History of the Climax School

The first grade school on record for the Climax area was located at the old town site south of the present Bergit Cemetery. When the railroad was completed in 1896, the Village of Climax was moved to its present location. The small school building was moved and used for a few years. Then a two-story school was built on the west edge of the town. When the consolidation took place, this became an apartment building and eventually was moved to the center of town and served as a town hall. It still stands and is now the home of Ronald Petersen.

In 1918, the first consolidated high school was built in Climax. It was constructed of brick and for its day was considered a most outstanding building. The first graduating class in 1920 had two graduates. The class sizes increased until the largest graduating class was the one in 1965, which had 44 members. Theoriginal building served its purpose until 1939, when a large addition was built. This consisted of a new gymnasium, library, kitchen and lunch room. With the new athletic facilities, the school's basketball teams became known and respected throughout the district and region. They were always a threat to the larger schools and won the district 31 crown in 1943. On February 24, 1954, the district was dealt a shocking blow when the entire school was leveled by fire. It seemed rather hopeless to face the task and cost of rebuilding. But the people rallied to the cause, and the outlying districts to the north voted to join the original district. Plans went ahead with great speed and the building which is now in use in Climax was completed in December 1956. Since that time, the districts of Shelly, Niesville and a part of Eldred have joined the high school area to make the present school district 592.

The standard of education of the school has always been superior. The percentage of graduates who continue on to schools of higher learning is far above the state average. From this small high school have graduated students who have gone on to enter the professional fields. These include three doctors, two dentists, one chiropractor, one minister, one lawyer and a large number of teachers, registered nurses and medical technicians.

Through the years, since the 1918 consolidation, the school has had the following able leaders serving as superintendents: Mr. R. Wakefield, Mr. I. Amundson, Mr. E. Swenson, Mr. J. Westby, Mr. O. T. Olsen, Mr. G. Kerestes. For the past three years the school has been affiliated with the area vocational school at Crookston, which includes the schools of Crookston, Climax and Fertile.

This offers a variation of subjects not taught as part of the regular curriculum. The voters of school district 592 recently showed their loyalty to and confidence in their school by voting a twenty mill increase in the school tax, thus making it possible to operate the school at its present high standard, during the inflation and rising price index. As the smaller schools are forced to close and eventually become a part of a larger high school area, the people of district 592 proudly support their...
small school and fight to keep it alive and growing.

History of the Climax Lutheran Church

With the first influx of pioneers in the Red River Valley, a settlement grew up along both sides of the Red River. Very few ventured far out on the prairie when they sought a place to build a home. The reasons were obvious. In the first place, the river with a ready supply of water and an abundance of fine timber offered conveniences that could not be had out on the prairie. Also, the Hudson’s Bay Company had set up a trading post on what was then known as Frog Point. This offered a place where the pioneers could dispose of whatever they had to sell and in return, buy most of the things they needed.

However, with the ever increasing number of people who entered the Valley they were forced to go farther out from the Red River. The early pioneers had begun congregations and built churches along the Red River. As distances were long and transportation slow, they felt the need of a congregation where they could assemble more conveniently; where they might worship even though roads might not be too good and the weather not always favorable for a longer journey. The first effort along this line was the organization of a Ladies Aid. A group of ladies met on November 6, 1890, and organized the Skatvold Ladies Aid. It was due to their work and activity that a congregation was later organized on January 25, 1894, by Rev. J. H. Villesvlik.

Due to a lack of records, the exact date of organizing the Climax Congregation is somewhat uncertain. Records show that the church was built in 1898. The Skatvold Congregation continued until December 6, 1923, when they united with the congregation at Climax, during the ministry of Rev. Ludvig Pederson. On May 21, 1944, the Climax Lutheran Free Church celebrated its 50th anniversary. The parish was enlarged to four churches during the ministry of Pastor Carl Carlsten in 1956. This then included the Sand Hill congregation and Ring-saker and Greve congregation in North Dakota. Pastor L. B. Sateran served the parish for seven months after the departure of Pastor Carlsten and before the arrival of Rev. N. C. Anderson in 1960.

As early as 1955, a fund was started for the purpose of building an addition to the old church or the construction of a new building. In 1966, the decision was made for a new building and the ground breaking ceremonies for a new church took place in July 1967.

The dedication of the New Climax Lutheran Church was held on June 23, 1968, with several former pastors in attendance.

Besides the building project the most significant event during that time was the decision in 1961 to join The American Lutheran Church. The actual merger was consummated in 1963, and the parish is now part of the Crookston Conference, as well as the Northern Minnesota District of the A.L.C.

Rev. Ralph Okland, present pastor, came in March of 1969, following the resignation of Rev. N. C. Anderson in the fall of 1968.

The following pastors have served the congregation: Rev. H. J. Villesvlik from January 1894 to March 1900; Rev. B. L. Sundal, April 1900 to April 1901, Rev. H. Ostgulen, May 1901 to April 1903, Rev. J. O. Brano, May 1903 to June 1905; Rev. O. N. Bergh, July 1905 to June 1917; Rev. H. A. B. Winther, June 1917 to November 1921; Rev. N. Halvorson, November 1921 to June 1922; Rev. Ludvig Pederson, June 1922 to July 1927; Rev. C. J. Christenson, July 1927 to June 1936; Rev. Louis Olson, November 1926 to August 1951; Rev. Carl Carlsten, December 1951 to October 1959; Rev. N. C. Anderson, April 1960 to September 1968; Rev. Ralph Okland, March 1969 to January 1976.

ARNOLD AMUNDSON

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Amundson are both life-long residents of the Climax area. Mrs. Amundson, née Alyce Jevning, was born in Fisher, Minnesota, to Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jevning. She has two sisters, Mrs. Morris Marsten (Verna) and Mrs. Lawrence Carroll (Ruth); also two brothers, Orland and Ronald. Ronald passed away in Lovelock, Nevada in 1974.

Arnold Amundson was born July 10, 1912, on a farm near Climax. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Amundson, were both natives of the Climax and Nielsville areas. They operated the farm where the children were born until the death of Sigrid Amundson in 1946. They had three children: Arnold, Orvella, and Forrest. Forrest passed away in 1927.

Alyce Jevning and Arnold Amundson both graduated from the Climax High School. They were married May 15, 1936. They lived on the farm until they moved into their present home in Climax, which was built in 1950. Arnold was engaged in farming until 1969. He was employed as a produce inspector by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in 1937, and still continues working at this job. Arnold and Alyce Amundson have three sons, Bruce, Brent, and Brian.

Bruce, born October 23, 1938, graduated from Climax High School, Augsburg College and University of Minnesota Medical School. He and his family reside in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where he founded the Yampa Valley Family Health Clinic, where he practices medicine. He married JoAnn Elison of Wilmar, Minnesota. She attended Augsburg College and has a degree in Medical Technology from Swedish Hospital of Minneapolis, Minnesota. They have two sons, Gary and Dean.

Brent, born November 25, 1940, graduated from Climax High School and Moorhead State College and received his Master's degree from Bemidji State College.

He and his family reside in Mahnomen, Minnesota, where he teaches and coaches. He married Judy Lindell of Crookston, Minnesota, who is a graduate of Moorhead State College, and also teaches kindergarten at the Mahnomen school. They have two children, Kristine and Matthew.

Brian, born September 12, 1949, graduated from Climax High School and Moorhead State College. He and his family reside in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He is employed by the Becker County Record. He married Pamela Baggerud of Shelly, Minnesota, who graduated from Climax High School and Moorhead State College. She teaches special education in the Detroit Lakes school. They have one daughter, Randi Jo.

LEONARD AND ROSE DAVIS

Anderson

How many people of today can trace their ancestry back to the pioneers of America during the early 1600's and to those who lived during the Revolutionary War days? In this Bicentennial year, 1976, it is interesting to note that Mrs. Leonard Anderson of Climax can do just that. The former Rose Davis is a niece of John and Anna Davis Shelly, the first permanent white settlers in Norman County, in 1870, and for whom the village of Shelly, Minnesota was named.

Mrs. Anderson has coats of arms from both sides of her family, being a descendant of the Royce family, who arrived in the New World in 1631 and who fought in Indian wars and the Revolutionary War, and of the Prescotts of Bunker Hill fame.

Rose Davis was born December 1, 1894, to parents, Fred Lorenzo Davis and Nellie E. Jorgenson Davis. Of the six children born to the Davises, Rose is the only living member of the family today. She was raised in Andover Township on a farm now occupied by the Ralph Finkenbinders.

Rose Davis finished school at Crookston and after graduation, traveled to Goldendale, Washington, with her father and returned to Crookston in 1916.

Rose Davis married Leonard Anderson on February 14, 1917. They settled in the rural Climax area where he was engaged in farming. Rose remembers that they always had a lot of hired help on the farm and that she did a lot of cooking
and baking to accommodate the help.

Two sons were born to the Andersons, Don in January of 1918, and Merle in August of 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Don Anderson live in Fort Meyers, Florida, with their adopted children, William Alan, and Grace Marie. Merle Anderson and his wife reside on the family home place, the farm located several miles northwest of Climax, Minnesota. Their only daughter, Barbara, is married to Jerry Tronnes, who farms with the Andersons.

Leonard Anderson’s father, Erick Anderson, was born in Vanaka, Sweden, November 10, 1846. Erick Anderson lived for two years in Chicago, Illinois, and later in his life settled south of Fisher in Section 4 of the Town of Roome.

His mother came from Christiania or Oslo, Norway, and met Erick when he came to Norway to build bridges in the area of Botne, Norway. They were married in Chicago in 1881. Returning to Minnesota, they lived on a farm until Erick Anderson died in 1897. He was killed by a horse.

Leonard Anderson had three brothers and a sister; two of his brothers died from diphtheria. The Andersons have farmed all of their lives.

In tracing her ancestry, Mrs. Leonard Anderson spoke of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Davis, and of her genealogy, which makes her eligible to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Six feet tall and sharp-eyed, Lorenzo Davis was a sturdy representative of the ninth generation founded by Robert Royce, who left England and arrived in Boston, Massachusetts in 1631. Members of the Royce family fought in the Indian Wars of New England states and later played a prominent part in the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Davis and his sister, Mrs. Burt (widow of Major Burt who was a Minnesota attorney and captain of Company C of the 7th Minnesota Volunteers) were the remaining children of a family of five.

Robert Royce, the founder of the family, was given a coat of arms in England for service to his country, but was disowned some time after locating at Boston by the Royal Court for sympathizing with the so-called American rebels.

Jonas Royce, son of Robert, married Deborah Calkins, of a prominent colonial family; their son, Jonathan Royce, married Ruth Beckwith, a brilliant woman of her time. Nehemiah Royce, son of Jonathan and Ruth, married Abigail Gustin, and purchased a portion of the Gustin land grant.

Nehemiah Royce and his family fought through the French and Indian Wars. Nehemiah’s son, Samuel, was the father of Lorenzo Davis’ mother. It has been told of the family that Samuel Royce remembered standing guard over corn in those early historical days. All crops had to be watched because of the raids of the Indians.

Samuel’s brother, Abner Royce, was a minister who located at Cleveland and founded another branch of the family. Nehemiah Royce, who was the great-great-grandfather of Lorenzo Davis, was given a land grant at Marlowe, New Hampshire, which town he founded.

Lorenzo Davis’ grandfather on his father’s side, William Davis, and the latter’s brother were both Revolutionary War veterans and were in the Battle of Bennington. William Davis had enlisted in the army September 10, 1776.

Lorenzo Davis belongs to the oxcart class of the Red River Valley. He came to Reeds Landing near Wabasha, Minnesota, in 1856. In the fall of that year, Lorenzo traveled back to Dublin, New Hampshire, and later returned to Minnesota with his wife. They resided at Reed’s Landing for a period of twelve years before going to Pope County in 1868.

In 1877, Lorenzo Davis came to Polk County and filed on a tree claim. He brought his family to this area in 1883. They lived on his farm near Burnham Creek until 1901, when he moved to the town of Crookston. Lorenzo Davis served as judge of probate in Pope County and also at Reed’s Landing.

Lorenzo Davis’ son, Fred Lorenzo Davis, was born at Reed’s Landing, May 12, 1860. Fred married Nellie E. Jorgenson (born September 12, 1859) on November 26, 1885. Six children were born to the Fred Lorenzo Davises, among them, Rose Davis Anderson.

The genealogy of Mrs. Davis’ ancestors is no less interesting. She was a direct descendant of Colonel William Prescott of Bunker Hill fame. The title was given for bravery on the part of James Prescott, he was granted a coat of arms.

Another member of the family, John Prescott, went first to Barbadoes, where he became a land owner. He landed in Boston in 1640 and founded Lancaster, Massachusetts. Another descendant, Jonas Prescott, was born April 7, 1727. Jonas served under Captain Asa Whitcomb at Cambridge and Bunker Hill during the Revolutionary War days.

In addition to the historical connections of members of Mrs. Leonard Anderson’s family, she also states that some were among the signers of the Magna Carta, the great charter which formed the basis of civil liberty.

Leonard and Rose Anderson of Climax, Minnesota recently observed their 59th wedding anniversary. In spite of their ages, 81 and 84 years, both are in excellent health and enjoy many activities in the community as well as visiting with friends.

**KNUTE BOE**

Knute Boe is a life-long resident of Polk County. His grandfather, Jorgen Knutson, came to Polk County in 1871 and returned to Polk County in 1873 with his family. Knute’s parents were Sena Knutson, born in Houston County, Minnesota in 1871, and Svenung Boe, born near Bo, Norway. Knute was born on the land which his grandfather settled as a “squatter” before the survey was made. A strip of land a rod or so wide was left between his grandfather’s land and that of another pioneer settler. This strip was later settled by Niels Paulson. As the survey approached, there was much local discussion as to what would happen with this strip of land, many believing he would lose the narrow corridor, others asserting that “Niles vil ha”. He did, and the narrow corridor became the width of forty acres and so came the name of the town Nielsville.

Lola and Knute Boe.
Knute was educated in local schools and attended North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo. He and his brother, Gunnar (1901-1975), bought what was known as the Engen Farm in 1936, where he and his wife Lola, reside. They have one child, a son, Kenneth Boe.

Lola Reeves Boe was born in North Dakota of parents who were "Homesteaders", and whose ancestors were among early American settlers, with several branches of the family that traced back to Colonial days. She was educated in her local schools, graduated from the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo with a degree in English, history and French and minors in science and psychology. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi (Honorary Scholastic) (National Honor & Social Science), has been a member of the Delta Gamma, Theta Phi Alpha, A.A.A.W., holds the state Horticulture Society's Award, and is a Horticultural Judge. She also paints, has exhibited in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Florida. She is a member of Dade City Art Club, Tampa Academy Art League and Florida Federation of Fine Art. She has worked with various local organizations for many years.

THE DALE HISTORY

Gunder G. Dale, great-grandfather of the Dale family, sailed from Telemaken, Norway, at the age of 16, first settling near Madison, Wisconsin at a place then called Jefferson Prairie. After farming a few years, he married Gonel Skrie. They had two sons, Gunder II and Halvor. Later, they moved to southern Minnesota, where their third son, Ole, was the first white child born in Fillmore County. When the Civil War started in 1861, Gunder Dale left his family to join the Minnesota men to fight for the Union. Upon his return, he farmed until he retired. His wife Gonel is buried near the Highland Prairie Church near Rushford, Minnesota. This cemetery has the pioneer stone containing the pioneer names, familiar to those in the Red River Valley, as here their parents lie: Hans Franzen . . . Aker . . . Vraa . . . Vigness, all of them parents of those living in West Polk County at Climax. After his wife’s death, Gunder traveled to the Climax area, where he ended his days, living with his son, Gunder II. The family still has his Civil War musket and ammunition to this day. He is buried at the Gronberg Cemetery near Climax.

Gunder G. Dale II traveled by ox-cart to the Red River Valley, homesteading between what is now Nielsville and Climax. He married Elsie Hauge, raised eight children, and farmed there all his life. The children were Heline, Geline, Gunder III, Marcus, Turine, Helmer, Josephine, and Alvilda.

Helmer Dale attended the North Dakota Agricultural College and later married Betsy Hanson, daughter of Frank Hanson. Betsy attended Normal Teacher’s School at Crookston, and later taught at Gully, Minnesota before going to Montana to care for her brother Henry who had many children after the death of his wife. Helmer and Betsy were married in Great Falls, Montana in 1919, and soon returned to Climax, where he farmed a short time.

The following spring Helmer heard potatoes were selling for $12.50 per bushel in Montana, so they loaded their new Model-T onto the train boxcar, filled the rest with sacks of potatoes, and returned to Montana. They sold the potatoes, and purchased a hotel in Alabama. This venture did not prove lucrative for them, so they sold the hotel and returned to farm again for a short time near Climax. Later Helmer turned to selling tractors and farm machinery for the J. I. Case and Company, and the Minneapolis Moline Company. His fluent Norwegian soon helped to make him a top salesman in the area, as many farmers spoke little English. His family moved several times, as his districts expanded. He died in 1933 at the age of thirty-nine from blood poisoning, having shaved a sore on his chin. There was no penicillin in those days so it proved fatal in a week.

By then there were five children, Gordon, Ralph, Grace, Mildred, and Helmer, Junior. Betsy started a rest home for the elderly, the children were raised. She then worked as a licensed practical nurse at Bethesda Hospital in Crookston until her retirement. She died November 5, 1965.

Gordon Dale, a marine in World War II, married Dorothy Stock in Los Angeles and was an officer on the police force there until his death at age forty-six, in 1967. He has two daughters.

Ralph Dale, an infantryman in World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge, married Janet Dosier in 1946. They have two children, Steven and Melissa. They lived in Nielsville and later in Montana, where he now lives in Great Falls.

Grace Dale attended Minneapolis Business College, and has lived there since. She married Carl Gunnar Brodin in 1946, and they have two daughters. Grace and Carl Gunnar now live in Richfield, Minnesota where he has been with the Minnesota Gas Company for thirty years, and is very active in the Masons and Shriners.

Mildred took nurse’s training for nearly three years, and then married Howard Burns in 1946. They have one son, John Howard. Howard died in 1959 at the age of forty. She has made her home in Halstad, where she is active in many community activities.

Helmer Dale Jr. served in the Korean War, and attained his doctor’s degree in dentistry at the University of Minnesota. He practices in Little Falls, Minnesota where he lives with his wife, Lucille, and their three children, Joel, Lorelie and Karla. He is active in community affairs, and also enjoys hunting and fishing, as everyone else always has in the Red River Valley.

ORDEAN AND HELEN ESTENSON

Ordean is the eldest son of the late Peder and Josie Estenson. He was born at Climax and still lives there. He attended school at District #6, a country school four miles northwest of Climax. When he started school, there were 70 pupils in a one-room school. Several of the pupils including Ordean, were unable to speak the English language before entering school. Most families had Norwegian grandparents living with them, so this was the language spoken at home.

Helen was born in Indiana. She is the daughter of the late Evelina and Lemual Charais. She came to Minnesota with her parents at the age of three. She attended school at Climax and Eldred. Ordean lived with his parents and helped with the farming. When he and Helen were married in 1933, they made their home on a neighboring farm owned by his father.

After Peder’s death in 1945, Ordean and Helen bought the home farm and moved there. This farm is located three miles northwest of Climax on Section 23. With the help of his sons, Ordean farmed the land until 1964. His main crops were wheat, oats, barley, flax and potatoes. He kept a large herd of milking shorthorns until 1948, when the cattle contracted Bang’s disease and had to be disposed of.

Ordean always believed in co-ops. He was a charter member of the Climax Grain Co-op Association. He served as a board member of several of the local co-ops and is presently chairman of the Halstad Telephone Co-op. At the death of his eldest son, he retired from active farming and leased out his land. The farm was sold in 1971 and Ordean and Helen purchased a home in Climax, where they are living at this time. Ordean and Helen had four children, Wayne, Noel, Lionel and Kathryn. Wayne attended the State School of Science at Wahpeton. He married the former Carol Morken of Climax. They have three children; Patricia, Perry, and Matthew. Wayne lost his life in a plane crash near Watford City at the age of 28. Noel graduated from North Dakota State University in Fargo with a degree in agricultural economics. He is now employed as vice-president of financial services for Cenex at St. Paul. He is married to the former Ethel Hanson of Willow City, North Dakota. They have four children, Keith, Craig, Kimberly and Dennis. They live in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

Lionel graduated from the North Dakota State University with a Master’s degree in business and economics. He is employed at the St. Paul Bank of Co-ops as assistant vice president in charge of the loan department for the western division. He is married to the former Bernadette Welder of Zealand, North Dakota. They have two children, Patrick and Lynette. They live in Hastings, Minnesota.

Kathy graduated from Moorhead State Teacher’s College with a degree in special education. She is married to Steven Hedman and they live in Detroit Lakes, where she teaches.
ELIZABETH GRAY GLOVER

Born December 2, 1907, Nielsville; completed eighth grade, June, 1920; graduated, Climax High School, June, 1924, completed two-year course. Mayville State Teachers College, June, 1926; additional college, State University of New Mexico; taught school, Kenilworth, Montana; Glenrock, Wyoming; Grand Valley, Colorado; and schools in New Mexico.

Elizabeth, named for a grandmother and a great-grandmother, was the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Glover. All her life long, her striking features were her long, thick auburn hair, worn in a braid around her head for many years, and her fair complexion. While Elizabeth's skin was the most delicate of the three sisters, Mother insisted that in summer all of us must protect our complexions by wearing sunbonnets when we were children, and wide brimmed straw hats as we grew older.

In the summer as children Elizabeth and her younger sister, Mary, enjoyed a make-believe play house in the grove near the house.

Outside play in winter for Elizabeth and her sisters meant tumbling in the snow, sliding down the snowbank north of the house, or riding in the bob-sled when Father went for straw or on other errands. Because of the grove north of the garden, snow would drift into that area, piling up until we could not see out of the kitchen window; a great disappointment, since watching for the arrival of W. S. Brekke, for years our friendly mail carrier, was a diversion of each weekday! In the winter, Father often took them hot coffee and a sandwich (especially in the years when he used a team), in summer Elizabeth and her sisters tried to be at the mail-box for a visit with Mr. Brekke when he handed them the mail. Elizabeth never wanted to miss school. Our parents wanted their daughters to have a good education, never kept us out for any reason, prodded us to excel, and kept us at our homework! Mother, who had a whole store of readings memorized, listened to our memory work, and "coached" us for expression. Some years we received certificates for perfect attendance — sometimes with a star attached for not being tardy. Father took us to school on storm days.

When we entered high school, Mother might spend most of a week-end making us a new dress. This was because we stayed in Climax during the winter months, Father taking us in Sunday afternoon, and bringing us home Friday afternoon. If we wanted to stay for a party or game, he indulged us, usually waiting for us in Mr. Ed Howland's blacksmith shop, where the two visited until it was time for the school event to end.

The rural school was the social center of the community. The great feature of the rag ball and box socials, combination fund-raising and social events held several times a year, was dancing — folk and square dance accompanied by fiddle, accordion, or harmonica, or all three. The Glover sisters, especially Elizabeth, enjoyed this. Elizabeth, after she entered college, learned social dancing, which she also enjoyed.

Elizabeth did her share of farm work, succeeding her mother in "tramping" down the loads of hay, and working with Mildred, shocking. She and her sisters enjoyed watching the operations of the steam rig thrasher — the hum of the separator, the building of the straw pile, and hearing the steam whistle calling for handles!

Elizabeth sang in her high school and college glee clubs. She was active in the Presbyterian church. In Colorado she joined the Neighbors of Woodcraft.

J. E. GLOVER

Born May 20, 1866, Laurelton, Pennsylvania; M. Jennie Lucas, 1903; farmed former Ellingson farmstead (80 acres) one fourth mile east of Knute Aker farm, and a quarter section one fourth mile south of the B. F. Brekke farm; died Bethesda Hospital, Crookston, January 19, 1930; buried, Caledonia, North Dakota.

Father was born in historic Buffalo Valley, Union County Pennsylvania. The farm had been held by the Glover family since before the American Revolution. Two of his great-grandparents, John and Sophia (Duncan) Glover, were Scotch-Irish emigrants from County Donegal, Ireland. He also had German ancestors. Baptized Jonas Eli, after some uncles, he was the youngest of seven children.

A first cousin of Mrs. James Hayes, my father came to the Hayes Brothers Farm to work about 1901 or 1902. The Burd brothers, the Rarick brothers, and J. Ward Katherman came from the same general area as my father.

Diversified farming was practiced in those years. We also had dairy cattle and hogs. From boyhood my father's great interest was horseflesh. He raised his own colts and was one of the kindest of owners and handlers of horses. Droughts and hailstorms made farming unpredictable, but father had tremendous faith in God, and started each new year with renewed hope — as all farmers must.

Father was a reverent man. He never sat down to a meal without asking a blessing, even with a large threshing crew at the table! He knew his Bible almost from memory (as did my mother), quoted it often, and tried to live his belief. In Pennsylvania he had been very active in church and Sunday School. He and my mother were glad when the Hayes Brothers arranged for seminary students to conduct Sunday School and preaching services in the school house on our property during the summer months for many years. It was on a Sunday evening in August, 1909 or 1910 that my sisters and I were baptized in that schoolhouse — my mother holding the baby, Mary; my father, holding Elizabeth; and I, standing between them.

Father had a good, though untrained, singing voice, changing from tenor to baritone as required! Sunday was a day for rest of the body and refreshment of the spirit, with no unnecessary work to be done. Sunday evenings we sang through his Presbyterian hymnal, and through my mother's Methodist hymnal — a cherished time, though we had no instrument to accompany us. My parents sang both hymns and secular songs at the school programs.

Father had a deep interest in world affairs, and kept abreast of them through daily newspapers. My mother and he subscribed to farm journals and other periodicals for the family.

My father was a clerk of the local school board for many years. He, with the other directors, took a deep interest in keeping high educational standards in the school.

A sociable man, my father enjoyed visiting with neighbors on the way to town, or while trading in town. Patient, as often
as possible, he included his wife and children on trips to town or to the neighbors. Thoughtful, kind to wife and children, he made every sacrifice for them. He used neither alcohol nor tobacco; he was generous with as much as he could offer his family.

About 1928 the farm passed into other ownership. For several years Father worked for others. In 1929 the family moved about a mile south of Caledonia, North Dakota. Father's health was gradually failing, due to the development of cancer of the pancreas, which gave him great pain. Just a short time before he died, others in the hospital heard him singing hymns!

MRS. J. E. GLOVER

Born March 1, 1870, Laurelton, Pennsylvania; attended State Normal, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania; Nursing, Attendant, State Mental Hospitals—Danville, Pennsylvania; Canton and Massillon, Ohio; married J. M. E. Glover; died October 1933, Rifle, Colorado; buried, Montrose, Colorado.

Born on a farm about three-fourths of a mile from where my father was born, my mother was baptized Mary Jane. Her parents were William and Tamer (Diel) Lucas. Of Scotch-Irish and German (Hesse, Germany) ancestry, her forebears had come to Pennsylvania before and during the American Revolution. Like the first American generation of my father's ancestors, they fought in the American Revolution. Several generations later some fought Civil War. From about 1901 or 1902 she did housework and cooking for Mrs. James Hayes, succeeding her aunt, Miss Kate Lucas, in that position.

Three children kept Mother busy, but she helped extensively with farming, including haying—one summer she "tramped" 70 loads of hay; raising chickens, ducks, and turkeys (turkey profits paying for our windmill and corn harvester); milking cows, and making butter for sale in early years. An excellent seamstress, my mother made dresses from new or used materials, which were decorated with ribbons, worked embroidery, and added buttonholes. A fabulous cook, always trying out new recipes, she could make a tasty soup out of home grown vegetables or prepare a holiday feast. Her bread was like cake. She helped with the gardening, canned vegetables and fruits, dried corn, and made fruit jellies and butters.

Butchering time usually involved a neighbor or two for the outside work, and my mother shared with my father the final processing of the meat. Memories I recall from such times: the smell of the Rendering on the stove, sausage, fried for storage, scrape (Pennsylvania Dutch) cooking on the stove, or doughnuts being fried (always for Shrove Tuesday, a Pennsylvania Dutch custom). The scrape, a winter breakfast delight—sliced, fried crisp on both sides, with or without syrup, it was delicious!

Seasonal and holiday activities on the farm were reflected in the kitchen. The Fourth of July dinner was a traditional meal of fried chicken, new potatoes and peas in cream, and ice cream—rich and smooth, made in a hand-cranked freezer. What fun, taking turns with the crank, then helping lick the dasher! Threshing days meant extra cooking, with sometimes a tone and Mayville, North Dakota June, 1923; B.E. degree, Mayville State Teachers College, July 1928; additional training: State Universities—Minnesota, Montana, Washington. Taught English, history, dramatics: high schools—North Dakota and Montana until 1947. Executive Director, YWCA, Great Falls, Montana, 1947-1954; Program Director, YWCA, Salem, Oregon, 1954-1956; Executive Director, YWCA, Vancouver, Washington, 1956-1958. Director, retirement homes, Sunland and Pasadena, California, 1959-1967; Administrative Assistant, Methodist Homes of New Jersey (retirement), Ocean Grove, New Jersey. Live-in Volunteer, Neighborhood Center, Camden, New Jersey, 1972.

Present at my birth on our farm was Mrs. Knute Aker, also present at the birth of my sisters. A lively child, I tried to follow my father everywhere, and once barely escaped injury, and possibly death, because the two lead horses walked apart when they came to me, seated in a field that was being summer-fallowed—and stopped just when the evener was within inches of my head.

Mother taught me to read before I entered school, a quarter of a mile from our home, and on our quarter section. I marvel at the quality of education pupils in Minnesota received in rural schools of that time! The best possible teachers were hired, and paid as much as could be afforded—perhaps $40-$50 or less a month. The school library was excellent. Teachers leading a special imprint on my life were Jessie Wilder (later Mrs. Frank Hedley), Crookston; and Jennie Vigsto (later Mrs. Warner Stred), sister of Mrs. Ole Aker, Stephen, Minnesota. I visited both of them in August, 1975.

A high-light each year was the visit of Mr. or Mrs. N. A. Thorson, superintendent, and deputy superintendent, respectively, of the county schools. When Mr. Thorson came, he would pump up the reed organ, play with a great "flourish", and lead us in some of the many songs we knew.

The county held the rural school commencement exercises in those days. Along with other eighth graders, Andrew and Gina Rodseth and I received our certificates from Mr. Thorson, July 17, 1917, in the Crookston Armory. The day continued with lunch, games in the park, and ended with a watermelon-eating contest!

Every farm child had after school duties. I graduated from collecting kindling, before age six, to helping with barn chores—putting hay and straw in the stalls, milking, watering stock, taking cream to town, cultivating corn and potatoes, mowing and raking hay; shocking grains, and, infrequently, driving the reaper. Shocking was the hardest of those jobs. My sisters and I liked the calves, but we disliked feeding them, because they bumped the bucket, and splashed milk over us.

I learned to do hand-sewing, to tat and crochet, and also to embroider; Elizabeth liked to embroider, and Mary did both embroidery and crocheting.

Mesdames James, and Samuel Hayes, supplied us with discarded magazines, lovely books, a subscription to the Youth's Companion for many years, and other attentions. Mrs. James Hayes assisted me with my first two years in college, and did likewise for Elizabeth.

Other highlights: winning a free trip to the Minnesota State Fair (1917), a reward for placing first in the 4-H, Class B division, breadmaking contest at the county fair; attending high school, with splendid teachers, Miss Sigrid Oien, and Professor Ira Amundson, the many activities, including school plays.

Nostalgia: pulling the handle on the wash machine, and turning the barrel churn; eating lefsa at our Norwegian neighbors; the many visits of long-time friend, Charles Burd, and our family's rides in his car.

out the heavy work of the farm, Mother's health improved. It was a shock to all when she developed uremic poisoning, which took her life in three days.
MARY VERDILLA GLOVER

Born August 18, 1909; completed eighth grade, district 17, June, 1923; graduated, Durango, Colorado high school; died November, 1959; buried, Albuquerque, New Mexico, in grave adjoining her sister, Elizabeth.

Mary Verdilla Glover was named after her father’s sister. She was the smallest of the three sisters. With her dark hair, dark brown eyes, and quick speech and movements, she resembled her father’s cousin, Mrs. James Hayes. She developed a stutter when she began to talk, but had a pleasant singing voice, and, like most singers, never stuttered when she sang.

Our parents communicated their love of music to us. Mother could switch from soprano to alto at will. Both Mary and Elizabeth inherited modest singing talent from their parents. Radio provided great joy to all the Grovers, but especially to Mary, who quickly memorized all the songs she heard on WDAY and other stations. When the first crystal sets came out, Fred Hay got one and invited us to spend many evenings with them. From a station in Zion City, Illinois, came marvelous concerts of sacred and secular music. Puzzling us was the belief, held by the city’s residents, that the earth is flat. Today (I believe) that community is famous for the Amana Freezer!

In later years the Grovers had a radio, bringing education and entertainment to the family circle.

Mary, along with the others in her family, enjoyed going to the James Hayes’ home, where one of the first Edison phonographs played such marvelous records as “Listen to the Mockingbird,” “The Preacher and the Bear,” and numerous hymns. Before the Gloves went home, “Aunt Mary,” as we called Mrs. Hayes, accompanied the group at the organ for at least half an hour of singing.

Mary did the usual farm chores for her age. In summer her job was bringing lunch and cold water to us in the field in the mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Mary shared in pulling mustard and knocking with a stick, potato bugs into cans of kerosene. Pulling mustard, in June, after school closed, wasn’t too easy, but it was a good job to have.

When Mary was about five, Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus came to Crookston. Father took us for our first train ride — Climax to Crookston — great, in spite of soot and cinders through the open window. A trip to the dentist enabled us to view the circus parade from his balcony! Later we went to a studio to have a photograph taken. The climax was the circus matinee. Trying to watch seven rings, plus trapeze artists and clowns was mind-boggling for country children. We left Crookston about seven o’clock and reached home about dark. What a day to report to Mother!

Mary enjoyed school, starting in the old building, constructed about the turn of the century — windows on opposite side walls, making it light, even on gloomy days; with a jacketed stove replacing a smaller one in the middle of the room, remembered by Mary and her sisters. All of us felt sad, then, but Mary sobbed as we watched from our yard the old building go up in flames one March evening after 1920. The replacement was modern for its time, and is still in use, though no longer as a school.

Other highlights for Mary and her sisters: stringing popcorn and cranberries for the Christmas tree; enjoying stories told by our parents of their lives and Pennsylvania, attending county fairs; visits from the “Bell Snickers” during Christmas holidays.

After Mary’s father died, she moved, with her mother, to Montrose, Colorado. After Mother died, she and Elizabeth were together in Albuquerque, New Mexico where both were active in the Presbyterian Church for the remainder of their lives.

JOHN A. HONG

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Hong were born in Gulbrandsdal, Norway. Mr. Hong came to the United States June 15, 1883, settling near Buxton, North Dakota, where he resided nine years. He then returned to Norway for a brief visit, after which he came back to Buxton in 1892 and was married to Marie Olson, December 18, 1892. The following year, they purchased the farm near Climax, where they lived until retirement.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Hong were charter members of the Climax Lutheran church. They belonged to this congregation from the very beginning, where they helped build the first church in Climax. Mr. Hong was trustee of the church for 28 years and also collector for the church for many years. Mrs. Hong served as president and treasurer of the Ladies Aid for several years.

They were active in community affairs such as upgrading the schools, improving roads and in general seeking newer and better ways of farming. They were the first to install a Delco plant in their home to give them electric lights and power. They had seven children, three of whom are living: Albert Hong and Ruth Peterson of Crookston, and Josephine Jones of East Grand Forks, Minnesota. They have one granddaughter, Carol Haire of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

ORLAND JEVNING

Mr. and Mrs. Orland Jevning are life-long residents of Polk County. They have spent their married life at Climax, Minnesota and have resided in their present home since 1941. Mrs. Jevning, nee Orvela Amundson, was born September 2, 1910, on a farm near Nielsville. Her parents were Sigrid and Alfred Amundson. She had two brothers; Arnold, now of Climax, and Forrest, who passed away in 1927. Her mother died in 1946, and her father in 1965.

Orland Jevning was born August 16, 1909 in Fisher, Minnesota to Ida and Ole Jevning. They had five children: Orland; Ronald (who died in 1974); Mrs. Arnold Amundson (Alyce); Mrs. Morris Marsten (Verna); and Mrs. Lawrence Carrell (Ruth). The Jevning family moved from Fisher to Climax in 1917, Mr. Jevning being operator of Climax Implement. Mrs. Jevning died in 1929, and Mr. Jevning in 1959. Orvela and Orland Jevning are alumni of Climax High School. They were married December 3, 1930. Orland was engaged in farming and retired in 1970. They have two sons, Jerome and Leslie; five grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

The oldest Jevning son, Jerome, was born August 27, 1931, graduated from Climax High School and attended Moorhead State College. He and his wife live in Minneapolis, where he is supervisor of certified seed department in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. He married Solveig Hagen of Shelly, Minnesota who teaches first grade in the Anoka-Henepin school district. They have two children: Steven is a senior at Mankato State College, and Jenny is married to Thomas Miller. They reside in Coon Rapids, Minnesota and have two children, Jennifer and Eric. Thomas is an optician in Minneapolis.

Leslie was born August 2, 1933, graduated from Climax High School, attended University of North Dakota, and graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. He is an orthodontist in Portland, Oregon. He married Linda Petry, a native of Portland, and a dental technician. They have three children: Derek, Marshal and Bridget.

NORMAN KOBBERVIG

Norman and Elaine (Lunos)Kobbervig were married July 25, 1948 at Climax. A lawn wedding ceremony was held at the home of the bride’s aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stor­tjen. The Rev. Louis Olson officiated. They have lived at Clima­x all of their married life. Their two children, Wayne and Fay, graduated from Climax High School. Wayne is presently attending the University of North Dakota, a senior majoring in sociology. Fay Ellen graduated with an accounting major from Moorhead Technical School and is employed in East Grand Forks. She and Todd Eveson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Eveson of Climax, were married August 23, 1975 at the Climax Lutheran church. They make their home in East Grand Forks where Todd, upon graduating from East Grand Forks Area Vocational Institute, is employed at Preston Implement.

Norman came to Climax with his father, Theodore Kobber­vig and family in 1936. He assisted his dad in the meat market
business until he entered the service in 1942. He saw army duty in Germany and France and also stateside duty. He was discharged in September 1945 and a short time later he entered into business with his father at the Kobbervig Meat Market which he is operating now at present. His wife, Elaine, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lunos. She is a native of the Climax area, having attended the early years of her schooling in the little rural schoolhouse, district #41, located near the John Ostgaard farm. She graduated from Climax High School. Mrs. Kobbervig is presently a full-time bookkeeper at the Famers Union Oil Company in Climax, having begun her employment in 1965. The Kobbervigs are members of the Climax Lutheran Church where Norman serves on the council and Elaine is active with the ALCW and choir. Norman is also active with the village council and Climax Community Club.

THEODORE KOBBERVIG

Theodore (Ted) and Lula Kobbervig and family moved to Climax, Minnesota in October 1936, having just purchased a home and the City Meat Market. Mr. and Mrs. Kobbervig are both natives of the Buxton, North Dakota area, Theodore, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kobbervig, and Lula, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Smith. The couple spent the early years of their marriage farming the Kobbervig home farm near Buxton in Traill County. This farm is now owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Larson and son, Wayne. While there, their children were born, Norman, the eldest, and his wife, Elaine, live in Climax. Lois and her husband, C. S., (Sam) Dickerson and family, Judy and Michael live in San Diego, California. Also living in California are Mr. and Mrs. August Spears (Inez) and their children, Stephen Pearson and his wife, Patti, their children, Patricia and Krista; and, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fetters (Mary Jo) and their children, Shellee Lynn and Todd. The Spears make their home in Lemon Grove, the Fetters family at Lakeside and the Pearsons at El Cajon. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Taylor (Verna) live at Fountain Valley, California. This brings us to the youngest members of the family, Betty, who with her husband, Larry Thorn, and children, Leslie Ann, Lori and Todd, live at Lincoln, Nebraska. Another son, Raymond, lived at six years of age. Their children received their early years of schooling in rural schools in the Traill County area, with the girls all graduating from Climax High School. Upon moving to Climax in 1936, Mr. Kobbervig, assisted by Norman, operated the Kobbervig Meat Market there until the time of his death, October 22, 1961. His widow, Lula, who is at present eighty-six years of age, still lives in the family house in Climax.

CARL LUNOS

Carl Lunos, son of Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Lunos and Mabel Evelyn Stortroen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erick O. Stortroen, all of the Climax area, were married January 9, 1926 at Crookston, Minnesota. They lived in the Climax area the early years of their marriage and were members of the Sandhill Lutheran Church near Climax. Mr. Lunos was engaged for some years in farming and also worked at grain elevators in Eldred and Crookston. He also spent some time with the Farmers Union Oil Company at Climax as a bulk truck driver. Mr. and Mrs. Lunos and their family moved to Sherack, Minnesota in 1948, where he managed the Farmers Union Elevator. In 1951, they and their four sons moved to Warroad, Minnesota where Carl managed the Farmers Union GTA Elevator until retirement. Their four sons, Carroll, Roger, James and Leland graduated from Warroad High School. A daughter, Elaine, was married at the time of this move to Warroad.

Mr. Lunos died January 17, 1973. His widow, Mabel, is living at Warroad, as is Carroll and his wife, Carol, their children, Mark and Tara Jean. Roger lives at Warroad. His children, Roger and Teri Ann, live at Roseau, Minnesota. Also living at Roseau are Leland and his wife Helen with their son, Eric Daniel. James and Frances Lunos and daughters, Juliann and Janelle, live in Portland, Oregon. Elaine and her husband, Norman Kobbervig, and their son Wayne, make their home in Climax. Their daughter, Fay Ellen (Mrs. Todd Evenson), lives in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

CHAS. L. SHERIDAN

Charles Sheridan was born in Allendale, Michigan on December 18, 1890. His ancestors have lived in Michigan for several generations. As a young man he came to work on a farm at Goodridge, Minnesota where we met.

My maiden name was Olga Swenson. I was born at Beltrami, Minnesota on January 30, 1895. Charlie and I were married in January 14, 1914, at Warren, Minnesota. Our first home was a homestead in Espeel Township, six miles from Grygla, Minnesota. We built a one-room cabin, had a small garden, some chickens, a cow and two horses. Charlie got a job hauling supplies from Thief River Falls to Grygla, a distance of 40 miles.

On February 22, 1915 our first daughter, Blanche, was born. It was storming and we had no phone and no way to get a doctor or midwife, so we delivered the baby ourselves. The next day my sister came to help out for a short time.

The following summer Charlie got a job to finish a ditch. He hired two men with teams and dug a ditch one mile long, ten feet wide and seven feet deep. When that job was done and the “homestead” proved up, we decided to go back to Michigan, where Charlie got a job in Flint at the Buick factory. In August 1917 our second daughter, Berenice, was born.

In 1919 we returned to our homestead, only to find the buildings had all been moved away. So we made our home with my mother at Goodridge. There were two more children born, Doris in February 1920 and Charles Jr. on December 31, 1921.

In the spring of 1921, we moved to Nielsville, Minnesota in Scandia Township. There we bought a farm which was to be our home for the next 50 years. Three more sons were born at Nielsville, Glenn in 1925, Leslie in 1928 and Donald in 1931. We put in long hours of hard work on the farm. Besides working the farm land we had chickens, cows and pigs and all the other things that went with farming in those days. During the summer we could pick wild strawberries, and there were all kinds of wild flowers on the meadow.

There were many hardships on the farm, floods, grasshoppers, drought, wind and hail but there were many rewards, such as always having plenty of food during the Depression and having a healthy happy family.

We saw 50 years of change in farming from horse drawn machinery to the latest modern day equipment. All our children grew up on the farm. Our oldest daughter, Blanche, married Harold Einarson. They farmed in the Goodridge area for many years. Blanche died in 1974. They had no children.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sheridan and family.