELAND

Ernest P. Egeland, son of Minuel Egeland and Ragnhild (Anderson) Egeland married Norma Genevieve Knutson, daughter of T. Henry and Julia (Salverson) Knutson, in the Bygdland Lutheran Church on June 7, 1947, where they are members, both baptized in 1925 and confirmed in 1940. They
Ernest and Norma Egeland Family: Paul, Carol and Mark.

live on the farm homesteaded by Jens M. Egeland, grandfather of Ernest. They have in their possession the original homestead deed to the land, in the family since 1877, signed in person by Grover Cleveland, at that time, president of the United States.

The original log cabin was later replaced by a huge (in comparison) two-story frame structure in 1905. This building, remodeled in 1947, is the present farm home of Ernest and Norma, in Bygland township, section 14, where he farms, raising small grain, beets and potatoes. Their children are: Carol, Paul and Mark.

Carol is presently teaching; Paul is farming with his father and he is married to Stephanie Gunstinson of Fisher. They have two young sons: Eric Ernest and David Matthew; and Mark is attending school.

The heirs of Jens M. Egeland are taking an active part in the present Bygland community life.

JENS M. EGELELAND

The Egeland name (also Eikeland) comes from an area, a gaard, in southern Norway near Arndal. Our grandfather, Jens Martin Halvorson Egeland, born in 1850, was one of nine children: Bernt, Nels, Tellef, Stina, Sana, Christina, Jens, Severin, and one who died in early childhood. The small mountainside farm could not support this number of people; besides, the eldest son inherited the home place — so most of the boys turned to the sea. Jens, at the age of twelve, left home to become a cabin boy on a sailing vessel on the Atlantic. The sailing trips increased in length with five to seven years’ absence from the home port. In those days they rounded the Cape of Good Hope, an especially stormy voyage.

Jens and his fellow sailors parted ways with their ship, under command of a new and unreasonable captain, in the port of New Orleans about the year 1870. There were no rest breaks given through the long hot days, and the gangplanks were literally wet with sweat. The men sneaked away one night and worked their way north, getting jobs chiefly on sugar plantations.

On reaching Wisconsin (Mamitowoc) our grandfather signed on shipping vessels on the Great Lakes, where he continued the next few years. About that time he met Gunhild Marie Torreson, who became his wife in 1876.

Hearing of the great opportunities in farming farther to the west, Jens came to Minnesota in 1877, taking up homestead land, the Northeast Quarter of Section 14. He made ready for his wife and daughter, who would soon join him. (Later eighty acres were purchased from the railroad in Section 11.)

Grandmother was born in 1856 in Wisconsin, her folks having come from Telemark, Norway. Her father’s place was a hospitable home, and many people were entertained there. Here she met Jens. A year after their marriage Jens left for Minnesota, and she was to follow some months later. They both planned to return to Wisconsin once the land had been “proved up” for the required homesteading time.

Coming to Fisher’s Landing in 1878, the young wife and year-old daughter, Alice, were met by Jens with a team of horses and taken to the John Hegg farm to supper in a sod house. Surprisingly the house was cozy and liveable, with linen tablecloth and whitewashed muslin-covered walls and ceiling.

Later, in their own log cabin home, Grandma gave the same “treatment” to the log walls, covering them with muslin cloth, and whitewashing them. Strips of carpeting were sewn together and laid over straw on the plank floor.

It seems that Grandma adjusted to the pioneer farm life better than did Grandpa. He felt called to return to the sea and the ships, but the children and the lack of money kept him a farmer. Born, to Jens and Marie were: Alicia Teonorah Amanda, Aaron Thomas, Geneva Susanna, Horace Byron, Evana Camilla, Marcus Norman, Minuel Arnold, Aurora Katinka. At the age of nine Aaron died of diphtheria. At reminder of ships or sailing, Jens would sigh and say, “Ah, I’ll have to take me a trip.”

Later he did sail back to Norway for a visit. He and Marie were earnest Christians, read their Bibles diligently, and brought up their children “in the fear and admonition of the Lord”. A picture of J. M. Egeland is in my mind, that of a strong, sturdy individual, smoking a pipe and wearing a visored cap, out mending fences or taking care of the house and of his wife, who was crippled by arthritis. He died at the age of 88.

Seven children of this pioneer couple grew to adulthood. Alice married F. T. Gronvold and lived in Rugby, North Dakota. Geneva married John Kellesvig and also resided in Rugby. Byron and his wife, Anne Marie Aanenson of Bygland farmed land near the homestead of Jens. Their children were Ruth, Frederick, Raymond, Mary, Leone. Camilla became the wife of Dr. A. M. Call, who practiced medicine in Rugby. Marcus homesteaded in Acadia Valley, Alberta, Canada. There he married and raised a family. Minuel married Ragnhild Anderson of Bygland, and they farmed in Bygland Township. Their children were; Alice, Martin (who lost his life soloing in an airplane over this same Bygland Township), Ernest, Lois, Esther Mae, John. (John now resides on and farms the home place.) Aurora was married to a near neighbor, Elmer Thompson. Their children were Marjorie, Carol, Mary Lou, Nancy.

MINUEL A. EGELELAND

Minuel Arnold Egeland was born January 28, 1889 at the Bygland homestead, the seventh child of Jens and Marie Egeland. He and his brother Marcus went to Canada in 1913. His brother remained in Canada but he returned to farm part of his Dad’s farm in 1914. He owned one of the first Model T Fords in this rural area.

In 1920 he married Ragnhild Anderson of Bygland and they built their home in 1921 on land he had acquired north of the homestead. They had six children: Alice (Mrs. Norman Griffith, Portland, Oregon), Jens Martin (deceased 1942), Ernest
In 1965 he and Ragnhild moved to East Grand Forks where they lived five years before his death. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in the Bygland Lutheran Church in January, 1970 and he died at age eighty one in August that same year. They have sixteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**PAUL EGELAND**

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Egeland were married on August 8, 1970 in the Fisher Lutheran Church, Fisher, Minnesota. Paul Egeland is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Egeland of rural route Bygland Township. Mrs. Paul (Stephanie) Egeland is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gunstinson of Fisher, Minnesota.

Paul and Stephanie moved to Moorhead, Minnesota following their marriage to continue their studies. Paul attended Moorhead State College and Stephanie enrolled at Interstate Business College. They returned to Fisher to live for the summer of 1971 and moved to Wadena, Minnesota that fall. Paul attended the Wadena Area Technical Institute while Stephanie worked for a downtown merchant as a cashier. They finally returned to Fisher in 1972 where they have lived since, renting the Ted Solstad farm home in Bygland Township. Since moving back, Paul is farming with his father. Paul and Stephanie have two sons: Eric, born in February of 1974 and David, born in November of 1975.

**OLE FLAAT**

In the early 1880's four brothers immigrated to America from Norway and settled in the Red River Valley. They were Arne, Aanen, Kittle and Sveinum Flaat. Arne Flaat married Nellie Omlid and they had four children: Ole, Hilda, Alice and Charles. Hilda married J. W. Lambie who has two sons who are both doctors of medicine. Alice married Dr. C. A. Wardner who is on the University of North Dakota staff. They have two children. Ole married Lucy Lykken of Grafton, North Dakota and they have three children: Odney, Lowell and Elaine. Odney is married to Joan Philips of Noyes; Lowell to Georgia Helgeson of Crookston and Elaine to Rodney Rasmus of Fertile, all of Minnesota.

After graduation from the Northwest School of Agriculture, Ole Flaat began a farming operation near Bygland in Polk County and later expanded that farming and cattle operation into Grand Forks County in North Dakota under the name of Flaat Farms. One phase of their farming operation was the breeding of purebred Jersey cattle which were sold across the United States and abroad. Mr. Flaat constructed the first commercial fertilizer mixing plant in North Dakota and engaged in the sale of fertilizer and agricultural chemicals in the Valley. This operation was the forerunner of the present Agsoc, Inc., a very prominent agri-business entity. Mr. Flaat and their sons
are very active in the potato industry. While Mr. Flaat was president of the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, he served as a member of the U.S. Potato Advisory Committee to the Department of Agriculture and worked out a cooperative program of research and development of the potato industry in the Red River Valley. The Flaat Farms built the first two-row potato harvesters which were used extensively in the harvest in the potato producing areas of the country.

During World War II the Flaats were asked by the Federal government to furnish the raw vegetables and to carry out the dehydration of potatoes and other vegetables for use by our armed forces. This plant was constructed and employed four hundred individuals in the processing phase.

Mr. and Mrs. Flaat have been active in civic, school, church, political and business organizations. He has served on the Board of Regents of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota and they received the Regents Award for their commitment to Concordia College.

They have made significant contributions to and have been very active in the program of nursing and retirement homes and he is presently serving as president of Valley Memorial and Tufte Manor homes in Grand Forks.

Some of the awards and recognitions given the Flaats are the award of the one of the “One Hundred Living Greats” in the State of Minnesota, Northwest Farm Managers award, Master Farmer of Polk County, Premier seed grower, the Red River Valley Winter Show award as homemakers in the valley and a congressional award for his work in the Ninth District Federal Land Bank.

Odney and Lowell Flaat are now the active managers of Flaat Farms and other activities in business and civic affairs — a normal transfer from one generation to the next.

Our family owes much to the people of the Red River Valley and our country; however God’s blessings have made human efforts productive.

S. K. FLAAT

In Evje, Norway, Kittel Aanandson Flaat (1831-1887) married Helge Aanensdatter Nordbo (1841-1873). The children were: Aanand Sr., Aanand Jr., Ketil, Aadne, Sveinung (1871-1953).

Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Flaat, Clarence, Oscar and Helen.

In Amherst, Wisconsin, Osmund Osmundson (1841-1914) married Anne Olson Sannes (1843-1896). Their children were: Osmund, Bertha, Caroline, Albert, Tilda, Ole, Mary (1872-1962).

Sveinung Flaat (1871-1953) married Mary Oline Osmundson (1872-1962) on November 8, 1899. Their children are: Clarence (1900-1952), Bygland; Oscar (1902), Bygland; and Helen (1904), Cass Lake.

Sveinung Flaat came to America in the spring of 1889. Several brothers had preceded him and settled in this area. There was a severe economic depression in the early 1900’s and the large numbers of immigrants from Norway were struggling with this problem.

The congregation of a Lutheran Church, made up mostly of Norwegian immigrants, sent their pastor, Rev. Christian Svangstad, accompanied by Mr. A. Stortroen westward to investigate sites for a new settlement. They came back to Minnesota and Svangstad gave his report to a crowded congregation at the church at Neby. He described the Bella Coola Valley in British Columbia as “having many of the features of your beloved Norway. Mountains rise almost perpendicularly, streams leap from the mountain sides, glaciers gleam in the sun, game is plentiful and the streams are never still from the splashing of fish.”

The report was received with great enthusiasm and the next meeting was held in a schoolhouse west of Crookston, Minnesota. Here a colony was formed to function under the laws of British Columbia, and the group left from Crookston October 17, 1894. There were about seventy men, but also some women and children. Albert Hammer, eighteen, was the youngest colonist to receive a grant of land. Sveinung Flaat was one of the “Bella Coola Norwegians”, as were Nels, Ole and Gunder Olson (Lysedalen) from Bygland. The article from Sons of Norway magazine “Viking”, October, 1972, states “as the crew made preparation to discharge the cargo, the passengers gazed around them with awe, wonderment and fear. There was no wharf, no sign of habitation, no indication that humans had ever trod this shore.”

When S. K. Flaat returned from this expedition he started a store in Bygland in 1897. In 1899, he bought a farm from Paul Sorenson and that same year married Mary Osmundson. Most of the remainder of S.K.’s life is told in the article on “Bygland Stores”.

Mary Osmundson came with her parents, and a brother and two sisters, from Wisconsin in the fall of 1876. They came to St. Paul by wagon and from there to Fisher by train. She lived on her father’s farm in Huntsville Township and attended grade school there. Later the family moved to Mallory where
Sylvia Franklin, center, with parents and brothers and sisters.

**SYLVIA FRANKLIN**

I, Mrs. Sylvia Franklin, was born in Bygdal Township, East Grand Forks, Minnesota. My parents were Daniel and Mathilda Danielson (now deceased). I attended Timberline School District 93 and was a member of Bygdal Lutheran Church. I now live in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, and am a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

I was a graduate of East Grand Forks Central High School and have worked as Cosmetologist many years. I have a daughter, Joan, (Mrs. Brad Tauer) and a granddaughter, Cher Suzanne who are presently living at Houston, Texas. Joan attended Elementary and High School in East Grand Forks, and graduated from the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Her husband, Brad is also a graduate of the University of North Dakota.

I have a brother, Truman Danielson, who, with his wife, Bernice, live on the farm home where our parents lived until they retired and moved to East Grand Forks, Minnesota. This is the place we were all born and raised. Another brother, Odell, lives with his wife, Bernice in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. I have a sister, Orva, formerly of Bygdal, now living in Bemidji, Minnesota. Another sister, Cora Mae, and family live in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

**HALVOR GJERMUNDSEN HELLE**

Halvor G. Helle, born August 25, 1865 — died March 15, 1936; married Ingeborg Olson on May 5, 1885; died May 14, 1903. They came to America and Bygdal, Minnesota, in 1887, with one son, Jim. They had nine children:


Emma Helle, born 1893, died 1971, married Elliot Hall. They had five children: Elmer, Howard, Buddy, Leonard, and Mary.


Halvor Helle, born September 12, 1898, died May 2, 1974; married Elsa, born May 14, 1902.

John Helle, born September 1, 1900.

Knute Helle, born March 27, 1902, married Laretta Moos, born November 10, 1907.

Halvor Helle’s five sons all fought in the first World War.
and all came back, Ole, Halvor and John went to Detroit, Michigan, Jim to Thompson, North Dakota, Knut to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, to Kansas City, Missouri and to Fargo, North Dakota. He remained in the army until retirement.

About 1915, Halvor G. Helle sold his farm to Lawrence Krostdie whose son, Manvel, still lives there. Later he bought land in Oregon and Playa, North Dakota, where his daughter, Tildy and family lived. In 1919, he went to Norway to visit and married Gunhild there, a girl he had known before he left Norway, and they returned to Playa, North Dakota. Their daughter, Anne, born October 23, 1921, died November 17, 1925, was born there. They returned to Bygdland in 1922 where they remained. Another daughter, Ingelena, born July 1, 1923, married Arnold Knutson at Aitken, Minnesota. They have three children: Arlene Gloria, born November 14, 1942, married Michael Schultz, born May 25, 1944. They have Peter Michael, born May 5, 1971 and Melanie Jane, born April 18, 1972, and Arnold Lawrence, born April 18, 1972. Arnold and Melanie are twins. Hazel Jeraldine, born January 24, 1944, married Gary Johnson, born October 3, 1942. They have two children: Thomas Gene, born March 5, 1965 and David Mitchell, born February 16, 1968. Diane Loraine, born April 6, 1948, married Leroy Hanson, born April 18, 1934. They have two children: Anthony Scott, born November 9, 1967 and Shawn Lee, born August 18, 1970.

Halvor G. Helle also had three brothers who came to America: Thor Helle, married in Norway, settled in Grygla, Minnesota and had seven sons. He died in 1954. Ole Helle, died in 1954. Targie Helle, died in 1958.

JACOB HOFSTAD
My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hofstad, were married in Crookston in 1893. My mother, whose name was Helga Jordenstatter, came from Norway (Setersdal) just a few years before. My dad was also from the same place, but had been in this country about ten years. They bought a forty acre farm from my dad's brother-in-law, Aanund Annerson, in Byglan town. The place was all trees and brush so they had to clear a place to put up a house, which was a small bedroom and kitchen downstairs and one bedroom upstairs. That is where all their six children were born.

There were five girls and one boy: Mrs. C. B. Mitchell (Christina), who passed away in 1958; Mrs. Tom Erickson (Gunhild), a widow, living in Lakeville, Minnesota; Mrs. J. A. Erickson (Margaret) living in Spokane, Washington; Mrs. H. N. Lolland (Torina) living in Thompson, North Dakota; and Thomas Hofstad, a widower, who is at the present time in Oroville, California.

There are many fond memories from childhood. We didn't have much, but never went hungry. I remember my mother praying God for what we did have. We had a few cows and chickens which she took care of.

My Dad cut cord wood all winter and sold it in Grand Forks and other places. In the fall he would take his two horses and hayrack and work in threshing, going as far as 50 or 60 miles away. We always looked forward for him to come home, as he would always bring us a treat, either a basket of grapes or a box of apples. We were more happy about that than children nowadays are if they get a truck load of goodies.

I also remember our first car ride when Niel Anderson picked us up and gave us a ride to the S. K. Flaal Store. Guess he was the first one in Bygdland with a car. Many years have come and gone since then.

Just a little about my family: William A. Erickson and Anna J. Hofstad were married December 25, 1926, in Spokane. They stayed there a year. Then moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where Art got a job for the Great Northern Round house as a boiler maker. He worked there till he retired, after forty-one years.

We bought Dad's farm in 1944, but didn't move out till 1959. Then we built a new house. We had four boys. Our youngest, Lowell, was killed in an industrial accident in 1969. We are raising his son, Tim, who is eleven years old. Our oldest son, Donald, lives in Libby, Montana. He is a telegrapher at the Burlington Northern Depot. He married the former Janie Davies from Chicago. They have two girls and two boys.

Diane got five acres of our farm and built a new house in 1974. They have two girls and a boy. He works for Omni Corporation in East Grand Forks. His wife is the former Adel West of Niagara, North Dakota. William A. Jr. lives in Colorado Springs and works for the Post Office. They have two girls and a boy. His wife is the former Marilyn Link of East Grand Forks.

My Dad and Mother belonged to the Lutheran Church two miles south. We had a Christian home and a praying mother, which means more than I can say. I'm glad we can still worship our Lord as we please and I praise Him.

OSMUND AND BERTHE ISAACSON
Among the early pioneers of Bygdland Township were Osmund and Berthe Isaacson; Osmund was the son of Tone and Isaac Osmundson. The son took his father's first name, adding "son" to it, which was the custom in Norway. He was born in Sandness, Setesdal, Norway, August 18, 1852. His parents sailed for America in April, 1853, when Osmund was eight months old. They arrived in America via Buffalo, New York, and went to Waupeca, Wisconsin, where they lived for several years. They had relatives living here in Bygdland who were very enthused about the land and timber. It seemed an ideal place to settle and make a living. So Osmund and his parents with the other children found a place there.

In 1883, a young lady decided to leave Aaseral, Norway, to make her home with relatives here in Bygdland. She was Berthe Roidland, daughter of Torkel and Kari Roidland. She was 24 years old at the time. She worked as a maid for some time until she married Osmund Isaacson in November, 1884.

They established a home that was open to anyone in need of a place to stay. Many newcomers stayed here until they found a place to settle. Two men, both relatives of the Isaacsons, who stayed here much of the time, were Jens Smeland and Knut Isaacson. A two-year-old boy, John Johnson, son of Knut Johnson stayed here two years following the death of his mother. They also had "heart and house" room for two foster children.
The oldest was Ellen Hoverson, born May 3, 1890, whose mother died when she was a week old. She was the daughter of Anlaug and Tellef Hoverson. She grew up in a Christian atmosphere. Mrs. Isaacson’s mother, Kari, and her sister, Margit, also lived here. On November 2, 1910, Ellen married Bjorn Benson. They, too, lived with the Isaacsons several years.

In November, 1912, Esther Bergstrand came to live with them. Osmund passed away August 20, 1928, and Berthe February 7, 1941. Due to failing health and the weight of hard work, these pioneers sold the farm in the fall of 1926 to Rolf and Gunnuf Moe who lived a mile south of the Isaacson place. The Isaacson’s were sincere Christians and active members of the Bygland Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Osmund Isaacson 1884.

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CLARENCE DAY KNOX

Ethan Allen has a long line of descendants living in the Fisher, Minnesota area. They are the relatives of the Clarence Day Knox family.

In the year 1912 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Day Knox and children Rita, Leone, Margaret, William, and Andrew left their home in Morrison, Ill. to make a new home for themselves in the Bygland area.

They farmed here for about ten years and then moved to Thief River Falls, Minnesota where they started farming.

Rita married Mark McFarland and they lived at Thief River Falls, where he had a Ford dealership, and owned a resort at Cass Lake, Minn. They had three boys John, Robert, Donald. Rita died in 1947.

Leone taught school in Fisher then continued her teaching career in St. Paul. She retired and moved back to Crookston where she resides at St. Francis Residence.

Margaret entered the Benedictine Order of Sisters in 1919 and received the name Sister M. Timothy. She spent her years in the religious life as a teacher of piano and violin. She died in 1965.

Andrew, the youngest of the family became a lieutenant cadet at West Point, and was killed in 1929 while testing an airplane for the military.

William, the fourth born was married to Mary Ann Votava in 1928 at Thief Falls, Minnesota. They lived in Washington, D.C. for three years. While living there, Patricia and William

Day were born. In 1931 they moved back to Bygland and moved into the same house that had been occupied before by the elder Knox family. Jane and James were born in that same house where their mother Mrs. Mary Ann Knox still resides. Her husband William died in 1950.

The children all married. Patricia married Dewey Bushaw of Grand Forks, North Dakota. He is a senior geologist for the Exxon Co. in Houston, Texas. They have four children.

William Day is married to the former Elizabeth Langenberg of Crookston. They have five children one of whom is deceased. William farms north of Fisher and is an aerial pilot.

Jane married Richard Stainbrook of Crookston. He is vice-president of the foods division in the Borden Co. at Columbus, Ohio. They have four boys.

James married the former Claudia LeBlanc of the Crookston-Gentilly area. They have five children, Mark, Monique, Kelly, Scott, and Stephen. They are the present occupants of the home place.

MR. AND MRS. BOYD KNUTSON

Boyd Knutson was born in Bygland Township, September 8, 1921, the first of three children born to T. Henry and Julia (Salverson) Knutson. He was baptized Orville Boyd Knutson and was confirmed in 1935, in the Bygland Lutheran Church. He attended grade school in District 222 and high school at the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston, graduating in 1940. He began raising potatoes in 1940 and has raised grain and potatoes, specializing in Certified Seed Potatoes, ever since. He married Edna Margaret Koppang, September 6, 1945, at the Sand Hill Lutheran Church near Climax, Minnesota, by Rev. Louis Olson. Following their marriage, they moved to their present home in Section 12, in Bygland Township. They are landowners in Bygland and Fisher Townships.

Edna Koppang Knutson was born in Tynsid Township, September 15, 1924, the third of seven children born to John and Tina (Hanson) Koppang. She was baptized, and confirmed in 1937, in the Sand Hill Lutheran Church. She attended grade school in District 226 and attended the special eighth grade graduation that used to be held in Crookston. She started high school in Climax the fall of 1937. This was the first year Climax began to transport students to high school by school bus, enabling all country students in the area to attend high school more conveniently. She graduated from the Climax High School in 1941 and attended Aakers Business College in Grand Forks, North Dakota; that fall. She was a bookkeeper at the Border Chevrolet Company at Grand Forks (there is a parking lot at the location now) until her marriage. They are members of the Bygland Lutheran Church and have been active in community affairs, serving on committees and holding offices in Church, Potato Board, Elevator, Family Fellowship, Euterpe Music Club, Homemakers Club, Choir, Choir School, and Sunday School.

The Boyd Knutson Family.
They are parents of two daughters, Joy Kristine, born July 9, 1963, and Mary Kay, born June 30, 1965. The girls attend the Fisher Public School and are active in school activities such as FHA, Camp Fire, band, and piano; 4-H Club, and attend Bible Camp, Norwegian Camp, and Camp Fire Camp in the summer months.

**MR. AND MRS. T. HENRY KNUTSON**

T. Henry Knutson was born in Huntsville Township, Section 29, the sixth child in a family of ten children born to Osmund and Bergit (Hegland) Knutson, May 26, 1900. He died at his home in Polk County, Bygland Township, Section 11, February 15, 1975, where he had lived and farmed small grains and potatoes and livestock in earlier years, since 1921. He also had land in Fisher Township. He was baptized Tha- rold Henry Knutson and was confirmed in 1915 in the Bygl-
dand Lutheran Church of which he was a lifetime member. He served on the church council, was a schoolboard member of District 222, and Bygland Township officer. He was a very friendly and jovial man who enjoyed teasing and a good laugh. He attended school in District 93, walking being the common mode of transportation to school. There were from twenty to thirty students in a small one-room school with one teacher. Double desks were used, often with three pupils sharing the same desk. Boys and girls did not mingle like now or they would be teased.

He was married in 1920, December 8, at Fisher by Pastor O. M. Siensgaard, to Julia Salverson, the daughter of Amund (Ed) and Bergit (Stallmo) Salverson. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Bygland Church in 1970. Julia Knutson was born in Bygland Township, Section 1, June 30, 1902 and attended school at District 222. She was the third of five living children. Always there were hired men and much cooking and baking to be done at home. She became very efficient and could be called a perfectionist in her endeavors. She is a life-time member of the Bygland Lutheran Church where she was baptized, and confirmed in 1917. She is a member of the Byland Church Women, she was on the Altar Committee about fifteen years. She is still living on the farm which they owned and moved to shortly after their marriage.

Three children were born to Henry and Julia Knutson, O. Boyd, married to Edna Koppang, lives in Bygland Township; Blanch, married to Ernest Egeland, lives in Bygland Township. A footnote to history might be noted in the custom of naming children after their grandparents, which was the prac-
tice of many Norwegians. The first child was named after the paternal grandparents and the second after the maternal grandparents.

Many changes have taken place in Bygland in the last fifty years. The roads that were but trails through dust and mud changed to graded, graveled, and now to cement or tar. The means of transportation from horse drawn buggy to small motored four wheel open vehicles to high-powered streamlined automobiles. Farming done by small horse drawn machines replaced by gas and diesel tractors, and often self-propelled machines. In 1975 there are very few, if any, yards not covered with gravel; not so true even thirty years ago. And the homes are surrounded by beautiful well kept lawns.

Homes were heated mostly by wood or coal parlor-stoves and cooking was done on the kitchen range, such good smells came from the oven. There was always nice warm water in the reservoir on the range. Now warm water runs out of the tap, this change brought about by the rural electricity coming to Bygland in 1940. This also put an end to kerosene, Aladdin, and gas mantel lamps, with their chimey of washing chimneys to keep them shining to give full benefit of their light. Oil furnaces or electric heat to keep the whole house cozy at all times, quite a change from waking up winter mornings when there was ice on the water pail.

Also, every farm had stock to be taken care of, watered and fed in early morning by light of kerosene lanterns and again in the evening. Chores kept the men busy and of course, milking was done by hand. Many farms had windmills, which pumped water for the stock, and all needs for the home.

**MANVEL R. KROSTUE**

Manvel R. Krostue was born to Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Krostue at Bygland on March 25, 1920. He attended school in Polk County. He married the former Jean Sorenson of Grand Forks, North Dakota. She was born in Grand Forks on August 25, 1923. She attended schools in Grand Forks and was a student at the University of North Dakota at the time of their marriage. They have four children and four grandchildren.

Roger was born December 6, 1942. He attended the University of Minnesota and Moorhead State College. He served as a computer operator at 4th Army Headquarters at San Antonio, Texas, and at Bangkok, Thailand, from 1967-1969. After his Army discharge, he started farming with his father.

Karen was born July 10, 1944. She attended the University of North Dakota prior to her marriage. She now lives in Grand Forks and is the mother of three children; Lynda, Kathy and Michael.

Nancy was born May 21, 1953. She attended Ray Vogue Fasion Institute in Chicago and was employed in Chicago until her marriage. She is the mother of one child, Kristen.

Cheryl, the youngest daughter, was born October 9, 1958. She lives at home and is a Senior at East Grand Forks, Senior High School.

Manvel started farming in 1939 and has lived his entire life on the family farm, which he purchased after the death of his mother.

Manvel has been a town Board member for 21 years and served on the School District 92 School Board for 12 years before its dissolution upon joining the East Grand Forks School District 595.

He and his family are members of the Bygland Lutheran Church, except Karen, who lives in Grand Forks and transferred to the United Lutheran Church. Jean is a member of the Bygland A.L.C.W. and the South Bygland Homemakers Club. Manvel and Jean are advisors for the Bygland Senior Luther League, of which their daughter, Cheryl, is a member.
GUNDER O. LANGHEID

Gunder O. Langheid was born June 14, 1883, in Langeid, Setesdal, Norway. He came to America in 1902 via New York and by the Canadian route to North Dakota. He worked in the area of Bentrup Township and Fisher for about two years.

He went to Big Fork, Minnesota, in about 1904, working as a lumberjack before buying some land and stumpage. He operated a private pulp and lumber business there.

In 1905 his brother Bjorn (Ben) Olson, their sister, Anna (Mrs. Halvor Olson) and daughter, Berget, came to America from Norway, Gunder came to the Bygland area to clear land and farm during the summer: in the winter he worked in the woods. He later sold this land to Drong Roisland which eventually became the Salve (Sam) Sannes farm. Gunder bought more land from Ole Sannes.

Gunder married Tarjar Rygnesd from Walle Township on December 10, 1921, in Crookston, Minnesota. They lived and farmed in the Bygland area for many years where they raised four children: Berget (1922-24); Olger, born June 14, 1924; Clayton, born March 1, 1926; and Tony, born April 10, 1927. They were members of the Bygland Lutheran Church. Mrs. Gunder Langheid passed away November 29, 1942. Gunder was an active member of the Setesdals Lag for many years. He died in Grand Forks, North Dakota, on August 13, 1961.

Olger Langheid married Lucille Jensen at Viking, Minnesota, October 17, 1948. Olger, a former employee of N.S.P. is now a welder-electrician. They live in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Lucille's favorite pastime is rosemaling. They have three children: Terry Jean, Gary and Shelly. Gary graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1971 with a music major. Terry is a beautician and saleslady in Grand Forks. Shelly will graduate from the University of North Dakota in 1976 with majors and minors in instrumental and vocal music and Norwegian. She attended the Universities of Bergen and Oslo, Norway, studying music and the Norwegian Language under an Arneberg Scholarship. Gary Langheid was born August 31, 1949; Terry Jean was born August 9, 1950; and Shelly was born November 15, 1954.

Clayton Langheid, a carpenter, lives in Glasgow, Montana. Clayton was a prisoner of War in Germany during World War II.

Tony Langheid married Beverly Trydahl from Thompson, North Dakota, on December 10, 1955, in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Tony was in law enforcement for twenty-two years and is now employed as a carpenter at the University of North Dakota. They have one daughter, Tori Alyson, born June 10, 1960.

AANAND LINDEM

Mr. and Mrs. Aanand Lindem emigrated from Norway in the 1870's and homesteaded in Bygdal on what is now the Marvin Wardner farm home. They had three children: Anton, Tony and Janna. Peter Wardner came from Osterdalen, Norway, in 1897 together with three brothers, Sam, Ludvig and Redar. Peter served two years in the Spanish American War. He married Janna Lindem in 1903. They lived and farmed in Bygdal until their death in 1949. They had two sons, Arthur and Marvin.

Arthur married Alice Flaat, and resides in Grand Forks, North Dakota. They have two children, Joy and Arthur Jr. Arthur is an instructor at the University of North Dakota. Marvin farms and lives on the home farm with his wife, Clara. They have three sons, Telford, Jarold and Myron. Clara is the daughter of the late Thor and Engeborg Larson of Oklee, Minnesota. There were five sisters and four brothers in that family. Thor came from Telemarken, Norway, in 1878 with his parents and family when he was nine years old. They lived in the Fergus Falls area. Then as a young man, he moved and homesteaded in Equality Township at Oklee. Engeborg (Nerison) Larson came to America with her parents and family from Langarak Satesdalen, Norway, in 1891 at the age of eleven years. They settled in the Bygland area, then later moved to Oklee and homesteaded in Equality Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wardner.

ALFRED C. LINDEM, JR.

Alfred C. Lindem, Jr., was born on April 20, 1932, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Lindem, Sr. He graduated from high school in East Grand Forks and attended Concordia College for two years during which he sang and travelled with the famous Concordia Choir. He obtained his B.S. from North Dakota State University in 1955. The University of North Dakota awarded him an M.Ed. in 1974. He and Constance Claire Anderson were married in 1954. She was a graduate of the University of Minnesota and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omicron Pi. She received her M.A. from the University of North Dakota in 1973. Her present interest is the Poet's Study Club, of which she is a member.

In June of 1955, Alfred entered active duty in the U.S. Navy. After intensive training at Newport, Rhode Island, Alfred and his wife were transferred to the Naval Communications Station in Kodiak, Alaska, for a two-year tour of duty. Their son, Alfred C. Lindem, III, was born in Kodiak on April 14, 1957.

The family returned to Bygdal in June of 1959, at which time Alfred began farming with his father. A daughter, Katherine Beth Lindem, was born on July 30, 1961.

For fifteen years Alfred served as a Director of the Halstad Telephone Company. He served as president of the Council and Sunday School Superintendent at varying intervals. Both the Lindems taught Sunday School.

In 1967 Alfred began working for the Computer Center at the University of North Dakota. He now serves as Manager of Academic Programming at the Computer Center. He is also the Director of the Institute for Applied Statistics and Mathematics.
ALFRED C. LINDEM, SR.

Anton Lindem came over from Norway with his parents, Anund and Maren Lindem, and Anton’s brother, John, and sister Jennie Lindem Wardner in the year 1869. They were thirteen weeks on the sailboat coming over to America. They settled in Buffalo County, Wisconsin, Nelson Post Office. In 1877 Anton moved to Crookston and during the same year he homesteaded in Byland, six miles west of Fisher. At that time Fisher’s Landing was the railroad’s western terminal.

Anton returned to Wisconsin in 1882 where he married Christine Thompson. He had built a log house in Byland Township where he had homesteaded. He was active in community affairs. He was Polk County Commissioner for two terms, served as clerk of his school district for twenty-five years and was one of the church organizers. He was a Deacon at the time of his death on June 3, 1931.

Anton and Christine Lindem had a family of eight children, the first two having died when they were quite young. Anna was born with Father and Mother much of the time except when teaching school. Son Martin became an M.D. and surgeon and located in Salt Lake City. He married Marjorie Watson, and their son, Tony, also became a successful surgeon. Oscar, another son, went to Concordia College and became first an automobile salesman in Moorhead, Minnesota, and was promoted to become a fieldman for the Studebaker Corp. He married Frieda Ness, and they had a daughter, Mary Ann. Selma, the youngest, attended St. Olaf College and became a librarian at the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago. She married O. W. Heath, was widowed, and now lives in La Jolla.

Alfred C. Lindem was the third child; his father married Sophie Thorson, daughter of Homer Thorson, whose farm adjoins the Lindem Farm. Alfred studied at Grand Forks College, and while there he played in the College Band and sang in the Men’s Octette. When he returned home, he joined the home choir in church and later became the Director of the choir and continued for thirty-five years.

Besides being busy with the farm, he was active in the church and township affairs, being elected Assessor for two years. Alfred also became busy in the Farm Bureau, becoming President of the West Polk County Farm Bureau for fifteen years. He served as a Director of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Service Company in St. Paul for some years, and this involved many trips to St. Paul to serve on the Farm Bureau Service Company. During World War II, Alfred was on the Rationing Board and acted as Chairman of the Tire Board. He was Treasurer of School District 92 for twenty-seven years and a member of the board which supervised the building of the Erskine Pioneer Old People’s Home for nine years. He served on the board which built the Student Center at the University of North Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lindem, Sr., also visited extensively sixteen countries in Europe and Asia. They remained in the Holy Land for three days. Throughout the years they have traveled by auto in forty-five states.

Special gifts that Alfred gave to his girls were Shetland Ponies to ride horseback. He made a chariot for the ponies to pull the girls.

Alfred and Sophie’s children all attended Concordia College for their education. Norma also went to McPhail School of Music. There she studied voice, piano, and pipe organ. Norma had sung in the Concordia College choir under the direction of Paul Christianson. Norma married Norman Johnshoy of Moorhead, son of the Reverend and Professor J. Walter Johnshoy, of Concordia College. After several calls, they settled in Hardin and Plentywood, Montana. Norman joined the Air Force, became a chaplain, and was sent to Ankara, Turkey, and while there he also supervised the tours to the Holy Land. Norman and Norma had one daughter, Anne Elisabeth. Norma passed away on July 6, 1966. Norman married Mary Ann Lindem, Oscar’s daughter, in 1967. He left the armed service and took a teaching position at California University, and Mary Ann is a Special Hematologist at Scripts Clinic and Research Center in La Jolla. Norman is at present preparing his dissertation for his Ph.D.

Alfred and Sophie’s second daughter, Mildred, took the five-year course in nursing at Concordia and Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and then went to Montana State College School of Nursing at Billings to teach nursing. She had previously married Duan Bjerke of Warren, Minnesota, also a graduate of Concordia, who went along to Billings to teach Scouting. He was later in public school administration. He served two years with the U.S. Government Information Service in Argentina, and is presently Deputy Regional Commissioner in the U.S. Office of Education in San Francisco, California. They have three children. Peter is finishing college in Maryland this winter; Steven is in his third year of college in San Francisco, and Kristi Ann is in her second year of college in San Francisco.

Alfred, Sr., and his wife, Sophie, travel frequently, but still reside on the home farm.

GUNNUF MOE

Gunnuf Moe was the youngest of the Pederson family. He came here with his parents, Andres and Helga Pederson and brothers and sisters from Byland, Satersdal, Norway. He grew up in Byland Township and stayed on the home place and farmed until his parents passed away. Then he farmed with Ole Flaat several years. On December 29, 1936, he married Mabel Larson, daughter of Thor and Engeborg Larson of Oklee, Minnesota.

We lived and farmed the home place until his death, March 29, 1943. We had three children born to us, two sons and one daughter. The oldest, Thelmer Ardell, born August 18, 1939 went to the little country school, District 4 in Byland. He graduated from East Grand Forks high school, then went to the North Dakota State University where he received his B.S. Degree in 1963. He married Janet Sinner, daughter of Eugene and Mary Sinner, Fargo, North Dakota. He has been in the Armed Forces since 1963 and served twice in Viet Nam. He is presently stationed in Korea with his wife and three boys, Mark, Michael and Mitchell.

Helen Elaine born December 10, 1941, also went to Country
school and East Grand Forks High. After high school, she took up Nurses training at Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis. Then she married Dennis J. Sullivan, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Sullivan of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, August 31, 1962. They lived in East Grand Forks for awhile and in Los Angeles. Later they moved to Minneapolis and Dennis is employed at Univac. They have three boys, Dennis Jr., smokey and John. They are now living in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Goodwin Martin, the youngest, born December 24, 1942, also attended grade school in District 4, Bygland and East Grand Forks High School. Then he served in the Armed Forces for two years, then went to school for computer mechanic in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He worked at the University of Minnesota, for several years and now is employed at Twin City Monorail, Minneapolis and lives at New Hope, Minneapolis, Minnesota. They all attended Sunday School and were confirmed in the Bygland Lutheran Church.

ROLF AND ESTHER MOE

Rolf Moe, son of Andres and Helga Pederson, came to America in the spring of 1893, from Bygland, Setersdal, Norway. They lived on a place called Stallmoe in Bygland, Norway. Instead of taking their father's given name and adding son, the boys chose the Stallmoe name. But there were others in Bygland-Fisher community with the same name, so getting the mail delivered to the right person caused a lot of confusion; so Rolf and his brothers (except the oldest one) decided to drop the first part of the name making it Moe. Rolf was born April 7, 1881, "an upside down year." (It reads the same upside down and backwards.)

On October 12, 1928, Rolf married Esther Bergstrand, daughter of John and Anna Bergstrand. She was born August 20, 1906, in Tynsfd Township. Her mother died when she was four years old. She spent two years at the home of her great uncle, Arne Ness. At the age of six, she came to live at the Osmund Isaacson home, where she attended District School 4 in Bygland, and graduated from Fisher High School in 1924.

The Isaacsons were devout Christians and instructed their foster children thoroughly in the Word of God. Life on the farm with all the animals and chickens, which all had to tend, was always a source of interest and excitement. The anticipation of the arrival of the huge threshing machine in the fall was quite an experience.

They raised purebred Guernseys a few years. Rolf loved horses and gave them loving care. A friend told Rolf that "when I get old I want to be your horse."

The farm crops were sometimes abundant and sometimes not so abundant. My foster parents lived with us after we were married. Osmund passed away August 20, 1928, and on August 20th our first son was born. He was named Osmund Bertel after my foster parents. We also had two more baby boys who died in infancy.

Osmund attended Bygland Church and District 4 Country school where I also attended and school was so much fun. It seems so strange not to see the little school building sitting on the hill. Even the hill is gone into the building of Highway 220.

As the years passed Osmund, too, had to join the ranks of men who were serving their country. He spent one and a-half years in Stuttgart, Germany. After he returned home, he worked on the farm and at American Crystal Company, East Grand Forks in the fall and winter. He is now a full time employee there.

On November 2, 1957, he married Carol Askegaard from Manvel, North Dakota. Their first child, Richard Allen, was born August 31, 1959. He died January 17, 1960. On January 3, 1964, a daughter, Susan Elaine, arrived and November 26, 1965, another daughter, Kristi Lynn, was born to the happy family. They now live on the Moe home place where we all enjoyed so many happy years.

I live here in a mobile home since Rolf's death July 5, 1966. Rolf loved his Lord and Savior and was deeply interested in the work of the church. He had also been a member of the School Board and Township board. He was concerned about his community and friends.

THORVALD MOE

Thorvald Moe, son of Ole A. and Tone Moe, was born in Bygland Township. He married Margaret Gilbertson of Mentor, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Anton and Anna Gilbertson. They lived on the home place where Thorvald is engaged in farming and cattle feeding. He is also a director and vice-president of the Climax Mutual Insurance Company and a director of the Halstad Telephone Company. They have six children and six grandchildren. Their children are: Allan, Carol, and Roger of East Grand Forks, Minnesota: Duane of El Cajon, California; John of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Randy of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

JOHN ROHOLT

Mr. and Mrs. John and Annie Roholt from Ovre-Telemarken, Norway, immigrated to America from the seaport of Skien, Norway. They came to America when their daughter, Anlaug was seven years old and located first at Madison, Minnesota. where the grasshoppers chased them out and from
there, they moved to Houston County in 1870. They later came
to the Red River Valley locating in several places; Grafton,
Park River, Grand Forks, and Hoople, North Dakota; also at
Sandhill, in Polk City, Minnesota.

Born to this union were eight children: Ellen married Ole
Gunderson. They had a son, Andrew and two daughters,
Annie and Rena who lived at Park River, North Dakota, but
moved to Highland Prairie, Minnesota. Andrew never married
but traveled in Bygdland many years ago. Tom, a bachelor,
staked a homestead at Beaneff, Alberta, Canada, and passed
away there. Jorgen married Thorbjar and lived at Hoo-
ple, North Dakota, their children were: John who lives on the
home farm and is married; Charlie who lived at Minneapolis
but moved to California; Arthur, who lives at Minneapolis;
Alma lived at Greenbush, Minnesota, and passed away in
1972; Julia married Ole Dufwa, lives at Greenbush, Minne-
sota. Theresa Roholt who is retired and lives in Fargo. Hans
Roholt lived at Langdon, North Dakota, and was married to
Gunvar Knutson. They had two sons: Lewis and Clarence.
Anlaus who married thor A. Berland and had six children.
Dagne who married Christian Berg and lived at Park River
and had three children. Anne who married Ivan Hegland and
lived at Grafton. Their children were: John, Peter, Clara, Levi,
Emma, Carrie, Julia and Betsy. The girls in this family spent
some time at the Berland home when they were young, and
Leif J. Roholt was their brother, who died at 21 from Red
River fever.

AMUND (ED) SALVERSON

Amund (Ed) Salverston was born in Norway, January 2,
1842, and died at his home in Polk County, February 15, 1912.
He was brought to the United States by his parents, Salve and
Ingeborg (Olstdt) Gunderson, when four years of age and
was educated in Waupaca County, Wisconsin. He had two older
brothers and a younger sister: Ole, Gunder and Gyro. He
was the oldest of a family of five.

In the late 1880's, he moved to Minnesota and for over twenty
years his activities were confined to Polk County and he was
one of the leading farmers of Bygdland Township where he
owned and operated farms. His home was located in Section 1
on the south bank of the Red Lake River. He was the owner of
one of the first automobiles in the area. In 1891, he gave 42
square rods situated in the corner of southwest quarter of
northwest quarter of section 12 to the school district.

Mr. Salverston was married three times. His first wife was
Anna Olson (sister of Asbjorn Olson). To this union two chil-
dren grew to adulthood: Oscar and Thea Caroline who mar-
rried Elias Erickson. His second marriage was with Joran Kros-
tue, a niece of Gunder Krostue. A son, Sherman, survived the
death of the mother. On March 15, 1896, Mr. Salverston mar-
rried Bertg Stallmo.

Bergit Stallmo Salverston was born in Satesdel, Norway.
May 28, 1870, the daughter of Nels and Guro Johnson (Lee)
Stallmo and was brought at an early age to Wisconsin. The
family remained there until 1879 when Nels Stallmo moved to
Polk County and took a homestead five miles west of Fisher,
in Bygdland Township.

Amund and Bergit Salverston had seven children: (two died
in infancy), Annie, Gertie, Julia, Josepha and Norman. They
also took in their home, in her infancy, a little girl, Alice.

Amund Salverston's life was devoted to farming interest, and
the years of industry attended by marked business ability
brought the noteworthy success attributed to in the large and
prosperous estate which he built up.

THE REVEREND HANS SKYBERG

The Rev. Hans Skyberg was born in Gudbrandsdalen, Nor-
way, in 1851. He received part of his education there and came
to the United States as a young man. He stated in his Declara-
tion of Intention to the United States: "I arrived at the port of
Milwaukee in the state of Wisconsin on or about the 5th day of
July, 1872. I immigrated to the United States from the port of
Christiania, Norway on the vessel 'Nymphen,' a Norwegian
sailing vessel."

Here he enrolled at Luther College. He was graduated in
1879, entered the seminary at Madison, Wisconsin, and was
ordained in 1882. Pastor Skyberg served congregations in Iowa
for ten years before coming to Bygdland Township in Polk
County. While in Iowa he married Gurine Helvig in 1885. Rev.
and Mrs. Skyberg had four children: Adolph (1888-1974), who
married Gertie Grundy and were in the Bygdland area all of
his adult life. As a young boy he attended the Model High
School in Grand Forks. He also had the experience of staking his
own claim and living on the land. As an adult Adolph was active
in community and church activities. He served as president of
the Farmer's Elevator in Fisher and held various offices within
the church. Adolph was also a Polk County Commissioner for
many years. He held this position with authority and dignity and
served our county well. Adolph and Gertie's son, Hans and his
wife Sarah farm in Bygdland and his granddaughter, Ardis and
her husband, Dan Maney, now live on Adolph's farmstead.

Alma (1890), married Ted Solstad and they also farmed
in Bygdland. Both were active in community and church
activities. Their daughter, Eleanor, lives in Hinckley, Minnesota,
with her husband, Harry Nelson, and their five children: Alan,
Deane, Craig, Joel, and Janice. Alma is now residing in a rest
home in Pine City, near her daughter's home. The homestead
in Bygdland remains in the family.

Herman (1896-1968), the youngest of the four children, was
born in the parsonage in Fisher.

Olga (1887-1941), who married Henry Thompson and lived
and farmed in the Climax, Minnesota, area. They had two
children: Gladys, who lives with her husband, Don Rizzi, and
daughter, Jayne, in Alameda, California: and Harlow, who
lives in St. Paul with his wife, Donna, and their son Scott.

Shortly after Rev. Skyberg accepted his call to Bygdland the
great panic or depression of the 1890's struck the country. It
struck Bygdland with terrific force. According to one who expe-
rienced it, "We (Bygdland) were still an 'all-eggs-in-one-basket'
community. Wheat was still the almost only source of cash.
Money was pretty rare unknown for several years."
The minister's salary was set but rarely met during these
difficult times. Perhaps to compensate, members of the congregation gave
the ministers hay, barley, wheat, and potatoes.

Pastor Skyberg resigned in 1904 because of ill health. He
spent his remaining years on his farm in Bygdland where he
died on October 8, 1927.

HERMAN F. SKYBERG

Herman Fridtjof Skyberg was born at the Fisher parsonage
on December 20, 1896. He was the youngest child of Rev. and
Mrs. Hans Skyberg. When Rev. Skyberg retired, the family
moved to their homestead in Bygdland. This was to be
Herman's home all of his life.

He graduated from the Agricultural College at Crookston
in 1916. David Berland and Ole Flaat, also area farmers, were
in the same class. They usually walked from Mallory to Bygdland
when they came home for a visit.

He was active in farm organizations, director of Farmers
Marketing Association for 42 years and served as president for
over 30 years. He was director and president for the Minnesota
Crop Improvement Association for many years, resident of
Minnesota State Potato Development Commission and presi-
dent for Minnesota State Potato Certification Board.

In 1949 he was appointed regent of the University of Minne-
sota. He served in that capacity till his death in 1968.

He was active in the Bygdland Lutheran Church, organizing
the present Sunday School in 1934, and served as superinten-
dent for nine years. He also served on the church council, presi-
dent of congregation, served on the Building Committee and
in various other capacities.

Herman Skyberg and Ruth Gronvold were united in mar-
rriage on December 31, 1925 at Rugby, North Dakota.

Ruth Skyberg graduated from the University of North
Dakota with a teachers certificate. She served as a Sunday
School teacher, president of the Ladies Aid and Executive
Board. She remains active in the American Lutheran Church
Women.

Both were active in Farm Bureau work. Those were the days of the cozy meetings in the homes.

Herman Skyberg was a life time potato farmer in Byland Township, Polk County. He died at his home in Sept. of 1968.

Herman and Ruth Skyberg had four children.

Herman, Jr. born in 1929, graduated from Concordia College, farms the family farmstead. He married Rose Wagner of Fisher, Minnesota. Some activities he has been involved in are: president of West Polk County Farm Bureau, Byland Township Supervisor for nine years, member of Board of Managers for Red River Valley Shows, Director of Red River Valley Potato Growers Association and a member of the Red River Valley Beet Growers Association.

Deane Allison was born in 1930. He graduated from Concordia College and the University of Minnesota Dental School. He practiced dentistry in East Grand Forks until his death in 1972. His children are David, Julie and Kevin, all of East Grand Forks. Dr. Skyberg was active in both church and city organizations.

Vernon Roger was born in 1934. He graduated from Concordia College and was accepted at the University of Minnesota Medical School for the fall of 1958. He was active in church and community affairs until his death in June, 1958.

Alice Jean Gwenda was born in 1939. She attended Concordia College and graduated from the University of Minnesota, taught school in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota and the Boston, Massachusetts area. Married Thomas A. Rand of East Grand Forks where they now live with their three children; Douglas Keenan, 12; Ho Steven 9; and Kathryn Ruth, 7.

REVEREND HANS P. SOLSTAD

Until the year 1876 the Byland Lutheran Church Congregation was part of a mission field, taken care of by the general church body. From that year on the responsibility for maintaining the church was the task of the local members. Rev. Hans P. Solstad was the pastor who first came to take charge of this new parish. "In 1879 the pastor's salary was set for the first time. He was to have $82.50 a year in cash and one bushel of wheat and one bushel of oats from each man that raised those grains, and each man that had only wood should give the minister a load."

Pastor Solstad served four congregations in this area, did missionary work in settlements, and organized five congregations. He served the congregation for six years and remained a part of the community until his death in 1924. Pastor and Mrs. Solstad were the parents of five sons: Ted, of Byland; Martin, of Canada; Peter, of Duluth; Joseph, of Grand Forks; and Alfred, of Byland, who served as a Minnesota State Senator for many years.

DALE A. SORENSON

Dale Alden Sorenson was born May 21, 1941 to Soren and Josephine Sorenson of Fisher, Minnesota. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ole and Ingaborg Sorenson of Oklee, Minnesota, and Edward and Bergit Salveron of Fisher, Minnesota.

Dale's brothers and sisters are: Oliver, born 1926; Ordean, 1928; Roger, 1931; Sylvia, 1932; Wayne, 1934; and Clark, 1942.

Janet Faye Thune Sorenson was born October 30, 1947, to Alton and Norma Thune of Climax, Minnesota. Her grandparents are Helmer and Annie Thune of Climax, Minnesota and John J. and Emma Melting of Climax, Minnesota.

Janet's brothers and sisters are: Annette, born 1938; Dennis, 1944; Una Rae, 1950; and Barry, 1955.

Dale A. Sorenson and Janet F. Thune were married on August 20, 1966. They have two children: Aaron Bentley Sorenson born on December 3, 1968; and Eric Alton Sorenson, born on November 19, 1971.

The Sorensons live and farm two and three quarters miles east of the Byland Church in Fisher, Minnesota.

HAAVOR THORSON

Haavor Thorson was born in Norway, Sept. 6, 1862 to parents Gyro and Tor Langheid. His mother passed away when he was a small boy. He had a brother, Knut, who passed away in the 1960's in Arendal, Norway. There were three sisters: Anlau, who became Mrs. Halvor Sigurdson, whose children were called Halvorson. One of them, Ole Halvorson, is, at the time of writing, a resident of the Good Samaritan Home at East Grand Forks; Gyro, who married Knut Ryssstad and Sigri who married Gunders Hegland. These two lived near Fosston in Sletten Township until their death.

Haavor came to America in 1884. He married Bergi Aaste- naa. Their oldest child, Thor, died at the age of one year as did another son, Aslag. Two more children were born to this union — Thor who married Jennie Ryssstad and Gertie who married Jennie's brother Ole. Thor passed away in 1962 and Jennie in 1972. They had four children; a son who died in infancy, Harold who married Adeline Torgerson and farms in Byland Township, Osmund who married Winnifred Deitzler and also farms in Byland Township. They have two sons — Paul who is married and lives in Moorhead and John who attends the University of Tennessee at the present time.

Gertie and Ole Ryssstad had six children. A son died in infancy. Their oldest daughter Alice, who now resides in East Grand Forks, married Kenneth Anderson. He passed away in January 1942. They had a son, Orville, who is a computer programmer at Mankato where he lives with his wife Karen and two children, Debbie and Brian.

Bergit married Arnold Moe who farms in Byland Township. He entered military service in 1941 and retired with the rank of Colonel in 1971 after 30 years of active and reserve duty. They have one son, Arnold Jr. who lives with his wife, Linnea, at Bloomington, Minnesota where he is a computer technician.

Thelma married Harold Sorenson, a farmer in Tynsid Township. They have 5 children — Peggy, who married Rev. Mark Harstad and teaches at Madison, Wisconsin where Mark has a parish. Carol is doing graduate work at Mankato State College. Julie attends Bethany College at Mankato and Paul and Jodi live at home.

Margaret married Elden Kratzke who is employed at Otter- tail Power Co. in Fergus Falls. Margaret is a business educa- tion instructor at Business College in Fergus Falls. They have one son, Mark, who lives at home.

Helmer farms the family farm.

Gertie passed away in 1963, Ole in 1945.

Haavor's wife became ill and died in 1893. It was now his job to care for two little ones and make a living. He used to tell how he would chop a cord of wood a day and haul it to Grand Forks, North Dakota, 10 miles away and receive $1.00 for it. What a far cry it is for his great grandchildren who spend a dollar for pop and candy and not give it a second thought.
On March 10, 1894, he married Margit Austad. She was born in Satesdal, Norway, January 6, 1870, to parents Svalaug and Jon Austad. Other children in her family were Gjermund who in the 1800's was killed by lightning while putting up a fence. Knut Johnson who came to Byeland Township and Tone who married Ole Moe also came to Byeland Township and Thor who met his death by falling over a stump on Haavær's farm.

Many folks were very reluctant to let go of their Norwegian habits which led to a saying by a friend who was more liberal, “Margit, I think you think Jesus himself was Norwegian.”

Nine children were born to this marriage. The story of two of these will be found elsewhere in this book since they are at present living in Polk County. A daughter Berget, married Knut Knutson and a daughter, Sophie, married Alfred Lindem, both of whom live in this community.

Gunhild was 14 years old when she became ill with rheumatic fever and died March 10, 1914. Turine married Charles Prine who was killed at Okinawa. She was married later to Donald Egan at Spokane, Washington. He passed away in 1966. Turine died of cancer in 1970. Oliver married Helen Gauthier who was killed in a car accident in 1964. Oliver died April 3, 1975.

Alma married Arley Akslon, a farmer. She taught in rural schools and the first grade in Fisher, Minnesota for 30 years. They have three children, Barbara, who was married to James Short. They have one son, Steven. She is at present an elementary teacher at Fisher, Minnesota. She has been organist at the Byeland Lutheran Church for 19 years — beginning when she was a sophomore in high school. Harvey spent seven years in the navy where he was in the submarine service. He married Barbara Fairbrother of Greenfield, Massachusetts. They have two sons, Brian and Gary and live in St. Louis Park, Minnesota where Harvey is a mechanical tester at Mts System, Inc. Paul, who lives in East Grand Forks, is a self-employed trucker.

Thelma married Thomas Helgeson. They moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He had a heart attack and died April 28, 1965. They have two daughters, Rosalie, who married John Svoboda and Joanne, who married Gayle Fjeld. They have three children, Stacey, Patti and Matthew. Ronald farms. Carolyn, a nurse, married John Ridgely. They live in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Thorson children have memories that are very vivid, but perhaps one of the most vivid is an accident that happened in 1908. Haavør owned a feed mill. One day he spotted a nail about to go into the machinery. Hastily he grabbed for it and the machinery caught his hand and before the men could stop it, his four fingers and part of the hand were ground off. The children will always remember that he was able to do more with his left hand plus a thumb than a great many men have been able to do with two healthy hands.

Haavør died June 8, 1949 at the age of 86 years, 10 months.

ALBERT TORGERSON

Albert Torgerson, son of Tellef and Guri Torgerson, was born January 28, 1867. In 1892, he married Gunhild Evans, daughter of Eivend and Tora Evans. She was born on August 24, 1872. While living in Byeland Township, they operated a one room store in their home. Their children were: Edward, born March 24, 1893; Gina (Loyland), April 15, 1896; Tillie, August 24, 1897 (died April 21, 1927); Elmer, July 8 (died February 28, 1967); Amelia (Vigen), August 19, 1901: Alice (Hoglo), October 15, 1908; and Charles, born October 15, 1904. Albert Torgerson died July 7, 1941 and Gunhild died May 18, 1965. They left over 90 descendants.

Charles Torgerson, born in 1904, was married to Anna Loyland. He lived in Byeland Township until his marriage and then moved to Thompson, North Dakota. His wife was born July 11, 1899. Their children are: Ellsworth, Gloria, Robert, Arlen, Truman, Richard (died in 1951), Donald, Donna, Ramon, Ronald, Dale, Darryl and Judy.

Ramon Torgerson was born at Thompson, North Dakota on April 23, 1935. He married Theodora Fladeland in 1957. She was born January 27, 1939, at Reynolds, North Dakota. They moved to Byeland in 1957. Ramon worked as a farm laborer for Hans and Adolph Skyberg for two years. In 1960, they bought and moved into the school known as District # 92. Their children are: Brenda Rae, Craig Allen, Breg Ramon, and Todd Ardell. Ramon was a construction laborer for fourteen years and then they both became employed for the East Grand Forks School District, where all their children attend school. He is Boiler Worker and Assistant Engineer and she is a school bus driver.

They attend church at the Faith Evangelical Free Church in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

MRS. JULIA THOMPSON TOWN

My name is Mrs. Erwin E. Town, formerly Julia Thompson, the only remaining member of a family of ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ole Thompson, who came to Byeland Township from Wisconsin in 1891. My grandparents' names were Hatlevik and Ottum. My mother's name was Kristi Sjursdatter Ottum. They came to America from Sogn in Norway and settled April 4th, 1870, in Faribault, Minnesota. My nine brothers and sisters were: Viking, What, Jonas, Fred, Nick, John, Eva, and Anna. All were born in Wisconsin. The oldest was Olga, who married and stayed there all his life; the oldest girl was Anna, who married Rolf Nord and later came to Byeland.

Next was Louise, who married Otto Serum and moved to Minneapolis, then Severina, who became Mrs. L. A. Ogaard and lived out her life in California. Mary came to Polk County with her parents and lived here all the rest of her life. She taught in rural schools and was a faithful worker in her home, church and community. Mathilda came to Byeland as a twelve year old, taught in rural schools and then married Daniel T. Danielson in 1906. They lived and farmed in Huntsville township, Susie, another daughter, married Redor Wardner of Byeland, but she died at an early age. Sever Thompson taught school and later moved to Seattle, Washington, where he and his wife, Ella, lived. Ella still lives in Seattle. The youngest of the Thompson family was Elmer. He was six years old when the family came to Byeland. He married Aurora Egeland and they lived on and farmed the family homestead the rest of his life. Aurora still lives there. Elmer was active in community affairs — serving on township and school boards and served his church — Byeland Lutheran. He sang in the church choir, played in the Byeland band and sang tenor with octet and chorus members in the Fisher-Crookston area. Elmer died November 14, 1964.

This comes now to me, Julia. I will be 94 years old this March 10, 1976.

I was a school teacher for 23 years, first in rural schools in Polk County, and later as principal in Proctor, Minnesota. I
also was an assistant instructor at Crookston College summer school. On June 4, 1924, I was married to Erwin Town and lived in St. Cloud some years. My husband passed away December 8, 1930. While in St. Cloud, I served for fifteen years as District president of the W.C.T.U. The district included nine counties in eastern Minnesota. During those fifteen years, I attended state and national conventions every year. Also, while in St. Cloud, I attended classes at St. Cloud Teachers College, where I had received my earlier education.

In 1945, I moved to Chicago, where I worked in the sales department of Mandels Department Store. Later I was employed at the Illinois State Employment Branch located in Chicago.

Throughout the years, I have taken classes to learn various crafts and skills, such as: typing, a C.P.A. course, painting (oil, China, and rosemaile), telephone-operating, candy-making and dress-making.

I lived in Chicago until 1962, then moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where I stayed for two years. In 1964, I moved to Minneapolis, where I remained until December of 1974, when I came back to Polk County. I now reside in an apartment in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

**F. W. WICKKISER**


At Bygland, Minnesota, Sveinung K. Flaat (1871-1953) married Mary Oline Osmundson (1872-1962). Their children were: Clarence (1900-1952), Oscar (1902) and Helen (1904) of Cass Lake.

Floyd W. Wickkiser was born in White Haven, Pennsylvania. He attended schools at Northampton, Pennsylvania, and also the Temple University in Philadelphia, and North Carolina State. While in Pennsylvania, he was employed by General Electric in the construction and repair of transformers. In Detroit, he worked for Vickers Inc. as safety Director and for American La France Foamite selling fire fighting equipment. While living in Bygland, he was for a time Market Representa-

John Wickkiser attended grade schools in Detroit and Bygland and graduated from East Grand Forks High School and the University of Minnesota. In 1958, she married La Rue Johnson from Austin, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of MinnesotaIdaho, where he has four children: Juliette, Jeffrey, Joseph and Jeruessa.

**AUGUST WURDEN**

August Herman Christian Wurden was born May 10, 1851, in Laurvig, Norway. He came to the United States in 1869. He first went to Chicago where he picked stones in the harbor. He then moved to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and worked for the Torri

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Wickkiser and Mary and John.

on Shipping Company and was a captain on one of their ships on the Great Lakes for fifteen years. While there, he married Gunvalda Linde from Stavanger, Norway. They heard of a land promotion in the Red River Valley in Minnesota, and decided to leave for Minnesota. They landed at Fisher’s Landing. They proved up a claim at Key West. They then purchased a quarter of land by Bygland and built a home out on the prairie. There were eight children: Else (died at the age of 18 months), Hortense, Albert, Valborg, Dora, Anchor, Edwin and Irene.

They had never lived on a farm, they didn’t know how to plant a potato and knew nothing about machinery. All these things they had to learn from their neighbors. As it was all prairie land, they planted four trees around the house. They were precious. After several years they moved their house to the west end of the quarter where there were some trees and built their home. Gunvalda’s parents came from Manitowoc and lived in Fisher. When Grandpa Linde died, Grandma Linde came out to the farm.

At that time all the farmers were required to work out a poll tax by working on the roads and keeping them in good condition. The first Lutheran Church, which they attended was a log cabin.

The school was about a mile away. The children always walked, including the five year olds, and in all kinds of weather.

In 1911, August Wurden was gored to death by a bull, leaving Gunvalda and the children to manage the farm. They survived through drought, hail and grasshopper infestation. Gunvalda died in 1929 and by now has many descendants — 11 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and one great, great, grandchild.

The oldest, Hortense, took nurses’ training in Rugby, North Dakota, and was an Army Nurse during World War I and was stationed at Ft. Snelling. After the war she married Earl Phifer and moved to Fairmount, North Dakota. She died in 1961.

In 1921 Albert Wurden married Agnes Tannahill and they moved to Warroad, Minnesota, where he had a garage and wholesale gas business. They had four children: Glenn, Ruth Jean, Fred and Edwin. Glenn was a flyer and was killed in World War II. Albert died in the 1960’s, and Agnes now resides in Boulder, Colorado.

Valborg stayed at home and kept house for the family for many years. In 1934, she moved to Mankato, Minnesota, where she was the housekeeper for Walter Becker and his invalid wife. She now lives in East Grand Forks.

Dora Wurden attended Moorhead Normal and taught school in East Grand Forks until her marriage to Elmer Saterstrom. They made their home in Lengby where their two sons, Stanton and Lynn, were born. In later years, they moved to Idaho where Elmer died. Dora now resides in Minneapolis.

Irene Wurden attended Concordia College and graduated from the University of North Dakota. She taught school in Mohall, North Dakota, until her marriage in 1924 to Alfred Torrison. They lived in Minneapolis, where Irene taught fourth grade until her retirement. She died in 1973.

In 1918 Edwin left for the service. He served two years in the Army, one of them in combat in France. He returned to join Anchor in running the farm. In separate years, Edwin and Anchor were both named Minnesota Premier Seed Growers.

Edwin was married in 1934 to Gladys Lystad, and moved to a home just north of East Grand Forks where they had two chil-

land. He graduated from East Grand Forks High School, from the University of North Dakota and received his Master’s in Physical Education from St. Cloud State in St. Cloud, Minnesota. He taught English at James Russell High School at Great Falls, Montana, two years. Since that time, he has taught in the U.S. Defense Schools in Germany and Italy. He is currently stationed at Aviano Air Base in Italy.
were the first people I had ever waited on. After I graduated from East Grand Forks Senior High School in 1971, I went to Chicago where I attended the Ray Vogue School of Fashion, studying fashion merchandising. I graduated from Ray-Vogue in June, 1972. I then worked at Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co. in Chicago where I was head-of-stock of contemporary accessories and then assistant manager of the blouse department.

Rich was in Security Police at the Grand Forks Air Force Base, and in August, 1971, he was discharged from the Air Force. He enrolled at Allied Institute of Technology in Chicago, taking heating, air conditioning and refrigeration courses. After graduating from Allied in 1972, he worked at Central Service in Chicago.

Rich and I were married on May 27, 1973, in Chicago at Holy Trinity Church. The reception was held at Garden Walk in Chicago. We came home to visit my parents at the end of September, 1973. He is an appliance service man at Sears. His hobbies include guns, fishing and vegetable gardening.

RICHARD ZALEWSKI

My husband was born on January 6, 1948, in Lomza, Poland. He came to the United States on May 2, 1963, on the ship named “Batory”. His family settled in Chicago, Illinois. After Rich graduated from Wells High School in 1967, he joined the United States Air Force. He was stationed in Texas, Korea, the Philippines and finally at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Rich and I (Nancy Susan Krostue, born May 21, 1953) met in June, 1970, when I was working as a waitress at the Highway Host in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Rich and his friends

History of Crookston Township

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of Polk County, held on July 10, 1877, a petition was presented from the citizens of Township 150 range 46 asking for the County Board to have the Township 150 range 46 organized as a town to be known as the Town of Crookston. The petition was granted and the first meeting was set to be held on August 4, 1877, at the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Depot in Crookston.

The first chairman of the board of supervisors was K. D. Chase. Town clerk was E. M. Walsh. Other board members were A. C. Johnson and Chris Sather. They met at the home of the town clerks. In following years, much of the business pertained to building road and maintaining them. In a general election of the state for governor in 1879, John S. Pillsbury received nine votes. There were only nine votes cast in the Township. In 1881, the board voted to raise $250 for current expenses. They had much volunteered labor. On June 14, 1881, there was a division line made between the Town of Fairflax and the Town of Crookston.

Walter Dard and was a big problem, if it wasn’t destroyed the citizens were fined. To construct three bridges and put in two culverts the cost was $100 in June of 1882. In 1885 there was a disease known as “glanders” in horses so many horses had to be destroyed and buried and the board hired someone to do that. Many public cartways were constructed. In 1891 a joint meeting with the Town of Gentilly was held to discuss the public highway between the two townships. Road was built in

1892. The board had its meetings in the home of board members. A road was built in 1895 by the Experimental Station between Section 19 and 20. Another road known as the “Billivans Road” was built in 1896. The township hired a Poundmaster those years, as they had to keep the animals in their own premises; if not the Poundmaster would pick them up. In 1897, the board accepted certain territory attached to the Town of Crookston detached from the Town of Gentilly. In 1889, the town was redistributed into 4-road districts, with changes made in them in 1899. Hog cholera was also a problem in this year. Officers in 1900 were District 1, W. C. Collins; District 2, L. J. Regimbald; District 3, Thomas Larson; District 4, Lewis Biladeau. There were some divisions in roads made with the city of Crookston and town of Crookston in 1901. Many roads were built in this year.

To hold the election they would rent school District 58’s School. At these elections around 65 votes were cast. Not many women voted. After having meetings at different locations they appointed a committee to negotiate to use the school house for meetings. A committee was appointed to inquire into the legality of the town board to grant licenses to shows and circuses to be held in the Township. An assessment of 5 mills was ordered on real estate of the town on March 18, 1905, also in 1905. They purchased 3 — $1000 bonds to help pay for expenses. “Glander” in horses was still prevalent. In 1907, a joint meeting was held between Lowell and the Town of

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zalewski.