HOW CROOKSTON WAS NAMED

That Crookston should be named for a rugged soldier, railroad builder, and pathfinder is appropriate. According to the late Judge Watts, the name was first given to the post office (previously called Hawley); then to the township; and finally to the city. When the time came to choose a suitable appellation, naturally there were numerous suggestions. Ames and Aetna were both proffered, as well as Crooksbury. An unauthenticated story about the christening says that one faction thought the town should be named in honor of Crooks and the other, that it should carry the surname of the first mayor, a railroad surveyor, Mr. Davis. The two are said to have flipped a coin to which would be honored. Of course you know who won.

Col. Crooks was the son of Ramsey Crooks, who was associated with John Jacob Astor in fur trading. His mother was the daughter of an early fur trader; thus William was a man of frontier background. He came to Minnesota in 1857 as an assistant engineer with the Minnesota and Pacific; he was chief engineer from 1859 to 1862. In 1861 he purchased in New Jersey the first locomotive used in Minnesota. This famous old engine, named the “William Crooks” in his honor, was placed on exhibit in the St. Paul Union Station in 1969.

Ellery C. Davis, the city’s first mayor, was a captain in the Civil War and one of Crookston’s first settlers. Educated in the East as a civil engineer, Mr. Davis first came to Crookston in the interest of the Northern Pacific Railroad. When the county was organized in 1872, he was chosen first chairman of the board of county commissioners.

THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Cathedral parish of Crookston was born under another name but with the same patroness. It was organized in 1885 to provide spiritual ministration for the English speaking Catholics of the area who had previously been affiliated with St. Anne’s. It was first served by Father Edward J. Lawler, then pastor of Fisher. It was named St. Mary’s.

It was not until December 31, 1909 when the diocese of Crookston was created, that it became the Cathedral parish, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

A frame building erected in the fall of 1886 at the corner of Broadway and Fourth Street served as the first place of worship for St. Mary’s congregation. After the completion of the building, Father Lawler moved from Fisher to Crookston to serve the parish. He was succeeded between then and the turn of the century by Fathers John Walsh, F. Watry, J. Connolly, E. Volbrecht, and Philip Murphy. In 1930, Father Francis Hufnagel became the pastor. He served for seven years during which time the congregation experienced considerable growth. In 1907, Father John Smiers was appointed to St. Mary’s and he found there a congregation of 175 families and a parish free of debt.

The creation of the diocese of Crookston in 1909 made St. Mary’s Church a pro-cathedral and brought Father Joseph Wurm of Aitkin to take up the duties of pastor for 175 families. This position Father Wurm held for over four decades.

It was in June 1910, that the Most Reverend Timothy Corbett was installed as first bishop of the Crookston diocese. With his installation the Cathedral parish, as it is now known, began to take form.

Bishop Corbett directed his first attention to the educational needs of the parish and since 1911 the Cathedral parish has been deeply involved in meeting the academic needs of its children.
Location of the Cathedral Church on North Ash Street is the result of property acquisition begun by Bishop Corbett immediately after his installation, at which time he purchased a frame house for a rectory and the adjacent lands for the church and the school. Following the construction of the school, the new bishop turned his energies and attention to the erection of a cathedral and the new structure was blessed February 12, 1913. The next project was the erection of St. Joseph's Home on Third Street in 1933. The building served as a school and a home for the Sisters teaching at the Cathedral School (grade and high). In 1936, the parish acquired the Congregational Church property on the corner of Third and North Ash.

The diocese of Crookston received its second bishop, John H. Peschges, on November 16, 1938. Bishop Peschges served for seven years until his death and in 1945 Bishop Francis J. Schenk became the third leader of the diocese of Crookston. During all of these years, the bishops were actively interested in the Cathedral parish since the parish property housed the bishop's quarters and the diocesan chancery office.

The Cathedral parish was to receive its second pastor when Father Wurm resigned in 1951 because of failing health. He died the following year.

Father John R. McAleer, later made a domestic prelate, was appointed to be the Cathedral pastor and superintendent of the high school and grade school.

The construction of the diocesan administration building, completed in 1953, and the removal of the bishop's residence and chancery offices to this structure, made possible the construction of a new Cathedral rectory which provided quarters for the priests serving the parish and for the parish offices.

In 1960, to celebrate the golden anniversary of the parish, extensive renovation of the Cathedral was completed at a cost of $110,000 and on April of that year the diocese welcomed its fourth bishop Laurence A. Glenn, of Duluth, the city which had sent Crookston its first bishop. Bishop Glenn led the diocese for ten years, to be succeeded September 29, 1970 by Bishop Kenneth Povish of the diocese of Saginaw, Michigan.

Bishop Kenneth Povish served the Diocese until his transfer to the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan which was announced by Pope Paul, October 12, 1975. Installation for Bishop Povish took place in Lansing, Michigan, December 11, 1975.

Upon the transfer of Bishop Povish to Lansing, Michigan, the Priests Consultants elected Father John Stearns to be Administrator of the Diocese of Crookston until Pope Paul announced the new Bishop of Crookston on July 7, 1976.

The new Bishop is Monsignor Victor H. Balke of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois. He was installed as Bishop of Crookston September 27, 1976.

The Cathedral parish received its third pastor, John Stearns, July 6, 1971. Father Stearns had been appointed vicar general of the diocese by Bishop Povish on December 18, 1970, after a consultative vote of all the priests of the diocese. He came to Crookston from Fertile where he had been serving St. Joseph's parish and had also been CCD director of the diocese.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christ Episcopal Church, 120 North Ash Street, had its beginning on October 31, 1879, when services were held in the town schoolhouse by the Reverend William Thomas Currie of Grand Forks. The beginning coincides with the incorporation of the city of Crookston. One year earlier, on November 17, 1878, the Reverend Mr. Currie had visited the community and held an Episcopal service in the Union Church, the town's first religious organization.

An inscription written by Mr. Currie and dated April 7, 1884, describes this early visit:

"On Sunday, November 17, 1878, I visited the Union Sunday School which met in the schoolhouse at Crookston. While there I was invited by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Smith, to preach for him in the evening. I accepted on condition of being allowed to conduct the services in my own way. In the evening I found the schoolhouse full of people, a large proportion being men. The building was built of boards, covered with paper on the inside instead of boards.

"I read the prayers, omitting the responsive part of the service, as there were no prayer books for the congregation. Then I preached a written sermon, which was listened to very attentively. This, I think, was the first time the Church's prayers (Episcopal) were ever read in this town, said at this time to contain about 600 people. . . . The Union Church was the only religious organization."

(Quotation taken from Christ Episcopal Church's first record book.)

When the Union Church disbanded in 1879, the Episcopali­ans continued to conduct services under the guidance of Mr. Currie, sometimes meeting in the schoolhouse and later in a hall on Main Street. Then on August 12, 1880, Lots 2 and 3 of A. C. Loring's Addition to the city of Crookston (present site of the church) were donated and conveyed to H. B. Whipple as bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the erection of a church building to be used and maintained for the said denomination. The donors, Loren Fletcher and Ameret J. Fletcher and Charles M. Loring and Emily B. Loring, stipulated that the building must be constructed within two years and that failure to maintain said property for this purpose should cause the property to revert to the donors and their heirs and assigns. This stipulation was removed by Mr. Fletcher, then a widower, and by Mr. and Mrs. Loring on July 30, 1908.

On August 31, 1881, the requisite number of petitioners requested the consent of Bishop Whipple to organize a Protestant Episcopal parish in the city. Officers of the congregation were George Crocker, senior warden; George W. Tonson, junior warden; Thomas C. Shapleigh, Henry Watts, and W. D. Hurlbut, vestrymen. The church building was a gift from M. R. Brown, pioneer stockman and builder. It was constructed in 1881-82. In 1923 it was enlarged and remodeled. The nave, however, is much the same as it was when the church was dedicated in 1882. Christ Church is the oldest church building in the city of Crookston and has been used continuously by those of the Episcopal faith. Its tower holds the first church bell in the city. The inscription reads:

"This bell cast for the Episcopal Church, Crookston. The first church bell in this city — 1882."

In 1883 the congregation built a large rectory next door to the church on the north side. This residence was razed in the 1950's and the lot filled and sodded.

The first resident rector of the church was the Reverend Samuel Currie, brother of the Reverend William Currie, who took charge of the parish at Easter in 1881 and remained here until 1888. The Reverend Robert Wittenstrom now serves the congregation.

EVANGELICAL CONVENANT CHURCH

HISTORY

As early as 1893, Reverend P. L. Mostrom came from Teien, Minnesota to hold meetings in the homes of Scandinavian friends in Crookston. Reverend Mostrom had come to Teien in 1884 from Dalarna, Sweden. We are told that he was able to build for himself a buggy from the wheels and axle of an old discarded hay rake. This he painted a bright red color and used it to travel from place to place in the Lord's work. The bright red vehicle became a common sight upon the prairies of the Red River Valley and when the settlers saw it stop at a farm house they hastened to that home, for they knew that there Reverend Mostrom would be holding a service.

From these efforts a church was organized on Friday evening, August 24, 1894 and signed by the following: Mr. Gustaf Sjöberg, in whose home the church was organized, and his wife Ida: Mr. Eolof Dahlquist, a mill worker, and his wife Wendla;
Mr. John Figreus, a mill worker, and his wife, Augusta and Mrs. Andrew Carlson. She and her husband owned and operated the West Hotel and she was responsible for bringing many young people into the church as she made it a point to invite her employees and her hotel guests to go to church with her: Mr. J. H. Ekstrom, a harness maker; Alma Larson, who became Mrs. William Gustafson; Hanna Larson, who became Mrs. Peter Elseth; and Emma Larson, who became Mrs. Rudolph Carlson. These three women were sisters and worked in Crookston. Miss Clara Lindell, who became Mrs. Levin Anderson and also worked in Crookston; August Miller, who owned the Crookston Tannery, and his wife Eva; Julia Sjoland, who became Mrs. Toby Hanson; Sarah Lindell, a cook at the Crookston's Main Hotel; and Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson. Mr. Johnson worked at the Crookston Tannery. Mr. Louis Johnson was the first church treasurer.

The Augustana Lutheran Church on Woodland Avenue was the place in which the services of the church were held for the first year and a half. From there the services of the church were moved to the Grand Army Hall, then located where the Church of Christ now stands. Holding services in a rented hall created many problems for the growing congregation. Often they were faced with the task of cleaning up what remained of bottles and debris of a party that had been held in the hall on the previous night. At times, an outside group anxiously waiting for the service to close in order that they could hold a dance in the hall would all but disrupt the service! Yet, even in this, there was a blessing for it forced the group to see the need of owning a church home, which need became a subject of the prayers of this small but valiant group of Christians. In 1898 they began to definitely plan for a church building. It was not until February 3, 1902 that the work got under way. The lot on which the church now stands was purchased for the sum of $210. On March 28, 1903, the new building was dedicated to the service and the glory of God. The structure cost $2,200, and had been built at a real sacrifice by the small and not too prosperous congregation. Reverend E. August Skogsgbergh was present at the dedication, at which time $900 still remained to be paid on the church. Pledges at the dedication service liquidated the debt on the building.

The theme song of the church down the years seems to be J. A. Hultman's, "Tak O Gud" (Thanks to God for My Redeemer). This is the song of the men and women who with vision and faith, and with love for God and their Saviour Jesus Christ, laid the foundation and continue on the work of the Evangelical Covenant Church. And to those who down through the years have sacrificed, and given of themselves in the spirit of Christ's love that we today might enjoy this great spiritual heritage for which we are thankful.

HISTORY OF OUR SAVIOR'S — CROOKSTON

In the spring of 1890, the Rev. P. T. Hilman was installed as pastor for the small group of Lutherans who were previously served as a mission station by the Lutheran pastors from Fisher. Shortly thereafter, on May 2, 1890, the families served by the new pastor organized formally as Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Crookston, Minnesota.

The first services were held in a church on Holly Avenue. Later, this structure was purchased for $500 and moved to South Broadway on the site just north of the present church and west of the Educational Unit.

Pastor Hilman's service to Our Savior's was terminated by his death in 1897, and was followed by Rev. R. O. O. Amdalsrud (1897-1903); the Rev. Adolph Salveson (1904-1912); the Rev. J. O. Ensrud (1913-1917); and the Rev. H. M. Tjernagel (1917-1918).

During this time another Lutheran congregation, the future which became closely knit with Our Savior's, came into existence through the efforts of the Rev. Paul Schedler of Fisher. On September 10, 1911, this group was officially organized as "The Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation," under the leadership of Fisher's pastor. In the fall of 1917, the Rev. E. A. Schuett was called as pastor of this congregation.

The Immanuel congregation had been renting the church of Our Savior's for weekly services. A stronger bond between these two groups existed beyond the use of the same building. The doctrinal position of the two congregations was the same; therefore, when in 1918 Pastor Tjernagel accepted a call to serve elsewhere, the way was open for an amalgamation of the two congregations. This was effected on July 25, 1918, under the leadership of E. A. Schuett, with the new congregation retaining the name of the older group, "Our Savior's." Pastor Schuett was officially called as pastor. At this time, the congregation numbered about 60 communicant members and 100 souls. Also, at this time the congregation "Our Savior's" became affiliated with The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

During the night of January 11, 1936, fire destroyed the old church edifice, and in spite of the depression, the members set to work planning a new building on the present site. The new church was completed and dedicated on December 20, 1936.

The Rev. E. A. Schuett served this congregation until 1952 when he accepted a call to serve elsewhere. At this time the Rev. H. E. Seiving was called and served the congregation until April 1961. In 1955 a Sunday School and Educational Building was constructed, being dedicated on January 22, 1956. In July of 1961, the Rev. Eyric H. Hansen was installed as pastor and served the congregation until March of 1973. In the summer of 1962 Laurain Jurchen was called and commissioned as the Parish Worker and Director of Christian Education. On August 19, 1973 the Rev. David L. Anderson was installed as pastor of Our Savior's and at present serves this parish.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church presently numbers 927 souls and 713 communicants.

HISTORY OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

On January 8, 1937 the United Lutheran, Hauges Minde, Swedish, and First English Lutheran Churches merged to form Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston. Before this merger people began talking about building a new church. The first formal action occurred at a church council meeting on April 12, 1937, when Oscar Fredricks suggested that a "permanent building commission be appointed with its ultimate goal to build a new church." The Council authorized chairman Foker to appoint this committee of three to prepare tentative articles
of operation. The following were named: Oscar Fredricks, L. M. Wikre, R. J. Christgau, and Pastor Haugen, counselor and advisor. The first Building Commission meeting was held on January 24, 1938 in the Superintendent of Schools' office, and the following were present: L. M. Wikre, Oscar Fredricks, George Hagen, Pastor Abner Haugen, and Mrs. Henry Sorvig. During the next few years the commission was busy collecting and investing building fund contributions. The commission also acted with the Board of Trustees in acquiring property. The seminary property of the South Main Street church was one of the major contributions. The four congregations were involved in executing the work. On October 6, 1939 the Board of Trustees unanimously decided on the site for the new church at the corner of South Broadway and Fletcher Street, which was then occupied by the Vance Block and Dr. Sharp properties.

The “Site Committee” was authorized to bid on the Vance property at a tax sale on October 9, 1939 at a price not to exceed $3,000. However, competitive bidding forced the price up to $3,005, but it was purchased. The Sharp property was also purchased at a price of $3,800. The Building Commission was appointed custodian of the Vance Block.

During February and March 1940, two architectural firms, Foss of Fergus Falls, and Bard and Venderbilt of Minneapolis each presented sketches, plans, and information on church buildings. However, on September 30, 1940 the congregation authorized the Board of Trustees to engage the firm of Lang and Raugland, architects and engineers of Minneapolis, to prepare plans for the proposed new church.

In order to raise funds, the Building Commission suggested a committee be appointed to prepare a plan to finance the new church. On October 15, 1940 a finance committee was appointed to make arrangements for and supervise a Building Fund Drive. Appointed were Oscar Fredricks, M. O. Oppegaard, R. H. Espe, L. M. Wikre, I. Peterson, and Pastor Haugen, ex-officio. The first every-member canvas was launched on September 21, 1941. With the outbreak of World War II in 1941, all building activities came to a halt.

At a congregational meeting on April 12, 1944, a motion was made that each church organization appoint one member to meet with the board of trustees to make final plans for the new church and to authorize architects to develop final plans for the interior of the church.

On February 4, 1946, the architects were authorized to advertise for bids on the complete church and for the base- ment. If bids were too high for the complete church, the Board of Trustees would consider only its basement. Only one bid of $346,000, cost plus, was received. No action could be taken at this time because the Federal Government was not issuing building permits.

In November, 1947, Mr. A. C. Nasvik, a Benidii contractor, met with the Board and recommended certain alterations, sub- stitutions, and an estimated cost of $280,000 plus cost. Considering the economic conditions and shortage of building materials following the war period the church progressed without too many obstacles. The first estimated construction cost of $90,000 in 1940 increased to nearly $400,000 when church, furnishings, and equipment were completed.

After the morning worship services on May 8, 1949, members of Trinity marched up Fletcher Street to the new location and took part in the laying of the Corner Stone of the new church. Although the church was not completely finished the first worship services were held on April 16, 1950. The following weekend the old church was inundated by the disastrous 1950 flood. The new church was dedicated on June 4, 1950.


CROOKSTON SALVATION ARMY HISTORY

The Salvation Army was started in Crookston, Minnesota in 1889. A Captain Riddles was the first commanding officer. Among the first members were Jacob Francis and his wife. For a time a local man, Michael Maline, was an assistant with the “non-com” title of Envoy. Possibly the best remembered Corps Officers were Captain and Mrs. Orchard (about 1904) and Captain Moyne Dar nell (1949-56).

In the early years a building was rented. The first was a small building almost under the old South Main Street bridge, occupied as living quarters in the 1940’s by Mr. and Mrs. Walter and Lea Watson and their three children. Once a building, later used as a warehouse by the Sanitary Dairy across from the West Hotel, was rented; at another time a building near the old Crookston Milling Company buildings was rented. In 1932, the Salvation Army began building its own齐tadel at 211 South Main Street. The building was completed the following year. Except for the foreman of the project and a few of the materials used in the construction work — everything: labor, bricks, etc. was donated.

For three meals and lodging, men were glad to work in those Depression days. Officers serving this community in later years were: Captain and Mrs. Frank Larson; Captain Catherine Clark, married Captain Robert Vonracek, an Angius, Minnesota boy, in 1939; Captain Carolyn Reynolds; Captain Ethel Brewer; Captain Donald Osterman, Captain Gund Hillesland; Captain Catherine Smith; Captain Mayne Dar nell; Captain Gorden Spicer: Lt. L. Dalbert (1966-68). When the Crookston Corps was closed on July 1, 1971, Captain Jean Duncan was the Corps officer.

Since 1958, Mr. George Hunter was a Soldier of the Corps. Together with Mr. Aaron Rohrer and Mrs. Gundla Gelder, he was transferred to the Soldiers’ Roll of the Grand Forks, North Dakota Corps. Mr. Hunter died in August, 1974 and Aaron and Gundla still live in Crookston and attend worship services each Sunday at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

THE MOST REVEREND TIMOTHY CORBETT — A PIONEER BISHOP

Timothy Corbett was born at Mendota, Minnesota on July 14, 1858. He was educated at Mekimieux College, France; the Grand Seminary, Montreal; and at Brighton Seminary, Boston, where he was ordained to the priesthood, June 12, 1886.

After his ordination he was appointed assistant to his former pastor, Father James McGolrick, in Minneapolis.

In 1889 Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul sent Father Corbett to Duluth, where he ministered to the people of the Sacred Heart Parish. He remained in this parish until the arrival of Bishop James McGolrick, first bishop of the new Diocese of Duluth.

Father Corbett’s next assignment was to be spiritual guide to the people of the Sacred Heart Parish in the same city. Later he became the chancellor of the diocese.

On April 9, 1910, Bishop James McGolrick received word from Rome that Father Corbett was appointed as first bishop of Crookston. Bishop Corbett’s consecration and installation by Archbishop John Ireland took place on May 19, 1910.

In 1885, Father Edward J. Lawlor of Fisher had organized St. Mary’s Parish in Crookston for English speaking Catholics previously belonging to St. Anne’s Parish of the city. A frame church had been completed in the fall of 1886 at Broadway and Fourth Street. With the erection of the Diocese of Crookston, St. Mary’s became the pro-cathedral with Father Joseph Wurm as pastor of 175 families.

It was in this humble St. Mary’s Church that Bishop Timothy Corbett was installed as first bishop of Crookston on June 7, 1910.

Within months, things began to happen. Bishop Corbett bought a house for a rectory and bishop’s residence and
acquired adjoining property on North Ash for new buildings of which he was already dreaming. Bishop Corbett’s dreams always became realities within a short time. An eminent scholar himself, he considered a parochial school of vital importance. Accordingly in September, 1911, the Cathedral School opened with an enrollment of 125. In the beginning, it served only as a grade school, but classes were gradually added until there was a complete high school. The building was also the center for the Knights of Columbus. When St. Mary’s Church was closed, the former parishioners attended the Eucharistic Sacrifice in the school auditorium until the Cathedral was constructed.

Besides the deep concern which Bishop Corbett manifested for all the people of his diocese, he had a special love for children. Each month he would take time out to come to the Cathedral School to read the report card of each student from first grade to the senior class. The first mark he would look at was that given for conduct. Woe betide the student whose conduct mark didn’t come up to the Bishop’s expectations!

To staff these institutions and to minister to the sick and aged, he invited the Sisters of St. Benedict from Duluth to begin a motherhouse, novitiate and academy in Crookston. He also requested the Saint Joseph Sisters of Bourg, France to erect an academy.

As further proof of his zeal for education, he was responsible for the erection of two high schools and nine grade schools. He supervised the building of Mount Saint Benedict. Almost every day he would walk around the partially completed structure, talk with the workmen, and give his suggestions.

His next project was Saint Joseph’s Home, which he envisioned as an orphanage and a residence for the Benedictine Sisters who staffed the Cathedral grade and high schools. Under his surveillance, St. Anne’s Hall came into being and an addition was built to St. Vincent’s Hospital. Some 50 churches were erected and 36 rectories constructed or enlarged.

As tremendous as were his material accomplishments, the spiritual growth of his diocese cannot be measured. Under his administration of 28 years, the number of priests increased from 31 to 80; the sisters from 79 to 313.

Bishop Corbett was a man of vision, of unbounded courage, of fervent prayer and selfless zeal for souls. When he died on July 20, 1939, at the age of 81, the Crookston Diocese lost a peerless leader.

**BENEDICTINE SISTERS MOUNT ST. BENEDICT, CROOKSTON**

Long before the traveler enters the city of Crookston from any direction, he sees the massive tower of Mount St. Benedict against the skyline. It is a visible symbol of the Benedictine Sisters’ attempt to carry out their motto: “Ora et Labora” — “Pray and Work.” Involved in both these activities, the Sisters penetrated Polk County between the late 1880’s and the present day. Recognizing the needs of the pioneering people of Polk County, the Sisters of St. Benedict from Duluth established a hospital and a school in East Grand Forks as early as 1897. In 1902 they opened St. Vincent Hospital in Crookston, and in 1912 they staffed the Cathedral School built by Bishop Corbett.

The need for a permanent religious community in Crookston caused Bishop Corbett in 1919 to request Sister Eustacia Beyenka of Duluth to establish a new foundation for Benedictine Sisters in Crookston. Forty-two Sisters accompanied Sister Eustacia, a woman of vision and courage. Of this original group of heroic women, only twelve remain living members of the community today. Sister Eustacia was chosen the first religious superior of the group and was given the title of Mother Eustacia.

In 1920 the Sisters purchased a 50-acre tract of land at the edge of Crookston on the Red River, including Pigeon Hill of local historical fame and a stretch of woodland. In the spring of 1921, a temporary dining room, dormitory, and chapel were built to house the Sisters until the new convent could be erected on the highest point of the property. In 1923 a convent and academy building was completed and was given the name of Mount St. Benedict. The academy high school was opened to girls from Crookston, and a residence hall provided for girls from the surrounding area.
THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH
PIONEERED IN MINNESOTA

What does it mean to pioneer in a nation which itself had to throw off the yoke of oppression in order to establish a Constitution to guarantee freedom of life, of work, of religion to its citizens?

Mother Marie Jeanne Humbert, founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Crookston Province, and her five companions would answer that question with assurance simply because they had thrown off the yoke of oppression by anti-religious forces in France in 1903, and had courageously left country and mother tongue to come to the States and establish a new mission in Argyle, Minnesota. They had brought with them no resources but their faith and their zeal to make the Lord known and loved.

True to the spirit of Father Jean Pierre Medaille, S.J., who founded the Congregation in 1650, these pioneer Sisters of St. Joseph spent their lives only that God might be glorified by their service to others through the education of youth, the care of the sick, and social action to improve the lot of all mankind.

Their willingness to work and to sacrifice soon attracted young American-born women to join their ranks. The Sisters of St. Joseph welcomed them at the same time as they welcomed more of their Sisters from France which still forbade the religious to wear their distinctive garb in public or to teach in their schools. In America the situation was different. Although little more than 125 years old, our nation was expanding by leaps and bounds with the influx of ethnic groups coming to a land which promoted freedom.

The year 1905 saw Mother Marie Jeanne and three of the original pioneers of Argyle arriving in Crookston to establish a school which was to serve the area for 56 years. St. Joseph’s Academy began as a one-pupil school on South Ash Street and grew to become a three-story school on Houston Avenue, a school which would claim 816 alumnae by 1969 when the Sisters collaborated in the consolidation of Catholic Schools in Crookston.

From 1903 to about 1963 the Crookston Province had attempted to fulfill its Congregation’s goals through teaching in 16 primary schools and two high schools; through health care in two hospitals; through religious education in nine centers; and through one foreign mission (Recife, Brazil).

The Sisters of St. Joseph were attuned to the changing times in the 1960’s and they found that the charism of their 17th century founder was very much in keeping with the present day needs. While continuing their work as educators, and as members of the health apostolate, they also concentrated their efforts on meeting the needs of young people and adults in parish centers and in coordinating religious instruction. In 1976 they counted 16 Sisters devoting their time and efforts to this work.

The nation celebrates its 200th birthday this year. The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph looks back over a history of 326 years. The Crookston Province of Sisters of St. Joseph noted 73 years in the Crookston Diocese.

What will the century after this bicentennial bring for our nation? The Sisters of St. Joseph — present and future — hope that they can contribute to the restoration of those life values which were held as fundamental by the Founding Fathers of this great nation.

St. Joseph’s Provincial House on Marywood Road, Crookston, was built by the Sisters of St. Joseph to serve as their central house of meeting and of administration, and for novitiate and retirement.

St. Vincent Hospital became St. Vincent’s Rest Home for the elderly when St. Francis Hospital opened in 1950. Elderly persons needing long-term care were welcomed to St. Vincent’s by the Sisters who were eager to care for them. In 1974 the American Nursing Home Association gave the “Excellence Award” to St. Vincent’s Home in recognition of the excellent health care provided for elderly patients.

In 1963, the high school had outgrown its physical space, and so a new academy building was added with a spacious residence hall, modern equipped classrooms, laboratories, library, and gymnasium.

After twenty years of providing acute patient care in Crookston, in 1970 St. Francis Hospital was converted into a board-and-care home for elderly people not requiring nursing care. Meals, other services, and security are provided for these people.

The Benedictine Sisters undertook many forms of ministry in serving the residents of Polk County, including the visiting of the elderly in their own homes, assisting the poor and underprivileged, working with migrants during summer months, assisting students on the campus of the Crookston Technical College, teaching religious classes in small towns, managing a school for practical nurses, the practice of the professions of law, dentistry, and public school teaching. Anywhere there is a need, the Benedictine Sisters seeks to fill the gap. As the culture changes, the Sisters’ apostolate is evaluated and adjusted to meet new needs. Situated in the rural area of the Red River Valley, the Sisters keep pace with farming trends by operating an extensive garden which not only provides most of their food but also a surplus for the less fortunate, but also offers an opportunity for experimentation with seeds and soil.

Although the Sisters have opened three hospitals and some twelve schools outside of Polk County, Crookston remains home to each of the sisters. It is here that she will live out her last days and be laid to rest in the community cemetery on the Mount property. The life of a Sister is one of challenge and adventure; it is one of service to God and to fellowmen. At present each Sister is called upon to make a sacrifice of material comforts so as to make possible the erection of a new building for the long-term-care patients of St. Vincent’s Home. Plans are ready to go into building operation in 1976.

St. Benedict taught his followers to continue to adapt to the changing culture, to the location, and to the special needs of the time. Hence the life of a Benedictine community calls for a constant analyzing of the culture, a seeking to support what appears to be good and to offset the evil; it calls for a recognition of the downtrodden and poor, with an espousal of their rights. But it is, above all, a continual striving for self-sanctification and growth in prayer. Hence the motto of the Benedictine must be lived daily: “Ora et Labora.”

St. Joseph's Provincial House on Marywood Road, Crookston, was built by the Sisters of St. Joseph to serve as their central house of meeting and of administration, and for novitiate and retirement.

ST. VINCENT’S REST HOME

The first Benedictine Sisters came to the city of Crookston in the fall of 1900 to study the feasibility of opening a hospital in Crookston. Father F. Hufenagel, then pastor of St.
Mary’s Church in Crookston, was influential in interesting the Duluth Benedictines in the Crookston area. For two years, the sick were cared for in a frame building known as the Riverside Hospital.

Saint Vincent’s Hospital was erected in 1902 by Mother M. Scholastica Kirst, O.S.B. Superior of the Villa Saint Scholastica in Duluth.

The original building was erected at a cost of $50,000.00.

Sister M. Boniface Fischer, who died September 24, 1973, was a member of the group of Sisters who came to staff the Hospital. When the Benedictine Sisters established a new community in Crookston in 1919, Saint Vincent’s Hospital served as the first Mother House.

At that time with the encouragement and support of the Most Reverend Bishop Timothy Corbett, the Sisters built a $100,000 wing on the Hospital. This made Saint Vincent’s practically a new hospital. The hospital was a two-story brick building equipped with up-to-date operating and dressing rooms, X-Ray and laboratory facilities and was modern in every respect. It accommodated fifty patients and was approved by the American College of Surgeons. The hospital treated an average of nine hundred patients yearly with an average of eighty-five newborns. These patients came not only from Crookston, but from a wide territory around.

This building continued to serve Crookston and the surrounding area as a hospital until the new Saint Francis Hospital was opened in 1950. That year the original structure was remodeled, redecorated and equipped with an automatic fire fighting system and converted into a Rest Home. Sister M. Clare Duffy served as the first administrator of the Rest Home.

With the completion of Saint Francis Hospital in the summer of 1950, patients from Saint Vincent’s were taken over to the new hospital and the old Saint Vincent’s became a home for elderly needy people. The first guest, as the people were to be known, was Mr. Frank Tereau who was admitted June 19, 1950. The first out of town guest received was Miss Susan Wilshusen, a retired nurse from Saint Paul. On August 15 of that year, an Open House for Sisters was held. Fifty four attended. An Open House for the public was held in the fall.

Every available space was occupied and there was a waiting list of twenty. At this time, according to Sister M. Clare, O.S.B. Administrator, six Sisters and twelve lay people made up the staff of the Rest Home. The rates were eighty dollars a month for the best private rooms, seventy dollars a month for private rooms on the North, sixty dollars monthly for all double rooms and fifty dollars a month for all ward accommodations. No bed patients or seniles could be taken in the first few months because of lack of equipment.

During the years, Saint Vincent’s Rest Home has progressed remarkably and ranks today among the eight top Nursing Homes in the State of Minnesota. As an Extended Care Facility, it is: Licensed by the Minnesota Health Department, Certified for Medicare, Accredited by Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, it is a member of Nursing Home Association, American Nursing Home Association, American Association of Home for the Aging, Catholic Association of Services for the Aging, Type VIII Minnesota Hospital Association and Minnesota Care Home Association.

Sister Beata Barnes serves as administrator of the Home. Unlike most Nursing Homes, Saint Vincent’s Rest Home has a House Physician, Doctor Mercil, on the staff. Father Edward McMenamin is the current resident chaplain and attends to the spiritual needs of the guests.

Sister Imelda Esser is the superior of the community. While Sister Borgia Hoffman, with the capable assistance of Mrs. Leora Frasier, conducts the occupational therapy department. Sister Borgia also acts as Sacristan. Sister Koska Pulezinski operates the Laundry. Students from Mount Saint Benedict’s Academy assist at serving trays and letter writing for the residents.

The Home has a Food Supervisor, Mrs. Marie Johnson and each floor has a diet kitchen where the residents are free to help themselves.

Several “day” rooms and a large recreation room provide considerable lounge area where the residents find their own pastime in making such things as rugs and quilts and playing cards. Frequent movies and television sets are also a popular source of entertainment.

The spacious, beautiful grounds surrounding the Home, provide Summer and Fall recreational area. Donors supplied the material and talent for erecting a Lourdes Shrine on the front lawn of the Home in 1954. Picnic meals are often served on the lawns in the summertime. Various local groups provide entertainment at various times during the year. At present, the goal is to coordinate the activities of the Rest Home so that they may fit more easily into the activities of the community.

One such endeavor is the weekly prayer meeting of the Crookston Ministerial Association. In this Bicentennial Year, the motto is “Greater service for the Guests.”

CROOKSTON AGSCO

Crookston AGSCO had its beginning in 1950. The purpose of establishing this outlet in Crookston was to make available to the many users of AGSCO products in the Crookston area a closer contact and better service. The products offered were much the same then as they are now; fertilizer, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, treating materials, seed corn, grasses, legumes and new grain varieties.

The first manager of the Crookston AGSCO was Tom Hanson, who was assisted in the office by his wife, Agnes, and in the sales and service work by Walt Holm, who became a part of the business in 1956. Tom Hanson left Crookston AGSCO in 1959 and was replaced by Einar Scholin, who was transferred from St. Hilaire AGSCO to Crookston.

During the grain storage years, AGSCO sold and erected what became known as the “AGSCO Steel Building.” Hundreds of these buildings can be found on farms in the Crookston area. This year Crookston AGSCO will have a new home, located one mile south of Crookston on Highway 75. In addition to a new office and warehouse, a large scale has been provided for weighing trucks. Also at this location are the anhydrous, dry and liquid, fertilizer facilities. The present staff of Crookston AGSCO is Einar Scholin, Manager. He is assisted in sales and service work by Walt Holm and in the office by Lorraine Holm.
CROOKSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

About a month after Crookston was incorporated in 1879 and named Crookston, the Crookston Fire Company No. 1 and Washington Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 were organized. By March of 1880, their equipment consisting of 3 ladders, 12 axes, 200 buckets and 200 feet of rope had been augmented by the arrival of a 100 gallon chemical engine.

On June 5, 1884, John R. McKinnon was elected chief and served as such until December 2, 1886. Chief McKinnon made an excellent officer and had the undivided support and confidence of the officers and men under him. He was succeeded by J. E. O'Brien, of whom it may be truly said, that no man took a deeper interest in the fire department and its success than "Jimmie", as he was familiarly known. Chief O'Brien served until December 8, 1887 and was succeeded by E. W. Wile. Chief Wile resigned his office on January 29, 1891. A.A. McKinnon, who was serving as assistant chief, was unanimously elected Chief and served with great credit to himself and the department until October 1893. Other men who served the early Crookston Fire Department were: Chief Rauch, Chief A. C. Schmidt (1894-1896); and Chief Tom Morris (1896-1905).

The early firemen of the Crookston Fire Department boasted of many athletes who challenged state and even national records.

The early equipment owned by the department consisted of five hose carts with 6,000 feet of hose, two hook and ladder trucks, one chemical engine, 100 gallon and tender, a full equipment of Eastman nozzles and deluge set, cellar pipes, shut offs, Siamese, Copper hose, jackets, full equipment rubber coats, helmets, etc. and one of the finest fire halls and sleeping rooms in the country in 1905.

Today a modern 33-man department, that includes seven full-time firefighters and 27 volunteers, affords fire protection to Crookston as well as 18 outlying townships in Polk County. Residents approved a $255,000 bond issue for a new fire hall in 1968. The brick and concrete block building is 134 x 86 feet and contains three rural and three city trucks, as well as a rescue truck and two boats with trailers. There is a 30-foot hose tower, a dormitory to sleep 12 men, shower, clean-up and maintenance area, a communications room and a meeting room. Firemen enjoy complete kitchen facilities and a recreation area. The department is headed by Fire Chief H. T. "Doc" Welter, a veteran of 21 years with the department, Assistant Chief, Wayne Radi; foreman, Rueben Gunkie; and assistant foreman, Duane Moses.

The Fire Department moved to its new station August 1, 1970. The equipment owned by the department consists of a Ford truck and an International Truck purchased in 1967; 65 foot Aerial ladder in 1968; 1,000 gallon Diesel pumper in 1974; and a 75 foot Snorkel in 1975.

In March 1971, the Crookston Firefighter's Auxiliary was organized. Firemen purchased smart red shirts for the ladies and gave them $50 to get started. Under the leadership of their first president, Mrs. Gerry Granger, the auxiliary worked zealously along with the firefighters toward the Grand Opening of their new fire hall. That successful event took place in May, 1971. Two months later, the Northern Region Firefighter's School was held in Crookston, and the auxiliary served a bountiful dinner at its conclusion.

CROOKSTON NATIONAL GUARD

The National Guard of Crookston was formed in December, 1902. The Armory was built in 1903 for the sum of $31,500, paid one-half by the city and one-half by the state.

The Local National Guard Unit was called for the Mexican Border War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean Conflict. They also were called for the St. Paul meat strike in 1974 and the flood of 1950 for better than a month.

In 1931 the "Crookston Gunners" were formed. The team was made up of men who belong to the Crookston National Guard. The team was so good that on one road trip the only team to beat them was TEXAS A&M.

At the end of World War II, when the Crookston National Guard was to return, there were only twelve enlisted men and no officers left in the unit.

During the weekend of the big fires, the unit of National Guardsmen came on duty in a "no pay" status to help firemen and the police during the disaster weekend.

The unit at the present time has three officers and 92 enlisted people. As history turns so does the National Guard. In 1975 we were permitted to enlist women in the National Guard. At the present time, we have two women.

A Battalion Medical Company was also activated in 1951. The Company consisted of twenty men and five officers. The Company was to render the necessary medical duties for the four companies in the Battalion in the event of being called for any special duties.

It would be impossible to name all the men who served in the two tours of duty. However, some of the better known officers were: T. W. Thorson, L. S. Miller, W. N. Betcher, R. H. Sather and Farley Bright.

Both the Headquarters Co. and the Medical Unit were mustered out on December 7, 1952 when the National Guard was again reactivated on the local level.

Pearl Harbor Day is still observed by many former State Guardsmen and their wives every year when they get together for a dinner and social hour.

Co. I, 2nd Infantry of the Minnesota Guard began mobilizing on December 15, 1940 in Crookston. The reason for existence of the Company was to replace the National Guard Company which was to leave for one year's active training on February 10, 1941.

The Company was composed of three officers and 55 enlisted men when the National Guard Company departed for California and their year of training as an Anti-Aircraft Battery.

Events at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 brought an end to any plans of the National Guard returning to its home station after its year of training. This resulted in an increase of strength in Co. I to a high of 97 men and three officers.

Until February 4, 1947, when the National Guard was again reactivated in Crookston, a total of 276 men were processed through the records of Co. I, M.S.G.

These men all served without pay for their weekly drills and periodic summer maneuvers. The Company was ready at all times to assist in disaster or riot control.

In addition to the weekly drills, Company members took part in 11 Battalion assemblies, 39 military funerals and 14 parades.

With the departure, once more, of the National Guard Company because of the Korean War, a State Guard Company was again formed in Crookston.

The Company began functioning as the Headquarters Company of the 5th Battalion on March 12, 1951. Strength was to be cut to 60 enlisted men and three officers.

Most of the members of this company had served either in the State Guard or regular service during World War II. As a result, more specialized training was possible, because the necessary basic training had been received in the World War II period.

"Doc" Welter, Fire Chief and the new fire truck.
CROOKSTON ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

The Crookston Golden Rod Camp No. 798 of the Royal Neighbors of America was instituted on November 6, 1897 with twenty-one charter members. The charter members were: Mrs. M. Miller, Enesia Vine, Emma Saaak, Anna Arris, Hilda Roed, Ethel Leier, Anna D. Roed, Julia Torner, Katherine Shriner, W. Filtrault, M. A. Bratrud, Harry Faulk, O. Roed, C. Misner, Dr. Just, O. Mercil, F. Arris, M. E. Malone, N. A. Bray, W. H. Verity and E. Desuerias.

The camp celebrated its 70th anniversary on November 20, 1967 with a meeting and banquet at the Hotel Crookston.

The Crookston membership now stands at 180 and the camp hosted the District 2 Convention on April 20, 1976 with a meeting and banquet at the Eagles Hall. It will celebrate its 79th anniversary in November.

Present officers of the Camp are: Oracle, Alice Andringa; Past Oracle, Amanda Mann; Vice Oracle, Dora Brule; Chancellor, Eva Garry; Receiver, Dorothy Gilbertson and Recorder, Martha Fitzsimmons.

Mrs. Bertha M. Woelk of Crookston is a 61-year member as well as being a Past Oracle and Past Historian.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, CROOKSTON

A heartening boost for agriculture was given to the Red River Valley in 1895, when the State Legislature created the Northwest Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota at Crookston. The land had been given to the state in 1894 by railroad magnate James J. Hill for the purpose of establishing an experiment station.

In 1905 the Minnesota legislature appropriated $15,000 to establish a branch school of agriculture at Crookston, and in October 1906 the Northwest School of Agriculture was opened, with 31 students enrolled. According to information in a 1911 yearbook, the school was established for three primary reasons. The parent school at St. Anthony Park near Minneapolis had grown to near capacity; the distance to the parent school was too great for students from Northwestern Minnesota to attend; and the soil and climatic conditions in the Red River Valley were considered radically different from those of the remainder of the state. Agricultural education especially fitted to Red River Valley farming seemed to be a logical solution.

The Crookston School of Agriculture offered a three-year course of six months' duration, beginning each October and closing in March. Courses were offered in many phases of agriculture and blacksmithing, as well as teaching and cooking for the women who attended. It was described as a school where agriculture as a business and profession was the dominant focus of the curriculum. Enrollment grew steadily, and leveled off in 1938 to approximately 400 students per year.

Facilities in those early years consisted of a school building, a shop building, a farm house, horse and dairy barns and a sheep shed. As the years passed, dormitories and other classroom buildings were added. Robertson Hall, and the Kiehle Building, constructed in the first decade of the school, still remain.

As the years went by and changing needs of society called for more technical knowledge in agriculture, it became apparent to many leaders of the state that an institution providing "college-level" technical education would be more in keeping with the times. As a result, the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota moved to establish the University of Minnesota Technical Institute at Crookston on the campus of the Northwest School of Agriculture. The State Legislature provided funds to launch the new educational endeavor in 1965.

Following a busy year of renovating to adapt existing buildings for offices and classrooms and of searching for a staff equipped to teach technical-collegiate education, the "University of Minnesota Technical Institute" opened its doors as a college in the fall of 1966. Instruction was offered to a student body of 185 that fall by 26 faculty members. Dr. Stanley D. Sahlstrom was named director, and courses were offered in the fields of agriculture, business, and institutional food management, with background studies in general education.

The college embodied a unique new concept in higher education in the Midwest. Technical education, defined as education that provides two-thirds of its work in technical courses and one-third in general education, also encompassed the idea of pre-occupational preparation, an internship program providing on-the-job training, which was required of each student before the associate in applied science degree was conferred.

O. Meredith Wilson, then president of the University of Minnesota, said of the new program, "We are not moving into an unknown world when we move toward this technical institute. This program has been aided by the experience of agricultural colleges both here in the United States and abroad. Technical education particularly aimed at agriculture and business has had a fruitful life elsewhere, and we believe, with our understanding of land-grant institutions, that such a plan can be improved here in Minnesota."

The Northwest School of Agriculture graduated its final class in March 1968. The following June commencement for the first graduating class of the University of Minnesota Technical Institute was held, with 70 students receiving associate degrees in agriculture and business.

The Technical Institute was given coordinate campus status by the University of Minnesota central administration in the fall of 1969, and the Institute became the University of Minnesota Technical College (UMC) at that time, with Stanley Sahlstrom as the college provost.

A Division of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management (HR1) was officially organized in 1967, and in 1973 the Division of Home and Family Services first offered classes. Also in the fall of 1973 the UMC Children's Center was opened. The day care-nursery school continues to be housed in the Robertson Hall building.

In the 10 years since UMC's beginning, the faculty size has grown to 67 full-time and 12 part-time instructors. There are nearly 100 persons employed as Civil Service staff, and the student enrollment has soared to more than 900.

UMC has a growing reputation for offering excellent technical education. Advisory boards of supportive private citizens consisting of persons who excel in their fields are utilized by each division to offer curriculum ideas and to discuss employment possibilities.

Campus services and activities have continued to grow. The Student Activities office helps with student government, entertainment, "in-house activities," and counseling. Intramural and varsity sports have been organized for both men and women, and a full-time staff member is on hand for counseling at the Campus Ministry headquarters. A minority programs office has been added, with counseling on hand to ease enrollment and adjustment problems for Indian, Black and Mexican-American students.

As an integral part of the community, UMC contributes its services through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) among other evidences of concern and involvement. The Office of Continuing Education and Community Services
helps provide workshops, courses and lectures that are not a part of the general college offerings. UMC also furnished classrooms on campus for the Agassiz Valley Licensed Practical Nursing Program.

The Northwest Experiment Station, located just a few yards east of the UMC campus, continues to provide research data and information for the Red River Valley. In 1911, the land near the Experiment Station was described as "very hard to work," but with the construction of ditch and drainage systems, "fair crops can now be grown."

Over the years, the richness of the Red River Valley soil and its exceptional importance as one of the greatest crop-producing areas of the world has been strengthened by the presence of the Northwest Experiment Station.

Concentrating on the mission of UMC to provide education in the "food and fiber" industries of rural America, there are now seven major programs offered within the Agriculture Division, with 22 three-year blocks. Building offers major programs with 18 options. The division of HRI offers options in four areas of the hospitality industry, and Home and Family Services offers four major programs.

Rural America’s future will be one that more and more will rely on the abilities of technically trained people. UMC’s purpose is to continue to train students for technical careers and to prepare those students to be involved in their community’s activities and advancement.

OSCAR AND EMMA AARNES

Spending practically all of my life, 68 years, on Spendley Street in Crookston might not set a record; but I doubt if many can claim such a record in these days of much mobility. With my parents, I lived at 350 Spendley Street and after marriage at 334 Spendley Street.

Of Norwegian descent, my father Oscar Conrad Aarnes was born in Christiania, Oslo, Norway, in 1878. He came to the United States with his parents, Carl and Martha Aarnes, in 1881 as a child three years of age, together with his sister, Clara, six years old. She became Mrs. Andrew Simpson.

They settled on a farm in Fairfax Township called the Sargent farm near Harold Station, where they lived until my grandfather died in 1905, then moved to Spendley Street in Crookston.

My mother, Emma Peterson, and my father were married in Crookston when she was 17. She was born March 6, 1884, at Mayville, North Dakota, and moved shortly after with her parents, Gust and Christine Peterson, to a homestead near St. Hilaire. Natives of Norway, they built a log cabin and lived there many years with their nine children.

After their marriage, my folks first lived on the home farm where my oldest sister, Elva, was born February 2, 1904. Born prematurely, she was so tiny she couldn’t be weighed for three months, and then weighed only a little over a pound. She had to be bathed in oil and wrapped in cotton. Her physician, Dr. H. H. Holte, said she would never live. But, she proved him wrong, and is still going strong.

After moving to town my father worked for Finch-Winslow-Carlisle and later went into the restaurant business for himself. For a year and one-half before he died of typhoid fever October 26, 1910, he was employed by Peterson-Booth as clerk in the grocery department. My mother died here March 12, 1964.

Elva was married to Wallace Skaug, son of a longtime Crookston jeweler, C. E. Skaug. They have two children, Gene and Beverly, and live in Salem, Oregon.

My sister Agnes was born March 28, 1905, and married William Dawk, also a Crookston native. Their children are Dwain and Constance. Longtime residents of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she died November 13, 1961, at 54. She lives in Wallingford, Pennsylvania.

I was next in line, born February 16, 1907. I attended Franklin School, just a block from home and graduated in 1925 from Central. In 1975, we had our one and only reunion, the 50th, well attended and a huge success.

Harold A. Larum and I were married November 11, 1939, by the Rev. E. A. Schuett, who also confirmed me. I have been a lifelong member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod.

Our daughter, Nancy, was born November 12, 1940, during the big three-day snowstorm. Having attended the same schools as I, she graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead in 1962. She married a Texan, Donald Tumey, and lives in Orange, Virginia. They have five children: Christina, Michael, Maren, Matthew and Lauren.

Our son, Curtis, was born November 24, 1942. He also went to the same schools, then to Junior College, Fullerton, California, and later the University of North Dakota. He married Janie Orr of Oklahoma City. They live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with their three sons: Eric, Christopher and Kyle.

My brother, Carl Orville, was born April 26, 1909. He married Muriel Ohm. They had two children, Carlene and Richard. Richard died shortly after birth. They live at Detroit Lakes.

My baby brother, Oscar, was born December 31, 1910, three months after my father died. He married Amelia Stevens of Middle River and they are parents of five children. They are residents of Albany, Oregon.

I have many fond memories of my childhood and think of my noble mother who raised five of us by herself, a widow at the young age of twenty-five, and handicapped with a hearing loss.

Our grandmother Martha, who lived next door to us, we loved dearly. She was the neighborhood grandma to a score of children and had many tales of her life in Norway to tell us.

She died March 28, 1936, at the age of 81.

Before my marriage, I worked for the Burg Variety Store and later for N. F. Jessen, who purchased the store. When our children were in college, I was employed for ten years at the New York Store, owned by Oscar Halvorsen and his son, Norman.

A. G. ANDERSEN, PIONEER DRUGGIST

Andrew Andersen immigrated to the United States at age 16. The family name of Grimsgaard was changed to Andersen by his teacher. Born in Ness, Hallingdal, Norway in 1855, he settled with his parents in Mower County in Southern Minnesota earning wages, at the hard work of grubbing stumps, at 50 cents per day for one stump removed. He became interested in medicine so was a druggist apprentice in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. After attending Pharmacy school, he became a registered pharmacist. He heard about the settling of Crookston so left his relatives Saturday evening February 11, 1888. He came to the new town, Crookston. He told of Indians sitting on the board-walks near the Kiweel house. Grover Cleveland was the 22nd President then. A. G. Andersen was to live here the rest of his life. He roomed and boarded at the Gustave Ackerlund home, built in 1882, corner of Broadway and West Loring (present Dorel Dewar home). Behind the home was the Woodworking Shop where Almer Ackerlund worked along with his father, Almer who died in March, 1975, age 89. Others staying there were: P. E. Linne, photographer; M. A. Bratrud, jeweler; Holmboe, dry goods store owner; C. C. Strander, Abstract Company founder.

The first drug store was named Johnson Olson and Company. Andersen purchased and operated it, renaming it Norsk Drug Store. It was shared with N. K. Olson, first jeweler, on one side and Andersen on the other. In 1898, the drug store was replaced with a brick building at the same site, 120 West Robert. Later it was sold to Woolworth Store which was demolished in 1975. A prescription notebook of 1888 tells of the rough life of the hard working pioneers. There were medicines named Stoughton Bitters, Warner Kidney Cure, Dr. King’s New Life pills. They also had cough powder with Indian turpin. Corn cures, toothache remedy with chloroform, cures for chills, ring-worm, itch, and liniment for rheumatism. It was said a jar of leeches was on the counter, a remedy for poor blood. Named as employees were former Congressman Harold Hagen, as chow-boy; Jacob Soes, of the Climax Drug Store; Vaula Thompson; Mac Olson, brother of Mrs. Jens Paske. Andersen once had Halvor Steenerson write General Pershing requesting Mac’s discharge from World War I
service in France, to return to work at the store. This was granted in a signed letter from Pershing. Andersen's Drugstore after 34 years was sold to N. C. Schreiter in 1922, later this business was changed to Osmon's.

The Andersen home was at 224 South Broadway, next door to Dr. Holte. His house was later the Northwestern Clinic. The corner home was sold to the Clinic in 1945, and was demolished for the present parking space in 1969. A. G. Anderson married Clara Johnson, Maple Bay, in 1915. Their children are: Margaret, Mrs. Norman Moen, Crookston; Cleora, Mrs. T. Newbery, El Cajon, California; and George who died in the service in 1945. Grandchildren are: Alan Andersen, Arlene, James, Silvia, Cleo Moen and Craig and Cindy Newbery. Mr. Andersen died in 1932; Mrs. Andersen in 1969. Once while she was living in a nursing home in Grand Forks she received a $10 bill in the mail with an unsigned card which explained “Bill owed to Andersen’s Drug Store.” An anonymous person with a conscience paid a drug bill after a lapse of at least forty years!

ANDREW AND CLARA ANDERSON

Andre (A. J.) Anderson married Clara Thomford after a five year courtship on June 23, 1928, in Oklee, Minnesota. Andy wanted a “June bride” but didn’t have vacation coming until July so they decided to elope, telling only their parents about the event and honeymooning later on in July.

Andrew was born in Crookston in 1894 to John and Maria Anderson. He was reared on farms in Thief River Falls and Fisher. In 1920 he started working at the Northwest School of Agriculture as bus driver and mechanic. He retired 37 years later in 1957.

Clara Thomford worked at Dickels and the Red Owl Store in Crookston before marrying Andy. She was born in 1905 to John and Sophia Thomford in Crookston.

One of the first purchases Clara and Andy made was their home on 533 Summit Avenue. It was more convenient to live at the "C.A.C." so they rented it out until 1945 when their family became too large for the housing available on the campus.

The favorite pastime of the Andisons has always been and still is, people. Their home often overflows with friends and relatives. When their children were all in school, Clara often referred to their home as Grand Central Station.

No matter how many activities were going on at one time, Clara always had time to help with a math problem, or Sunday school lesson, sew on a button, help somebody making fudge, give advice on a sewing project, and make certain a piano lesson was being practiced.

Their dinner table set for the seven family members often swelled to eight, ten or more when friends dropped in. The coffee pot is never idle at the Andersons and it’s unheard of for anyone to visit without staying for coffee and lunch.

Clara, of German descent, learned to make Scandinavian specialties to keep Andy happy. The only German dish the children can remember their mother making was sauerkraut, and that only when Dad was not home.

Andy passed on his love of automobiles to his sons and when they were growing up, there were always lots of extra "jalopies" around that somebody was working on.

Andy’s brothers Richard and Warner lived in Minneapolis so at least once every summer a trip was made to the "Cities." Andy would lead the children in "sing-alongs" to help shorten the long trip, and frequent stops were made for ice cream cones. Visiting the Hillmon family in International Falls was always a treat and often an annual event. Picnics to Maple Lake, Spring Lake and Itasca Park were memorable events and usually took place on the holidays in the summer and sometimes on Sunday afternoons.

Clara’s skill at sewing and love of cooking and baking inspired two of her daughters to major in home economics in college. Clara has been active for years with the Riverview Hospital sewing guild.

Like most parents of that generation, education for their children was very important to Andy and Clara. Because they didn’t have the opportunity, they were determined that all five of their children would receive college educations.

Their children are: Wayne Elwood, born in 1931, a former teacher and owner of Anderson’s Camera and Gift Shop in Crookston. He is married to the former Arline Larson of Fisher. They have one son, Mark, born in 1958.

June, born in 1934, is a home economics teacher and married to Robert Fredericksen. Both are instructors at Wausau, Wisconsin Vo-Tech College and they have two sons, Robert Allen, born in 1962 and James, born in 1965.

JoAnne, born in 1936 is married to Robert Abbott, an electrical engineer for Sandia Corporation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They have two children, Nancy, born in 1958 and David, born in 1962.

Marilyn, born in 1941, a former teacher, is married to Robert Mann, a registered pharmacist. They own and operate a pharmacy in Plentywood, Montana. They have two children, Kathryn, born in 1967 and John Robert, born in 1969.

John Douglas, born in 1945, is manager of the Minneapolis branch of Abbey Rental Service. He is married to the former Joan Brandt of Park River, North Dakota. They have two daughters, Jill, born in 1970 and Julie, born in 1974.

JOHN AND MARY ANDERSON

John and Maria Anderson were married in Crookston in 1895. They had four children: Andrew, born in 1896, lives in Crookston; Richard, born in 1897, died in 1974 in Minneapolis; Warner, born in 1899, lives in Minneapolis; and Anna, born in 1905, died four years later.

John came to America at the age of 29 from his home in Ljungskoarna, Sweden, where he was born in 1853. Two brothers had previously settled in Crookston and he joined them in 1882.

John worked on the Konser farm, which was a bonanza farm where they had 66 horses and many men working. He also worked for a time on the Great Northern Railroad.

Maria Jacobsen was born in Silkeborg, Denmark in 1864. In 1891 she came to Crookston with her mother, brother and mother’s cousin, where they joined another brother who was already here.

After their marriage, John and Maria moved to Thief River Falls and for nine years, then moved south of Fisher, where they worked. They lived in the Fisher community for the rest of their years, where John died in 1935 and Maria in 1941.

Like most Scandinavian families, English was learned at school by the children. Danish was spoken in the Anderson home. Andrew recalls that he was confirmed in Norwegian in the Fisher Lutheran Church. He says the Scandinavian languages are so similar there was no problem understanding the Norwegian minister. Maria never did learn English but her daughters-in-law remember very well how the gentle little lady was always able to make herself understood despite the language barrier.

The boys walked a mile to go to school at the rural schoolhouse in Fisher, but only when there was no farm work to be done. Plowing and work at home came first before school.

Andrew was stricken with scarlet fever when he was 12 years old. He said it must have been a mild case, because it only left him hard-of-hearing in both ears — most cases of scarlet fever were fatal at that time.
When the boys were teen-agers they became interested in
the new "horseless-carriage." In the fall of 1915 they became
the proud owners of their first automobile — a 1916 Model-T
Ford. Driving in those days was quite an adventure, because
there were no paved roads and in fact there were very few
gravel roads.

In 1920 Andrew went to work at the Northwest School of
Agriculture in Crookston as bus driver and mechanic, from
which he retired 37 years later in 1957. Richard and Warner
found work in Minneapolis, married and raised their families
there.

LOUIS AND AGNES ANDERSON
A veteran roadmaster with the Great Northern Railway.
Louis Anderson, his wife Agnes and family, moved to Crook-
ston April 15, 1905, where he was to remain as division road-
master until his retirement July 12, 1933.

Louis Anderson was married to the former Agnes Thune,
March 19, 1889 at Detroit Lakes. She was born June 19, 1870
at St. Peter, Minnesota. They were parents of 11 children.

A native of Hedemarken, near Oslo, Norway, where he was
born March 15, 1868, Louis came to the United States with his
parents at the age of 13. They first settled in Eau Claire, Wis-
consin, where Louis started his railroad work with the North-
ern Pacific Railway for 11 years.

He began his career with the Great Northern October 1,
1895, with headquarters in Glyndon, Minnesota. Later he was
transferred to Grandin, North Dakota, then to Grand Forks in
1902, when he was promoted to district roadmaster, coming to
Crookston three years later.

In his younger days Louis was an accomplished cornetist
and served as director of city bands in Eau Claire and Detroit
Lakes and played with the Grand Forks band.

Louis’ parents, Andrew and Agnette Frydenlund, both died
at Detroit Lakes. As a son of Andrew, Louis changed his name
to Anderson, easier to spell and pronounce, he said, and
besides his wife liked it better.

Agnes’ parents, Lars G. and Anna (Moen) Thune, both lived
to be in their nineties and also died at Detroit Lakes, he on
January 25, 1917 at 90, and she January 22, 1933, at age 94.

Louis died in Crookston, May 25, 1951 at 83, and his wife
died ten years earlier on November 10, 1941, at age of 71.

Their family of five girls and six boys include: Mrs. Lillian
Rowe, Crookston; Mrs. Ella Thompson, Billings, Montana;
Mrs. Lenore Miller, Crookston; Mrs. Ann Graves, Sacra-
mento, California.

Arthur Leonard, Crookston, died December 12, 1970 at 72;
Mrs. Claire Goza, Butte, Montana, died February 3, 1968 at
67; Mrs. Florence Spotts, Moorhead, died November 5, 1961
at 59; Lawrence, Glendive, Montana; Ronald, Santa Ana,
California; Everett, Los Angeles, California and Maitland died
June 17, 1917 at one-half year of age.

JUDGE PHILIP A. ANDERSON
Philip Anderson was born June 11, 1906 near Lengby to
Erick and Mary Anderson. He graduated from Fosston High
School and Gustavus College. He did graduate-study at the
Universities of Minnesota and North Dakota. He was married
to the former Linnea Sandberg on July 14, 1933, at Bemidji.
His son, Gerald, lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Philip
Anderson died February 29, 1972.

Before being named probate and juvenile judge in 1947,
Judge Anderson taught in rural schools in Polk County, was
high school principal and superintendent at Lyle and Middle
River; was principal at Carman School in Crookston; and
assistant County Superintendent of Schools in Polk County
from 1937 to 1947. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran
church and past president of Lutheran Brotherhood. He was a
member of the Crookston Lions Club, having served as past
president and was a 30-year monarch in the Lions and also
Oscar W. and Maud Anderson

At eleven years of age, the former Maud (also known as Petra) Nordhus was the eldest of five young children left both fatherless and motherless on November 6, 1893. Her mother Randi Nordhus had died of consumption at their rural home, just east of Fosston in Rosebud Township.

Born November 3, 1881 at Fergus Falls, Maud traveled as a baby with her parents by oxcart to Fosston to settle on their rural Fosston farm, where her three brothers and sister were born.

On December 6, 1902 she was married in Crookston to Oscar W. Anderson, a young newcomer from Norway, who came here to be with his uncle and aunt, the Hans Clausen family, area farmers.

Oscar, who was born November 17, 1876, became affiliated with the Great Northern Railway as a brakeman. For a time they lived in Bemidji, where their first-born, a girl, died at birth, April 6, 1904. They returned to Crookston where a second daughter, Glenna Lorraine, was born November 6, 1905. She died of spinal meningitis in August, 1909.

Their son Walter Eugene was born here, April 17, 1911. Another daughter was added to the family with the arrival of an adopted baby girl Monica Lucille, born June 27, 1923 at Glynond, Minnesota.

Maud died of cancer in Crookston on March 3, 1938. Oscar remained here with the railroad until his retirement. He died August 14, 1961 at 85. Both are buried in Oakdale Cemetery.

Their son, Walter, married Margaret Buckley at Harlem, Montana, May 31, 1935. They were parents of a daughter, Constance, and three sons, Walter Jr. (Pete), Philip and John. Walter Sr. died December 23, 1966 in Los Angeles, California. He is buried in Spokane, Washington with his wife, who died six years earlier.

Daughter Monica, now of Sacramento, California, is the mother of four grown daughters, three married. They are Kathryn Lee, twins Susan Marie and Linda Jean, and Carol Jane. The girls' father is Charles L. Upton of Bandon, Oregon.

Jacob Francis was born in Cornwall, England in the year of 1853. At the age of 12, he came to the United States with his mother, three brothers, and one sister after the death of his father in a mine accident in Wales. The family first settled in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. They then moved on to Kittson County, Minnesota and from there to Crookston, Minnesota. Jacob vividly remembered seeing Civil War soldiers returning from the battlefields when his family landed in New York City.

His sister, Grace, opened a photography studio in Crookston and later married Charles Greenalgh, a Crookston resident. Jacob shoveled coal from freight cars at a salary of $1 a day and later worked as a cement and stone mason. Included in the buildings that he helped to build are the Crookston Cathedral and the Cathedral School, the Eagle Building, and some of the buildings at the Minnesota Technical College. After his retirement from masonry, he raised quantities of potatoes and other vegetables which he sold to Ralph Lycan at the Hotel Crookston, to Charlie Rapin at the Grill Cafe, and to the local grocery stores.

On February 13, 1882, he married Ellen Jane Kyle at the Methodist Church in Crookston. Ellen Jane was born in 1859 in Medford, Canada. Her parents had emigrated to Canada from Belfast, Ireland. Several years later they, too, moved their family to Crookston. (Kyle family photo enclosed)

Jacob and Ellen Jane became interested in the Salvation Army and both became Salvation Army Soldiers. Jacob often marched with the Army to a Crookston street corner with his drum and participated in the open air services. His grandson, Lyle Francis, often assisted by carrying the large drum from
WAYNE ANDERSON

Wayne Anderson was born July 7, 1931, at Crookston, Minnesota. Wayne's father, Andrew J. Anderson, was born at Fisher, Minnesota. His parents came from Sweden. Wayne's mother, Clara Thomford, was born at Crookston, Minnesota. Her parents came from Germany. Wayne grew up in Crookston, Minnesota. He graduated from Central High School in Crookston. He served four years in the United States Air Force. He graduated from the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1958 with a degree in education. He was a school teacher in North Dakota and Wyoming and also worked as a printer and photographer in Washington. He is now owner of Anderson's Camera and Gifts in Crookston, Minnesota. He married Arline Larson on September 8, 1957, at Fisher, Minnesota.

Wayne was born November 6, 1936, at Fisher, Minnesota. Wayne's father was Arnold Larson, who married August 29, 1911, at Fisher, Minnesota. Arline's mother, Agnes Skogstad, was born October 18, 1916, at Pine Creek, Minnesota. Arline grew up in Fisher and graduated from Fisher High School. She attended the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Our parents came from Aaland, Sweden in the late 1800's, by sailing ship. After eight weeks on the ocean, they arrived at the port of Duluth. Our father was a cabin boy at the age of 12 on ships in Sweden going from port to port. From Duluth, my parents loaded their worldly possessions on some sort of passenger train, going west to the end of the railroad line, which was Crookston.

Times were very hard for the immigrants to make a living; some had seasonal jobs at the J. B. Wolker sawmill, in the brick yard, or at the Redland round-house. Father got his first job as a coal chute operator at Redland and around 1887, father and Mr. Wm. Nyvall became the first hydro operators at the old power plant (now torn down). In 1905 our father gave concerts from the old Hydro plant on Sunday afternoons, using an Edison phonograph with a big horn, which he had made from tin. It measured two and one-half feet wide and five feet long. Crowds gathered at the plant to listen to the cylinder records which father played.

Father worked 12-hour shifts for $60 a month with no benefits. Father was the only person who knew how to splice steel cables used in elevators at the Palace Hotel and St. Vincent Hospital. He learned this at sea. He made spare tires by splicing rope around the rim of the wheel. At that time no one had a spare tire. The first spare tire he made was for a car, a Franklin, owned by Mr. Ed Peterson, superintendent of the Crookston Power and Light Company.

Father was a wood carver and made several furniture pieces using inlaid wood, which he had collected in his sailing voyages around the world. Father caught a large sturgeon in the Red Lake River, above the dam, the largest fish ever caught in that river. It measured seven feet two inches long. Everyone received fish. (picture enclosed)

The first house they lived in was given them by Mr. Otto Eickhof. After much cleaning, it was home. A few years later father built a home along the Red Lake River. Much activity was going on with large log drives going through to Grand Forks, where there was a large sawmill. Crookston was a tough place in the early days with all the lumberjacks carrying on the drives. They spent most of their hard earned money in saloons as every other building was a drinking place. They got a kick walking down the wooden sidewalks in their calked shoes. Wooden house boats went over the dam on these drives. They housed the lumberjacks.

The Empire Builder stopped at Crookston with Mr. James J. Hill, who talked to the people from the balcony of Hotel Crookston. He did much to build Crookston. We always had a half-day holiday when he came. There was so much water in the Red Lake River that Mr. Hill came from Grand Forks by steam-boat. The village of Fisher was a stopping off place and became known as Fisher's Landing. There was considerable sickness with about every other house having a yellow poster on their door signifying a quarantine. None of the Anderson children (8 of us), were affected as Dr. Dunlap prescribed sulfor for us. Mother put a pie tin on the stove and we inhaled the sulphur fumes, besides swallowing a dose from a soup spoon.

The Wayne E. Anderson family.
We went to school every day without turning yellow and stayed healthy.

Father talked about the Indians coming down the Red Lake River in their bark canoes, from the reservation. They had a large camp on the east end of Gorgas Avenue and across the river on Sampson's land. Father got along well with them, although it was easy to get them on the war path. Everything that was loose was carted away. Our oldest brother saw much of this.

Another exciting experience was the big fire when the old flour mill burned down. It was located close to the hydro plant. It was a stormy Christmas Eve. Large embers were flying all over, even landing in the Woods Addition, and metal was found miles away, caused by the strong wind. Father and Frederick were sweeping hot embers from our house roof all night and there was great danger of our home being destroyed.

Three brothers served in World War I. Frederick served overseas. John and Oscar in the States. Oscar met a tragic death due to a railroad accident when going home to our father's funeral. John and Arthur were employed by the Great Northern Railroad. Frithof became hydro plant superintendent. Frederick was hydro operator at the steam plant and new dam plant.

**CARL G. ASH**

The surnames, Ash and Sylvester, were familiar names among those of the homesteaders that settled in the Red River Valley, in a small part of it usually referred to as the Joe River Community.

This history refers specifically to two of the children of those homesteaders, Carl George Ash, the son of William Ash and Carrie Cedarholm Ash, and Marjorie May Sylvester, daughter of William Sylvester and Isabella LeNore Ferguson Sylvester.

Carl's ancestry was German (father) and Swedish (mother). Marjorie was Scotch-English (father) and English-Irish (mother). The Ashes had homesteaded on the north side of the Joe River and the Sylvesters had done likewise about four miles further south.

Carl was born at home in a nice part of the year, May 26, 1903, so his arrival posed no problems in this community quite far from a doctor, but Marjorie's debut was made at a different time of the year, January 13, 1904. Her father, when warned of her imminent arrival on the bitter cold day, started off for Pembina for Dr. Harris, a distance of about fourteen or fifteen miles. They returned as fast as they could but William Sylvester's first born had already arrived with the help of his sister, Belle Sylvester. There was nothing to do but make the return trip with the doctor after he had confirmed a “very healthy baby”. Sixty miles in that bitter weather by horses and sleigh — but hot bricks and buffalo robes made the trip bearable!

When Carl and Marjorie were of school age he went to the Joe River school and she went to Grampian. Humboldt school consolidated, so Marjorie went there in the eighth grade.

Carl and Marjorie started “going steady” in junior high school and they were a “twosome from about 1918 until the day of their marriage in June, 1931, in the home of her parents, the William Sylvester in Humboldt.

Marjorie graduated from Humboldt High School in 1921, and then attended college at Moorhead State Normal School and St. Cloud State Normal School. After one year of college she taught for seven years in the rural schools of Kittson County.

Carl graduated from Humboldt High School one year later, in 1922, and attended the University of Minnesota. He later transferred to the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo, where he received his bachelor of science degree.

Carl had spent several weeks in Denmark and Scotland studying the agricultural methods in those countries.

The oldest son, Dean, who received his education at the University of Minnesota and the University of North Dakota, is employed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and lives at Finland, Minnesota with his wife Marie and daughter Karla Marie. He has two daughters by a former marriage.

Wayne received his education at the University of Minnesota and is employed by the United States Forest Service. He and his wife Linda and daughter Tonya live in Duluth, Minnesota.

Lynn received his education at the University of Minnesota and at Guadalajara, Mexico. He is a federal employee in the Indianapolis Veterans Administration Department, and lives there with his wife Julie and two daughters, Brenda and Kira.

Funny little things happen to all occasions — and so with the Model T. They were driving around the large garden area of Zitzer’s Greenhouse when the forward gear refused to function any more. So in order to get to help all that could be done was to travel backwards for two or three miles.

In 1932 Carl G. Ash was named County agent of West Polk County and held the position for 35 years or until his death. When they first moved from Humbolt, they lived in the city of Crookston, but later as the little Ashes were all boys, Carl thought a farm was a better place so he bought a small acreage and lovely home site on the Red Lake River, two miles east of town.

Carl received many honors and citations during the thirty-five years that he served the public. He also was affiliated with several social organizations, and was a member of the Presbyterian Church. He passed away very unexpectedly of a heart attack on October 18, 1967.

Mrs. Ash, with her sister Mrs. Allan Berg, have traveled to the north of Alaska, Point Barrow, since Mr. Ash’s death, and also to Newfoundland, and through the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Mr. and Mrs. Ash had also taken a trip to Hawaii.

**SHERMAN A. BAKKE**

Sherman Alexander Bakke was born June 12, 1914, at Nielsville, Minnesota. He is the son of the late, Simon and Anne Bakke. Sherman attended grade and high school at Nielsville.

Mr. Bakke attended the University of Minnesota, University of Heath, and William Hood, Danwood Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sherman is a veteran of World War II, having served in the European Theater. In 1946, Sherman and his brother, George, purchased and operated the Skelly Service Station in Nielsville, Minnesota, which they operated for 15 years. In 1957, Sherman and his family moved to Crookston, where he was deputy sheriff for seven years. In 1959, Sherman purchased his uncle’s farm at Fertile, where they lived until he sold it to his brother. John, in 1965:
Henry Bang farmed with his father. He married Gina Larson, daughter of Ludvig Larson. To this union were born nine children; three of them died as babies. The six living are: Olga, Vernon, Arthur, Barbara, Clara and Harriet. Henry Bang died in an auto accident in 1927. Elida Bang made her home with her parents on the farm. She now lives in Oslo and is the only surviving member of the Ole Bang family, at 81 years of age. Clara Bang married Ole Quern. Five children were born to this union. Their names are: Ediea, Erma, Gerald, Beatrice and Elaine. Mr. and Mrs. Quern farmed for many years until they moved to Oslo, where Mr. Quern was employed by the Farmers Elevator until his death. Mrs. Clara Quern passed away in 1973. After the Bang family had outgrown their first home, Mr. Bang built a lovely 19-bedroom house completely modern in every way. A gala house warming was held following the completion of the building and furnishing of the house. A large band and many friends from Grand Forks, North Dakota came to the house warming, traveling by steamboat on the Red River.

Ole Bang passed away at his farm home in 1928. Mrs. Bang also passed away at the farm in 1936. God bless the memory of these dear people, my grandparents, mother, aunts, and uncle!

TORE BANG

Tore Bang, his wife, and four children arrived in Crookston and Polk county in 1875 from Norway in search of a new country and fertile lands. In 1882 he filed for his citizenship papers and waited until 1889 before he received them. He and his wife, Anna, children, Gilbert H., age twelve; Carrie, age ten; Charles L., age seven; and Laura, age four, homesteaded near Fosston, Minnesota and later Tore became the United States Marshall of Crookston.

Gilbert H., who was born in Rindal, Norway in 1869, married Dora Greibrok in 1898. Dora was also born in Norway, January 12, 1877, and came to Crookston as a child with her parents. Her family consisted of five brothers and four sisters, who later lived in the rural Fisher area. Gilbert H. and his wife, Dora, had three sons: George D., Charles R., and Edmund H.; three daughters, Irene, Edna and Florence. He was a member of the Elks Lodge, a trustee of the lodge, was affiliated with the U.C.T. (United Commercial Travelers); was alderman from the first ward for three years. He served on the English Lutheran church board as trustee and treasurer.

Charles L., who was born in Kristina, Norway in 1874, married Pearl Fox in 1905. They had two children, Kenneth and Lillian. Kenneth married Lilian Elarton in 1931. They had three sons: Charles, William and Sam. Lillian married Kenneth Dates. Their only daughter died of polio. Charles L. was the Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge in Crookston and an officer of the U.C.T.

Gilbert H. and Charles L. Bang purchased the Crookston Bottling Works from J. M. Peterson in 1906. The Bottling Works, on 106 Maple Street, consisted of some old style bottle washing and bottle-filling equipment. With one white horse and a delivery wagon, they were in business! Deliveries in the city were made to about 30 saloons, some restaurants, and a few neighborhood stores and confectioneries. The out-of-town shipment were made in unheated cars, so after the month of September little was shipped until spring. Besides operating the Bottling Works with his brother, Charles, Gilbert and his wife operated the Oyster Bay Cafe, which was located where the Pro Gas Station is today. They also built and operated the Grill Cafe. Charles operated the candy store which was located at the present Wayne Hotel site. Charles L. was associated with the Bottling Works for 31 years. He died in 1951. Gilbert H. was with the Bottling Works for 28 years. He died in March, 1934.

Carrie Bang, born in Norway in 1871, died in America in 1948. She married Louis Simpson, who died in 1919. They had three sons: Herman, Theodore, and Leonhard, and one daughter, Helen. Herman, born 1899, married Stella Swenson and had one daughter. They live in Montgomery, Minnesota. Helen, born 1902, married Rush McLellis and lives in Minnesota. Theodore, born 1905, married Hazel Stenson of Fer-
The Oyster Bay Cafe or Lunch room operated by the Gilbert Bangs in early 1900. This cafe was located at the present (1976) site of the Central Pro Gas Station. Gilbert H. is the first gentleman on the left.

Falls, and one out of Hallock. As the years moved on, a new automatic cooler, and a 6-flavor vending machine was added. In 1974, a new plant was built with a large capacity equipment, filter washers, water treating and an automatic high speed labeling machine.

In 1972, Donald and his family moved to Crookston and he joined the Crookston Coca-Cola Bottling Company as sales manager. This family, too, is carrying the Bang tradition of getting involved in their community. Both are active in the Cathedral parish life. Don is the president of the Cathedral Elementary school board, together with his other civic involvements. Carolyne, or Carrie as she is commonly known, is active in education, entertainment, Mrs. Jaycees, hospital auxiliary work, and Crookston in general!

Irene, a daughter of Gilbert H., was born in 1909 and married M. E. Anderson on October, 1936. They had one daughter, Sandra.

Edna, born April 1911, married Lowell Grady in July 1935. They had four sons: Dennis, Michael, Tim and Tom. Lowell died in July 1956 at the age of 52.

Florence, born May 1913, married Lyle Buchannan in June 1940. They had two sons, Bruce and Jeffery.

Tore Bang, born in Norway in 1840, died in 1905 at the age of 62. His body rests in a Crookston cemetery. His wife, Anna, born in Norway in 1840, died in 1913 at the age of 73. Dora, fondly known as Thora, Gilbert's wife, died at the age of 94 in 1971. She leaves 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

CHRISTOPHER BARNES

Christopher Barnes was born October 2, 1828 in Sokendahl, Romerike, Norway. He came to America in 1861 and settled in Norway township, Fillmore county, Minnesota to farm. Nine children were born to his wife, Martha, who died in 1873. On November 15, 1874, he married Acse Redalen, who was born February 12, 1855 in Norway. Four children were born to this marriage. They were Mina, Emma, Gust, and Lena.

Christopher served as a representative in the state legislature during the twenty-third session in 1883-1884. In 1885 he moved his family to Polk county where he farmed southeast of Crookston. In 1887 Christopher helped organize and became one of the first officers of the Hafslø Lutheran church. The church is located midway between Crookston and Melvin on Highway 102 and is still being used.

Christopher died September 24, 1899 at the age of 71 and is buried in the original Hafslø Cemetery.

Gus Barnes was born February 28, 1879 at Fountain, Minnesota and came with his parents to Polk county in 1885. Gus married Gina Amundson on July 12, 1913. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Amundson, one of the early pioneer families of the area, and was born May 13, 1887. They farmed the Amundson farm in Fairfax township until 1921, when they
moved to Crookston. He was employed by the Crookston Milling Company till his retirement. Gus Barness died March 6, 1963. His wife, Gina, still lives in Crookston. They were parents of three children: Earl, born February 24, 1914; Irvin, born June 24, 1916; and Pearl, born September 21, 1922.

Earl, who lives in Crookston, married Evelyn Danielson, from Lancaster, Minnesota on June 12, 1937. They are the parents of three children: Lanny, Carol, and Sandra. After service with the army in the Southwest Pacific during World War II, Earl was Polk County Veterans' Service officer for ten years. He and his wife later operated a grocery store and a fabric store in Crookston for a number of years. He is at present the Work Experience Coordinator at the Comprehensive Employment Training Center in Crookston.

Irvin Barness served in the navy and saw service in the Southwest Pacific with the CB's during World War II. He is married, one son lives in Sacramento, California.

Pearl Barness Fellman lives in Brainerd, Minnesota and has one son and one daughter.

All of the children attended school and graduated from high school in Crookston.

ADOLPH AND RUBY BEICH

Adolph and Ruby Beich moved to Crookston in August, 1957. Adolph accepted a teaching position as business education instructor at Central High School. He left Central High in 1966 to accept a position in the Business Division of the University of Minnesota Technical College. As a charter member of the UMC faculty, he has had the pleasure of having a part in the birth of a new college and seeing the enrollment of the two-year college grow to over 900 in its tenth year.

Although Ruby had been a secretary before marriage, she gave up the typewriter and shorthand notebook to raise three sons: Wayne, Kenneth, and Brian. Ruby grew up near Kennedy, Minnesota, and graduated from Karlstad High School. She attended Aakers Business College in Grand Forks and was employed in the Stenographic Bureau of the University of North Dakota at the time of marriage in 1951. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August Swenson of Kennedy, Minnesota. Her father passed away in 1972. She has one brother, Russell, and three sisters: Helen, Jean and JoAnn.

Adolph graduated from Sykeston High School, Sykeston, North Dakota, and attended the University of North Dakota where he received a B.S. and M.S. degree in Education. He taught in high schools at Hallock and Hibbing prior to coming to Crookston. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Beich of Sykeston, North Dakota. His mother died in 1969. His father, age 87, is now living at Grass Valley, California. He has three brothers: Arnold, Milton and William; three sisters: Luella, Leota and Evangelie.

Wayne, age 21, was born at Grand Forks, North Dakota. He graduated from Central High School in Crookston. He attended the University of Minnesota Technical College for two years and is now a senior at Moorhead State University, where he is majoring in accounting.

Kenneth, age 19, was born in Hibbing, Minnesota. He, too, is a graduate of Central High School. He is presently a sophomore at the University of Minnesota Technical College, majoring in Computer Business Systems. He plans to transfer to Moorhead State University to complete studies in Computer Science.

Brian, age 14, was born in Crookston, Minnesota. He is an eighth grader at Highland Middle School.

As a family we enjoy living in Crookston. We feel it has the advantages of a good school system, recreational opportunities for our young people and the kind of people that make good neighbors and friends.

WILLIAM F. BEISWENGER

I was married to William F. Beiswenger, now deceased. We were both born and raised around Fisher, Minnesota. My parents were Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Ross and my husband’s parents were Mr. and Mrs. William Beiswenger of Fisher, Minnesota. We had eight children: Mrs. Robert (Luella) Clarkson of Seattle, Washington; Irvin of Eldred, Minnesota; Mrs. Robert (Luella) Clarkson of Seattle, Washington; Irvin of Eldred, Minnesota; now deceased; Earl of Fisher, Minnesota; Alva Gray of Oxnard, California; Mrs. Dale (Alice) Gray of Lebanon, Oregon; Mrs. Dennis (Marian) Hauglid of Plano, Texas; Lyle of Grand Forks, North Dakota; and Dorothy of Watertown, Wisconsin. I have twenty-one grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

I am now employed as a housekeeper for John DeBoer in Crookston, Minnesota.

BRUCE C. BERESFORD

The Beresford family moved to the Crookston Community in August of 1947. He was employed by the University of Min-
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Beresford.

nnesota, Northwest School and experiment station. The family, Bruce and Barbara and daughter Mary, age six months, took up residence on the campus. They lived there until 1956, when a new home on Radisson Road was built for them but in 1961 the house was sold and they now reside at 322 South Ash Street in Crookston. Six more children joined the family so they all have grown up and been educated in the public high schools in Crookston. Bruce completed a Master of Science degree at the University of Illinois in 1947, after serving three years in World War II; two years in England. He is a graduate of Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Barbara is a graduate in Home Economics Education at Iowa State University. Her home was Hunter, North Dakota, where her parents and grandparents were pioneers in that area. Rex Beresford, father of Bruce, is still living, age 90 years, in Sanborn, Iowa, after serving for forty-five years as Professor of Animal Husbandry at Iowa State University, as livestock marketing specialist.

The oldest daughter, Mary, is now Mrs. C. E. Pulkrabek, mother of two, residing in Crookston. Her husband, Courtney, is in the insurance business. Nancy is now Mrs. David Martin, Bloomington, Minnesota and the mother of two children. She is the first girl graduate of the University of Minnesota Technical College at Crookston in 1968. Robert, age 25, is a graduate of University of Minnesota, Minneapolis in Geology lives in Minneapolis. He works for a Pollution Control agency. Susan graduated from Moorhead State College in 1974 with Bachelor of Science degree and works and resides in Crookston. Larry is a sophomore in school of journalism University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Douglas is a junior in high school and Barbara, the youngest, is in grade nine in Crookston.

Barbara’s mother, Mrs. H. F. Gale, is living in Crookston at Riverview Home for the elderly and is 84 years old. Her father, Harry Gale, died in 1972. He was a prominent businessman and landowner in Hunter, North Dakota area until his death.

Mr. Beresford taught classes in Horticulture at the Northwest School from 1947 to the closing of the school in 1968, and has taught the Horticulture classes in the college at Crookston from 1966 to the present time. Mrs. Beresford has taught Home Economics at Mount St. Benedict in Crookston for one year and one year in the public schools. She has also been employed by Riverview Hospital and State Farm Insurance. In recalling over twenty-five years in Crookston, several events stand out. One was the 1950 flood in part of residential area, another the elevator fire which destroyed the Crookston mill. The blizzard in March of 1966 which piled snow high in the streets is well remembered. Activities of the family have included membership in Presbyterian church, Crookston, The North Star 4-H club, Masonic involvement of the whole family in Lodge, Commandery; Bob’s Daughters; Order of Eastern Star and Mr. Beresford’s activities in Garden clubs and Horticultural societies. He has received the Certificate of Merit and Distinguished Service award from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. He is presently secretary of the Polk County Historical Society and served in that capacity for five years. He conducted the Horticultural research in Northwest Experiment Station for twenty-five years until 1972 so has observed the ups and downs of growing fruits, flowers, vegetables, turf and ornamentals through wet and dry years, cold and frost, and the growing interest over the years in horticulture in Polk County.

Edward J. Boh

Edward Boh was born in Crookston, Minnesota July 23, 1920 to John Boh and Katherine Jewell Boh. Edward has a brother, Francis, who still lives in Crookston and operates the Grand Theatre.

Edward attended Cathedral Grade School and graduated from the Cathedral High School. After graduation, Edward enlisted in World War II and served as a technical sergeant from 1942 to 1946. After his service in the army, he returned to Crookston and worked for C. L. Hiller at the Grand Theater from 1946 to 1948. In 1948 Edward together with four other men, built KROX and remained with KROX until 1952.

In 1951, he met and married LaRae Torstenson of Trail, Minnesota. They have no children.

When Edward left KROX, he and his wife moved to Dallas, Texas. Edward found employment with General Electric from 1952 to 1953; and with Continental Electronics Manufacturing Company to the present time.

In 1967, Ed attained his bachelor of science degree in Electrical Engineering from Dallas Electrical College and a bachelor’s degree in music from Reicher School of Music in 1971.

Edward holds several patents solely; and several co-owned in the electrical field. His hobbies extend into many fields: playing the organ, historical collections and writings, and automobile racing. He has served as the secretary-treasurer of the Texas Central Racing Association since 1969. At present he is a supervisor of the Research and Development Laboratories for Continental Electronics Manufacturing Company in Dallas, Texas.

The Edward Bohs now make their home in DeSoto, Texas, a suburb of Dallas.

Edward Boh.

OLE BRUSTAD

Ole and Mena Brustad came to Crookston from Lille-Hamer, Norway. They were married in Crookston in 1881. They were residents of the Woods Addition, moving into the home at 321 Bertha Street in 1893. This home has been occupied by the Brustad family continuously since that time, for
the last 48 years by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar G. Brustad.

Ole Brustad worked for the Great Northern Railroad as fireman, when there were mixed trains. There were five children in the family; Arthur, who worked for the Great Northern, and later farmed. He died June 4th, 1975, at the age of 89. Anna worked at the Polk County Courthouse most of her life, in the office of the register of deeds, as deputy clerk of court, and in the treasurer's office. She died in 1973. Oscar left Crookston to serve in World War I in the first draft on September 21, 1917. He worked for the United States post office for forty-seven years, the last ten as postmaster. His first job at the post office was delivering Christmas parcels by hand sled. Christmas greetings at that time were all post cards with one cent postage. He was married to the former Ethel Gustafson and they have one son, William, living in Maryland. Clarence also was in the service during World War I. He was sent to the front line without any training after weeks in service was killed in the Battle of the Argonne in 1918. The youngest child was Minnie, who is Mrs. D. L. Olson, and lives in Battle Lake, Minnesota.

ALLEN BROLSMA

Both Mr. and Mrs. Allen Brolsma claim Polk county for their home community for their entire lifetime. Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Brolsma Sr., was born on July 21, 1918, in Groten, Alberta, Canada, but came to Polk County at the age of one year. Leah, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Seaton, was born July 28, 1919, on the family farm in Fairfax township and lived there until she started employment at the AAA office in Crookston. The only time not spent here was while Allen was in the army during World War II. Allen left for service on June 7, 1942, returning for a short furlough and a wedding ceremony on June 25, 1942, before leaving for Camp Crowder, Missouri for basic training. Both lived in Fresno, California for six months before Allen left for overseas in August of 1943. While overseas, he spent time in Africa, Sardinia, Italy, France and Belgium, serving in the signal corps. He arrived back in the States on September 24, 1945, and came home soon after to see for the first time his son Bob, who was seventeen months old.

Shortly after arriving home, Allen started employment with Bridgeman Creameries and completed 25 years with the company. Working as a route salesman he spent many hours each day to cover the surrounding territory and at that time a working week meant six days. After retirement from Bridgeman's and as of 1976, Allen is doing carpenter work for the George Brustad Construction Company. Robert, the oldest of the family, now lives in Rochester, New York. He is manager of the Burrough's Corporation Credit Card plant. His wife, Kathy, is also employed at Burroughs in the accounts receivable department. James, born July 2, 1946, now lives in Newberry, Michigan and is employed by the Kimberly Clarke Company as an accountent. His wife, Janice, is an elementary school teacher. Jim finished his college after spending four years in the navy. He served one year in Viet Nam. This was a rather dismal time for the Brolsma family, as both Bob and Jim received their overseas orders the very same day. Bob was to serve his year in Korea.

Nancy, born November 3, 1950, married Wayne Capistran in 1970, and they live on a farm eight miles east of Crookston. As of this date they have the only two grandchildren in the family. They are Karen, age three, and Kevin, born January 14, 1976.

Scott born April 29, 1962, is still at home and attends the Highland Middle School. His favorite pastime is the same as his older brother's, playing hockey. Therefore, during the winter the family spends most of their spare time at the Winter Sports arena.

GEORGE, JR. AND JESSIE EPEMA BROLSMA

Most of our life has been spent in Polk county, Minnesota. We were married at Crookston on September 7, 1940. We have three daughters, Janet (1941), Carol (1945), and Cindy (1952).

Our first 14 years of married life were spent farming in the Beltrami, Erskine and McIntosh area. It was during the summer of 1941 that George was hospitalized with encephalitis. The kind neighbors in the Beltrami area rallied around with men and equipment to put the second cutting of hay and plowed his summer fallow, and the women provided food for the group. This kindness has never been forgotten. During these 14 years George also did carpenter work around the area. In 1957 we returned to Crookston and he went into construction business full time.

We were interested in building a home, and finally found several lots in an undeveloped area in Washington Heights overlooking the river. This land was owned by the Crookston Community Theatre, Inc. At one time they had dreamed of building a Community Theatre. There was no street in the area. Our lots were on a hillside covered with many large cottonwood trees. Then began the dream about how we would build and landscape.

In 1960, after taking down many cottonwood trees, George put up his shop and capped the basement to our home and boarded up the side of the walk-out basement which was to have a picture window and door. He covered the dirt floor and footings with straw and left it for the winter.

In the spring of 1961, he started on the house again. It was a wet spring, but a good time to get our twenty-two to three foot
high evergreens planted that we had purchased from Herschel Lysaker for $2. a tree and dig them yourself. Every one grew!

By this time the lot next to us had been purchased by Don and Marie Anderson, and they started to build. Later across the road Elroy and Shirley Orstad built on the end hillside lot, now owned by Bud and Terry Salem. Also building were David and Gloria Wadholm, Dan and Margaret Novacek, and Elmer and Velden Durdahl. Now all the lots were taken.

We just had a dirt road in that first year, but the neighborhood didn’t wait for the street department, they got together and had gravel hauled in and worked it out together until our street, called Russell Street, was put in the following year.

Since that time, George has built 28 new homes, 12 in Crookston and 16 in the rural areas, and several commercial buildings, including Midland Cooperative, Senske Transfer, Viking Bar and Lounge, Northwest Lumber and Dahlgren Office Building. One of our married daughters live in Crookston. Don Arnold and Carol Sanders have three children, Scott six, Susan five, and Steven four. David is working with George in the building business. Sandy is employed at the Minnesota Technical College as a plumber.

Cindy, our youngest, graduated from the University of Minnesota, Duluth in 1974, and is employed with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission at Duluth, Minnesota. She was Crookston Central’s 1969 foreign exchange student to New Guinea, attending school at Port Moresby, New Guinea. Her AES experience was rich and rewarding and we are still grateful to the community for the opportunity.

EDWARD WALTER BROUILLET

Edward Walter Brouillet was born on April 3, 1868 to Anselm and Marie Consineau Brouillet in Quebec, Canada. Some years later on October 15, 1880, Delia O’Clair was born to Charles and Marie Biron O’Claire in Ontario, Canada. Both families found their way to the United States. Edward and Delia were married in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota on August 17, 1902.

Their first son, Fred, was born on November 9, 1903. Their daughter Marie was born June 5, 1906 in Red Lake Falls. Until he was 39 years old, Edward was still a citizen of Canada, or Great Britain and Ireland, as stated on his certificate of naturalization dated January 7, 1908. The certificate describes him as 6 feet 1 1/2 inches tall, dark complexion, gray eyes and black hair. He had a scar on his right temple and was missing his little finger on his left hand.

Edward was working at the Red Lake Falls flour mill. When the mill was destroyed by fire the company transferred him to Crookston where the Crookston Milling Company was established. Edward was a grain buyer and made foreman of all outside activities of the mill and the warehouse. He was known as a man of great strength who could heave 100-pound sacks of flour with ease.

The Brouillets’ second son, Leo, was born April 21, 1910 in Crookston, but died of pneumonia on March 8, 1912. Soon after, on May 1, 1912, Remi was born. Clifford was born on June 27, 1917 and Lorena was born August 8, 1920.

The Brouillets were a lively family, full of laughter. They were also very intellectual. Meal time conversations centered around current events, history or geography. If someone posed a question that could not be answered, the meal was barely over before someone found a book with the answer. Two of the boys, Remi (known as Ray) and Clifford finished at the top or near the top of their classes at Cathedral High School.

The family belonged to St. Anne’s Church in Crookston. Edward was not a Catholic until two years before his death, but followed all the rules of the Catholic Church with his family so faithfully that the pastor was unaware for quite a few years that he was not a member.

The children grew up and began to leave the family home. Remi married Blanche Fortier. Their daughter, Betty Jane, born July 21, 1938, was the only grandchild Edward was to know. Edward died on February 15, 1939.

Marie married Elmer (Dick) Richardson and settled near Fisher, where Dick worked on the Northern Pacific Railroad. They had no children. Fred married Rose Harten and settled in East Grand Forks. Fred managed grocery stores most of his life. Their son, Bill, lives with his family in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Clifford joined the Marines and later married Hazel Hogenson. Clifford worked at the Crookston Mill, but later moved West finally settling in northern California. They have three sons, Edward, James and Mark.

Lorena joined the Service becoming one of the first WACs. She married Francis Johnson in California. They had two daughters, Danielle and Yvonne.

Remi worked as a civilian defense worker during the war. His family followed when they could. At the end of the war, they decided to settle in Denver, Colorado. A daughter, Carol, was born there before they moved back to Crookston.

Remi died April 16, 1948. His Mother, Delia, died February 26, 1949. Marie died on December 17, 1953; Fred died on December 23, 1956 and Lorena died May 25, 1975.

There is only one Brouillet now living in Polk county. Betty Brouillet remains in Crookston, where she works at the First National Bank.

JOHN AND MARY BYWATER

We have only been residents of Polk County for three years, but actually Polk County has meant much more. Mary was brought into the world by Dr. Mercil at the old Bethesda Hospital in Crookston, the daughter of G. Orvis and Valda (Duckstad) Hanson, who lived in Fertile. Orvis was the son of Norman Hanson, the first President of the State Bank of Fertile, and he worked there until late in the year of 1938 when they moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota. The maternal grandparents were Julia Christiansen Hanson and the maternal grandparents were Nels and Bertha (Urdahl) Duckstad. They were all immigrants from Norway to the Fertile and Twin Valley area.
Omer Capistran and Florence Erickson were married November 27, 1939 at St. Anne's Catholic church in Crookston by Rev. Father Dufault.

Omer Capistran was born October 13, 1909 on a farm west of Crookston to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Capistran. He was the seventh of eight children. His father came Sorel, Quebec and his mother from southern Minnesota. Omer attended St. Joseph's Academy. When Omer was young, his parents moved into town where his father was in the fuel business. They later returned to farming. Omer worked with his father in summer, helping on the farm, and in winter he worked in town. After his marriage, Omer lived in Crookston and worked for Central Lumber Company three years, and two years for N. P. Stone. He also worked for Robertson Lumber Company. After that he did hauling of all kinds on his own. He was a janitor at the Viking for six years and is now custodian at the American Legion Club. He is a member of the Eagles Lodge, Conservation Club, and the Holy Name Society of St. Anne's Church. He likes fishing and for a hobby he does glass cutting.

Florence Erickson was born September 27, 1910, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Erickson.

John Erickson was born in Calmer, Iowa and as a child moved to a farm near Montevideo, Minnesota. He attended college in that area. While living near Montevideo, he met and married Bertha Stoen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stoen. After their marriage they moved to South Dakota, where they proved up a claim. Later John traveled for farm machinery. This took them to Crookston, Minnesota where they lived until their death. John owned the Erickson Furniture Store in Crookston for several years, then he went back to selling farm machinery.

Florence Erickson graduated from Central High School in 1930. She is an active member of St. Theresa's Circle. When her oldest grandson was young, Florence was den-grandmother for the Cub Scouts. She has done a great deal of knitting and crocheting, much of which has been used as gifts for friends and relatives. She also has done many other kinds of handicrafts.

Omer and Florence live in a flood district. They experienced a flood in their own home in 1950, and since then have both been active in flood watch and patrol.

Omer and Florence have two daughters, Betty and Joanee. Betty married Ralph Anderson. Ralph works for Glendening and Betty is a district manager for Avon Products out of Superior, Wisconsin. They have six children. Gordon was born June 28, 1949. He is a former marine. Now he is with Braniff Airlines in Dallas, Texas. He is married to the former Lynn Nelson of Croquet, Minnesota. Susan Anderson Hurlburt is a sergeant in the United States Air Force and is married to Staff Sergeant William Hurlburt. They are stationed in Germany. Susan was born May 23, 1950. Mary Kaye Anderson was born October 20, 1951. She is an L.P.N. working in St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota. She is married to Michael Jackson. They presented their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Omer Capistran, with their first great-grandchild, Andrea Elizabeth Jackson, on June 11, 1975. Ralph A. Anderson II was born December 19, 1953 and is in Austin, Texas working on construction. Michael Anderson was born February 9, 1959. He lives at home and is a junior at Morgan Park High School. Beth, the youngest, was born March 12, 1962, lives at home, and is an eighth grader at Morgan Park High School.

Joanee Capistran Miller married Roy Miller and lives in Salem, Oregon. Roy is manager of a glass store. Joanee is a district manager for Avon Products out of Superior, Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. Omer Capistran.
Mr. and Mrs. George Casney, Mildred, Howard and Gladys.

Louis Regeimbal was born on July 18, 1868 near Montreal, Canada. He came to Crookston in March of 1882 at the age of 14. He attended school for one year and then went to farming with his father on the family farm in Crookston township east of Crookston. At the age of 20 he returned to Canada and married Valerie Menard. They then returned to Crookston to the farm and made their home there. To this marriage 16 children were born, 12 of whom are still living. They are Louis, who resides in Silver Springs, Maryland, and is married and has two sons. Napoleon is married and has one daughter and lives in Crookston. In September of 1975 Louis and Marie, his wife, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and in November 1975 Nap and his wife, Emma, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Hermine Regeimbal is living in Crookston, Albert and his wife live in Yakima, Washington and had three children. Anna is married to Joseph Dufault and lives in Oklee and has seven children. Alice is married to Daniel Dufault and lives near Gentilly and has eight children. Eli is married and he and his wife live in Alpena, Michigan and have two children. Rene is married and he and his wife live in Crookston and they have four children and still own and operate the family farm east of town, which was the original home place and where the family first lived in a log house. Adolph is married and he and his wife live in Bismarck, North Dakota, and have two children: Cecelia, who is now a nun in the order of the Mount of St. Benedict is Sister Elijah, here in Crookston. Peter is married and lives with his wife and two children in Selah, Washington. Theresa, Mrs. William Conroy, lives in Lakota, North Dakota and has two children. Four girls have passed away. They were Eugene, Sister Leonard, Agnes and Amelia. In all, there are 33 grandchildren, 93 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Louis J. and Valerie Regeimbal celebrated their golden wedding in 1939. Thirteen living children were here to celebrate with them. Mrs. Valerie Regeimbal died in 1949 at the age of 77. Louis J. Regeimbal died in July of 1961 at the age of 92.

The Regeimbal family made their entire living off the farm. They produced enough fruits and vegetables in their garden for themselves and also supplied the grocery store of Mercil and Sylvester, which was located where the present Crookston Credit Bureau is now located. During the summer and fall they sold strawberries, raspberries, corn, melons of all kinds, and butter. During the fall they had potatoes, squash and pumpkins, and during the winter months they would hand sort navy beans and sell them by the bushel. They sold these products in exchange for flour and other products not produced on the farm. They raised all their own meat, poultry and eggs. The milk was hauled by horse and wagon in the summer time to the Gentilly Dairy, and in the winter time by horse and sleigh. They made all their own wood for heating the house on the farm, along with the wood to heat the house of the grandparents on Elm Street. Along with having a large family, during the year they would often repair the bridge across the Red Lake River, which runs along the farm. They then had as many as five extra men boarding and rooming there.

Mr. Regeimbal was on the school board for the school, which was so commonly known as the Little Brick School House, that was torn down just a few years ago when they made the four lane highway east on #2. He also served for many years on the board of Crookston as clerk.

Anna Regeimbal Roy was born in Montreal, Canada, and came to Crookston in 1888. She married Louis Roy, who operated a furniture store where the present Gamble store is now operating. The name of Roy is still on the back of the building. There were five children of this marriage, and they are Edmond, Henri, Albert and Agnes all of Yakima, Washington, and Emma, who is a nun in Alaska.

**NARSIS AND CLEMANCE CHATEL**

Narsis and Marie Bisson Chatel and Audrey and Clemance Chatel Bisson and families came to Crookston in the year 1878 from Montreal, Canada. They had heard of the rich land and easy living they could have if they came. They were told that there were so many prairie chickens and wild fowl that they didn't need to raise chickens; all they had to do was to pick eggs from their nests. They hired a box car and put all their belongings inside and came to Crookston, Minnesota. In Crookston they got off the train on a large tree stump. Narsis opened a blacksmith shop in Gentilly and the family lived upstairs. It was a large old building and when the wind blew, they all sat in the middle of the floor, the building swayed so much, grandmother was very frightened lest it would fall.

Roseana Chatel was born in Gentilly in 1880. Later they moved north of Red Lake Falls, between the Clearwater, and the Red Lake River, near Terrebonne. They went to a Catholic Church in Terrebonne. The family then moved west of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, across from the Seegar's farm. While on this place, they planted an apple tree that bore fruit for many years. I once had an apple pie from it.

Narsis and Marie Chatel had 11 children: Lea, Peter, Paiete (passed away in Canada while real young), Exerie, Ephraim, Wilfred. Frizelda were born in Canada; Roseanna, Exena and Mary Louise were born in Gentilly and Red Lake Falls. Roseanna married Thomas V. Thibodeau in 1904. They had eight children. Eraine, who married Verle Copeland; Leo, Agnes, Levite, Lucy, Ida, Francis, and Helen. Lucy Thibodeau married Kenneth Greenhalgh. They had seven children: Karen, Lynn, Ralph, William, Thomas, Moe, Larry and Marian.

**HENRY AND ANNA EASTVOLD**

A World War I war-time romance by mail resulted in the marriage of my parents, Henry and Anna Eastvold, who were married August 28, 1920 in Crookston.

My father was born January 5, 1890 in Hamar, Norway. He came to the United States at the age of 21, leaving his parents Hans and Marin Ostvold and sisters Hilda, Anna, Marie and Louis and his three brothers Ole, Martin and Hans. His parents died during World War II and two sisters also are deceased.

He never did get back to see his family in Norway, but in August 1973 my husband Douglas and I made the trip — to take up where he left off. We had a wonderful time visiting his brothers and sisters and were treated royally by over 130 relatives.

After coming to the United States, my dad homesteaded near Turner, Montana, a small inland town 25 miles north of Harlem, before joining the armed forces during World War I. He served in France and Germany.

It was then my mother started writing to him, before she ever met him, through the efforts of my mother's cousin, Mrs. Otto Rasmussen (Marie Nordhus), whose farm in Montana was near my dad's.

After his war service, Henry came to Minnesota to meet his future wife, Anna Kroken of Fostion. She was born there April 10, 1888 to Simon and Anne Kroken in Rosebud township. (See Kroken history).

A longtime resident of Crookston my dad worked for the Great Northern Railroad for over 40 years. He died here January 11, 1961 and my mother February 9, 1973.
They were parents of four children: Maxine, who died at one and a-half years; Max of New Berlin, Wisconsin, an electrical engineer with Erickson Electric Co. He is married and has one daughter, Debbie.

HENRY AND ANNA EASTVOLD

The youngest Eastvold daughter, Beverly, is Mrs. Norman Banschbach, Valparaiso, Indiana. They have five children: Norma Jean, Mark, Lynn, Neil and Eric.

I am married to Douglas Laurent and live in Crookston. Our three children are: Karen (Mrs. Jerry Hime), Minneapolis; Gary, Elk River; and Marilyn (Mrs. Donald Juuvud), Crookston. We also have five grandchildren.

CHRIS AND JOHANNA EICKHOF

Three sons were born to Daniel and Magdalene Meier Eickhof of Wohlesbustrial, Germany. Chris, the oldest son, was born September 25, 1849, and attended school for eight years at Hollenstedt, Germany. He was rejected from military services because of ill health, and became an apprentice to a contractor for three years, receiving board, room and clothing, plus $7 a year. After this he studied architecture at a technical school in Buxtehude.

On May 9, 1875, Johanna married Chris Eickhof in Hollenstedt, Germany. Johanna was the youngest daughter of Heinrich and Magrat Harms Dummam and was born in Alkoster, Buxtehude, Germany, on November 19, 1854. She had six sisters and one brother. Johanna’s father was a shoemaker and she had a very good education. She could read and write Latin fluently and was confirmed in the Lutheran faith on March 2, 1868. Her father died when she was seventeen years old and her mother died when she was nineteen years old. After that she lived with her sisters until her marriage.

Chris inherited the Eickhof estate, because he was the oldest son. Three children were born to them in Germany, Bertha, Johanna and Dora. They sold their home in the spring of 1881 and came to America. Johanna had three sisters living near Red Wing and Chris had a brother, John, a builder and contractor at Grand Forks, North Dakota, and a brother, Fred, who had a furniture store at St. Hilaire, Minnesota. They arrived in Crookston in the spring of 1882. They lived on North Pine Street until they built their home that fall at 510 North Front. It was completed September 25, 1882. Their home still stands and is lived in as well as the duplex next to it, which was built by Chris Eickhof in 1918.

Eight children were born in America: Henry, Laura, Flora, Otto, Anna, Nettie, Frances and William. Chris had his own business and named it Chris Eickhof Construction Company. Many houses and buildings still stand as a monument of his work.

Chris and Johanna celebrated their silver and golden wedding anniversaries with all the living children and their families present. They took many trips and in December, 1907, they returned to Germany to visit relatives and friends. Johanna’s sisters and one brother were living at the time. One winter they spent in California and attended the World’s Fair and visited the Panama Canal Zone.

Chris would not allow any of his daughters and work with him. In 1910, he took Otto in as a partner. The firm was then named “Chris Eickhof and Son”. Henry passed away in 1885. When William returned home after World War I, he was not interested in business. Chris retired in 1921, leaving the business to Otto. Chris and Johanna enjoyed good health until the summer of 1927, when Chris was very ill. He was again ill in 1930. They enjoyed each other’s company and played a game of cards called “Sixty-Six”. Chris would help Johanna with the dishes so they could return to their card game. The days were spent reading the daily papers, and when Johanna’s eye-sight failed, Chris read the papers to her. The reading also included a German paper with a serial story.

On December 24, 1935, when everyone was home for Christmas, Chris passed away. The family came to celebrate but stayed to mourn. Johanna passed away May 7, 1940. Three of the Chris Eickhof family are living. Anna, Mrs. John Laughlin of Crookston; Frances, Mrs. A. E. Helland, Union Lake; William Chris, San Diego, California.

After Otto Eickhof passed away, his sons, Ralph and John took over the Eickhof Construction Company.

WILLIAM F. EISERT

Louisa Jandt was born in 1872 near Webster, Minnesota and William Eisert in 1858 near Montgomery, Minnesota.
Their parents came from Germany. The William F. Eisert had 13 children — three girls and ten sons. Ten of the children are still living — six in the Crookston area: Harvey in Southern Minnesota, and the only surviving daughter, Leona Torv, lives in St. Paul. The Eisert’s farmed near Northfield and Roseau before moving to Crookston in 1914 (Carman area). The older sons worked out as hired hands to various farmers. Arthur and Edwin delivered the surplus milk from rural families to Carman customers. The family moved to the S. A. Miller farm, now owned by Tom Owens, and lived there 19 years. The children attended a one-room school one mile north of their home. For several years the family rented the Senator R. T. Buckler farm. Later they rented the Congor and DeMott farms. In 1933 the parents and four youngest sons moved into Crookston. Wm. F. Eisert lived to be 89 and Louisa Eisert to a band there. Two children died in infancy. Conrad, Mike, of New Market still survive. A Model T Ford with the sugar beet cultivator mounting was engineered by A. O. Espe and built in the Crookston Mfg. Company.

In 1881 they bought a farm near Crookston, and this became the starting point for a busy, inventive life for Mr. Espe. It was on this farm that A. O. Espe showed his skill in breaking oxen for the neighbors so they could work the land. It was here, too, that his inventive mind was set in motion, to realize there must be an easier way.

In 1898, Mr. Espe changed his attention, somewhat, from farm operations to establish a machine shop and foundry in Crookston. He sold steam threshers and prevailing farm equipment. Hence evolved the Espe Foundry at 411 North Main Street in a two-story frame building that included a woodworking shop to make molds for casting the parts needed to maintain the machinery of the day.

There was a procession of inventions created by A. O. Espe, mainly machinery to help the farmers. The first invention recorded was a land roller, which was patented in 1901, named the Diamond Pulverizer. Perhaps the best known and publicized invention was the Espe Tractor — the transition from steam engines to gasoline engines. In 1907 the first gasoline tractor was built in the Espe Foundry. In 1909 a four-plow tractor was made and the Crookston Manufacturing Company was formed to produce them. In 1910-11 several units of the Espe Tractor were manufactured and sold in the Crookston area, one going to the Northwest School of Agriculture. Patents on this tractor were sold to the Rumley Company of La Porte, Indiana and renamed the Gas Pull and later the Oil Pull.

Mr. Espe’s natural skill and inventive genius kept him working to simplify the lines and improve the operation of his first efforts so another tractor was invented. This patent was sold to the Avery Company of Peoria, Illinois.

Continuing farming as a side line all these years, A. O. Espe had a first hand knowledge of the needs of the Red River Valley farmer. He continued to experiment and as a result many machines were developed to help farming. With more modern equipment available, the foundry was no longer necessary so a new brick building was built in 1919, next to the frame building which was later torn down to provide parking space.

Over the years there were many versatile machines produced to “make the job easier”. To name a few: the shock loader, a fork-lift type of machine to load grain bundles from field to wagon; the sugar-beet cultivator, mounted on a Model T Ford; the sugar-beet loader, a machine to elevate beets into a truck and eliminate loading by hand with a wide fork; the brush cutter, to clear native land; the tractor hitch for the extended disk. Mr. Espe also built a large well machine and drilled wells for creameries, villages and test wells for the Geological Department of the University of Minnesota. The last invention of A. O. Espe’s in 1938 was the Espe Disk: 15, 17, 19 and 21 feet with a few 31-foot disks, which at the time were considered huge.

In spite of a very productive business life, Mr. Espe had time for civic affairs. He was always the anchor man on the tug-of-war team. He was a self-made man of great stature and distinction. His wide brimmed black hat was a sort of recognition symbol of this.

He had time for home and family too. He married Mathilda

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**JOE ELBINGER**

My parents came over from Germany in 1889. There were 15 children in the family. They were born on a farm nine and a half miles northeast of Crookston. There are three of us left: Conrad is at St. Vincent’s Rest Home; Tony and family are on the old farm place; and myself. My younger brother still lives on the farm with his son and wife.

I am retired now but I ran restaurants for many years buying the first cafe from J. J. Shandorf in 1921. I still have the contract and pictures, the place was a little shoe shop next to where the Gamble Store is now. Then I bought the building where Eidsvik’s Shoe Shop is. After that I bought the building across the alley, where C. J. Carpenter is now and next the building where we are living now, intending to make it our home.

When I first came to Crookston I started by borrowing $10 from my sister and got a job as a bus boy at the Hotel Crookston until I saved enough money to begin with Mr. Shandorf. I later bought his share of the restaurant business. I had a partner I took in with me, Lateefa Joseph. She worked with us until we sold out in 1965.

While in Germany, my father was a musician and played in a band there. Two children died in infancy. Conrad, Mike, Maggie and Mary all were born in Germany.

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**ALBERT O. ESPE**

In recording pioneer history there is one name etched in the archives — a name to be remembered for the many contributions to agricultural and community growth. That name is Espe.

The true pioneer was Albert O. Espe, born in Decorah, Iowa in 1872, the youngest of a family of six. Albert migrated with his widowed mother and family by ox cart to Norman county.
Bystad in 1896, and they raised a family of five boys and two girls to adulthood.

When A. O. Espe retired he turned his business over to the sons, Henry and Mylan and daughter, Glenda, who had worked in the machine shop with their father all their lives. They formed the Espe Machine Company. With no heirs to carry on the business, it was sold in 1969 and thus ended the era of a pioneering enterprise of which has been said, “did more for the upper mid-west farmer than any one business or individual”.

The “now” generation are demonstrating their inherited background of creative abilities in the fields of science, engineering, research, medicine and inventiveness. The Espes, True Pioneers!

ED ERICKSON

Ed Erickson came to Crookston from Sweden in the early 1880’s at the age of 16, and worked on his uncle’s farm near Crookston for a year to pay for his ticket here to the United States. One of his jobs was to dig a ditch around the farm with a shovel.

After a few years of driving a stage coach between Thief River Falls and Crookston, he met Boletta Johnson, who was from Thief River Falls but was working at the Agricultural School in Crookston. They were married January 2, 1889, and raised a family of two boys, Sam and Elmer.

Ed started a meat market, still known as Erickson’s Meat Market, operated now by his granddaughter’s husband, Toddy Johnson. The first meat market had dirt floors and the meat hung on hooks for everyone to see. The early days of buying cattle were different. Ed would go on horseback north of Crookston, follow what was called the Pembina Trail for 30 to 40 miles, and buy several head of cattle from different farmers and herd them back to Crookston where he had them in a pasture on his farm near town and butchered them as needed. This trip would take several days. They stayed with farmers and put their cattle in their pastures overnight.

Elmer married Gladys Hougen and they had a family of five girls. Elmer became a partner with his father, Ed, in the meat business and sole owner when his father retired.

Sam married Marmion Geer and had a family of three, two boys and a boy. He was an insurance agent and lived in Man-kato.

Ed owned one of the first cars in Crookston and it was a touring car with no top. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Erickson and both sons are deceased, but the Ed Ericksons spent 67 years of happy wedded life together.

FRITJOIF EUGENE ERIKSON

Fritjof Eugene Erikson, “Judd,” as his pals called him was born July 27, 1896, in Fertile, Minnesota. He was baptized and confirmed by Rev. Sundheim and graduated from Fertile High School. He and his classmate Elmer Nesseth enlisted in the United States War Service when he was 20 years old. They were sent to Rockford, Illinois for their military training. When that was finished, orders were for them to leave for Europe. They boarded a train for leaving but the train was held up for many days because of an epidemic of “flu”. My father was notified that Judd was very ill. He and I started for Rockford. The train was full of people with masks on their faces. When we arrived, Judd was dead.

We went to the morgue, and while waiting our turn to go in, we saw load after load of dead bodies wrapped up in blankets being unloaded and sent down the chute to the undertaking department.

We returned home to prepare for the funeral. It was a week before the casket came to Fertile. It had with it a large United States Flag and citation. Elmer Nesseth’s casket came two days earlier. They had died two hours apart on the same day and came back to their home town together.

MARILYN THORSON FJELSTA

Marilyn, the daughter of Ted and Lilian Thorson Crooks-ton, Minnesota was born November 1, 1923 in Fertile, Minnesota. At age of four years, she moved to Crookston and attended Franklin grade school and graduated from Central High School in 1941. She attended St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, 1941-1943 and later graduated from Fairview Hospital School of Nursing in 1945. She was married at Annapolis, Maryland, June 5, 1946 to Ensign John Fjelsta, Madelia, Minnesota; a graduate of St. Olaf College, 1943, and United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, 1946. As a navy family they were stationed at various naval bases and changed duty stations about every two years. The most interesting duty station was with the United States Embassy Naval Mission in Havana, Cuba, from 1952-1953. During March 1952, they were there when F. Batista overthrew the government of President Prio. They have lived in Annapolis, Maryland for two tours, Norfolk, Virginia for two tours, Bayonne, New Jersey, Great Lakes, Illinois, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania the summer of 1961. Son, John Jr. (born 1947) is a graduate of the University of Alaska and presently working for Burroughs Electronics in Anchorage, Alaska. He married Carol Kohner of Rochester, Minnesota, and has two sons. Paul (born 1947) attending the University of Minnesota working on a master’s program in business administration. There are also two daughters, Lynn (born April 1950) and Jean (born June 1954) are working in Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Erickson 1889.
I, Marilyn, returned to nursing in 1965 and I am employed at the University of Minnesota Hospital as a night supervisor for six years. I have kept up my interest in music and have sung with groups and church choirs over the past years. In Minneapolis, I sang with the Bach Society Chorus, under the direction of Dr. David LaBerge, for eight years. The chorus has sung with the Minneapolis Symphony a number of times and the most memorable concert was the Mozart Requiem, with the Minneapolis Symphony under the direction of Robert Shaw.

**JACOB AND ELLEN JANE FRANCIS**

Jacob Francis was born in Cornwall, England in the year of 1853. At the age of 12, he came to the United States with his mother, three brothers, and one sister after the death of his father in a mine accident in Wales. The family first settled in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. They then moved on to Kittson County, Minnesota and from there to Crookston, Minnesota. Jacob vividly remembered seeing Civil War soldiers returning from the battlefields when his family landed in New York City.

His sister, Grace, opened a photography studio in Crookston and later married Charles Greenalgh, a Crookston resident. Jacob shovelled coal from freight cars at a salary of $1.00 per day and later worked as a cement and stone mason. Included in the buildings that he helped to build are the Crookston Cathedral and the Cathedral School, the Eagle Building, and some of the buildings at the Minnesota Technical College. After his retirement from masonry he raised quantities of potatoes and other vegetables which he sold to Ralph Lycan at the Hotel Crookston, to Charlie Rapin at the Grill Cafe, and to the local grocery stores.

On February 13, 1882, he married Ellen Jane Kyle at the Methodist Church in Crookston. Ellen Jane was born in 1859 in Medford, Canada. Her parents had emigrated to Canada from Belfast, Ireland. Several years later they too moved their family to Crookston. (Kyle family photo enclosed.)

Jacob and Ellen Jane became interested in the Salvation Army and both became Salvation Army Soldiers. Jacob often marched with the Army to a Crookston street corner with his drum and participated in the open air services. His grandson, Lyle Francis, often assisted by carrying the large drum from one street corner to another. At Salvation Hall Meetings, he played the tambourine. This instrument has been donated to the Polk County Historical Society and may be seen at the Society's Museum in Crookston. For many years, cold weather or not, he stood at a street corner before Christmas so people could drop coins in the Salvation Army kettle. Sam Wallace and Bishop Corbett were among the generous contributors to the funds which provided turkey dinners to needy families.

Jacob and Ellen Jane became parents of eleven children. One of the eleven died in infancy.

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**JOSEPH G. FRIES**

Joseph G. Fries was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin in 1901 to parents Jacob Joseph and Margaret J. Barry Fries. He grew up in La Crosse and Caledonia, Minnesota. He came to Crookston, Minnesota in the fall of 1922. He worked for the late Joseph Capistran, later becoming a partner in the Crookston Fuel Company with Clarence Capistran; later he worked for the Crookston Granite Company and then for the Peterson Biddick Company until he was forced to retire in 1960 on account of poor health.

Joseph Fries met and married Fern Capistran in 1928. They had 8 children: Eileen Marie, born in 1929; Dolores Marcella, born 1931; Ronald Gregory, born in 1933; Francis Joseph, born in 1936; Valerie Florence, born in 1939; Gregory John born in 1944; Linda Jean, born in 1949; James Fulton, born in 1953. The children grew up in Crookston and all attended the Cathedral School, and they all graduated from the Cathedral High School, here in Crookston, Minnesota. Eileen married Earl Wilkens in 1955. Earl is the son of late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wilkens of Crookston, Minnesota. They live in Crookston, Minnesota and have two children: David Paul, 1955 and Janna Marie, 1961. Earl is a rod man working on construction.

Dolores Fries Welch, lives in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. She has two sons: Scott Anthony, 1957 and Mark Robert. She works for the Coca-Cola Company in Edina, Minnesota. Ronald Gregory married Constance Mary Sullivan in 1958. She is the daughter of the late Earl Sullivan and Mrs. Ray Pope of Crookston, Minnesota. They live in Glen Ellyn, Illinois and have two children: Todd Ronald, 1961 and Tracy Elizabeth, 1969; Ronald served four years in the United States Air Force, and is now a pharmaceutical salesman for the McNeil Laboratories.


Gregory John married Georgine Bang, daughter of George Bang and the Mrs. Armindine Bang of Crookston, Minnesota. They live in Cincinnati, Ohio, and have two children: Kelly Jean, 1967 and Jason Gregory, 1970. Gregory served four years in the United States Navy and is now a salesman for American Hospital Supplies.

Linda Jean married George Decon in 1973 and they live in Atlanta, Georgia. George is a salesman for Dennison Copying Machine and Office Supplies. They have no children.

James Fulton married Gail Taggart of Wadena, Minnesota in 1975. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Taggart of Wadena, Minnesota. They are living in Chaska, Minnesota and both work at the Les Malkerson Horse Farm outside of Chaska, as instructors in horse care and training. James is following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Leodore Capistran, also a lover of horses. Gail is an avid horse woman, and was Queen of the Wadena Saddle Club for two years. She has also won many trophies and ribbons at horse shows here and throughout this area.

Joseph Fries passed away in 1963, and Fern was a widow until 1967, when she married Mr. Melvin B. Fenno of Crookston, Minnesota. He was the father of 11 children, and with her eight children, they have a family of 19 children. They are all grown up and all married, but one, and most of them came...
The Joseph G. Freis Family.

for the wedding. They have children living in St. Cloud, Minnesota. St. Paul and Minneapolis; Hudson, Wisconsin; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Toledo, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri; Atlanta, Georgia; Glen Ellyn, Illinois. La Moure, North Dakota; Crookston, Minnesota; and Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Mr. and Mrs. Fenno live here in Crookston, Minnesota, at 421 Holly Avenue. Mr. Fenno was an elevator man for over 40 years. He is now retired.

Mederic Fortier

Mederic Fortier was born March 12, 1885 in Gentilly, Minnesota to Remi and Julie Thibeau Fortier. Rose St. Marie was born July 4, 1881 in Gentilly to Neree and Hermine Moquim St. Marie. They were married April 16, 1905.

Mederic and Rose farmed on various farms near Crookston and Gentilly. They always rented land, never owning their own farm.

They had eight children. Blanche was born November 18, 1907. Exactly one year later, on November 18, 1908, Thomas was born. Henry was born on February 28, 1911, David on December 30, 1912 and George on May 9, 1914. Alice was born on October 14, 1917, Marie on December 11, 1920 and Henrietta on June 24, 1923.

Rose contracted tuberculosis when Henrietta was three years old. She spent the next three years at the Sunnyrest Sanatorium. On the day she was to be released, August 41, 1930, she died of a heart attack.

Blanche was left to keep the younger children until Mederic married Josephine Montcalm on December 26, 1932.

Thomas married Doris Amiot November 17, 1931. They farmed near Gentilly all their years together. They had four children. Rose, who married Elvin Moran and lives near Crookston, Elaine, Ronald and LeRoy. LeRoy also works on a farm near Crookston. Elaine lives near Seattle and Ronald in Grand Forks. Thomas served on the school board and the Township board of Kertonville. Thomas also did carpenter work. He died September 5, 1967. Doria continues to live on the family farm.

Blanche married Remi Brouillet on February 25, 1935. They lived in Crookston until the war years. Remi did civilian defense work. Blanche and their daughter, Betty, followed when they could. At the end of the war, they decided to settle in Denver, where Remi worked as a plasterer. Their daughter, Carol, was born in Denver in 1946 before they decided to move back to Crookston. Remi started his own plastering business in Crookston. Remi died on April 16, 1948. Blanche and the girls moved to Idaho, but Crookston beckoned them back. In October 1953, she married Godfrey Keller who farmed near Crookston. They continued to live in the city. Blanche died March 12, 1972. Betty still lives in the family home, as does Godfrey, and she works at the First National Bank. Carol lives in California.

Henry married Delia Warner on September 20, 1937. They first farmed near Gentilly, then three years at Gully. When Mederic became ill, they moved back to the Gentilly area. They will soon leave the farm for retirement in Crookston. Delia does craft work and sewing. They have three children. Theodore works for J. R. Simplot in Crookston, Marilyn lives in Fargo and Jean in Montana.


REMI FORTIER, SR.

Joseph Fortier was born at St. Myacinthe, Ontario, Canada on February 17, 1817. In the same year, Elmire Bariteau was born at St. Martin, Quebec, Canada. They were later married and moved to Gentilly, Minnesota, where they died; Joseph on January 12, 1904 and Elmire on April 11, 1898.

One of their sons was Remi, born on April 17, 1848 at St. Thimotte, Ontario, Canada. He married Julie Thibeau on October 16, 1871. She was born on September 9, 1848 in Pembroke, Ontario, Canada. Remi and Julie homesteaded near Gentilly in 1878, where they lived until 1905, when they moved to Crookston.

Remi was elected Commissioner of the 3rd district of Polk county in 1897 and served until 1905. During this tenure, the courthouse was built and many other improvements were made in the county and in Crookston. He ran for election again in 1912 but lost that race.

Remi was killed in an accident with a runaway horse and buggy on July 30, 1913 near the Crookston city hall. Julie died on August 1, 1908.

Remi Fortier, Sr.
They had eleven children. The first four were born in Canada. Josephine was born September 28, 1872. When she was a child, she had a fever which caused her to become deaf and she could not speak well. She spent many years at Fairbault hospital. She died August 28, 1951.

Remi, Jr., was born on May 4, 1874. He was a farmer, but later moved to Crookston where he did odd jobs. He was married twice and had fifteen children. He died September 10, 1940.

Joseph was born April 5, 1876. He moved as a young man with his bride to Washington where he was owner of a dry goods and grocery store. They had two sons. He died January 4, 1943.

Stanislas was born July 16, 1877. He was a farmer near Gentilly all of his life. He was also married twice and had seven children. He died December 18, 1957.

Celina was the first of their children to be born in the United States on May 31, 1879. She married Mose Lefave who was a farmer near Gentilly. They had four children. She died in October, 1952.

Isidore was born on March 19, 1881. He was a blacksmith in Crookston and later moved to Oklee. He and Hattie had thirteen children. He died May 21, 1964. Hattie still resides in Crookston at St. Vincent’s Rest Home.

Olive was born June 6, 1883. She married Joseph Amiot, who farmed near Crookston until they retired to the city in 1946. They had six children, all who still live near Crookston. Olive died April 29, 1959.

Mederic was born March 12, 1885. He was a farmer near Crookston. Later he moved and worked in Crookston at the Farmers Union Oil Company. He had eight children by his first wife. After her death, he remarried but had no other children. He died April 21, 1951.

Anna was born November 20, 1886. As a young girl, she planned to marry, but the family opposed the marriage. She then entered the convent with the order of St. Benedict in Duluth. She took the name of Sister Marie Blase. She was a teacher and died in Duluth on April 25, 1974.

Helen was born January 7, 1889. She married Fred Toupin who worked at the saw mill in Crookston. They later moved to Washington. They had eight children. She died August 14, 1968.

Mary Louise was born October 16, 1891. She was a teacher before she married Paul Charbonneau. They lived in Oklee for awhile before coming back to Crookston where Paul worked at North Dakota Plumbing Company. Later they sold the family farm at the Northwood Clinic and St. Anne’s Church. Louise died September 30, 1973.

The Fortier family was large and many of their descendants live and work in Polk County.

FOURNET AND BROWN

In the year 1872 the snows were too heavy for a young French immigrant to continue on his way to Winnipeg where he was to meet one of his countrymen. Felix Fournet had to spend the winter in Crookston. By spring he was settled in permanently. He came from France with the blessing of his family and he came to Crookston with money in his pockets as he had helped rebuild Chicago after the fire of 1871. It wasn’t long before this thrifty and industrious young man owned a hotel on Main Street. He married a young Canadian girl, Florence Berthiume and they had three children: John, Mamie and Arthur.

One story we often heard as children was that when John was in the first grade his teacher sent a note home requesting that he not be given wine for lunch. By this time his father, Felix, had built the Fournet Block on the corner of Broadway and Robert and ran a liquor importing business. However that wasn’t the reason for the child having wine. His parents had been brought up on wine instead of milk, a French custom!

Mamie and Arthur graduated from Crookston High School. John didn’t, and herein lies another tale. A few weeks before graduation Jack and Mr. E. E. McIntire, the superintendent, had words and Jack left without his diploma. He also left his heart behind and that to him was far more serious.

He and Laura Jeannette Brown, the daughter of Morris R. Brown, had been in love for some time. Hoping to break up this young romance, “M. R.” decided to send Laura to California for a year. It didn’t work. When Laura came home, she and Jack were married and moved into the new home at 135 Washington Avenue built and furnished for them by Felix and “M. R.”

The senior Fournets had built a home at 234 Houston Avenue while Arthur and his wife, Florence Ruettell, built across the street. Their one daughter, Eleanor, later became Mrs. Tom Artil. Their children are: Tom, Mary and Bob.

The Morris R. Brown family had come from Bellvue, Iowa. Morris was a licensed Master on the Mississippi River boats out of the district of Galena, Illinois. He and his wife, Hannah Jane Dutcher, had four children older than Laura: Margaret, who taught in Crookston; Frank; Matie Brown Johnston; and Carrie Brown Marsh. Carrie’s son is Willis. Grandpa Brown brought his daughter Margaret one of the first Steinway pianos to come up the Mississippi in 1875. This is still a family treasure.

While residing in Crookston, Morris owned and operated feed lots across the Dakotas. He built Christ Episcopal Church where the stained glass window over the altar is in memory of his mother. He gave Brown Park on Washington Avenue to the city and the still undeveloped land at east end of Bridge Street, intending it for a large park. In addition, much of his land was donated to the Cemetery Association. The Brown home used to stand at the site of the Methodist Church.

Jack and Laura Fournet had three daughters: Florence, Dorothy, and Jeannette. Jeannette, for many years a remedial reading teacher in Crookston, lives in the house that was a wedding gift to her parents. Dorothy taught her grandparents’ language, French, and visited the 300 year old home in France where Felix was born. Fournets still live there. She married Ramsay Cowlishaw of New York and their four children are Ramsay, Laura, John and Betty. Florence married Leslie E. Murns of Minneapolis and their daughter, Joanne and grand-daughter, Debbie Carter both carry the middle name of Fournet.

GUNDA HILLES LAND GELDER

At 1 p.m. on July 30, 1916 in the living quarters above “The Goose River Lunch Room” in Mayville, North Dakota during a storm which pelleted the community with hailstones “the size of hen eggs” according to Ole Hillestad, his daughter was born. Her mother had just finished making dinner for their patrons when she found it necessary to take time out to welcome the baby. Ole locked the restaurant to help deliver her. In writing to her Aunt Inga at Crookston, asking her assistance for a few days with the restaurant, he described his daughter as “en fin dukken,” a nice doll. Oline named her “Gunda” perhaps to keep alive the memory of “The nicest girl I ever played with” and who drowned in a pool on a farm in Godfrey Township in Polk County.

From 1921 to 1951, Gunda attended schools in Florida and came back to Mayville to help her father who had reopened his restaurant. Gunda spent her summer on her Uncle Tom’s farm near Erskine, Minnesota, attended the Crookston high school that year, and rejoined her family in 1933 at Mayville. She completed her high school in Mayville, graduated as salutatorian of her class, and went to Grand Forks, North Dakota to work.

On New Year’s Day in 1939, she joined The Salvation Army and left that fall for Chicago where she attended The Salvation Army’s School for Officers. In June she got her rank of Probationary Lieutenant and was sent to assist the Austin, Minnesota Corps, then to St. Cloud, Minnesota in 1942, and was in command of the Crookston Corps in June 1943. During her four years as commander of The Salvation Army work in Crookston she was able to liquidate a debt against the Corps which amounted to $5,552. The mortgage burning ceremony was held March 18, 1947. In May of that year she resigned to become the wife of Gerhard Gelder, formerly of Norman County, a maintenance-of-ways employee for the Great
Northern Railway. Since their marriage, they have lived in Crookston. Gunda worked nine years for the Woolworth Co., two years (until her husband's health failed) as a field representative for The Salvation Army in their Service Extension Department. She resigned and returned to Woolworth's for another fourteen and a-half years. For four years she cared for Dr. H. E. Nelson in her home while working. Later she added two more tenants, Mrs. Nellie Dekker and Mr. Milton Melo. Nellie and Milton are still with Gunda who says, "I like what I'm doing! There's really no need for anyone to be without work, not even senior citizens, as long as they still have a bit of wiggle in them. Dr. Nelson was delightful. Nellie is so much happier than she would be in a nursing home; Milton is a charming individual; I'm happy to do this service. As for myself, I very much like the companionship — I hate to eat alone."

P. H. GRAMER

P. H., Gramer was known to his many friends throughout the Valley as "Pete". He was a salesman in the early years for the North Dakota Metal Culvert Company of Fargo. He was usually to be seen carrying a "grip", as it was known then, and traveled the upper Valley or northwestern part of Minnesota either by train, horse or buggy, and later was one of the first in Crookston to own a car. He had left the large farm his parents had in upper Michigan near Dearborn, and as a youth, worked on the first road built between Duluth and Bemidji. He later went to Minneapolis where he found work in a farm machinery plant. After working his way up into the selling end of the business, he started a large custom-steam-threshing business. His daughter still has a Fainting Couch he made by hand. He could speak low Dutch. His parents were of Luxembourgh descent. In addition to English and, because he associated with so many Norwegians, he could speak that language also. This was valuable to him because there were quite a few German people and of course, many Scandinavians.

The first death in our family was brother, Bobby, eight years of age. He drowned one hot July day in the Red River near where Mount St. Benedict is located. My father grieved so much and didn't want it to happen to other youths, so he started a drive to erect the first swimming pool in Crookston and as a result the pool was built. My folks wanted a good community and were always working to that end. The Cathedral of Crookston wasn't in existence when my parents came to Crookston. The Catholic church they first attended was, I believe, on the end of the block opposite the Crookston Clinic building or somewhere near where the old Crookston Granite Building used to be. I recall my mother telling how hard the parish worked to get the Cathedral built. Like many others of my time, I, Isabel Gramer Poppenhagen, was born in 1911, and appreciate and am proud of my parents who laid the substantial foundations which paved the way for our future.

JAMES GREENHALGH

James and Sarah were born in England. James' father was keeper of the Tower of London. James Greenhalgh, Sarah Yerbury and children came to Crookston in the year of 1872. They came when you could stake and claim land. James staked the land where the St. Joseph's Provincial House is now. Charles William staked the land where Stenshoel's Funeral Home is now. He also was one of the signers to hold the first meeting to form the city of Crookston. James Edward staked the area where the Jay Wilder Farm is now. James, father of James Edward, also had a steam boat that went to Fisher and back.

James Edward was a private in the Civil War and served with Co. K. His brother was killed June 1864. After the war they settled on their farm. There were many hard times. One year the grasshoppers were so bad they ate the grain and even the onions they had planted. One way they tried to scare off the hoppers was to take a long rope and two people would hold each end and walk up and down the field to make them fly away. They also had visitors, the Indians would come up from the river and trade for bread. Once they traded a bow and arrow; but mostly the bread was given to them.

James and Sarah had nine children: James Edward, born October 6, 1844; died March 23, 1915; John Ellis, born August 6, 1846; died June, 1864; Mary Ann, June 3, 1848-1922; married John Carter; Theodore Perry, July 4, 1850; died February, 1929; Charles Williams, October 3, 1852; May 31, 1935; married a Franie girl Eveline, December 15, 1854; died October, 1915; married Robert Houston; Samuel, May 24, 1860; George, June 14, 1888; died June 24, 1878; Grace Jane, May 24, 1860, married John Darkow, died July 16, 1929; Mary Ann and John Carter adopted Gertrude; and Gertrude married Henry Francis.

James Edward married Maggie Lind. They had five children: Roswell, Alice, Florence, George, and Fay. Alice married George Watters. They had three children: Marge, Vivian, and Geraldine, the only living sister. Roswell married Inga Hanson. They had five children: Hazel, married Otto Clausen. Mildred married Ray Kenschulla; Marilyn married Milton Hendrickson; Russell Kenneth married Lucy Thibodeau. They had seven children. Karen Lynn married Keith Forbes; Ralph married Barbara Bennet; William married Marlys Meyer and Pat Scott; Thomas married Sharon Clauser; Mae Cynthia married Warren Asberg; Larry married Jane Clauser and Marian Ann married John Allen Olander.

WILLIAM GUSTAFSON

William Gustafson came to the United States from Vermland, Sweden, June 24, 1891. Alma Larson Gustafson also came from Sweden that year. They met in Crookston and were married here October 25, 1900. They built one of the first houses in Sampson's Addition and lived in this house for 66 years. Mr. Gustafson worked for the Great Northern for a short time, but was a carpenter and cabinet maker most of his life. His daughter still has a Fainting Couch he made by hand for his mother in 1894. He helped build many of the buildings.
at the former Northwest School, the Crookston Central High School and many other buildings in Crookston.

Mrs. Gustafson, who died in 1966, was the last charter member of the Swedish Covenant church.

They had two daughters, Ethel, now Mrs. Oscar Brustad of Crookston, and Edna Mae, Mrs. J. H. Viker, of Little Falls, Minnesota.

OSCAR LARS HAMERY

Oscar Lars Hamery was born at Hamre of Sogn, Norway on November 1850. He came to America with his parents at the age of nine years.

On September 12, 1875 he married Johanne Karene Lensegrav, one of the thirteen children of Tomas Johnson Lensegrav and his wife Siri Vratsad Lensegrav.

Oscar and Johanne lived near Fairbault, Minnesota until her parents moved north to Garfield township. Then they also moved there with their first child, Mary Mathilda, born April 10, 1877. Here both families homesteaded just outside the present town of Fertile, Minnesota. Tomas gave the land to the town for its first cemetery, which is still used.

On April 6, 1881, while O. L. Hamery was out surveying; his wife gave birth to their son, George Thomas, while waiting for her mother to arrive to assist with the birth. This baby was the first white child born at Garfield township.

Later Oscar moved his family to Crookston, where he became the civil engineer for that city, and retained this position for many years. Three more children were born to them after this move. They were Stella Miranda, who was born March 23, 1887; Elmer Lawrence, born October 8, 1889; and Mathilda Dorothea, born March 12, 1894. She was named for Mary Mathilda, who died at age twelve. This last baby died at the age of two years.

In his early manhood George, with his brother Elmer, assisted his father in surveying the area around Warroad, Stephen, Crookston, and later Gonvick. George met Adelia Clara Stockland at Stephen, where her father Charles K. and mother Ingaborg Vraa lived. The couple were married here on December 25, 1901; they lived at Stephen until after the birth of their first daughter, Dorothy Amy Honora, March 6, 1903. They moved to Crookston, where George had a photography gallery. Later he, his father, brother, a cousin, Henry Royang of Erskine, and Haaken Hall of Gonvick started a land company at Gonvick. Later C. A. Boalt of Minneapolis started the first bank, The Farmers State Bank, of Gonvick, where George Hamery began as vice-president, and later was president of same bank. He remained here until after the death of his father, O. L., in 1925, and his mother in 1926, when he again moved to Crookston to help his sister, for his brother, Elmer had died in October, 1913.

George and Adelia had two more daughters after their move to Gonvick. They were Virginia Mary Thelma, born March 10, 1908, and Lucille Gladys Viola, born September 4, 1911.

After the family moved to Crookston Dorothy married John Edward Benson, a photographer there. They had no children.

Virginia married Gilmer H. Olson, of Bagley, Minnesota. He worked in the grocery store of his father, Gilbert, and later bought it and remained there until his retirement in the early 1970’s. This couple had one child. Joanna Karene, named in honor of her great-grandmother. She married John McCrary, who was killed in action in the Vietnam War, in May. Their daughter was born the following August 27, 1967.

Lucille attended Moorhead Teachers College and taught school at Bagley, Minnesota five years prior to her marriage to Harvey George Courtney, who worked in the First National Bank, where his father, George Bray Courtney, was cashier. After his death, Harvey became cashier until the early 1970’s, when he became senior vice-president. To this couple were born two children, Marilyn Lucille and George Hamery, who was named in honor of both grandparents’ names — first and surnames. Marilyn married Patrick Philip Lyons of California. She had been a legal secretary there for several years. George is not married at this writing. He works in St. Paul, Minnesota.


CARL HANSON

Carl Hanson and Mary Kuhn met one evening playing the game of “wink.” Carl was born in Crookston January 20, 1907. Mary was born in Pennsylvania August 31, 1911 and came to Euclid, Minnesota with her parents when she was a small child. Carl was the youngest son of Charles and Olena Hanson. They came to this country from Stavanger, Norway with their parents. They settled in Minnesota during the time of the Indians. They had no trouble with the Indians as they would give food to them when they asked for it, and the Indians would leave again.

Charles Hanson was born April 1, 1855, and Olena Olson was born December 6, 1864. They were united in marriage in Douglas county, Minnesota, February 28, 1884. Charles was a blacksmith by trade, which was good during the horse and buggy times but as horse and buggy were replaced by the automobile, there was no more use for a blacksmith. They moved into Crookston, where he worked with the logging industry. Then they moved to Middle River, Minnesota, where they farmed and cut logs for fuel and lumber. They stayed there until 1928, when they moved back to Crookston to make their home until Charles’ death in September 1936. Olena stayed on in Crookston after his death. She passed away in April 1959, at the Bethesda Nursing home.

Charles and Olena had ten children. Two passed away in infancy. The other eight were: Clara, Inga, Palmer, Bennie, Rose, Olaf, Clifford and Carl. Clare is still living in Fosston. Her husband died in January 1973. They had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in July, 1972. Rose is living with her husband at Stephen, Minnesota. Clifford, the only living son, is in Seattle, Washington, where four of his children live. His wife Helen died December, 1970. About two years later Carl and Mary were united in marriage. To them four children were born. Leona, the first daughter, was born January 20, 1930, on her dad’s birthday. Virginia was born two years later, March 14, 1932. Then eleven years later, Shirley was born, May 16, 1943. Another eight years later, the only son, Dale, was born, February 12, 1951.

All four children went through grade school and graduated from Central High in Crookston. Leona and Virginia worked for the telephone company after graduation.

Leona married Alfred Bakken, Jr., whom she had known during their high school days. They live in East Grand Forks where Alfred works for the Burlington Northern Railroad. To them six children were born. Virginia married Conrad Zak and they live on a farm near Angus, Minnesota, and they have two boys.

Shirley, after graduation, worked in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Brackton, Massachusetts, and then came back to Crookston and worked for the Polk County Welfare Service. She married Edward Stranger and they live in Bloomington, Minnesota where he is aeronautic controller. They have two children.

Dale, after his graduation from high school, attended Uni-
of the Vikjord girls, Constance (Mrs. Carl Sorensen) died leaving seven motherless children. Inga went to keep house for that family. In 1934, she and Carl were married and made their home in Crookston until they died, Inga in 1961 at the age of 80 and Carl at the age of 76 in 1967. Henry is the only living member of the Hanson children at the time of this writing. Soon he will be 93 years old on January 19, 1976. He lives in a nursing home in Glenwood, Minnesota.

JOSEPH W. HANSEN

I, Joseph W. Hansen, was born in Ottertail County in 1887, the seventh of a family of thirteen. Three children died before I was born. My father, Jorgen, had homesteaded on a farm in Ottertail County not far from where he had been raised. We lived there until we moved to Crookston in 1901. My father passed away in 1902, when I was fourteen years old. My mother, Marie, died in 1931. I worked at any work I could find. In the summer of 1904, I got a job in the saw mill. This work lasted until fall, then the mill would shut down for the season. One Sunday I walked out to the round house and asked for a job. I was told to come back the next morning ready for work. That ended my job at the saw mill!

The new job was rough and I received only $40 a month and worked twelve hours a day, seven days a week. I stuck it out for about a year. That fall I got a job as an extra fireman. Then in the fall of 1911, I was promoted to an engineer. Work was slack at times and when the force had to be reduced it was necessary for me to go back to fireman. I worked out of Grand Forks for quite a few years until I could finally get a job working out of Crookston. These were not always the best jobs as we had every other night away from home, but it was better than to be away all the time. I served 55 years and retired in 1959 at the age of 72 years.

There have been many changes in the years! In the early days, everyone had to walk to and from work. The streets were not paved. There were some black dirt sidewalks and board walks; in the spring, the streets were one big mud puddle. Street lights were far apart and some places there were none! There were very few water mains. People had their own wells but those who didn’t have wells carried water from neighbors who had a good well.

Telephones were scarce. One had to wait a while before he could have a phone installed. Arrangements had to be made to get calls to go to work.

The log trains went to Wilton and picked up the loads of logs and brought them to Crookston, down on a spur track to the river. The logs would be dumped in the river and floated down to the sawmill. There were sawmills at East Grand Forks, Thief River Falls, and St. Hilaire. So when the milling days were over, many people had to find other work.

Steam engines were used but the diesels soon took the place of steam. In 1961, the house we had moved into in 1923 needed repairs. This was an all summer job so we lived in the garage while the house was being remodeled.

I married Mabel Hanson of Roseau in 1919. We had three children but our only son died when he was a little baby. Our daughter, Lorraine, lives in Sheldon, Iowa, and is married to Norman Woodman. They have three sons and a daughter and six grandchildren. Our other daughter, Geraldine, is married to Follard Thurn. They live in Moorhead. They have one daughter.

ORVILLE HAWES

The Orville W. and Leolo Suber Hawes family saga began when both arrived on the Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, campus as freshmen. Orville had graduated from Quincy, Ohio High School and Leolo, from Deshler High School, Deshler, Ohio. Early in their junior year Leolo’s sorority invited Orville’s fraternity to a party. There must have been some attraction, because they became engaged in their senior year.

Both participated in intra-mural sports and Orville was college handball champion. He was an outfielder on two varsity
baseball teams, one being conference champion before the sport was dropped.

After graduation in electrical engineering Orville was unable to find a job and returned for another year, receiving a B.S. degree in education, with majors in mathematics and sciences. Leolo, with a B.A. degree, began teaching near her home.

The following year Orville was employed to teach mathematics and coach near his home town. After another year, Leolo quit teaching and they were married on June ninth. A year later they moved to another school, where they stayed three years. Their oldest son, Marvin, was born in 1917 as they were moving to Paulding, Ohio, where Orville was high school principal for five years. Arnajaen, their daughter, was born there. Orville also completed his M.A. degree in school administration during that time, from Ohio State.

Orville was declared essential as a teacher of science and mathematics and school administrator during World War II so he was unable to make use of electrical engineering degree. He describes himself as the only civilian who failed to make a lot of money during the war.

While he was frozen in his job he was not frozen in his location, so another move made him superintendent of schools in another northwest Ohio area. Dennis, the youngest of the family, was born there.

At the war's end an opportunity developed to work as a field representative for the Ohio Society for Crippled Children and Adults; the Easter Seal Society at Columbus. Here Leolo started occasional substitute teaching.

After four years an opening as executive director developed in West Virginia so the family moved to Charleston. Here Leolo served as loan librarian for the State Library, brought up her credits and returned to teaching. During the ten years there, Marvin completed his college work and Arnajaen began hers.

The next move was to the North Dakota Society for Crippled Children and Adults in Jamestown. Leolo taught, Marvin settled in California and Arnajaen graduated from college. After four years, Orville decided to leave the Easter Seal Society and bought McGarry Printing Company at Crookston on August 16, 1965. Leolo promptly started teaching third grade at Lincoln School. Arnajaen, who had married Cord Bye of Devils Lake, spent two years here as school speech therapist. Dennis completed his education, married and moved to Phoenix, Arizona.

Presently, Marvin is a senior engineer with Pacific Telephone at San Francisco. Arnajaen is a remedial reading teacher and junior high coach in the Fargo Schools. Cord is a Western Life agent in Fargo. Dennis, an electronic technician, is also a small building contractor in the Minneapolis area. Phylis is a computer-program supervisor for Univac.

After ten years in the same room in Lincoln School, teaching third grade, Leolo retired in June, 1975. She had taught in four states. She is active in the American Association of University Women, Business and Professional Women, Eagles Auxiliary, and Garden Club, Book Club. She does sewing and oil painting.

Orville has been chairman of the Boy Scout District; President, Polk-Red Lake Cross; and in 1975 was elected president of Pioneer Days Association. He is a Shriner, a Clown, Rotarian, Elk and Eagle and a member of the Crookston Colonels.

Both are interested in bridge, golf, reading and travel.

OLINA HELENA (HANSON) HILLESLAND

On a farm one-half mile from the Lutheran Chapel which was located in Godfrey township, Olina Hanson was born on March 28, 1891. Her eleven year old sister, Inga, became mother to her four brothers and three sisters the following year in April — their mother had died! Sister Hanna, age eight, was very little help as she was a deaf mute and blind. The next sister in line was Christina who at three years of age was little more than a baby, and Olina was one year and twenty-four days old. Both Inga and Christina had left home by the time Olina was fifteen and she was then the only girl to care for her father and brothers. Hanna had been sent to a school for handicapped children some years earlier. Olina stayed on the farm until she was 21. Then she went to Fertile, Minnesota, to work for the Barholz Hotel as a cook for two years. Then she became housekeeper for her brother, Hjalmer, who had purchased a farm near Mayville in Traill County, North Dakota. She married a farm hand from Norway, Ole Hillesland who had come to Iowa at the age of fourteen. He was 32 years old when they were married in the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Crookston, Minnesota, by Rev. Paul E. Moen. Ole had purchased a restaurant in Mayville and operated that from 1915-1921 until they moved to Florida in Brevard County. The mother and three children had whooping cough as they left Mayville in September. They arrived at their destination five weeks later — October 19. Ole found it necessary in 1927 to go back North to make a living for his family and in 1929 reopened his restaurant. In 1932, he brought his family back to Mayville. In 1937, he left the family and they had to make their own living without him. Olina did dressmaking and housework and the two daughters went out to work to support themselves.

In 1940, Olina went to Grand Forks, North Dakota, to work at a boarding house for University of North Dakota students. In 1944, she went to Crookston to live with her oldest daughter, Gunda, who was Captain of the Salvation army. She worked eleven years at the Grill Cafe and at the Wayne Cafe. When Gunda was married in 1947, Olina went to live with her sister, Inga, Mrs. Carl Sorenson, while continuing her work at the Wayne Cafe. In 1948, Ole, in very bad health, came from Chicago to live with Gunda. Eighteen months later, he passed away. Olina went to live with her children after her retirement in 1956. She passed away in Grand Forks in 1973, fifteen days after her 82nd birthday. She and her husband are now resting in Oakdale Cemetery in Crookston. Three of her children live in West Polk County; Gunda lives in Crookston, Olga, a district representative for Tri-Chem Liquid Embroidery, and Orville, a locksmith, both live in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Herman works for Horst, Inc. in Greeley, Colorado, and Earl passed away in 1943.

HANNAH HOLMES

Hannah was the first born child of Erik John and Hohanna Erikson. She was baptized in 1876 in Sweden and sixteen years later she was confirmed by Rev. Lunde in Rindal, Minnesota.

Her first schooling began in the Erikson home and continued in the school which was built on the northeast corner of the field. She was sent to the Hope Academy in Moorhead to get more education. She became the teacher in the school on the home farm, but unfortunately it did not last long because of a serious illness. While she was recuperating she stayed at home for a while helping mother; then she spent a short while
visiting relatives in Rockford, Illinois. When she returned she met a young druggist who was working in Dr. Nelson’s drug store, Mr. Otto Holmes. They were married and left for Ken- sal, North Dakota, where he established a drug store and built a new home. They raised a family of five: Julia, Olga, Florence, John, and William.

Mr. Holmes died November 30, 1914.

Hannah sold the business and the home and came back to live in Fertile for a few years. Later she moved to Los Angeles, where her children were then living. Hannah died in Los Angeles in 1965.

**PAUL W. HORTON**

In the early 1870’s, Paul W. Horton and his four children sold their home in Eastern Canada near Niagara Falls, a fruit growing section, and with his brother, Michael, and family, bought adjoining farms about three miles north of Maple Bay. They farmed for many years and in 1901 Paul sold his farm and moved to a new home on Hunter Street in Crookston, Minnesota, that he had built. Some years later, his brother retired and moved next door.

Frank Horton married Anna Byington, who was a sister of Nelson Byington. They had three children: Beth, Lola and Loren. For many years, Mr. Byington lived in Beltrami. Beth, their daughter, married Joe Herrmann. They had twin girls, Betty, Sister Gemma of Sisters of St. Benedict, Crookston, and Beryl. Beth Herrmann lives in Tacoma and Beryl is married and lives there, too.

Loren was raised in Crookston but went to Minneapolis later where he died in 1937. His son and daughter live in California. Dexter Horton married Rachel Hutchinson and lived on Hunter Street, Crookston, for years before moving to Minneapolis. They had one daughter, Pearl Horton Fargo, who lives on Houston Avenue in Crookston.

Lola married Vite Holder of Crookston and lived there until her death in 1916. The Holders had two daughters, Vida and Inez.

About the same time that the Hortons came to Polk county, Augustus Byington and son Nelson came from Iowa and filed on claims that joined the Horton farms on the west. Mr. Byington sold out, but Nelson kept his land until 1939. He lived in Beltrami many years and died there in 1949 at the age of 88. Shortly after Paul came, his brother, Michael, and wife Mary and family came from Wellend Ontario, and lived on a farm adjoining Paul’s. They cleared the brush between the two log houses so the lights could be seen. That area was always kept in gardens so the view was open. Michael’s family included Niah, Lilly, Azile, Arthur, Earl, Roy and Myrtle.

Richard Hutchinson and family came here from Western New York. In the late 1870’s he sold his farm. He was in the Civil War and as a veteran was entitled to a quarter section of land. He had a farm near Girard elevator. In two years he died from injuries received in the service. His wife sold the land and moved to Crookston and lived in a house near the flour mill on North Main Street. She received $12 monthly pension for herself and four children from the government. One son, Frank, married Sophie Hemmelbeck. They farmed many years near Euclid. One son, Harry, married Elsie Tiederman and have one daughter, Dorothy, Mrs. Robert Tiederman, Euclid. Harry Hutchinson farmed for many years and has retired. They bought a home on Central Avenue, Crookston. Lloyd Hutchinson and his wife, Alma, have retired and live in Greenbush. Cora married Ben Tucker. Three sons, Leo, Harold and Ralph farm near Euclid. Marion, Mrs. Clifford Yates, lives on Washington Avenue, Crookston, Minnesota.

In the late 1800’s Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Fargo, and family, came from East Dubuque, Illinois and bought a farm near Euclid. It was called a tree claim, as you were required to plant a certain amount of trees. Mrs. Orpha Fargo was a college graduate and majored in piano and organ. She gave music lessons. Mr. Fargo farmed there many years before retiring and moving to Crookston. There were two children, Daisy, Mrs. O’Rielly, and Charles Leslie, who married Pearl Horton. He worked at the Times for many years and died in 1964. Their children are: Florence Peterson, New Canaan, Connecticut; Gilbert Fargo, Minot, North Dakota; Viola Johnson, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Vernon Fargo, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Orpha Istrup, Buffalo, Minnesota.

**JASON T. HUSEBY**

A famous American historian reminds us that all Americans, except American Indians, are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants. The Huseby family has its origins in Norway. From information obtained by older members of the Huseby family, the ancestors arrived in this country as part of a wave of “old immigrants” coming from northern and western Europe. These early settlers arrived prior to the Civil War, perhaps between 1840 and 1850. Upon arriving in this country, most of these ancestors to the Huseby family settled initially in southern Minnesota near Austin.

Some time around the era of the Civil War or shortly after, some of these ancestors to the Huseby family settled initially in southern Minnesota near Austin.

Some time around the era of the Civil War or shortly after, some of these ancestors moved north and were able to homestead near Twin Valley, Minnesota. One such homestead included an 80-acre tract east of Syre and near Flom, Minnesota, located in Norman County. Sometime between 1870 and 1890, an attempt was made by the Huseby ancestors to settle.
farther north in the area of Roseau, Minnesota. However, this attempt only lasted for several years and eventually sickness and hardship affected the family in such a way that it was necessary to return to the Twin Valley, Minnesota, area.

Grandparents tell of hardships relating to the lack of food, clothing, shelter, medical facilities, and money to live on. The travel in those days consisted of a ride with all worldly personal possessions loaded into a covered wagon and pulled by a team of oxen. The first known contact that ancestors to the Huseby family had with Polk county is an overnight stay in Crookston during the trip between Twin Valley and Roseau between 1870 and 1890. A popular story told by grandparents relating to the attempted settlement in Roseau County explains some of the fear and concern of these early settlers over an expected Indian uprising. According to relatives' memories, people fled the area in large numbers, destroyed their homes and belongings, and slaughtered their cattle and animals. Although the members of the Huseby family did not destroy their property and belongings, most of the family left the area for a short period of time with the father and head of the household hiding in a dried up well. Apparently, the Indian uprising did not materialize as expected and people then returned to their homes and started over in their attempt to sustain a living.

Before the turn of the century, and after the Huseby ancestors returned to the Norman County area, the primary means of earning a living consisted of railroad work, general farming, and general labor. The tradition of working for the Northern Pacific Railroad passed from father to son. School teaching became an occupation for many of the women.

Just before World War II, relocation again occurred in Red Lake County in the community of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. The occupations of railroad work for the men and school teaching for the women continued. The first permanent relocation to an area in Polk County occurred when the Huseby family moved from Red Lake Falls to East Grand Forks in July of 1960. Both parents in this family unit are now retired from active teaching and railroad employment. They continue to live in East Grand Forks. The children and grandchildren also continue to reside in Polk County, specifically Crookston. Relatives still remain in neighboring Red Lake and Norman Counties in Minnesota, and Grand Forks County in North Dakota. The Norwegian tradition of fishing and boating remains as strong as ever in the younger generations of the Huseby family. A considerable amount of time is spent on family owned property located on Lake of the Woods in extreme northern Minnesota.

**WELLINGTON H. JEWELL**

When Wellington H. Jewell, the oldest employee in the length of continuous service in the Northern Division of the Great Northern railroad, first saw Crookston in 1872, it was a straggling hamlet of a few log cabins and gave little promise of becoming a city of 8,000 inhabitants, alive with quickened industrial, mercantile and commercial activities and blessed with all the concomitants of modern municipal progress. He had been a resident of the city from that time to the time of his death, and had contributed his share of the enterprise and force required to build and develop it into its present stature.

Mr. Jewell was born in the state of Maine in 1858, the son of Emanuel and Katherine (nee Houston) Jewell, the former a native of England, and the latter of Scotland. The father was a farmer and carpenter. He emigrated from his native land to Prince Edward Island. After living there for a number of years, he moved to Maine, but later he took his family back to Prince Edward Island, and he and the mother died there.

They were the parents of thirteen children and three of their sons migrated to the United States.

Wellington H. Jewell remained on Prince Edward Island until he reached the age of fourteen, then came to Crookston with his uncle, Robert Houston, who owned a part of the original townsite. For a number of years the uncle conducted a popular and profitable grocery store in Crookston. He later retired to the City of Everett, Washington, where he spent the remaining years of his life. The nephew found employment in a modest capacity in the roundhouse of the Great Northern

This is the Engine and crew of a Great Northern trail, under the Engineer Wellington H. Jewell. Wellington H. Jewell was the grandfather of Francis H. Boh and Edward J. Boh.

Railway in 1875, and in October, 1880, was given an engine. From that time until his retirement, he ran one of the Northern Divisions of the road. He was a member of the Masonic Order in several of its advanced branches, including the Mystic Shrine. He was presented his 33rd degree on his death bed by members of his chapter for his services to the Order.

Mr. Jewell was married in Crookston in 1884 to Miss Annie Dreeland, who was born in Ottawa County, Province of Quebec, Canada. They had three children: Katherine, who was the wife of John F. Boh of Crookston; Wellington E. who was in the railroad service; and Albert E., who was a machinist in the Great Northern Railway Shops in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The parents were widely known and held in much esteem for their genuine worth and the cordial and helpful interest they manifested in every undertaking for the good of their community.


Two grandsons of Wellington H. Jewell are still living, Francis Boh, who operates the Grand Theater in Crookston and Edward, who resides in DeSoto, Texas, with his wife, LaRae Torstenson of Trail, Minnesota. Edward is employed by Continental Electronics Manufacturing Company as a supervisor of the Research and Development Laboratories.

**PETER M. JOHNSTON**

My Dad, Alexander D. Johnston, was born in 1862, to Mr. and Mrs. Johnston of Farwell, Canada, my grandpa and grandma. He had three brothers and one sister. I never saw my grandpa or grandma. My Dad left Canada when he was young and never went back. His brothers came to visit a few times.

My Dad was a jack-of-all-trades. He worked as a logger in Seattle. He built a house there, but he didn't like living there so he came back to North Dakota. He worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad for awhile and then came to Crookston. I was born in St. Thomas, North Dakota, when he worked for the Northern Pacific. In Crookston, he worked for ten years with a surveying crew, and advanced to Assistant Drainage Engineer for George Ralph. He surveyed the townsite of Warroad, the Roseau Swamp and ditches all over the country. One day he got a letter from his brother in Canada saying that the Estate of Lord Clyde was to be closed and all heirs would have to go to Scotland to get their share. Money was pretty hard to get in those days so my Dad didn't go. One of his brothers had gone over and he said that it was worth it. Lord Clyde is my Dad's mother's brother. He was the General in the Crimean War. He was knighted Sir Colen Campbell or Lord Clyde.

My Dad had a white mustache and light complexion and everybody took him for a Swede, so he added a T to his name making it Johnston instead of Johnson. My Dad was born in Canada in 1862 and died in Crookston, January 19, 1921. My mother was born in Norway in April 7, 1866, and died in Crookston on January 12, 1931. She came from Norway with her parents and their three sons and five daughters. The journey was long and stormy, but they finally made it and landed in Austin, Texas. Then they came to Grafon, North Dakota, but her Mother and Dad finally settled on a farm in St. Hilaire, Minnesota. As children, we used to go there when school was out and enjoyed much fun at Grandpa and Grandma Anderson's.
MRS. EMMA PUTZIER (ALTHAUS) JOHNSON

I was born in Bird Island, Renville County, Minnesota on November 18, 1896. My father emigrated from Stettin, Germany with his twin sister Ernestine. The boat passage cost them $50 each. Later his parents came, too, and settled in Winona County where they farmed until they moved to Bird Island. Papa worked on the Chicago-Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad as Section Foreman. He was paid $1 a day for ten hours of labor. He supervised 100 foreign (mostly Italians) workers laying the rails and ties for double tracks. In the winter when papa came home from over a 10 hour work day he had icicles hanging on his whiskers when I would kiss him.

My mother’s parents came from Basel, Switzerland to McComb, Ohio where mama was born. The parents came by covered wagon to Bethany in Winona County where they farmed the rest of their lives.

I taught five years in rural schools. I walked six miles every morning to school and six miles home again every day for two years: a total of 4,320 miles. There were no paved roads so many times I would sink into the mud and water up over my boots. In the winter I wore my brother’s pants when I walked to school. Could this have been the forerunner of the Pants Suit?

I still have the first pair of high laced shoes I bought in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for $25 when the teacher’s salary was $48. I wear these high lace shoes to all Historical Modeling Events.

I married Enval Walter Johnson in 1921 after a five year engagement. Two of the children, Marjorie and Roger were born in Bird Island, Minnesota. Then we purchased the jewelry store in Crookston. The furniture was moved by truck and I came by train with the children.

Three more children were born in Crookston. One son was born on my birthday, November 18th. I shall always be grateful to the wonderful neighbors in Sampson Addition who helped take care of my new born son as I became seriously ill with double pneumonia.

All the children graduated from the Crookston High School and three received degrees from the University of Minnesota. I have 28 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In 1933, the five children, ages two to twelve, and I drove to Rockford, Illinois where my brother met us and took me and the oldest children to the World’s Fair. Roger, ten years old, wandered off and found his way out of the Fair Grounds. Police asked him if he was lost. “No, he said, Mother is lost.” He remembered the name “Planters Hotel” where we had registered so the police took him there and awaited our return.

My first tour of Europe was in 1956. I visited ten countries; England, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy, Germany and France. I brought home souvenirs from each country. In Scotland, I helped sell flags for the benefit of Royal Mary and the Marines.

I have been very active in the county and State Historical Societies and took an active part in the Minnesota Centennial celebration in 1958. I was presented with a certificate as Outstanding Senior Citizen of Polk County by former Minnesota Governor Harold LeVander. My hobbies and interests are: antiques, historical clothes, jewelry, parasols, 300 fans and autographs of famous people.

One of my most important and happy occasions was our Golden Wedding Celebration in 1970. My husband and I flew to the Hawaiian Islands. Sadly I remember the loss of my dear husband in June 1971 and my eldest son Roger in 1973.

WILHELM JOHNSON AND SONS

In the year 1868 five Johnson brothers, Louis, Nels, Lauritz, Hans, and Soren came to the United States from Holbek, Sjælland, Denmark. They settled in Ottertail County. Hearing stories of the good land along the Red River, they moved north. Getting as far as what is now known as Crookston, they decided to stay in this area. In 1872 the four brothers took homesteads in Lowell Township four miles west of Crookston on the south side of the Red Lake River. Soren stayed in Crookston.

Louis, the grandfather of Elroy and Ted Johnson, and his brother Hans built one log cabin to share while clearing their

Mrs. Walter (Emma) Johnson and four children.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson.

land of timber and breaking sod. They, like other settlers, had to make trips to Glyndon for supplies that could not be obtained in Crookston. Hardships were many and to supplement the farm income Louis worked on the railroad roadbed, preparing the way for the first railroad coming from Glyndon. He also helped grub trees in what is known as Woodland Avenue in Sampson's addition.

Louise married Kari in 1879. She had emigrated from Denmark and built a home on his land. This land is still owned by Elroy and Ted. Children of this marriage were Wilhelm, Emma (Mrs. Peter Nelson), Hannah, (Mrs. Chris Meade), and Hjalmer. Kari died in 1908.

Wilhelm was born in 1881. He attended a country school near the homestead farm and later helped his father in farming. In 1906 he organized the Lowell Telephone Company, which was the first rural telephone line into Crookston. The exchange at that time was located in the present Strander Abstract site.

An early venture was hauling pit-run gravel from the riverbed into Crookston for construction of new building foundations. During this time he became interested in construction and started his own cement business in 1905. Many sidewalks were laid in Crookston, Fertile, Fosston and Fisher, all done by hand labor. In 1908 Wilhelm married Emma Brattensborg, whose father was a contractor in Moorhead. She died in 1938. She had worked in the Phillip's Steam Laundry in Crookston. Three children were born. Elroy, Florence, who died in 1911, and Theodore. In 1909 the family established permanent residence on Maple Street. He continued to help his father on the farm. Louis died in 1923.

In 1912 he purchased his first cement mixer. Using this mixer, he poured the foundation for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. In winter months he manufactured cement blocks which he used in building silos. With the construction of Highway 2 from Crookston to Grand Forks, Wilhelm had the contract to construct all access bridges between Crookston and Fisher.

After graduation from high school, Elroy and Ted and their father formed a partnership known as Wilhelm Johnson and Sons. Business expanded to the building of homes, commercial buildings and remodeling.

In 1939 Elroy married Marguerite Olson of New Richmond, Wisconsin. Their children are Kay (Mrs. Gerald Dohn, Jr.), Susan (Mrs. Jack Hazen), and Brian.

In 1940 Wilhelm married Mrs. Marie Christianson, who still resides on Minnesota Street.

In 1941 Ted married Eleanore Ueland of Shelly, Minnesota. Their children are Debbie (Mrs. Charles Swanson) and Kristie (Mrs. Greg Baril).

During World War II the construction business was at a low ebb. Ted went into railroading for the Great Northern in 1943, later becoming an engineer. He retired November 30, 1975.

Elroy worked as a millwright at DoBoy Industries in Wisconsin and later served in the army in the European and South Pacific Theaters of war.

In 1946, Elroy rejoined his father in business. Wilhelm died in 1959 and Elroy continued the business until 1970.

**MARTIN DAVID AND CLEMYE (DAHL) JORGENSEN**

Martin David Jorgenson, better known as Dave Jorgenson, was born October 3, 1899 to Soren Peter and Teoline Jorgenson at Erskine, Minnesota. He was the eldest of ten children. Dave spoke the Norwegian language prior to entering school at Erskine, and was bilingual his entire life. He was handsome and especially talented in music. He graduated from the Erskine High School, valedictorian. Dave was a sportsman in baseball, basketball, hunting, fishing and photography. During World War I, he entered officers training at St. Olaf, Northfield, Minnesota, but the war ended and the only action he saw was to escort the bodies of soldiers who had died from that terrible flu epidemic in 1918.

Dave came back to Erskine to go into business for himself. He established a tire vulcanizing shop, but as luck would have

it, his shop burned to the ground. He went to International Falls, Minnesota where he met a girl named Clemye Dahl. Clemye had just won a beauty contest at the “Falls and Fort Francis, Manitoba” and her award was an Overland car. Dave worked hard to gain her favor. He had a dance band and Clemye was a beautiful dancer. It was probably his baritone singing voice and mellow sax that was irresistible. She often kidded, “When I met my future husband, I lost my car.” They were married September 27, 1924. Their only child, Mary Louise, was born at International Falls, Minnesota December 17, 1926.

Dave went into the coal and lumber business. Hard times rained upon them, not only had they witnessed bank failures, the stock market crash, but this time the Great Depression took everything they had worked so hard for! One day Clemye took the accounts and went from door to door asking for some kind of payment on people’s bills which they owed for coal and lumber. But no one had money and she came home with quarters and halves.

The family then traveled to Everett, Washington; to Seattle; back to the Falls; to Minneapolis; to Rice Lake, Wisconsin; to Moorhead, Minnesota and in 1941 established themselves in Crookston, Minnesota. There Dave was manager of the S. & L. Department Store. He was very active in civic affairs. He was a member of the Civic Music League, the municipal band, was baritone soloist for years in the Easter Cantata “The Seven Last Words.” One year, in the 1940’s, his mother, daughter, and sister, Mrs. Joseph (Agnes) Kise sang together in the Seven Last Words, three generations!

The family was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and sang in the choir.

In 1946, they bought a home at 109 Lincoln Avenue, Crookston. In 1948, Dave, Clemye and Mary built their own cottage on Union Lake. Dave suffered a coronary thrombosis in April of 1952. On November 5, 1960 a second heart attack occurred and he died at his home. Dave is buried at Oakdale Cemetery, Crookston.

Clemye never remarried. She encouraged her daughter to return to college and on Mother’s Day, 1973 she saw Mary Louise graduate with honors from the University of North Dakota. Clemye had been ill with an enlarged heart for many years, and on Christmas Eve entered Bethesda Hospital and died on New Year’s Eve, 1973. She is buried next to David at Oakdale Cemetery.

Mary Louise Jorgenson graduated from Central High School in 1944 and was employed at the Office of Price Administration until 1945 when she attended the Minnesota School of Business, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Executive Secretarial course, 13 months, completed and certified in 1946. From 1946-1952 she was Deputy Register of Deeds, Polk County, Minnesota; 1952 to 1955 was a legal secretary for Thorson and Peterson; 1955-1959 a legal secretary for Erickson and Erie. She moved to Moorhead and was a legal secretary for Garrity, Cahill and Gunhus; 1959 to 1960 was secretary, Department of Employment Security, Crookston and from 1960 to 1969 was Administrative Assistant at Bethesda Hospital, Crookston, Minnesota.

Mary Louise was interested in community service and was a
member of the Board of Directors of Crookston Jobs, Inc.; a past president of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. a member of the Crookston Public Library Board; Chairman for the Minnesota Heart Association, Polk County, Minnesota; Public Relations Director and Secretary of the Northwest Educational Improvement Association; Circulation Manager for Minnesota Hospital Association Auxiliary; a Charter Member of the American Society for Hospital Public Relations Directors of the American Hospital Association and a member of the Public Relations Society of America.

In 1963 she was winner of the National MacEachern Competition Award for journalism and external public relations bulletins; winner of the S. M. Edison Chemical Company national award for public relations; winner of the Minnesota Hospital Association Auxiliary state award for newsletters.

In 1969 she was selected for inclusion in the directory of “Foremost Women in Communications, United States” under criteria set by industry leaders for contributions in communications.

In 1963 she traveled to Boston, Massachusetts and completed a course of study and was certified as Director of Volunteers from the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. While residing there, she met and became a friend of Col. George Rodman Goethals, the eldest son of General George Washington Goethals, the engineer who built the Panama Canal. Col. Goethals visited the Jorgensons at their home in Crookston in 1966 and became very interested in the development of what is now the University of Minnesota Technical College, Crookston.

In 1969 she attended the University of North Dakota; 1971 attended Corbett College and was editor-in-chief of the Corbett College student newspaper. In 1972 she transferred to the University of North Dakota and was a grey gown, member of Lambda and a member of Phi Omega Pi, the National Business Teacher Education Honor Society. In 1973 she graduated cum laude from the University of North Dakota with a degree in Business Education.

Since 1973, she has been teacher-manager of Model Office at the Agassiz Valley Vocational Cooperative Center in Crookston. Her hobbies are boating, organ, skiing, numismatics, dog training, and philately.

HENRY KELLER, SR.

Henry and Tillie moved to Polk County with their seven children in 1934. They had been farming near Sherwood, North Dakota, but the drought had ruined their crops. They chose the Steenerson farm three miles east of Crookston because it was the only place that had feed for their twenty-head of cattle. They also brought twelve horses and other assorted livestock. The farm ran along the Red Lake River which provided woods and pasture. The boys all helped their parents with the farm work. Godfrey, the oldest, was 30 years old, Otto, 27 years old, Henry 25, Leo 19, and Raymond was 17. The two girls, Leona and Helen, were 14 and 11 when they moved to Crookston.

The family planted wheat, oats and corn for silage. They milked 20 to 30 cows. The milk was hauled to the various dairies in Crookston to be used for bottled milk. When the roads were blocked in the winter, the milk was hauled with horses and sleigh.

The wood provided another source of income. The family cut wood which sold for $5 a cord to people in town in the 1930's. They also had a sawmill on the farm where lumber was cut. The Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston purchased much of the Keller lumber and planks for construction of underground tunnels.

Henry, Jr. was the first to leave the family farm. He married Olivine Amiot in 1936. The rented land to farm and later bought a farm northeast of Crookston where they still reside. They had six children. Richard and Keith are farming with their father. Ronald owns the Pizza Plaza in Crookston. David lives in St. Joseph, Minnesota. Joan lives in Seattle and Rosalia in Moorhead.

Otto married Martha Adams in 1938. They farmed on different rented farms near Crookston. James and Margaret were both born in Crookston. The family later moved to Thompson, North Dakota, where they are today.

Leo married Anna Amiot on June 18, 1941. They farmed near Crookston until 1963. Their son, Joe, then moved on the family farm. Leo worked at the Northwest School but later joined the maintenance staff of Mount St. Benedict. He is still employed at the Mount. Alice Ann, their first daughter, lives in Columbia Height. Their youngest child, Bonnie, died of cancer in 1967. Leona married Bernie Wilken September 5, 1962. They have farmed near Crookston all their years together. They had nine children. Danny farms near Fertile; Lyle lives in Fertile. Terry and Mary Ann are still at home. The rest of the family have moved away from the county.

Helen married Stephen Fairchild on September 26, 1942, when he was in the service. After the war they moved to Hibbing and have a family of nine children. Raymond married Veronica Plaszt on April 3, 1948. They also live in Hibbing. They have two children.


LEO KELLER

Leo Keller and Anna Amiot were married June 18, 1941, at St. Peter's Church in Gentilly. Anna is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Amiot and was born on their farm on section 11 of Crookston township. Leo is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Keller. Sr. Leo was born in Tintah, Minnesota. He moved to Crookston in 1934 with his parents, brothers and sisters, from Sherwood, North Dakota, due to the intense drought there. After living on a rented farm for a few months, Leo and Anna moved to a farm they purchased on section 15 of Crookston township.

In March of 1942, a son, Joseph, was born. The first crops raised were oats, corn and hay, which was used for feed for the milk cows, chickens and a team of horses. The first few winters Leo worked on his father's farm cutting trees, which they sawed for lumber and firewood. In a few years, sheep were added to their livestock. In May of 1947, a daughter, Alice Ann, was born. One of their biggest accomplishments was
building a new dairy barn in the summer of 1951, after which they sold grade A milk, for bottling purposes, for a number of years.

In 1952, their 4-H Club years began with Joe joining the North Star 4-H Club. One project he carried throughout all his 4-H years was the lamb project, with which he won four trips to the junior livestock show. He won trips to the Minnesota State Fair. In April of 1955, a daughter Bonnie was born.

Alice Ann also joined the North Star 4-H Club when she became nine years old. Her main projects were foods, clothing, junior leadership and lamb. She got a trip to the Minnesota State Fair on dress review and one on a demonstration. Another trip she won as a result of her 4-H records was to be one of eight Minnesota 4-H’ers to represent the State at the American Institute of Cooperatives at Lansing, Michigan. Joe and Alice both received the 4-H Key Awards. Bonnie died from cancer at the age of twelve years after a six-month illness. She also joined the North Star 4-H Club when she became nine years old and carried on in foods and clothing projects. The children all attended the Cathedral grade school. Joe graduated from Cathedral high school and received the citizenship award. Alice Ann graduated from Mount St. Benedict high school, then went to North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota, graduating with a bachelor of science degree in home economics in 1969.

In April of 1963, Joe married Mary Beth Martin of Oslo, Minnesota. At this time, Leo and Anna rented the farm to him and purchased a house in Crookston. Leo worked for two years at the Northwest School of Agriculture in the dairy barn and in 1965, he began to work at Mount St. Benedict, where he is still employed on ground maintenance. In 1965, Anna started to work in the hot lunch program at St. Joseph’s Academy, then transferred to the Catholic Elementary school in 1972. In 1974, she became cook-manager.

In 1967, Joe and family moved to Montevideo, Minnesota, where he works for the Soil Conservation Service. Mary Beth works as a teacher’s aide. Leo and Anna then sold the farm yard and buildings and rented out the farm land. Alice Ann married Arnold Sadowsky in June, 1969. They reside in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. Alice Ann is a dietitian at Anoka State Hospital and Arnold works for Control Data Corporation. There are four grandchildren: Joe has three: Jacalyn, 1964; John, 1965; and Jason, 1968. Alice Ann has one: Debra, 1973. Leo and Anna have both been active in the Crookston Garden Club since 1969.

EDDY F. KINNAN

Eddy Foster Kinnan and Laura Marlow Kinnan brought their family to the Red River Valley at a relatively late date. It was with high hopes that they migrated from Iowa in 1914 and settled on a farm west of the present University.

"Are you a Norwegian or a Swede?" was the first greeting given to Velura Kinnan when she entered the Crookston High School. A negative answer brought the second question, "Then what are you?" Having come from a small community in Iowa, where American Melting Pot was emphasized over the preservation of national origins, she was uncertain and the unstable interest in national origins had been awakened.

Trying to untangle the long confusing frustrating lines of ancestral roots has led back to England, Ireland and Scotland. Scotland seems to have been our strongest tie and the search has revealed half forgotten names of Cary, McCracken and Sanders. The earliest Kinnan to arrive was Peter, who came to the young colonies in 1682. Three Kinnans served in the Revolutionary War. Old letters tell of the families’ progress westward making their way on flat boats on the Ohio River to Cincinnati. From there the families have scattered and 1914 found our branch of the family located on a beautiful fertile farm in the Red River Valley. However, those War I-years were hard for farmers. Harvest help was difficult. Even businessmen in Crookston helped to shock wheat after closing hours.

Eventually, for lack of help, the farm was given up and for a few years Mr. Kinnan operated what was then called the Grand Central Hotel. That was a good move at the wrong time. The day of motor travel and motels had come. The build-

Eddy F. Kinnan behind desk at Grand Central Hotel. Harry Neff in front of desk.

ing was sold to the present Crookston Times and my father retired.

The Kinnan family consisted of three daughters: Vera, who married Joseph Brule. She worked at the Crookston Post Office, Eagle Drug Company and later at the office of the Polk County Treasurer. Hazel — was married to George Erickson and lives with her family in Seattle. Velura, unmarried, served with the Lutheran Mission in Tanzania, Africa for 24 years.

JOHN LAUGHLIN SR.

John Laughlin was born June 24, 1865 at Corran, Ireland. He came to America in 1877, and resided for a year in Philadelphia. He came to Minnesota in 1879, and settled in Melrose, where he worked for the St. Paul, Minnesota and Manitoba Railway, predecessors of the Great Northern. Starting out as a section laborer, he worked up to the position of section foreman and in 1891 was appointed to the office of assistant roadmaster with headquarters at Crookston. In 1905, he became division roadmaster of the railroad’s Northern Division with headquarters at Crookston. In 1922, when the headquarters for the division was moved to Grand Forks, Mr. Laughlin went there to take charge of the office but he still maintained his home in Crookston. In 1931, he retired after 51 years of continuous service with the railroad. While living in Crookston, he was a life member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

He was married to Mary Feeney of St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1889. Their home was at 723 North Main Street. They had three sons, John Joseph of Crookston, a conductor of the Great Northern Railway who put in almost fifty years of service, and passed away February 2, 1961. William Laughlin who passed away in 1916, and the other son was Thomas Laughlin, a clerk in the Great Northern office for many years at Grand Forks. He passed away. Mayme Laughlin, their only daughter, was married to William McCabe, who passed away April, 1953. Mayme is the only living Laughlin and now lives at Warren, Virginia. Mary Feeney Laughlin passed away November 14, 1941.

John Laughlin, Sr. passed away May 17, 1944, at age 78 years.

DOUGLAS AND BETTE LAURENT

The early years of our marriage, when our children were small, we lived at several Air Force Base locations, during Doug’s service with the armed forces.

Douglas was born in Crookston, April 6, 1919, and as a child lived in the Sathre Flats (Crookston College), corner of South Ash Street and Robert Street across from the Red Owl, where he was born. He was the son of Harry and Anne Lau-
When he was a young boy his family moved to the Woods Addition to make their home on Spendley Street. After the death of his father, when Doug was only 11 years old, his maternal grandmother came to take care of the family while his mother worked. She was Mrs. Elizabeth Lunde Briggs who was born in Dublin, Ireland and came with her parents as a child to Richmond, Wisconsin.

During the Depression years, Doug went to Minnesota CC Camp from 1936 to 1938. In 1940 he joined the local National Guard. A year later, in February, 1941 the Guard was mobilized as an artillery unit for the United States Army and sent to serve in the Asiatic and Pacific theaters during World War II. In 1949 Doug joined the Air Force and served in Korea and Japan as well as in this country.

Douglas and I were married in International Falls, where we lived for two years before returning to Crookston. I was born here December 17, 1924 to Henry and Anna Eastvold, and graduated from Central High School.

We decided it was too hard on our children to stay in the service and move around so often. Doug first worked for the C. and S. Railroad in Denver, where we lived for a year. Then we came back to Crookston and have been here since as residents of the Woods Addition.

During the years of 1953, 1954 and 1955 Douglas worked in Greenland for the North Atlantic Construction Company at the time of the construction of the United States Air Base, Soderstrom-Fjord. On his return he began his work at the United States post office in Crookston and continued there since then.

After our children were grown, I took up LPN nurses' training and since have been employed at Riverview Hospital and more recently at Peterson Foot Clinic.

Our youngest daughter Marilyn (Mrs. Donald Juvrud), her husband and two sons, Robert and Paul, live in Crookston at 605 Holly Avenue, the former home of my parents, Henry and Anna Eastvold, and where I grew up.

Our daughter Karen (Mrs. Jerry Hime) lives in Minneapolis with her husband and three children, Chris, Wendy and Tim; while our son Gary and his wife, the former Carla Hendrickson of Crookston, live in Elk River.

My father, Henry Eastvold, never did get back to see his family in Norway — So, two and one-half years ago in 1973, my husband and I made the trip. We had a wonderful time with his brothers and sisters and their families, visiting over 130 relatives. (See Eastvold and Harry Laurent histories).

HARRY AND ANNE LAURENT

At 20 years of age, shortly after the turn of the century, my father, Harry Laurent, came to Crookston from Red Lake Falls, to become a city barber.

The son of Leon and Florestine (Clement) Laurent, he was born July 21, 1886 at Terrebonne.


His first barber shop here was located on Robert Street, now the location of LaPlante's Shoe Repair. Later he moved his shop to 108 South Broadway, Hoffman's Trading Center.

Here he met Anne Briggs, who came to Crookston as a young girl from Bagley. She was born November 10, 1889 in Richmond, Wisconsin. She was first employed at the Grand Central Hotel, where the Crookston Times is now, when she became interested in hotel cooking.

My father and Anne were married here in August, 1913. With the early death of my dad, when I was 11, my mother made good use of her early training as a cook, having to support six children. My father died here December 20, 1930.

Our family's first residence was in the Sathre Flats, formerly Crookston College, where I was born. It was located on the corner of South Ash and East Robert Streets, across from the Red Owl. When I was five, we moved to Spendley Street. When my father died my maternal grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Briggs, a native of Ireland, came to take care of us, while my mother worked.

My mother was, for many years, chief cook at many of the Crookston restaurants, including the Grill, Sweet Shop and Northwood Inn.

She lived here most of her life until the last eight years when she moved to International Falls, to be near her relatives. There she died July 7, 1974. My parents are buried in Calvary cemetery here.

Their six children include: Mrs. Peter (LaRee) Sather, Duluth; Mrs. Paul (Lois) Bagwell, Tacoma, Washington; Mrs. Alvin (LaRayne) York, Danville, Illinois; Mrs. Edward (Rachel) Kimbrell, Silver Bay; James, International Falls, and myself (Douglas), Crookston.

My dad's sister, Mrs. Norman C. Schreiter (Mayne Laurent), continues to make her home in Crookston and is a resident of St. Vincent's Rest Home.

RICHARD AND OTELIE LEHMANN

Otelie was born in 1855 and Richard the same year, both in
Frank and Elsie Lerum.

Their home. The teacher lived with them. Mr. Lerum was employed by the Great Northern Railway in 1903 and retired in 1951 with 48 years of service.

He married Elsie Bjorgo, March 6, 1912, in Crookston, Minnesota. Her father was Erick Bjorgo, born in Vosavongen, Voss, Norway, near Bergen. Mother, Marie Flage, born near Bergen, Norway. They were married in Norway and came to the United States in 1865 and settled in Lamberton, Minnesota. They lost their home and farm buildings by a very bad tornado. He rebuilt a large home on a hill plus other farm buildings. They had eight children: Annie, Nels, Julia, Hannah, Knute, Ole, Elsie and Fred. The Bjorgo's moved to the Red Lake area in about 1909.

Frank and Elsie were blessed with six children: Elba (Mrs. Rolland Breed) of Crookston, Minnesota; Frances (Mrs. John Sands) of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Leota (Mrs. George Franklin) of East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Bette Jane (Mrs.
Loren Knudson) of Bismarck, North Dakota; two sons, Robert, who has passed away in 1967. He married Lorraine Casavan. Galen married to Lillie Fournier who passed away in 1962, and who remarried Emma Erickson in 1968. Galen has worked for the Coast to Coast Hardware Store for about thirty years and is the present owner. Elba and her husband, Rolland C. Breed remained in the Crookston area and farmed approximately 1350 acres in section 14, 22, 23 and 27 in Lowell township. He is also an antique car collector.

Frank and Elsie have thirteen grandchildren: Barbara, and Loralee Breed; John Sands, Carollee, and Robert Sabin; Sandra, Gary, Bonnie, and Gregory Lerum. LeAnn, and Lori Lerum, David and Pamela Knudson; also eleven Great Grandchildren.

They are members of the Lutheran Church. Frank passed away November 7, 1970 and is buried in Oakdale Cemetery. Mrs. Lerum survives him.

**MELVIN J. LONG**

Melvin J. Long's pioneer parents, who lived at Webster, South Dakota, came from Preston, Minnesota and Clear Lake, Iowa. He attended school there, and at Grand Forks, North Dakota. He was employed by the International Harvester Company for six years, then as territory supervisor for the Standard Oil Company for fifteen years, living at Casselton, Fargo, Fergus Falls, and Thief River Falls. In 1937, he bought a service station, home, and bulk station at Fertile, living there until 1943. He was then appointed deputy sheriff, and moved to Crookston. He resigned after three and a-half years, and drove a school bus for six years. He then entered the University of Minnesota Dental College, 1918. Upon graduation, he located at Red Lake Falls for four years.

In 1922, he married Ruth Cronquist of Erskine and moved to Crookston where he practiced for Dr. Frank Bolen in 1923. He has practiced here ever since until he retired in 1972.

He and Mrs. Long have been spending the winters in Florida and the summers at their Union Lake Cottage and are enjoying their retirement.

**ARTHUR LUCIAN**

Arthur's grandparents were Zebedee Lucian, born March 13, 1824, and Julia Lucian, born July 23, 1830. They were married in Canada in 1847; migrated to Montpelier, Vermont, where Zebedee Jr., was born in 1849. In 1852, they moved back to Canada where Joseph and John were born. They moved back to Vermont, where Frank and Sam were born in April 1855. In 1857, they moved to Portage City, Wisconsin, where Julia and David were born. They stayed here during the Civil War; two of the older boys tried to enlist but were too young.

In 1865, after the war, they moved to Charles City, Iowa. At Charles City, they bought a farm. Sam Lucian married Louise Sweeney on January 7, 1877. Sam and wife and brothers, Zebedee, David and Frank and wives and children bought a homestead about eight miles east of Euclid around Goose Lake. They traveled by team of horses and wagon and a cow behind. They had to ford a couple of rivers and were on the road nearly three months. Arriving at their homestead, they each built their log house. Sam bought a pair of oxen and began farming. They were bothered by the Indians, who came down the Pembina Trail asking for bread or flour.

Sometime later, Mrs. Sam Lucian took sick so they moved to Crookston, 1878 — where he became a bricklayer. Frank and David had a furniture store and after a few years were back to Iowa — Joseph became a painter and later moved to Spokane, Washington. The one remaining brother, Sam, worked on many of the old landmarks — such as the courthouse, now replaced by the present one; Palace Hotel, now the Wayne; McKinnon Opera and Fournet Blocks. He had four boys and one girl — the only remaining one being Dr. Arthur Lucian. Sam Lucian died in 1938 at age of 83.

Arthur Lucian was born February 1, 1895, at Crookston, attended Eugene Field and Central High School, where he graduated in 1914. The graduation was usually held at the Grand Theatre, because there was no other place to hold it but someone set fire to the Grand Theatre, so we had our graduation down in Central Park on a grand stand which was on wheels and used for concerts upon a different corner each week. After graduation, he entered the University of Minnesota Dental College, 1918. Upon graduation, he located at Red Lake Falls for four years.

In 1922, he married Ruth Cronquist of Erskine and moved to Crookston where he practiced for Dr. Frank Bolen in 1923. He has practiced here ever since until he retired in 1972.

He and Mrs. Lucian have been spending the winters in Florida and the summers at their Union Lake Cottage and are enjoying their retirement.

**MARGARET LUMPKIN**

The progenitor of our branch of the family in America is thought to have been Captain Jacob Lumpkin, an Englishman, who lived in Virginia as early as 1677. Great grandfather Josiah J. Lumpkin was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia in 1812. His sons: John, Mortimer, and Isaac were also born there.

Josiah's family moved to Michigan in 1843, where they engaged in farming. Others of the family moved south settling in Georgia and the Carolinas. So during the Civil War cousins fought against each other.

I recall an incident in 1930. We were listening to our very first New Year's Day football game. It was between Georgia Tech and California. A Tech player, "Daddy" Lumpkin, was
the hero. Our father told us it was possible that he was a distant cousin.

In 1856, at the age of 19, Grandfather Isaac left Michigan to claim land in Iowa. In 1864 he married Mary Jane Crawford. She was born in Michigan in 1838 and moved to Iowa with her parents in 1859. My grandparents had two sons Charles and Clarence Manford. The latter was my father.

My mother's parents were Swedish immigrants. Her father, John Lundie, came to America in 1868 settling in Galesburg, Illinois where he established a tailoring business. After the death of his first wife, he and a small son went by covered wagon to Iowa, settling on a farm near Burlington. There he married Anna Catherine Johnson, who had immigrated in 1868. While they were living on the farm, two daughters were born. The younger, Anna Marie, was my mother. The family soon moved to Dayton, Iowa, where grandfather opened a store and continued tailoring.

A salesman from whom he bought woolen materials was a Mr. Pershing. On one trip a son, John, came with him. During World War I, John became the famous General John Pershing.

After graduating from high school and Cedar Falls Teachers College my mother taught at Britt, Iowa. There she met my father. He soon received an offer to work for a land company in Crookston. He couldn't resist this opportunity to come to the Red River Valley. In a few years the Merchants National Bank was organized and he became associated with it. Later he was in the insurance business.

In 1903 my parents were married. After a wedding trip to Colorado, they established a home at 509 Cowing Street. That was the first address my sister Gertrude and I knew.

I vaguely remember Cowing Street — the board sidewalks, the mud when it rained, the deep trenches that were dug for water mains and the noise and confusion when cement walks were poured and the street paved. It seemed we were always being reminded to stay out of the street. During these improvements our address became 509 Holly Avenue. How much more elegant sounding than Cowing Street! My parents soon built a new home at this location.

My father was an early conservationist and insisted that farmers to whom he rented land replenish the soil. He was treasurer of the board of education of the Crookston Public Schools and secretary of Oakdale Cemetery Association for many years. He worked diligently for the beautification of Oakdale. He was active in the Masonic Lodge and Shrine and enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening and photography. He died in 1956.

My mother was a dedicated homemaker, but also found time for community, social and religious activities. She was president of Matrons Club and Current Events Club, an Eastern Star officer, and chairman for several years of the Community Christmas Programs which she introduced to the city of Crookston. She was superintendent and teacher in the Sunday school and president of the Ladies Aid of the Congregational church. She died in 1929.

My sister and I attended the new Franklin School, as the old one burned when we were pre-schoolers. We graduated from Central High School and college, and following our mother's example were elementary teachers.

Gertrude married Kenneth McGrew in 1930 and lives in Indiana. Their daughter, Nancy, married Max Coats. They live in Ohio with their children Debra, Daniel, and twins Jonathan and Jeffrey. A son, Richard, with his wife Naomi, twin daughters Pamela and Cynthia, and Douglas make their home in Texas.

I enjoyed teaching in Crookston for forty years and am now enjoying retirement here.

**HERSCHEL LYSAKER**

A surprise award was bestowed at UMC's Torch and Shield Banquet, which recognizes people who have given exceptional service to higher education in northwest Minnesota.

Herschel has been involved in some phase of teaching since 1932. During those 43 years, he has taught physical education, coached, counseled, and served as principal. He coached at Crookston Central from 1942 until he joined the Northwest School of Agriculture staff in 1944. After the Northwest School was phased out, he continued working for UMC. In fact, Hersch went to work for UMC a year before classes began. He was the first person hired by the new director, Stanley Sahlstrom.

Herschel graduated from Twin Valley High School and then attended Concordia College in Moorhead. When he retires from UMC in 1976, he'll have a 700+ win-loss record for his 38 years of coaching football and basketball.

Besides coaching at the Northwest School, Herschel was involved in full-time counseling for 13 years at the school. During the summer, he was in charge of students' summer home project work, and visited them at their homes. Because of his close association with students, he can recall most of them, and retains close ties with many. “At an alumni meeting in Grand Forks, there were about 130 graduates. I could call 129 of them by name,” Herschel said.

When UMC was in the planning stages Herschel took a quarter's leave of absence and with his wife, Esther, visited similar types of schools throughout the western United States. One of his primary jobs, when UMC was forming, was to call on high school seniors, telling them about the technical-collegiate concept. He visited some four hundred high schools and notes that because of his many years as a referee throughout the state and at state tourneys, he knew at least one person in all but one high school.

Although he has been a coach for four decades, Herschel has an abiding love for music, and he has played the clarinet since he was a child.

He won awards for his clarinet playing in high school, and he continued to play in college, where he played first clarinet solo.

He has played with the Kem Temple Shrine Band for over 30 years, and with the Grand Forks Elks Band since it was organized. He has played with the Ninth District Legion Band, the only remaining district Legion band in the U.S., since 1928, and has been the Legion Band's business manager for the past 14 years.

“Music is a good avocation. It would be difficult to be a professional musician. Music relaxes me and relieves the strain of
living. I might be tired or have a headache, but after I get together with hand members and play awhile, I feel refreshed. Music is another way of expressing a desire to excel. I think everyone should play an instrument, or at least try it out.”

Hersch is active in community activities. He’s a member of the Lions and Masons, and has sung in the church choir for 50 years. He taught Sunday school for some 25 years, and was baseball commissioner for city teams in the northern third of Minnesota for many years. For 26 years, he was a Red Cross Water Safety Instructor, passing some 300 instructors. He was a Boy Scout Master for several years, and managed the Scout Camp at Waubanaquaat for two summers. As a charter member of the Crookston Junior Chamber of Commerce, he won the first Outstanding Jaycee award given. On the political side, he’s a staunch Republican, serving as Polk County Chairman for the party.

The Lysakers have three sons: John, David and Pepper. John and David are in business in the Seattle area. Pepper has followed in his father’s footsteps and is the football coach at Mesabi State Community College in Virginia, Minnesota.

Hersch and Esther own a cottage at Union Lake that they plan to enjoy with more regularity, and they’ve bought a travel trailer. “We’re going south next winter when it’s cold. Crookston will continue to be our home, though.”

When he retires from UMC, Hersch has a position with USDA waiting. He has no doubts that he’ll miss the students, however. “The most rewarding part is the friendships I’ve built up with hundreds of kids over the years. That’s the real joy of teaching, what people outside the teaching profession don’t understand. You see the kids you may have helped out, and you hope they’ve used what you’ve taught. I go to a Shriners meeting and there might be ten people who played on a team I coached. We lived right on campus, we saw the students every day for four years. You couldn’t help but get close to them.”

ALEX MacGREGOR

Alexander MacGregor had decided, by 1879, that the days of the water-driven flour mills were over, and a year later, in 1880, he brought his family to Carman, Minnesota, where he had accepted a position as a grain agent for J. J. Hill, the business partner of E. D. Childs of Carman. In fact, he had left Burlington, Vermont a year earlier to build a house for his wife and two young sons. The next year he returned to Vermont to bring them by boat on the Great Lakes and by rail from Milwaukee to their new home.

Cornelia Lawrence MacGregor must have found it difficult to leave Burlington, where her great grandfather had been the first white settler, before the Revolution, on the site where the city of Burlington was finally established. But she had left two small daughters in a Vermont cemetery and her letters and diaries tell of her need to leave a place that had become so sorrowful. Virgil and Frederick MacGregor were the small boys who came to Carman with the family, and they both lived out their long lives in Crookston.

Virgil Lawrence MacGregor, the elder, became a prominent and greatly respected businessman in Crookston as a banker, founder of the Crookston Savings and Loan Association, and as an originator of the McNary-Haugen Bill, which advocated the control of farm surpluses to make them available during periods of drought and crop failures. He was summoned to Washington to confer with agricultural experts during the 1920s, and there is no doubt that his advocacy of such legislation has influenced subsequent farm legislation in the United States.

Virgil married Alma Follansbee, a graduate of Oberlin, who had come to Crookston to teach at Crookston High School. Mrs. MacGregor later became a member of the Crookston Library Board and was a very active member of the Congregational church and — after it closed — of the First Methodist church. Their children, Donald, Janet and Alan, all graduated from the local high school. Donald became a science teacher and chairman of the science department at Victoryville Senior High School, Victorville, California; Dr. Janet MacGregor is practicing as an osteopathic physician in Crookston; and Alan, a graduate of Hamline University, is employed by American Can Company in Neenah, Wisconsin.

Frederick Ernest MacGregor, the younger son, brought his bride, Ouida Winslow, to Crookston in 1914. She was the only daughter of an early state banker, Lester W. Winslow, founder of, among other banks, Winslow’s State Bank in Battle Lake, Minnesota. After their marriage, they settled in Crookston, where Mr. MacGregor was employed in banks and for a time worked as a bank examiner for the state banking department. This occupation required the family to move several times, although they always retained a Crookston home and eventually moved back to Crookston.

The Frederick MacGregors also had three children. The oldest, Cornelia, married a Crookston native, Leonard Nachbar. She has two children, Ouida Margaret, who is an architect in Albuquerque, and Lawrence Charles who lives in Duluth. Cornelia is presently teaching school in Bloomington, Minnesota. She has written a set of six English text books published by McGraw-Hill in 1974. Lester, too, married a local girl, Edith O’Boyle, whose family have been in Crookston since 1870. The third child, Vivian deEtte, married James Terry and lives in Haines, Florida. They have three children, Joseph, Marsha and Nola. DeEtte has worked several years as a surveyor, since her children have been grown.

Early family memories for the children of both the MacGregor sons include summers at the Maple Lake cottage which had been built about 1900, and which the families shared for many years. The hazards and inconveniences of Maple Lake life during the early years of the century involved outdoor plumbing, obtaining water in great jugs from a farmhouse caty-corner from the old hotel, sleeping on a screened porch to the rich lullaby of the loons, and knowing how to avoid or at least how to treat annual outbreaks of poison ivy.

LESTER MacGREGOR

Lester Winslow MacGregor, the only son of Frederick and Ouida MacGregor, married Edith O’Boyle, a lifetime resident of Crookston, in 1938. Lester graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture in 1936, where he played basketball and football. His baseball career at the “A.C.” was rather short. He pitched one game which was called after one inning when the opposing team surged ahead 25-0! During World War II Lester worked on the Al-Cam Highway and various defense projects including the Hanford Project, where some of the first atomic bombs were produced. He then served in the Seabees and was stationed in California until after the war was over. After the war he rejoined his growing family in Crookston and spent the following year and a-half building a house for them. In 1948 he rejoined the post office where he had worked before the war. He spent two years as a letter carrier in Crookston and since then has been a rural route carrier. He has been delivering mail in rural Crookston for over twenty-five years. Lester has been a member of the American Legion since 1946. He
was adjutant in 1954-55 and Commander in 1956.

Edith graduated from Central High School in 1936. She was active in declamation, the junior class play, and was a reporter for the Pe pst er. In her senior year she was Student Council vice-president. After graduation she attended Hughes Business College. She then went to work for the telephone company, where she worked for a year and a-half until her marriage to Lester.

Edith and Lester have four children, Frederick John, Lester Winslow, Jr., Bonny Ellen and Robin Elizabeth. All are married. Fred, Win and Bonny all live in Grand Forks and Robin lives in Minneapolis.

Fred graduated from Moorhead State College and works at the University of North Dakota in the Personnel Department. His wife, Lois, is a native of Cyrus, Minnesota. They have one daughter, Amy. Win spent eight years in the Marine Corps, serving two tours of duty in Vietnam. He met his wife, Sachi, while stationed in Okinawa. They have four daughters, Mayumi, Catherine, Sandra and Mechi. He works in Grand Forks at the post office as a mail carrier. Bonny graduated from the University of Minnesota and is married to William Crow, budget director at the University of North Dakota. They have one daughter, April Beth. Robin graduated from St. Cloud School of Business and is married to John Ferret, who is head of the math department at Holy Angels High School, Richfield. They have one daughter, Erica Robin.

**VIRGIL LAWRENCE MacGREGOR**

The graves of Virgil’s grandparents had to be moved to make room for the Ethan Allen Monument in Burlington, Vermont. Virgil’s father, Alexander, was born nearby in 1837. The other sons of the grandparents had been born in the beautiful Trossach Highlands of Scotland before coming to Vermont in the early 1800’s. The brothers ran a flour grinding mill, lime kiln, and farm. Family heirlooms of silver plated goblets, tray and pitcher dated 1857 awarded to the eldest son attest to the quality of their work while the brothers were on a temporary move to Alabama to help operate a lime kiln.

Back in Vermont, Alexander married Cornelia Lawrence in 1862. Finding that the old method of grinding flour was being superseded, Alex traveled in 1879 to northwestern Minnesota and worked as a grain agent for J. J. Hill of Roberts, Wisconsin (at one time Wisconsin Lt. Governor). The next year he brought his wife and children to Minnesota. They located in Carmen, which then rivaled Crookston in size.

The two of their children who survived the hazards of childhood were Virgil and Frederick, born in 1871 and 1877 respectively. These two boys played an integral part in the growth of Crookston during their entire lives. In 1909 Virgil married a dynamic teacher of Latin and English in Crookston High School, Alma Follansbee, a graduate of Oberlin College, Ohio, and in 1914 Fred married a vivacious girl from Fergus Falls, Ouida Winslow.

Three children were born to each family. The Virgil MacGregors had Donald who became a science teacher and Chairman of the Science Department in Victorville, California; Janet, a doctor of Osteopathy living now in the family home in Crookston; and Alan, personnel manager in American Can Company, Neenah, Wisconsin. The Fred MacGregors had Cornelia, author of an English textbook and teacher supervisor in the Bloomington, Minnesota school system; Lester, U.S. mail carrier in Crookston; and deEtte, housewife and surveyor in Hialeah, Florida.

Extending the Virgil family tree: Donald married Gladys Larson, a Fosston choral-English teacher and daughter of the creamery manager, and they brought up their two sons, Bruce and Rob, in California. After her mother died, Janet transferred her osteopathic practice from Marshall to Crookston and kept house for her father for the balance of his 85 years. Following the example of her civic-minded parents, she acted as president of the Community Council for one term as president of the Business and Professional Women’s Club for two years. Alan married Margaret Taylor, daughter of the Red Wing county auditor, and after his service as a Naval Lieutenant in World War II they moved to Neenah, Wisconsin, and brought up their children, Michael, Scott and Molly.

Virgil MacGregor participated energetically in building up Crookston and the Red River Valley. He acted as City Treasurer; supported the Congregational and later Methodist churches; advanced to Knight Templar rank in York Rite Masonry; founded the Crookston Building and Loan Association and was its secretary for over fifty years; fostered tax reforms; promoted parks, tennis courts, swimming pool Northwest School of Agriculture, high school gym and auditorium; patented a quack-grass eradicator machine; and conceived the idea of reversing the tariff in order to protect farmers who had an exportable surplus of grain. This principle was incorporated in the McNary-Haugen bill. Because of his vigorous promotion of this principle, the Merchants National Bank where Virgil was cashier was forced into closing in 1924. It is thought that this was due to the political chicanery of midwest flour millers, newspapers, etc. (refer to “The Brass Check” by Upton Sinclair).

**REMI MAROTTE**

Remi Marotte was one of the early settlers of Little Falls and Crookston, Minnesota. He was born July 29, 1844 in LaPrairie, Quebec, Canada and died January 15, 1944, in Oakland, California. He came to the United States as a young man with his parents and settled in Little Falls, Minnesota.

He married Ablina Gravel. She was born May 12, 1855 in Yamachedhe, Quebec, Canada. She died February 13, 1939 in Oakland, California. After being married in Canada, Remi and his wife, Albina, moved to Little Falls, Minnesota in 1870. They had nine children. Remi was a lumberman. The home
that he built in Little Falls was sold to a Hamm’s family. It still stands in Little Falls as a landmark: it is well preserved and is located at Seventh and Broadway. In 1897, Remi moved to Crookston, Minnesota and purchased the Grand Central Hotel. Crookston at that time had two railroads.

Arthur Marotte, Remi’s oldest son, married Delia Focheleau, daughter of Felix Focheleau and Clarice LaVigne in Little Falls. They were married in 1898. Delia’s parents were born in Gentilly, Quebec, Canada. They had nine children and settled in Belle Prairie nine miles out of Little Falls, Minnesota.

Arthur and his wife lived in Crookston and he and his brothers and sisters helped their father. Remi, operate the Grand Central Hotel. This Hotel was a wooden structure and in 1900 the Marottes rebuilt a three-story brick building, the new Grand Central Hotel, at the present site of the Crookston Times.


After the Prohibition Act, Remi sold the Hotel and moved his family to Oakland, California. Arthur and his family remained in Crookston and bought the bakery on Main Street, located next to the Erickson Meat Market. He operated the bakery until his retirement in 1945. Louis Marotte was associated with his father in the bakery until Arthur’s retirement.

Arthur was a member of the Elk’s Lodge and U.C.T. (United Commercial Travelers). Arthur and Delia are buried in a Crookston Cemetery.

**BENJAMIN J. McLORINAN**

Benjamin J. McLorinan and his wife, Mary Ann, came to Carmen in 1881, now known as the fifth ward of Crookston. They established a harness making business in the 1600 Block on Main Street. They lived here for the rest of their lives. His widow. Mary Ann McLorinan died at the age of 94 in the spring of 1954. A daughter, Mrs. Katherine Saver lived on the same property and died in 1967. Another daughter, Mrs. Bertha Woelk, now lives in the old family home. She was born October 26, 1901, in Carmen.

The first shop and home burned down on August 2, 1902, and was replaced by the present home site. A grandson, Robert E. Holmes, Jr. is with her. Her brother, Lester McLorinan, lives in Tacoma, Washington. A cousin, Ralph D. Childs, age 93, lives in Yakima. The E. D. Childs family were among the first settlers in Carmen. Mrs. Childs was a sister of Mr. McLorinan. Another sister, Mrs. Groicky also lived in Carmen. She later moved to Tacoma. Mr. E. D. Childs started in the first business in Yakima with his son, Jesse, and a daughter, Ruth.

I think I am the oldest person born here and still living on the home site.

**JULIA ERIKSON MICHELMAN**

They tell me that I was born during a snowstorm at 2 o’clock in the morning. My father had to hitch up and drive a mile to get Mrs. Stephanson, who was a trained “midwife”. They arrived home just in time to usher me into this world. I must have resented coming, because I did such loud crying. But then I fell into a long sleep.

When I was six years old, I began going to school. My brother, Hjalmar, and I took the shortest way, which was over our newly plowed field. Other children stayed on the main road. I didn’t know any English, but I was learning by listening to other children who were reciting. When I finished grade school, I went to St. Cloud Normal to prepare for teaching. My first teaching was to finish up the spring term for a teacher in the Waite Park School. Then I went to Kansel, North Dakota, where a sister lived. I taught there for three years. My next school was at Ely, Minnesota, for three years.

From there I went to St. Cloud, because I wanted to be near Minneapolis. When spring came, I left for the city on Saturday morning and put in my application with the Board of Education. I was accepted and taught there for 31 years, first at Lincoln Junior High and then at Edison High. I continued my education by attending evening and summer schools until I received my bachelor degree diploma from the University of Minnesota. I thought I was through with teaching when one day the superintendent of St. Charles phones me and asked me to come there because two of his teachers had left and there didn’t seem to be any available teachers to get. I accepted. My husband was retired as well as I. We left Crookston as soon as the year was up. My sister, Lillian Thorsen, lived there. We occupied an upstairs for eight years. Mick, my husband, died of a heart attack. I stayed on there until the Teachers’ Retirement Home in Minneapolis was finished when I moved into an apartment there.

**ALMA WERMAGER AND MARTIN ARNOLD MELHOUSE**

Alma Wermager and Martin Melhouse were married in the Trinity Lutheran church, April 20, 1939, by Rev. Abner S. Haugen. Alma, daughter of Oscar and Amanda Wermager, and Martin, son of Andrew and Marie Melhouse, lived in Aitken from 1939 to 1942 and worked for the late Roy F. Quinlan. They moved back to Crookston in 1942 and purchased a home at 350 Spendley, where they still reside. Their daughter Marlys was born August 1, 1942 and now is a school teacher in Oceanside, California; and Alana, now Mrs. Robert C. Roe, Junior, was born June 25, 1947, and lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. We have one grandchild, Margaret Jean Roe, three years of age.

**A. A. MILLER AND H. L. MARSH**

My father, Annie Miller, was born on June 30, 1882, in Waukesha, Wisconsin to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Miller. When she was seven years old, the family moved to Crookston, Minnesota. The Millers also had two sons, Lucius and Harold. Grandfather and J. P. Foote established the law firm of Miller and Foote. The family home was at 242 Houston Avenue, and here my grandparents resided all of their lives. They were very active in many early organizations in Crookston. Grandmother was instrumental in organizing the first Federated Women’s Club in Crookston and was a charter member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Grandfather was active in the Masons. They were diligent members of the Congregational Church and it was not surprising that when their children finished Crookston High School they were graduated from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. Grandfather died in 1926, and grandmother died in 1934.

My father, Harry L. Marsh, was born in Bridgewater, New York. September 19, 1881, to a family that was also very active in the Congregational Church in that village. He also chose Oberlin College. In those days there were various boarding houses for the students. Dad had seen Mother around the campus and found out where she boarded. After Christmas he changed boarding houses so he could be properly introduced to Annie Miller. By the end of the school year, he had given her a diamond and they were engaged to be married. He graduated from college a year before my mother and after graduation, during the summer of 1903, he came to Crookston to visit mother and the Millers. Across the street from the Millers lived J. W. Wheeler, president of the First National Bank. Apparently my father impressed him, because in early January of 1904 when there was an opening in the bank, Mr. Wheeler sent a telegram to Utica, New York, where father was employed, offering him a position. Dad started work at the First National Bank of Crookston on the 14th of January. Dad was graduated from Oberlin in June, 1904, and they were married in June, 1906. Mother and Dad were very active in church throughout their lives in Crookston. They attended the Congregational Church until it disbanded. They joined the Methodist Church then, where Mother was a member of the Ladies Aid and was president of the organization twice. Dad
sang in the choir all the years of his life. Shortly after the Northwest Singers were organized, my father sang with them under the leadership of his good friend, T. W. Thorson. He was a member until his death. In 1922 Dad became president of the First National Bank, a position he held until his retirement on December 31, 1954. He had been associated with the bank for 51 years.

Three children were born to my mother and father — Elizabeth (myself), Albert, and Alice. I was graduated from the University of Minnesota and now reside in the family home on Summit Avenue. I have participated in cultural and church activities in Crookston since 1949. Albert married Beth Balfour of Crookston. They have two sons, Albert earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. at Oregon State University. He is now a soils and irrigation specialist at the University of California at Riverside, and is consulted on these problems in many parts of the world. Alice earned a degree from the University of North Dakota. She married Dr. Howard R. Ware, who is an osteopathic physician. They live in Lafayette, Indiana, and have two daughters.

FRANK C. MILLER

When Frank and Mattie Miller arrived in Polk County in 1909, one of their most vivid impressions of the area was the richness of the deep black soil. The couple had come from Afton, Wisconsin, where Mr. Miller was born in 1883 and Mrs. Miller in 1884. His father, William Jay Miller, had left Wisconsin several years earlier and had encouraged his son to join him in the Red River Valley. The younger couple settled five miles south of Crookston where they farmed for nine years.

During that nine year period they formed many close ties with members of the Fairfax-Andover Club, a close-knit group of area farmers. Club meetings were held during the day in members' homes. The highlight of the event, in this writer's recollection, was the sumptuous noon meal which very often featured mouth-watering creamed chicken on biscuits or mashed potatoes.

Baby sitters were unheard of in 1918, so children routinely accompanied their parents to the gatherings. One incident involving the Millers and one of their children was told and retold many times, probably with embellishments in the retelling. The child involved was going through that period of development now known as “toilet training”. The child had been taught to bring her “potty” to her mother as the need arose. At one club meeting, much to Mrs. Miller’s embarrassment, the need arose immediately after the noon meal. So the well-trained child, with potty in hand, approached her helpless mother who sat in the midst of what must have seemed to be the entire township population. To the amusement of all, Mr. John Perry was heard to announce, “Here comes the finger bowl!” Mrs. Miller’s face was said to have turned as red as her hair.

In 1918 the family moved into the city where Mr. Miller was employed briefly by Slocum-Francis grocery store where bottling milk was one of his duties.

He then moved to Peterson-Biddick Company and “Poultry, Eggs, Feeds and Seeds” became his livelihood. At that time refrigerated railroad cars were not yet in existence, so Mr. Miller and his companions had to drive chickens to their destination in Chicago or New York. His brother, Dale Miller, was later involved in these eventful trips to the big city. This meant feeding and watering the birds and living in close quarters with them twenty-four hours of the day. He returned from these trips smelling much like his fellow travelers!

Mr. Miller remained with Peterson-Biddick Co. as manager until his retirement in 1940 and continued his association with the company on a “semi-retired” basis until his death in 1964 at the age of 81.

The Millers were parents of three children, all born in Crookston, and grandparents of seven grandchildren. Their children are Mrs. O. J. Rodseth (Lois) and William A. Miller, owner of Bill Miller TV and Appliance of Crookston, and Mrs. D. W. McNaughton (Harriet) of Flushing, Michigan. There are also four great-grandchildren.

The Millers were members of the Methodist Church and Mr. Miller’s activities included membership in the Masonic Lodge, AF and AM. Rotary Club which he served as secretary, president and treasurer; Chamber of Commerce; Crookston Garden Club; director of Crookston Savings and Loan Association; director of the First National Bank. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller shared an interest in flowers and gardening and had won numerous prizes for their roses and peonies.

Mrs. Miller died in 1969 at the age of 85.

ROSELLA RASMUSSEN MILLER

Rosella Rasmussen was a graduate of Crookston High School and later Bemidji Teacher’s College. She taught school for five years in North Dakota and Minnesota. On June 18, 1927, she and Dale Miller were married. In August of the same year they established their home at 910 Stearns St., Crookston, Minnesota, where Rosella still resides.

Dale was an employee of Peterson-Biddick Company for a period of forty years. In the early years he made numerous trips to New York and Chicago, via railway with car loads of live poultry. He became very interested in trains, so much so that he built a miniature train, which their children: Dorothy Ann and James Dale, enjoyed riding on in their back yard. W. Dale Miller died May 28, 1967.

Dorothy Ann and James Dale both graduated from Crookston High School. Dorothy Ann attended Hamline University, St. Paul, and graduated from Miss Wood’s Kindergarten and Primary Training school at Macalester College. She was a kindergarten teacher at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, for one year, and after marriage taught in public schools of California.

On June 27, 1951, Dorothy Ann and James H. Woodstrom were married at the Methodist church, Crookston. They now live at Carmichael, California, where James is a senior materials and research engineer with the State of California in the Division of Highways at Sacramento, California.

They have three children: Sarah Jane, attending college; Eric James and Catherine Jean (Caty) both in high school.

James Dale Miller graduated from Hamline University in 1953, then as a graduate student joined the United States Department of Agriculture and obtained his Ph.D. in plant pathology.

In 1954, James Dale Miller and Norma Enge were married at the Trinity Lutheran church in Crookston. They then went to St. Paul to live, where their two children were born: Kari Lee and Lori.

A number of years later, James was sent by the United States Department of Agriculture to Puerto Rico; he was stationed at the Federal Agriculture Station at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico for three years. Then he was transferred back to the United States and now is stationed as plant pathologist at the United States Department of Agriculture at the North Dakota State University at Fargo, North Dakota.

Kari Miller is a senior and Lori is a junior in high school.

Mrs. James Miller at present is a secretary for the Civic Auditorium in Fargo, North Dakota.

James D. Miller and Dorothy Ann Miller, children of Dale and Rosella Miller.
MR. MITCHELL DAYS IN THE 1880's IN CROOKSTON

On arriving at Crookston, I put up for the night at a hotel on the corner of Front and Robert Streets, W. U. Jennings, proprietor. On the next day I went to Hallock, where I reported to Master Mechanic, H. R. Nolan of the Crookston Division of Jim Hail's railroad under construction to St. Vincent.

On completion of the necessary structures that winter, we made Crookston our headquarters, several of our crew boarding with Mrs. Chris Greenalgh, located down in the "woods" as we called it then, just below where the Crookston water plant is now located.

Front and Robert Streets were the main business streets at that time, with a few buildings scattered elsewhere. The young city located in a horseshoe bend of the Red Lake river, protected by depression and considerable timber, was an ideal location for beauty and comfort.

I will name a few of the main business places as I recall them: E. M. Walsh, Hardware store and Post Office, Commercial Hotel, Bailey's General Store, Bill Stewart's Refreshment Emporium, Box' Log Hotel, Kistenmacher and O'Brien's Billiard Hall, Harry Cook's Printing, Judge Spendley's Justice office, George Buhn's Blacksmith Shop, Robert Houston's Implement Store, Fortiers' Hotel, Cameron's Saw Mill.

I continued work on the railroad until the fall of 1879, then went as cook for a logging company on the Roseau river for the winter. During following years up to the fall of 1884, I had various jobs including one as foreman on building a dam for K. D. Chase at Crookston. Other jobs were driving piling for the foundation of Lee and Herrick's Flour Mill, construction of a bridge across the river to Jerome's Addition, driving piles for a dozen bridges and approaches in Grand Forks County, North Dakota and elevator construction at Port Arthur, Canada.

In the fall and winter of 1880 and 1881, I was busy farming and construction of truss bridges. Having heard of the beautiful Maple Lake, thirty miles east of Crookston, and thinking I would like to locate on its shore, two others, Theodore Greenalgh and Larry J. O'Neil and myself in April of 1881, made the trip out there on a tour of observation. Arriving at the stopping place on the north shore of the lake, occupied by George Dennison, who acted as locater of lands, we learned that filings on almost all land bordering the lake had been made.

The following morning we put on barrel-stave skis and explored the location as well as the adjacent territory. Satisfied that I would like the timbered country, we went back to Crookston and procured the necessities for a short residence.

During the '80's there seemed to be unusual precipitation of moisture. Rivers, lakes and marshes overflowed and in many places the prairies were covered with water. On a trip to Grand Forks one spring, the train passed through water for a distance of two or three miles between Fisher and Mallory.

Also during those years, settlers were coming in vast hordes to occupy the fertile lands of the Red River Valley, where they could grow 30 bushels of number one hard wheat per acre, and sell it for $1 per bushel. Those were the days of prosperity, when dealers in horse flesh shipped in train load after train load of horses that were readily sold for up to $500 per team; and generally one of them died in a short time.

In the fall of 1884, having constructed a comfortable home on the claim, I moved my family thereon. But in order to make a living, I found it necessary to work at carpenter work during the open seasons, and hibernate at home during the winter, when time was occupied in clearing land. My work outside was principally on elevator building and repairs for the Red River Elevator Company on the main line and all its branches of the Great Northern Railway Company.

In 1894, not making satisfactory headway serving two masters, as it were, I devoted my entire time improving the farm property, making the timber into cord wood and lumber for buildings. The first venture in commercial farming, the summer of 1895, failed to be remunerative. I received for 200 bushels onions, 50 bushels beans and 400 bushels potatoes only $35 after paying a lawyer's bill for collection.

CARL J. AND HANNAH MOE

On his way north, about 1895, from Nebraska to Canada to make his fortune, my father Carl J. Moe stopped over in Crookston. He never made it to Canada.

A native of Lillehammer, Norway, where he was born in 1864, my father came to the United States in 1878 with his mother, a brother and two sisters and lived in Chicago for a while. His father had died in Norway.

But his mother was unhappy in the big city, so Carl and his brother Ole, went with her to Hemingford, Nebraska, where they homesteaded and lived in a sod house.

After a while, Carl traveled west and worked as a cowboy in Montana and Nevada, finally arriving in San Francisco. He spent some time there before deciding to go to Australia.

But, before leaving, he thought he should go home and visit his mother and brother. When he got home to Nebraska he heard about a land boom in Canada and decided to try his luck there, instead of in Australia. He took three horses and a covered wagon and headed north.
On his Crookston stopover he met Joseph Silvester and they decided to buy a farm together in Russia township (section 1). Carl later met my mother Hannah Arneson in Crookston.

After buying out Joseph Silvester’s half of the farm, Carl and Hannah Arneson were married here November 25, 1898 and began their life together in Russia township, where they reared seven children.

They farmed for 39 years and were active in Hafslø Lutheran church. My father also served on the school board of district No. 75 and was a member of the township board. Carl J. Moe died January 31, 1938 and his wife on October 15, 1957.

Their family of three girls and four boys included: Mrs. Ellen Walters, Beltrami; Mrs. Agnes Lindberg and Mrs. Mildred Erickson, both of Seattle, Washington; Hans, Beltrami, died February 24, 1971 at age 69; Jens of Crookston; Henry, Crookston, died December 7, 1928 at age 19; and Melvin of several years as mayor and for some years as probate judge.

Carl later met my mother Hannah Arneson in Crookston. He moved to Virginia, Minnesota in the early 1900's and later became county attorney there. The house he built stands at 312 Elm Street in Crookston, which was directly across the street from the first Central High School, later the Lincoln Grade School and now the new addition to the present high school. Before the Northern Pacific Railroad came through Crookston, the backyard of their lot extended into Central Park to what is now the southeast end of the skating rink.

James E. Montague was the eldest of eleven children born to Robert James and Elizabeth Kelly Montague. He was a member of the first graduating class (a class of four) at Central High School; attended the University of Minnesota, George-town and George Washington Universities. In 1901, he married Marion Chapin, a D.A.R. Member, whose father was foreman of the Sawmills of Crookston. In 1904-05, James Montague was chief clerk in the chief engineer's office in Pan­ama during the construction of the Canal. In 1906 he took over his father's law practice, following his father's move to Virginia. The office was on the second floor of the Fournet Block, over what is now Johnson's Drug. In 1919 he was appointed county attorney and held that post in 1930. He was appointed district judge in 1934 and continued in that capacity until 1949, when he retired.

In his earlier years Mr. Montague was active in many civil affairs, belonging to the Crookston park board for eight years, member of the volunteer firemen when horses moved the rigs. He died in 1963 in Tucson, Arizona, where he and his wife spent several winters; she died in 1966.

James and Marion had two sons, James E. Jr. (1905-66) was in the practice of law in Virginia, Minnesota, later moving to Duluth. William attended the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota School of Business. He was district court reporter in Crookston from 1939 to 1974 excluding two years of military service during World War II. In 1940 he was married to Dorothy Foker, a registered nurse, whose father, Arnold Foker, was a long time professor at the Northwest School of Agric. They moved into their home at 610 Locken Boulevard, which they had built the day before Pearl Harbor, December 6, 1941. William died of cancer in May of 1974. The William H. Montagues had three children: Marilyn, William and Rob­ert.

JAMES MUIR

It has been many years ago since my grandmother and grandfather came to Minnesota.

My grandfather was James Muir, born January 11, 1859 in Perth county, Wroxeter, Ontario, Canada. In May 1879, he came to this county.

My grandmother, Martha Anderson, was born August 24, 1859 in Gulbransø, Norway. When she was 14 years old, she came to the United States and lived in Wisconsin for a short time before coming to this county, where she began working at the farm of E. D. Childs. At that time, my grandfather Jim was living at the Childs' farm while working as a fireman for the Great Northern Railroad. In those days, cordwood was used for fuel on the railroads. While they were working at the Childs' farm, Jim Muir and Martha Anderson became acquain­ted and on November 26, 1884 were married.

Following their marriage, they lived in a home on South Main Street in the area where the Crookston Fire Hall is now located. This is where my father, George Muir, was born, October 30, 1891. He had one sister, Mae Muir, who married Nels Severin and later moved to Montana.

My grandfather Jim received an engineer's license and began working for Larson and Carpenter Implement Company; this office was located in the old Polk County Bank building. Some of his work included setting up large pieces of
Albin and Eileen Myrold

Albin Myrold was born on October 6, 1904 in Ortonville, Minnesota the son of Christian and Anna Myrold. He had six brothers and two sisters.

He attended school near Ortonville and at Sathers Business College in Crookston. Upon graduation in 1924 from Sathers, he was employed by a bank in Plummer and later by Interstate Power Company in Crookston and Bemidji, Minnesota.

Eileen Myrold was born on April 6, 1904 in Glasgow, Illinois, the daughter of James and Nettie Watt. She was an only child.

At the age of 13, in 1917, she moved with her parents to Crookston where she attended Cathedral High School.

On June 23, 1927, Eileen Watt and Albin Myrold were married at First English Lutheran Church in Crookston by the Rev. R. M. Vordale. They lived in Crookston and Bemidji.

On June 27, 1930, their first son, Donald Deane was born in Bemidji. A year later in 1931 they moved back to Crookston, where Al was with Interstate until 1936. In 1936 he purchased a farm south of Crookston in Hammond Township.

In Crookston, two additional children were born, Murlynn Ann on October 29, 1934 and James Chris on November 24, 1943.

Al formed Myrold Business Service in 1945 in the fall. This firm later was sold and now operates as Holcomb-Knutson Company.

In 1954 he founded Myrold Real Estate and the Myrold Building Company. A leader in all forms of community affairs, he was mayor of the city of Crookston, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Lions Club. He served in many offices and as Sunday school teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church, on the board of Bethesda Hospital. He played a key role in the construction of the new Trinity and Bethesda. He was active in Scouting, Northwestern Minnesota Educational Improvement Association, which was instrumental in opening the University of Minnesota Branch in Crookston. He was an officer in the Republican Party, Crookston Jobs, Inc., and instrumental in organizing Jiffy Fry, Inc. These are only a few of his service activities. His commitment to leaving the world better than it was when he entered it was a lifelong passion.

A. O. Myrold died within two days of his birthday and the birthday of a grandson, on October 8, 1969 at the age of 65. He died in the hospital he loved and labored so hard to build. For the first time in the history of the city of Crookston, all city offices were closed during his funeral and that of another colleague of his in civic service so that city employees could attend the services. At each crossing from the church to the cemetery, a uniformed policeman saluted as the hearse passed by. On a memorial to him in the home of one of his children is an epitaph. "In Loving Memory to A. O. — father and grand-father — and friend to all."

Eileen Myrold devoted most of her life to raising her family, but was still active in Eastern Star and as organist for Trinity Lutheran Sunday school. She disposed of family business and land interests in Crookston and area in 1972. She then obtained an interest in property in Moorhead, where she still lives. A member of the Christian Science church for over forty years, she is currently active in the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Fargo.

CHRISTIAN JOHAN MYROLD

Christian Johan Myrold was born on October 1, 1872, in Nordfjord, Norway. His parents were Andrew and Caroline. They were also the parents of Daniel, Andrew, Ole, John and Matt. Daniel, the oldest of the sons, in Norwegian tradition, assumed the ownership of Myrold Farm on his father's death. His son Alfred farmed it throughout his life and now his grandson operates the farm.

In 1887, Christian sailed to the new world from Bergen via Liverpool. He first settled near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Daniel farmed before he returned to the old country to take over the family farm. The brothers farmed in South Dakota for eighteen years.

In 1897, Christ purchased a farm in the northeast part of Odessa township, Bigstone county, Minnesota, six miles east of Ortonville. He was a charter and founding member of Eids Evangelical Norwegian Lutheran Church near Ortonville and was active in civic affairs.

Anna Skarsten, the family name taken from Skarsten township in Norway, was born on June 14, 1878, in Olden, Nordfjord, Norway. Her parents were Anders and Malene.

Marian and Eileen. Allen. George. and Edith are now living in Anchorage, Alaska — George and Edith have lived in Alaska for the past 30 years. Allen, married a Crookstonite, Marion Scarr, while he was working for Finch Winslow Carlisle. Later on, he and his wife took over Paddy and Paul Service Station after my dad decided to retire. Allen and Marion have left Crookston now and are living in Anchorage.

My dad worked at the Crookston Milling Company before he was married; later on, he worked at Finch Winslow Carlisle for 30 years before he began operating the Paddy and Paul Service Station.

George and Mary Muir had four children, Allen, George, Marian and Edith. Allen, George, and Edith are now living in Anchorage, Alaska — George and Edith have lived in Alaska for the past 30 years. Allen, married a Crookstonite, Marion Scarr, while he was working for Finch Winslow Carlisle. Later on, he and his wife took over Paddy and Paul Service Station after my dad decided to retire. Allen and Marion have left Crookston now and are living in Anchorage.

My dad passed away, January 30, 1951, but my mother is still a resident of Crookston. She has seen many changes in the city of Crookston since coming here. She has made six trips to Alaska to visit my brother and sister. One of the trips she made was driving alone in a jeep truck, which was used later by my brother George in his business.

As for my family, all our family attended the public schools here in Crookston. After graduation, I worked for Dr. G. Hendrickson, optometrist until I was married to Elie Normandin, December 26, 1944. Elie was a resident of the Gentilly area and was living on the farm which his parents, Arthur and Alida Benoit Normandin, lived on in Gentilly township.

We have raised six children which are five boys, James, Richard, Robert, Roger, and Dale and one girl, Joyce. We are still living on our farm near Crookston.

Since my story started, I too have seen many changes in the area — people have come and gone and Crookston has a lot of good memories for all my family.
They were also the parents of Rasmus, John, Caroline, Andrew and George. Malene died when the children were young and Anders remarried. He and his second wife, Gjertrud, were parents of Ben and Malene.

In 1893, Anna sailed for the United States from Bergen and settled with her brother, Rasmus, near Crookston, where he was section foreman on the Great Northern Railroad. At this time, she was confirmed in the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Crookston by the Rev. Christian Saugstad. This congregation later joined three others to form the Lutheran Church, which was her church home for the last thirty years of her life and from which she was buried.

Several years after she arrived from the old country she moved to Ortonville as an employee of the Columbia Hotel, still in operation. In Ortonville, a lifelong mutual love affair between her and Christ Myrold began. For they were married on December 11, 1901, here, and they began farming together.

They were the parents of nine children: Mabel, Albin (A. O.), Arnold, Conrad, Clarence, Arthur, Hazel, Joseph and George.

In 1902, they homesteaded in Beltrami County near Grygla. Anna spent nearly a year with several small children alone in a homestead shack out in this wilderness proving-up the claim, while Chris managed the farm and livestock back in Ortonville. This was a year of wolves, bears, bitter cold and isolation that sent shivers into her arms when she told me about it many years later. In 1918, the family sold the farm in Ortonville, after a winter of bitter debate with their friends, especially Pete Halme, over the wisdom of the move. In 1926, they moved to Ada to farm and on November 20, 1931, Christ, after learning to know his first grandson, myself, died from cancer in the Bethesda Hospital in Crookston at the age of 59.

In 1932, the family settled in west of Crookston on the Thyeson farm and in 1934 moved to the Watt farm south of Crookston.

Anna had two great passions, her family, her children, grandchildren, for we felt clearly the great depth of her love of us; and her church. It was a rare Sunday I didn't see her walk into Trinity, with as many of the boys as she could assemble. There were few church suppers where she wasn't in the kitchen. Christmas Eve's at her house and Sunday afternoons are among the most precious memories I possess. Bringing a smile to her face and tears to her eyes as I played "Kan Du Glemme Gamle Norge" on the piano and sang it for her will always hold us together.

After she moved to town she had a number of strokes, and the once proud and strong, tall body held the buoyant and generous spirit down in a wheelchair. Finally we all watched her, paralyzed in a bed, drawn and seeming so slight, tears of frustration running down her cheeks at not even being able to talk to those of us she loved so much.

When she finally went to a new land again on September 22, 1962, again at Bethesda Hospital in Crookston, we were happy that she had her strong body and warm voice back again, but broken up because we would not be able to draw into ourselves the strength and joy she provided all of us in unlimited abundance — for awhile at least. After a life of incredibly hard work she left us at 84.

DONALD DEANE AND MARJORIE EVONNE (HANSON) MYROLD

Donald Deane Myrold was born on June 27, 1930 in Bemidji, Minnesota in his parents' home. He was the son of Albin and Eileen Myrold. He has a sister Murlynn and a brother James. The family moved to Crookston in 1931.

He graduated from Crookston Central High School in 1948. He attended St. Olaf College from 1948-50 and graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1952 with a bachelor of science degree in commerce-marketing. He later obtained additional degrees; in education in 1958 and a master of science degree in business in 1962.

He founded the Myrold Insurance Agency in Crookston in January 1954, after two years of army service during the Korean War.

On June 29, 1952, he married Ann Marie Hendrickson at Trinity Lutheran church in Crookston. They had three children, Paul, Karen and Jennifer. On February 1, 1958 Ann died unexpectedly. She was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. Hendrickson of Crookston and had a sister and three brothers, Lois, George, David and Mark.

Marjorie Myrold was born on December 28, 1939, in Grand Forks, North Dakota, the daughter of Orville and Lorna (Estenson) Hanson. She has three sisters and two brothers, Claudia, Connie, Renee, Larry and Mark.
She was raised on a farm adjoining the original Estenson farm, the first in the Central Valley, settled in April, 1871. A graduate of Climax High School in 1957, she was employed by Northwestern Clinic and Bethesda Hospital in Crookston for several years.

On April 4, 1959, Donald Myrold and Marjorie Hanson were married in Sand Hill Lutheran church near Climax. They have one son, Donald Brent.

In 1962 Myrold began his present career as a university professor. He taught at Northern Michigan University and Wisconsin State University, each for one year. For the last 10 years he has been in the economics department at North Dakota State University in Fargo.

Mrs. Myrold has been medical secretary at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth, at the Neuropsychological Institute and for Drs. High Thorfinson and John Kramer in Fargo.

Both have been active in all types of civic and community affairs in both Crookston and Fargo-Moorhead.

He was president of The Polk County Historical Society in Crookston, Jaycee Man of the Year in 1959, soloist in the Seven Last Words. He is founder and executive-director of the Red River Valley Historical Society and the North Dakota Business Foundation, founder and president of the Eastern North Dakota Heritage Commission and the Northwestern Minnesota Valley Heritage Commission. His activities in RRVHS have been extensive.

Marjorie is current president of the Moorhead Business and Professional Women, active in the Fargo-Moorhead Medical Secretary's Association, Polk County Historical and Red River Valley Historical Association. They reside in Moorhead.

DOCTOR H. E. NELSON

In the early 1900's, horse and buggy was the transportation of the day and in the cold, severe Minnesota winters of old. A cutter with a team of horses that covered only four miles an hour was Dr. Nelson's method of travel over snow packed fields and frozen streams. Wearing a buffalo fur coat and hat, heavy overshoes and weighted down with blankets in the cutter, the doctor was a familiar sight to the townspeople and a most welcome one on many occasions. During his fifty years of service, despite adverse weather conditions and lacking benefit of modern medicines in earlier years, Dr. Nelson emerged with a remarkable record of not one single mother lost in childbirth.

During those "pre-antibiotic" days when a physician was on call at any hour; when boiling water instead of drugs was the usual standby for country doctors in confinement cases; when the sick and expectant in surrounding rural areas never worried about 30-40° below temperatures or snow storms cancelling out the doctor's arrival — he was always there, often overlooking payment from the poor for his services.

Doctor H. E. Nelson was born in a log cabin on May 5, 1878 in Highland Township, Iowa. The family moved to Decorah, Iowa, where he received his early schooling, followed by medical training at the Medical School of Iowa City, Iowa. In 1902, he transferred to the University of Illinois (College of Physicians and Surgeons) receiving his license in 1904.

His first "shingle" was hung in the town of Hylandsville, Iowa, then to St. Hilaire, Minnesota, and in 1908, Crookston. In partnership with Dr. Holte, one of the founders of Bethesda Hospital, he began his own practice a year later in offices over the present Woolworth Store, eventually moving his office to his home in 1947.

In 1958, he was the recipient of gold plaques and acknowledgement pins honoring his fifty-year medical service by the Minnesota State Medical Association, Masons, Eagles, Historical Society and various groups in the community. In 1970, a recognition dinner was held, co-sponsored by the Polk County Peace Officers Association and the Eagles Lodge, to honor him upon his retirement as Polk County Coroner for 57 years.

The last four years of his life, 1970-1974, were spent in the home of Gunda Gelder. She says, "He was one of the most interesting persons I have ever known. His experiences as a doctor and county coroner would all make interesting reading. He often remarked about all his old friends, acquaintances and patients passing away while he was left behind to read about it. When he left for the hospital the last time he said to me, "In my brown suitcase there's a bottle of brandy that's never been opened. You may have that." I tee-totaller myself, I laughed as I remarked, "Doc, can't you just picture me going on a spree while you're away?" To which he replied, in his almost musical, grandfathery voice. "Well, for medicinal purposes, you know." One couldn't help but like and admire the old gent. I am glad I had the privilege of knowing him."

Dr. Nelson had a varied and colorful life as a physician in the Crookston of yesteryear — the Crookston of the flour mill, railroads, saw mill and rough and sporty lumberjacks whose money spawned the honky tonk section along Maple and Gorgas Streets.

MR. AND MRS. W. C. ("BILL") NIMENS

Bill and Pat Nimens were married in Crookston at the Cathedral rectory on the bride's birthday, June 29, in 1949. Mrs. Nimens is the former Patricia Sullivan, whose paternal and maternal grandparents homesteaded in the area.

Pat's paternal grandparents were Peter and Catherine Sullivan. Grandpa Sullivan was employed by the railroad and homesteaded in Nisbet Township. They had ten children, Petey being the father of Mrs. Nimens.

Maternal grandparents were John and Ann Conneran, who were born in Ireland and married when they arrived at the Fisher landing in 1879; they homesteaded in Roome Township. They had nine children, the mother of Mrs. Nimens being Jennie Conneran. Petey Sullivan and Jennie Conneran were married in Fisher and engaged in farming. They farmed in Fisher until Petey died of a ruptured appendix in 1928, at which time Jennie moved to Crookston and lived with her par-

Dr. H. E. Nelson.

The Bill Nimens Family: Left to right: Jon, Mary Jane, Tom, Julie, Tim, Pat, Jay and Bill.
ents, John and Ann Coneran, who had moved into Crookston from Fisher five years previous. 520 North Main Street became the home of Jennie and her family. (This house was moved from Main Street when Standard Oil constructed their station on the corner of 6th Street and Main).

Jennie and Pete Sullivan had five children: Ralph, presently at Veterans' Hospital in St. Cloud; Pete, married to Violet Raen and parent of five sons, now living in Thief River Falls; Joe, killed in an auto accident in 1942; Patricia, married to Bill Nimens and parents of five children; and Dennis (Spanky), married to Mona Ellingson and parents of seven children, living in Crookston. Pete and Spanky are co-owners of Grain Belt Distributing Company.

Patricia graduated from Cathedral High School (the school was torn down in 1972) and St. Michael's School of Nursing at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Following her graduation, Pat practiced her nursing profession in California. Upon her return to Crookston, she married Bill, who had moved from Minneapolis to Crookston in 1946. He is presently President of Associated Heating Engineers, has done land development and construction business. Bill, who is a member of the Methodist Church, served as Department Commander of DAV, was Mayor of Crookston and is a member of various service organizations and lodges. He was vice-chairman of the Housing Redevelopment Authority during the time of the construction of Oak Court and the South Main Street development. He served as chairman of HRA when the beginning of the downtown urban renewal started in 1974. Bill developed the Nimens subdivision (southwest Crookston) and constructed 56 houses. He named Twin Drive after his twin sons, Jon and Jay.

Pat, who is a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, sings in the church choir, is a member of various civic and auxiliary organizations of the city, is presently employed part-time at the Polk County Nursing Service.

Bill and Pat's family consist of Julianne, Tom, Mary Jane, Jon A. and Jay B. Their first-born son, Billie Pat, drowned in the Red River in 1952 at the age of two years. Julianne, who has her B.S. in nursing, was married in 1975 to Timothy Rubley. They reside in Rock Island, Illinois. Mary Jane is employed in Boulder, Colorado, having received a degree in fashion merchandising. Tom, Jon and Jay are employed at Associated Heating and Nimens Construction. The family resides at 914 Thorsdale Avenue in a home they built in 1956.

MICHAEL J. O'BOYLE

Michael John O'Boyle resided in Crookston for almost sixty years. He was born in Orangville, Ontario in 1868 the son of Michael O'Boyle, who was born in County Mayo, Ireland and Catherine Curry O'Boyle, a native of Boston. At the age of two his parents moved to Kendall, Wisconsin. His mother died soon after and he and his brother Patrick and sister Mary were raised by their grandmother, Brigid Quinn O'Boyle.

He came to Crookston in 1895. After several years' employment with the Nash-Finch Wholesale House, he was employed as a "setter" in the Crookston Saw Mill, a post he held until the mill closed in 1914. For three ensuing years he held similar positions in Ada, St. Hilaire, Bemidji, and International Falls. In 1917 he was appointed in charge of the Crookston parks service with that capacity until his retirement in 1946. He was remembered by area residents as one who was always willing to lend a helping hand and by the children of that era who used the warming house he maintained for skating in Central Park.

In 1903 Michael married Maude Kelley, the daughter of the Andrew Kelleys, pioneers Crookston settlers. The couple observed their golden anniversary in 1953, prior to his death in 1954. Mrs. O'Boyle died in August 1968.

They were parents of six sons and two daughters. Two sons, Herbert and Fayette, died in infancy. Robert married Eva Ditty in 1932. They are parents of Michael and John. Robert was traffic manager for the Crookston Milling Company for a number of years. He has resided in Milwaukee since 1954. His son Michael, an army career man, with the Air Force is presently serving in Okinawa. They have three sons, Patrick, Michael and Peter, and a daughter Janet. John is living in Milwaukee. Kenneth (Bud) married Gladys Benson. In 1945 they opened the Irishman's Shanty in Crookston. He died in 1958 and Gladys is still owner and operator. Their daughter Patricia (Mrs. Melvin Larson) resides in Crookston, and Mary (Mrs. Allen Amiot) lives in Bloomington. The Larsons have two sons, Kevin and Michael, and two daughters, Colleen and Heather.

The Amiots have a son Anthony and a daughter Nicole. William married Mildred Smith. She died in 1945 while he was in service in World War II. He served three years with the Air Force in North Africa and Italy. Following the war he was employed by Lockheed Aircraft of California and Boeing Aircraft of Seattle. He is now retired and living in Milwaukee.

The youngest son Milton was with the United States 9th Army in Europe in World War II. He was with the infantry with a machine gun company and was killed in the Battle of the Bulge on January 30, 1945 at the age of 21. His body was later returned to Crookston for burial in Oakdale Cemetery. Gwen, the older daughter, was married to George Richard. He was with the COD Clothing Company of Crookston for many years and was later owner. After selling out, he was with McDonald Clothing of Grand Forks. He died in August 1971. Edith married Lester MacGregor. They are parents of two sons and two daughters. Lester is a rural carrier for the Crookston Post Office. Their son Fredrick and wife Lois are parents of a daughter, Amy. Lester Winslow and wife Sachi have four daughters, Mayumi, Catherine and Sandra (twins) and Michi. Bonny and husband William Crow are parents of April Beth. All reside in Grand Forks. Daughter Robin is married to John Ferret. They live in Barnsville with their daughter Erica.

MATT AND AMELIA ODEGAARD

Matt Odegaard was born on November 13, 1886, in Norway on a farm north of Oslo. When he was seventeen years old, he came to the United States with a man from South Dakota who was visiting Matt's parents at that time. After a ten-day journey on ship, they landed at Ellis Island, which was the clearing point for United States immigrants. From there they took a train to Chicago. He recalls that the train was so crowded he sat on his suitcase all the way. From Chicago they went to
South Dakota, where he worked on a ranch until he had paid back the fare for his transportation to this country. He then went to Minneapolis, where he got a job hauling milk for the Minneapolis Milk Company, delivering milk from house to house in the city. This he did for about ten years, using a team and wagon.

In 1909 he married Amelia Kleven. She was born in 1889 in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, and had immigrated to the U.S. with her parents. Matt and Amelia had one son, Trygve, who was born in 1910.

In 1917 they left Minneapolis and went to Halbright, Saskatchewan, to try farming; but after a few very dry years, in which there were no crops, they decided to come back to the United States. Then they went to Rosholt, South Dakota. A couple of years later some of Amelia’s relatives had come to Fisher, Minnesota, to work; so the Odegaards moved there. Trygve was now in the sixth grade and had gone to three different schools; namely in Minneapolis, Canada, and South Dakota. His father farmed for a while in Bygdland township; then they moved to a farm north of Fisher where they continued to farm until two years after Amelia’s death. She passed away January 7, 1947. After that Matt made his home with Trygve and his wife and family on their farm west of Crookston. Three years ago Trygve and Mildred moved to Crookston and Matt still resides with them. He is now eighty-nine years old.

The Trygve Odegaaard Family.

South of Crookston. There were several hardships in teaching then, such as: walking to school in bitterly cold weather and doing your own janitor work after you got there. The schools were heated by a large, jacket-type stove in which coal was burned. She recalls that she would “bank-up” the coals at night so there would be a little fire left in the morning. However, she remembers once in the 1930’s when she returned after Christmas vacation and found the temperature in the school room had dropped to 30° below zero.

On June 15, 1941, Trygve Odegaaard and Mildred Peterson were married at her parents home by the Rev. E. A. Schuett, with Harold and Anita Peterson as attendants. The first year they lived about a mile west of Fisher, and Trygve farmed with his father. His folks lived directly across the river, so each morning he used a little boat to cross the river to his folks place and to come back again at night.

In April, 1942, their first son, Roger, was born. In November of that year they bought a farm six miles southwest of Crookston and moved there. They were happy to have electric lights and plumbing here, as not too many farm homes were “modern” at that time. A few years later they added to their farm by purchasing land just a few miles south of their place.

In 1943, their daughter, Janice, was born. Then Wayne was born in 1946, and Lyle in 1949. The children attended the Burnham Creek School which was just across the road from their home. Since there was no well at the school, the pupils had to take turns (two each week) carrying the water from Odegaards.

Upon completing the eighth grade, Roger, Wayne, and Lyle attended the Northwest School of Agriculture and graduated there.

Janice continued school at Central and graduated there. She then went to nurses training at St. Lukes Hospital in Fargo and became a registered nurse. She married Dale Sitz of Drake, North Dakota. He is a consulting engineer, and they live in Butte, Montana. They have two children, Lorinda and David.

Roger joined the National Guard and after completing six months of service in California, he came home and began farming with his father. In 1966 he married Gail Buness of Eldred. They have three children, Kevin, Karen, and Karl.

TRYGVE AND MILDRED PETERSON ODEGAARD

Mildred Odegaard was born in Roome Township north of Eldred. Her parents were Anton and Lena Peterson. She had five brothers: George, Clarence, Harold, Wilbur, and Albert; and one sister, Anita, Mrs. Clarence Larson of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Both of her parents and three of her brothers, Wilbur, George and Clarence have passed away. The story of her parents and family is included in the Anton Peterson family history.

Mildred attended the Eldred school, district 281, through the eighth grade and then went to Central High School in Crookston. There were no school busses then to transport children from the country, so she stayed in town during the school week. After graduation from high school, she attended one year at the teacher training department, getting a certificate to teach in rural schools. This class, which was held in the Franklin School, was taught by J. Alice Jennings for many years.

In September, 1932, Mildred began her teaching at district 39, which was located about one-half mile north of the Aarness farm near Fisher. Later she taught at district 285 (north of Melvin Station) and also at the Round School, about 12 miles south of Crookston.
Wayne graduated from the University of Minnesota, and is employed with the Agricultural Extension Service. In 1973 he married Susan Stearns of Osage, Minnesota. He is now the county agent of Douglas County, living in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Lyle graduated from Moorhead State College and is teaching his second year at Goodridge, Minnesota. He is presently living in Thief River Falls.

Three years ago Trygve and Mildred bought a home in Crookston and moved there. Roger has purchased the home farm and he and his family live there.
HULDA AND ANTON ODLAUG

Hulda was the second child born to Erik and Johanna Erikson in Sweden, baptized in 1875. She immigrated to America in 1880 with her parents and sisters, Hannah and Agnette. She attended country school and lived in the “front room” of the Erikson log house and later in the school built on the corner of her father’s homestead.

She was confirmed by Rev. Lunde in Rindal in 1892. When they moved to Fertile, Sand Hill Farm, she finished her schooling under R. G. Spence, superintendent in Fertile. She worked several years for editor L. E. George of the Fertile Journal in 1898 and ‘99. She spent two years in Rockford, Illinois with her mother’s relatives. On her return she married Anton Odlaug August 19, 1903, a clerk in Holten and Carlson Store.

They moved to Rindal, where Anton became co-partner in the store. Their son Alvin was born there. They moved to Fertile in 1905. Anton had been a carpenter in Norway and in spare time built and sold four homes when working for Holten and Carlson.

With the extra money earned, Anton bought a men’s clothing store and it flourished until the Depression years came and it was forced to sell out.

He started running a berry and vegetable farm. Hulda was an excellent partner in this venture, as she loved gardening and outdoor life. After several years, Anton’s health began to fail and he passed on at age 87 on October 23, 1957. Hulda remained active for a few more years, even going by plane alone to live with her son Alvin and wife in Everett, Washington. In 1967, she returned to Fertile to enter the newly-built Fair Meadow Home. She was their first resident. At 92 years of age she passed on January 14, 1970.

Hulda was very active in church work; as Ladies Aid treasurer, three years; and as secretary for five years.

FRANK REBER

Frank H. Reber was born on January 11, 1850, in Jo Davies County, Illinois. In 1871, he married Mary L. White, who was born on August 22, 1852, in Wards Grove, Illinois. In 1903, they moved to Minnesota on a farm near Burnam Creek. Four of their grown children came with them; Mabel, Bert, William and Elmina. Several children died in infancy in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Reber moved to Crookston in 1920. When Mr. Reber died in 1927, their son William came to Crookston to be with his mother. He bought their home and seven acres of land at 735 Washington Avenue. He raised fruits and vegetables for sale and also worked for the city of Crookston for many years. William Reber married Gladys Reinschmidt on September 15, 1935. His mother lived with them until her death in March of 1937. They have two children, Gloria Majoy of Finley, North Dakota. She has five children. Eugene Reber lives in Bismarck, North Dakota and has one little girl.

William Reber died in 1968. Mrs. Gladys Reber is living in Crookston and has worked at the city Rest Room for quite a few years.

MR. AND MRS. GARFIELD REICHERT

The Reicherts, Garfield and Joanne, have lived in Crookston for twenty-one years and have three children, Bruce, Joan and Brent. They were united in marriage on June 25, 1950.

Garfield is the vocal music instructor at Central High School. Prior to this he taught in McIntosh, Minnesota, and Minto and Aneta, North Dakota. He was born at Hamilton, North Dakota on April 7, 1927, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Reichert. He graduated from Mayville State College, and received his master’s degree from the University of North Dakota. He has been active in community activities, directed church choirs at the Methodist Church, Our Savior’s Lutheran and now directs the Trinity Lutheran Church Cathedral Choir, is past director and soloist in the Civic Music League Easter presentation, and has also directed the male Choraliers of Crookston and was part of the Crookston Community Theatre.

Joanne was born at Portland, North Dakota, February 1, 1929, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Eide. She received her elementary standard from Mayville State College and taught at Northwood and Minto, North Dakota and was employed till recently by the Department of Labor. She has been active in Women’s clubs (Mathien Club) and she is now the treasurer in the 9th district Federation of Women’s Clubs, is president of the Trinity A.L.C.A. and a member of Trinity church council.

Bruce was born April 14, 1951 at Grafton, North Dakota. He attended school at Crookston and was a member of the choir, band and played football, hockey, and tennis. He graduated from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks with a major in industrial arts. He was a Sioux Letterman, playing tennis for the University of North Dakota. He taught at Roseau, Minnesota and is now employed by the West Bend, Wisconsin school district. He played Independent hockey with the Senior Pirates and the Roseau Leafs.

Joan was born November 26, 1953 at Fosston, Minnesota, she attended school at Crookston, was an active member in choir, band, debate, and speech. She graduated from North Dakota State University at Fargo with a degree in home economics. She is now teaching at Grafton, North Dakota. She was employed for many summers by the Crookston Park and Recreation Department.

Brent was born December 17, 1956 at Crookston, Minnesota. He attended school at Crookston and won many regional and state awards in choir, band, speech, tennis, basketball and football. He was valedictorian of his class, selected as the outstanding local athlete, received the music and citizenship awards, the State and National Elk Scholarship, Who’s Who, High School All American, and Eagle Scout. He was selected as Minnesota Outstanding Young Man and is the official Mr. Minnesota Teen for the coming year. He is now attending Concordia College at Moorhead, Minnesota.

ERWIN N. REIERSGORD

Erwin N. Reiersgord and Bertha Reiersgord, his wife, moved to Crookston in 1944 when Mr. Reiersgord was appointed Registrar of the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. Mr. Reiersgord continued as a registrar and as principal of the Northwest School until his retirement in 1968. The family lived on the campus until 1958, when they moved into the city. Mr. Reiersgord died in 1973. Both Mr. and Mrs. Reiersgord are descendants of early settlers in the Red River Valley in Clay county. Mr. Reiersgord was the oldest son of...
Ole Reiersgord, who was the publisher of the Ulen Union Newspaper at Ulen, Minnesota in Clay county, for many years.

Ole Reiersgord came with his parents, Evan Reiersgord and Guri Benthenagen Reiersgord from Flø Hallingdal, Norway, in 1875, and settled on a farm in the Ulen area. Bertha Reiersgord, the daughter of Thomas and Dena Lunder Thompson, was born at Dale, Minnesota, to Nels T. Lunder and Bertha Rustad Lunder, who came from Lunner, Hadeland, Norway, on the ship "Nymphen" in 1871. Nels Lunder later brought his parents, Thorsten and Dorthe Lunder to Clay county, where both had farms bordering on the Buffalo River.

Mrs. Reiersgord attended Moorhead State College, and Mr. Reiersgord graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead and received his master's degree from the University of North Dakota. The Reiersgord family moved to Fosston, Minnesota in Polk county in 1935, where Mr. Reiersgord was principal of Fosston High School until moving to Crookston in 1944. Prior to living in Fosston, the family lived at St. Hilaire, Minnesota, where Mr. Reiersgord was superintendent of the St. Hilaire school for a number of years. Mrs. Reiersgord also was a school teacher at St. Hilaire, and in more recent years, she taught fifth grade for fifteen years at the Franklin School in Crookston.

Mr. and Mrs. Reiersgord have two sons, Thomas E. Reiersgord, who is an attorney and resides in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis. Paul M. Reiersgord is a career soldier in the United States army. He is now stationed near Philadelphia and is a recruiting counselor.

Thomas Reiersgord graduated from Crookston High School in 1950 and was employed for a time as a reporter for the Crookston Daily Times in 1950. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1954, and from the law school in 1956. He subsequently practiced law at Hallack in Kittson county in the Red River Valley, for four years prior to moving to Minneapolis in 1960. His wife's name is Camilla and they have three children: Diane, Susan and Robert. One of his hobbies is collecting old post cards and envelopes with postmarks from communities in the Red River Valley, particularly from post offices that no longer exist.

Paul Reiersgord graduated from Crookston High School in 1956 and attended Concordia College in Moorhead and the University of North Dakota prior to entering the army. During his career in the army, he has served tours of duty in Germany, Korea and Vietnam. His wife's name is JoAnn and they have two sons: Terry and Carl.

JOHN A. REINSCHMIDT

John A. Reinschmidt was born in Germany, January 5, 1848. He came to the United States with his parents when he was 21. They settled on a farm near Maxwell, Iowa. On October 19, 1884, he married Philabena Stemler. She was born April 7, 1868, in Story county, Iowa. They farmed there and had seven children, Mary, Fred, Anna, Ida, Frank, Albert and Otto.

They moved to Red Lake County, Minnesota in 1901. The boys hauled milk to a cheese factory three and one-half miles away, in a buggy pulled by an ox. My sister Mary named the school where they went in Terrebonne township, District #80. She named it "Prairie Queen." There were five more children born in Red Lake county: Edward, Clarence, August, Oscar, and Laura. On October 16, 1916 we moved to Crookston, where another daughter, Doris, was born. My father worked as a gardener for E. W. Schuster, who had the greenhouse and land that Ernest Zitzer now owns. My mother was an ardent church worker. We belonged to Our Savior's Lutheran church. She was also a part-time mid-wife.

Children surviving in the family are Otto, Chula Vista, California; Edward and Gladys Reber, Crookston; Clarence, Brainerd; Oscar, Detroit Lakes and Doris Fregin of Little Falls, Minnesota.

JOHN RISCH

John William Risch was born July 6, 1871, son of Heinrick and Julia Kruze Risch on a farm near Buckskin, Gibson County, Indiana. His mother and two brothers died the summer of 1874 during a typhoid fever epidemic. John and his sisters received their education in a Lutheran parochial school in Evansville, Indiana. Grandfather, the Rev. C. Risch, was a third generation Risch to become a Lutheran minister and preacher in Evansville. The sign over the church door reads "Risch Lutheran Church."

In 1885, Heinrick Risch sold his farm and with his daughters and son, John, came to Crookston. He took a job as gardener on Key Stone Farms near Euclid, Minnesota. He died August 12, 1902, at the home of son, John. Daughter Helena, Mrs. J. Miller, and twin sons died during child-birth. Daughter, Caroline, married Harry Halverson, a Minneapolis lawyer, and settled in Cutbank, Montana. John and Bertha Eichof, daughter of Christian and Johanna Eichof, were married December, 1895, by Presbyterian minister, Rev. Frazer, in a beautiful home wedding.

John was a painter by trade. He worked as painter of high towers for Great Northern Railway but gave it up to go into business for himself as an interior decorator. He sold out his business in 1902 and joined the Crookston Fire Department as foreman. In 1916, he was elected fire chief, a position he held until his sudden death following surgery February 26, 1926. His interests in life were his family; his home and beautiful yard on the corner of Sixth and University Avenue; his riding horse; and always the betterment of the Crookston Fire Department! He saw the change from horse-drawn fire equipment to the first two Stotze fire trucks. It was a very sad day when the four beautiful horses were put out to pasture. If John Risch had lived on a farm, he would have kept those loved horses. But he did see that they were given a good home on a farm far away from town so they couldn't hear the fire bells. The day the third fire truck, an International, arrived in Crookston, John Risch died. He was loved and respected by all people. The day of his funeral all stores closed. The Crookston Municipal Band stood in the cold on the corner of Sixth and Main Streets and played from the time the casket was borne from the house to the Presbyterian church. It played again after service until the last car passed to Oakdale Cemetery. This was a great honor bestowed on a great man! After John's death, his widow Bertha operated the North Main Grocery, selling out to Louise Balfour in 1928. She then returned to her home and rented rooms to tourists. In 1952, she fell and crushed a knee. After she was released from the hospital, she lived with her daughter, Laura, until her death June 10, 1958. Her grandson, Robert and family took over the family home.
The four children of John and Bertha Risch survive. They are: Mrs. Marguerite Kapp, wife of Emory Kapp, Mesa, Arizona. Laura, 617 West Sixth Street, wife of the late Hjalmer (Jim) Arvidson, mother of John Romuld, Crookston bricklayer and the late Robert Risch Ebensteiner. Laura is a grandmother of seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren which includes twins. Edward Eichhof Risch and wife Pauline live at 421 Riverside Avenue. He reigned from the Great Northern Railroad and is a volunteer fireman of the Crookston Fire Department. They have one son, William, an engineer for Myle Corporation of Bedford, Massachusetts.

Howard E. Risch and wife Mayme live at 608 West Sixth Street. He retired September, 1974, as supervisor of buildings and grounds for the Crookston Public School System. They have two children: Mrs. William (Mary) Carlson, Hastings, Minnesota. They are the parents of six children, which includes two sets of twins. John Howard Risch, St. Paul, works for Bemis Plastics. He is the father of two children, Troy and Holly Kay.

NELS RODSETH

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Rodseth came to Crookston, Minnesota, in the early 1900's from Alesund, Norway. He owned and operated the Crookston Marble and Monument Works, located at the corner of 6th Street and Main until ill health forced him to close business in 1927. He died in 1935. He left his wife, who resided in Crookston until her death in 1955, and five children. Julia is a retired teacher and lives in Crookston and Oscar owned and managed The Great Northern McIntosh, Minnesota and spent some time in the navy, World War II. He is deceased and his widow Lois Miller Rodseth resides in Crookston, Minnesota.

Henry and wife Mary Taylor Rodseth now live at Ocean-side, California; and Alfred and wife, Dagny Skodje Rodseth live at San Francisco, California; and Norman and wife, Violet Axelson Rodseth and son, John, reside in Crookston. There are eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren residing in Minnesota and California. Alfred spent some time in the merchant marines and Norman was stationed in Germany with the army until World War II ended.

Nels also had four brothers who came here from Norway: Hilmer, wife and two children; Hjordis and Roy, who lived in Crookston. Roy operated a shoe repair shop until they moved to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Magnus was here for a short time and went to Seattle, Washington, where he resided with his family until his death. Oluf Rodseth lived in Crookston a short time and went back to Alesund, Norway, where he still resides. He is the only survivor of the six brothers. Joachim, a brother, and family lived in the Crookston area and then moved to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where he homesteaded land. Julia and Henry worked in a defense plant in California during World War II. Crookston was a nice town in which to live, to grow up in and retire. They all attended Church at the Norwegian Lutheran Church, where Rev. P. E. Moen was pastor and all attended school at Washington Grade School, Junior High and Senior High, Crookston.

HAROLD H. AND LUVERNE BUCKMAN ROSS

Harold is the oldest child of August and Lydia Beiswenger Ross. Both August and Lydia were born in the rural Fisher area and farmed all their lives in that vicinity. August was one of the earliest growers of sugar beets in the area. Luverne is the only child of Joseph and Elizabeth Zitzer Buckman. Joseph was born in Little Falls, Minnesota, and Elizabeth came to America from Prussia before the age of one. The great-grandparents of both families came to this area for the opportunities it offered in the 1800's.

Harold and Luverne have resided in Crookston for 32 years and farm in the area north of Crookston. Crops raised are primarily small grains and sugar beets. They are the parents of three children: Robert, Janice and Marilee.

Robert and Loretta Wermager Ross now live on the farm which was originally the home of August and Lydia, and have four children: Valerie, Natalie, Leah and Justin. Janice is employed in Denver, Colorado, where she has lived for six years. Marilee is a student at Bemidji State University. All are members of Our Savior's Lutheran church in Crookston.

DONALD R., SANDY, AND CAROL BROLSMA SANDERS

Donald and Carol are both Crookston Central High School graduates of the Class of 1961 and 1963, respectively.

The Sanders name has been known in Crookston since 1900. David Sanders, grandfather of Donald, moved to Crookston in 1900. He worked for the city of Crookston for 33 years, retiring on December 1, 1947. He worked as street commissioner and as chief of police.

Donald's father, Carroll Edwin Sanders, was owner of C. E. Sanders Plumbing and Heating from 1952 until his death in 1965. Several years after his death his mother, Bonnie, remodeled the building and opened what is now known as DeVon's Dress Shop, owned and operated by her.

Donald and Carol were married November 28, 1964, in Crookston, Minnesota. Donald was in the navy at the time, serving on the Aircraft Carrier Independence. Carol lived in Crookston, employed at the Northwestern Clinic. After service with the navy, he was employed at Sears in the plumbing department. Later he moved to Minot, working at the Minot Air Force Base for a year. Then the opportunity came for work with Honeywell in St. Louis Park, in the plumbing department. Scott Alan was born there, February 17, 1969.

In the summer of 1970, we moved back to Crookston so we could enjoy the hunting and fishing and small town life which we had missed. Since then, Donald has been employed at the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

Two more children were added to our family, Susan Lynn November 25, 1970, and Steven Carroll December 30, 1971.

Donald is the oldest child of Carroll E. and Bonnie Sanders. He has a sister, Teryll Sanders Erickson, Jennifer (deceased) and a brother, Robert.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Rodseth, Julia, Oscar, Henry, Norman and Alfred.

Donald R. and Carol Sanders, Scott, Susan and Steven.
DR. RUSSELL SATHER

A physician for 38 years in the Crookston community, Dr. Russell O. Sather feels fortunate to have witnessed during that time "the golden years in the history of medicine." "Discovery of new drugs and implementation of new methods in the treatment of patients," he stated, "have been a boon to physicians since the late '30s."

Dr. Sather was born in Kenora, Ontario, lived on a farm in southern Minnesota for a brief period of time and was raised in Minneapolis. Four years of college at the University of Minnesota were followed by six years in the University medical school, where he received his degree in 1933. While interning at Minneapolis General Hospital, he met his future wife, Inez, who was a registered nurse at the hospital.

In 1933 he joined the CCC (Civic Conservation Corps) and became a staff physician for four years at Fort Snelling Hospital. During this time he received much of his specialized training in internal medicine.

In 1937, Dr. Sather joined Doctors M. O. and Chester Oppegard, Mercil, Brown and Uhley on the staff of Northwestern Clinic. "Those were days," he recalled, "when infectious diseases, scarlet fever, pneumonia and TB were some of the biggest problems in this area."

Dr. Sather was also instrumental in establishing the first school of licensed practical nurses outside of the Minneapolis and St. Paul area, based at the former Bethesda Hospital. It was the forerunner of the present Agassiz Valley School of Practical nursing today. "The training of LPN's in a local nursing school," he emphasized, "is of prime importance in supplying the need for nurses within the community. I also personally feel that the Polk County Mobile Unit has been an asset to small outlying communities, in helping to assess the need for physician referral and arranging transportation for the patient to the clinics." Throughout his busy life Dr. Sather managed time for civic duties. He served on the local school board for 16 years, resigning to devote more time to his services on the State Board of Medical Examiners. He is also a member of the Minnesota State and American Medical Association, the Red River Valley Medical Association, Association of Internal Medicine and the American Association of Internal Medicine.

The Sathers have one son and one daughter. Alan Sather is a physician on the staff of the University of Oklahoma, serving as assistant instructor at the medical school in the family residency program. Karen, Mrs. Harold Hendrickson, lives in Glencoe, Minnesota and is married to an attorney. Contributing also to the Sather's happiness are four grandchildren; Julia and Kristin Sather, six and four years old, and Eric, five; and Kirsti Hendrickson four years old.

FRED AND ISABEL SCHMUNK

The compilation of Polk County history has brought back to me a renewed interest in the early days of this section of Minnesota.

I was born in Beltrami, Polk County, the daughter of Linus and Ada Johnson. My parents were married in 1901 in the Congregational Church in Crookston, which is now the Dutch Reformed Church, and they made their home in Beltrami. My father emigrated from Stockholm, Sweden in 1890 when he was eighteen years old. After farming with his brother a short while, he built a livery stable in Beltrami.

As a younger I can remember riding a buggy with a fringe on top. My father's horses were much in demand. Many times he used to accommodate men from Minneapolis, who were making purchases about the land in this area. He would accompany James Hill on his rounds to investigate land possibilities for the railroad.

My sister, brother, and I all attended Beltrami High School and I lived there until I moved to Crookston to attend Business College.

My grandparents, on my mother's side, were of Norwegian heritage and were born in Iowa. They met on a wagon train as they moved from Iowa to Minnesota. They were married in Moorhead and was here my mother was born. Grandfather worked as a carpenter and worked on the building of Concordia College. I remember grandmother telling stories of her experiences working as a waitress on the river boat on the Red River as it made its trip from Fargo to Grand Forks stopping at Fisher's Landing. Wish I could remember more of her stories of homesteading in the Fertile area.

In 1925, I married Fred Schmunk whose parents came from Germany and were members of the German Lutheran Church here, now called St. Paul's. Fred was in the Infantry Division in World War I and fought through the extreme hardships of the Argonne and other battles without incident. After returning from the war he worked for Great Northern Railroad and had 55 years of service. Fred died in 1967.

Crookston has been my home all my married life and I have seen many changes.

We had two daughters, Eileen Jackson, who lives in Grand Forks with her husband Richard and daughters: Kathryn and Mary Ann; and Janet Johnson living in Minneapolis with her husband John and children: Paul, Julie and Lee.

ANDREW AND CLARA SIMPSON

At the age of six in 1881, Clara Aarnes came from Oslo, Norway with her parents, Carl and Martha Aarnes, and her three-year-old brother, Oscar Conrad. She was born Decem-
ber 9, 1875. The family settled on a farm in Fairfield Township, moving to Crookston at 346 Spendley Street in 1905, following the death of her father. Her mother lived at that same address until her death in 1936.

Clara was married to Andrew Simpson and they continued to make their home here until his unexpected death. They were parents of two sons, Roy and Lloyd, and later adopted a girl, Dorothy Gwendolyn.

Lloyd was married to Claire Farden of Crookston and since his retirement in Wisconsin, they are now making their home in Sun City, Arizona. Gwendolyn (Dorothy) is married to Lee Cordell and lives in Berwyn, Illinois. Berdie Simpson, Roy's wife, later married Roy Iverson, following the death of her first husband.

After Andrew Simpson's death, Clara moved to Viroqua, Wisconsin. Some years later she lost her eyesight and her last years were spent in a nursing home. She died February 2, 1973, living to be 97 years of age. Her funeral service was held at Stenshool's in Crookston with interment in Oakdale Cemetery, where her husband is buried.

Clara's mother, Martha Aarnes, died March 28, 1936 in Crookston. A widow for over 30 years on Spendley Street, she was known as the "Neighborhood Grandma," and the baby sitter for scores of children. She was a sister of Mrs. John Amundson of Crookston.

**GUNDER SKRETVEDT**

I, Gunder Skretvedt, was born December 1, 1868, in Telemarken, Norway; and my mother Ingeborg Haugen in Norway in 1890. They came to America the same year to a relative whose name was Jorgen Tudahl, and they helped him farm as he was a single man at that time. Shortly after that a good friend of ours wanted Dad to rent his farm. The friend's name was Simon Olson. Dad moved there and farmed until 1903. They now had seven children: Sena, born 1891; Halvor, 1893; Tommy, 1896; Andrea, 1898; Ole, 1900; Hilda, 1902; and Hans, 1904.

In 1903, Dad heard about that homestead opening and he was eager to get land of his own to farm, because he had rented from others so many years. We children were all young at that time so we were not much help, so Dad and Simon Olson went to see what they could find. Simon also got land a few miles from Dad. Simon was a carpenter, so he helped Dad build a house, one room downstairs and two upstair. It was not big but we got along. I remember Mother was not too happy about moving, but what Dad decided went! We took the train for the first time which was a treat for us children!

In the fall of the same year, Dad had to go back to Nielsville and Mother was to stay with our children on the homestead. Mother could not do it so we all went back to Nielsville. Dad made a sort of a covered wagon, a canvas over the wagon box, and I remember Mother baked up all kinds of bread, lefse, cookies, buns, etc., so we could have them on our journey. I don't remember how long it took us, but I know it was a few days. We children thought the journey great; we went into farmyards to stay over night. Sometimes we slept in granaries but Mother had plenty of quilts along. It all went well on the road because once, after Hans, got sick. He was not a year old, so we stayed in a granary but in a few days we were on the road again! One day on our journey Dad stopped in Thief River Falls to get us all straw hats because it was getting hot. While there, a man came leading a bear. None of us had seen a bear. There was a bench outside the store with fruit on it. The bear jumped up quickly and took some fruit. The owner went inside and paid for the damages. We got back on our road from Thief River Falls to Goodridge. We got stuck about four miles from Thief River Falls where we had to stay over night. The wagon was down to the axles and the horses couldn't get out. We got back to the homestead the next day.

Dad farmed and some years were good and some years we were all drowned out! Dad then had to take his two teams of horses and hayrack and go to North Dakota to earn money to support his family. He had quite a few cattle and chickens which helped a lot but it was a struggle to find grass for all of them at times. We herded the cattle for the summer. Mother had taught us to knit to keep us busy.

Mother was very lonesome and frightened with Dad gone. Many times we would find her crying in the woods. She said she was going out to pick eggs or hunt for them and she would sit on a stump and cry; but then when she heard a wagon rumbling back home she was a happy Mother again.

We were not used to Indians in Nielsville, but one Sunday in the afternoon, an Indian came to the house with a five-gallon can. We were frightened; but a neighbor girl had come over to see us. She is now Mrs. Ole Prestebak. She was used to Indians. He made a sign as if he was giving us some milk. The owner said: "He wants milk." Mother took all the milk we had, but the can wasn't filled. Mother put the cover on, but he took it off and pointed for more! Lawrence said, "Fill it with water, because they wanted it full." Mother said, "Do I dare do that?" "Yes," Lawrence said, "they want it full." So Mother filled it with water. The Indian made a sign like "Thank You." Mother was afraid he would come back at night, so we took quilts and went to our neighbor, Osmund Urdaal, and slept on their floor. In the morning we went back but the Indian never came back. We saw many wagon loads of Indians go by our home after that but they only smiled and waved and went on to German-town. Germantown was the first place we sold our cream and got our groceries. Later we went to Goodridge which was closer. We also had a railroad to Goodridge from Thief River Falls for a few years. This train stopped often which was handy, but the farmers soon bought their own trucks and hauled their own grain. The railroad then was taken off.

Sena married Tom Waale and had seven children. Alice became Mrs. Hans Nyistul. Hans was a farmer and married in 1947 in West Virginia. After Don was discharged they came to Minnesota where Don worked on his father's farm. He also worked on the neighboring farms where he cut pulp wood with an axe and bow saw. In the spring of 1948 they worked on a potato farm at Hoople, North Dakota. Their first son was born at Grafton, North Dakota. The next winter they moved back to Clearwater County to cut pulp wood. They moved into a log cabin with a kitchen added. It was a pretty cold winter especially when the fire got low at night. Many mornings they had to wait for the fire in the cabin before they could have coffee for breakfast. The next summer they went back to Hoople and in the summer of 1950 decided to farm the home place with Don's father. The second son was born in Bagley, Minnesota in the fall. At that time the price of pulp wood went down, so they went back to Hoople in the summer of 1951. During the winter they went back to cutting pulp wood. In the spring of 1952 the third son was born in Bagley. Don got a job
on a farm near Crookston. During the ten years following they had four daughters. In 1962 Don was accepted as a policeman for the City of Crookston, where he is still working. They have seven grandchildren.

**LARRY R. SMITH**

Larry R. Smith was born April 23, 1952, to Donald H. and Letty F. Smith, in the new Bagley Hospital located near the city's park, in Bagley, Minnesota. Donald Smith grew up in the Shevlin, Minnesota area and Letty Smith grew up in Ansted, West Virginia. It was in 1952 that Don and Letty, as they became known to everyone, moved to Crookston.

Larry attended the McKinley elementary school and Central High. During this time Larry's father moved his family from the farm to the city, where he joined our city's police force. As the years passed, they adjusted to the city life and their family grew larger. Larry has two brothers and four sisters. He took up a paper route as a boy and later worked at the Crookston Bakery, once located on South Main. He delivered wedding cakes for Earl Lucht for three years, handling them with great care, praying that he would never drop one.

Larry has always enjoyed winter sports, so Minnesota winters are just ideal to keep Larry busy. The last couple of years he hasn't had too good luck in keeping his snow sled running. But he surely keeps repairing it.

Larry graduated from Central High in 1970 and after working for Fert-L-Flow and the American Crystal Sugar Company a number of months, earned enough money to put himself through schooling at the Thief River Technical Institute where he majored in auto mechanics. During this time he met and married H. Jean Collett, formerly of the Shevlin, Minnesota area.

Jean had moved to Minnesota with her parents and two brothers and one sister in 1960. She has several other brothers and sisters, married and not living at home. Her parents, Harold and Lucille Skjaret, moved to Crookston where she obtained work.

It was in 1974 that Larry and Jean were married. They both enjoy the good fresh air and peacefulness of country life and spend a good weekend every so often visiting the country. Larry and Jean have two daughters, Kailey Ann and Julia Rose. Larry works at Salem Motors while Jean maintains the home. Evenings the family occupies their time with art projects. There are many projects going on in their home, such as, Larry's string art designs, that beautifully complement their home. Jean does free lance drawing and also decorates the home with a number of her paintings. Needle work and crocheted and braided rugs take up a number of idle hours. A variety of card games with relatives constitute evenings of weekends, with usually a big batch of popped popcorn. Winter brings snow sledding with an occasional wiener roast for lunch over an open fire out in the cold. As a whole, the Smith's are a very close family.

**ANDREW AND ESTHER SORUM**

We came to Crookston, Minnesota, in March 1925, from Holt, Minnesota, where we were both born. Andy, as he was best known, was born December 12, 1891, to parents, John A. and Annie Sorum, who were pioneers in the area homesteading in 1889. Andy entered the U.S. army in February 1918, and served in France in the Medical Corps. He drove a truck that went into the battle fields after a skirmish to pick up the wounded taking them to hospitals. He was discharged September 1919, after being a patient at a hospital in Camp Dix for several months.

I was born in Holt, Minnesota, April 11, 1901, to parents, Andreas and Johanna Movich. We were married June 6, 1924. We moved to Crookston March, 1925. Andy worked for the Minnesota Highway Department for twenty-eight years as shop foreman. He also worked for the Eickhof Construction Co. until he retired in 1957.

We have three children: Norman Ravine of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and wife, Barbara. They have three children: Susan, David, and Peggy Jo. Norman served in World War II stationed on Okinawa. His outfit was among the first to fly into Japan after V-J Day. After service, he entered University of Minnesota graduating in 1951 and is now a social worker with the Ramsey County Welfare Board.

Gardner Clifton is also a graduate of University of Minnesota class of 1954. He served three years in the U.S. Air Force before entering college and is now an architect in London, England. He worked in Coral Gables, Florida, and New York, New York.

Duane Keith served in the U.S. Army for one year at Camp Rucker later attended Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, graduating cum laude in 1954. He also attended Lutheran Bible Institute and the Lutheran Theology Seminary of Minneapolis. He was ordained an A.L.C. minister June 6, 1960, in Trinity Lutheran Church of Crookston. His first call was Keene, North Dakota; then Hawley, Minnesota, and is now pastor in Mandan, North Dakota, where he lives with his wife and two sons, Nathan and Matthew. Oddly enough, the professions of the three brothers although different still relate to one another. Gardner designs and builds buildings for mankind. Norman looks after bodily needs of mankind, and Duane takes care of the spiritual needs of mankind.

We are members of Trinity Lutheran Church. I am active in the A.L.C. having been president and taught Sunday school for many years. Andy was a member of the American Legion from 1919 until he died March 1972. I have been a continuous member of the American Legion Auxiliary since 1929. I have...
held every office including president for six years; served on every committee especially membership chairman for twenty years; sold poppies on poppy day every year since 1929. I am a member of W.W.1 Auxiliary and Sons of Norway.

In 1948, we went for a visit to the Sorums in Waukon, Iowa. I then realized that the Sorums was a big and interesting relationship and took it upon myself to write the Sorum history. I spent the next ten years during vacation traveling to see the Sorums. We found Sorums in North and South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Oregon, and California, just to mention a few; also Edmonton, Canada. It was an interesting and fun-filled undertaking.

We lived at 118 Seventh Avenue South Carmen Addition in Crookston for thirty years. We sold our home and moved into Central Apartments in 1960 uptown Crookston.

FRANK STAINBROOK

The Stainbrooks in Crookston are a five generation family in Polk county. They claim as their forbearers Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stainbrook, who came to Crookston from Caledonia, Minnesota in 1891. Frank Stainbrook, the founder of the Crookston family, was born on November 10, 1862, in Cochranton, Pennsylvania of Pennsylvania Dutch parentage. The Stainbrook family moved from Cochranon to Caledonia, Minnesota, where Frank grew up and married Elizabeth Gagan.

Before moving to Crookston in 1891 they had three children: Roy, born in 1885; William, in 1888; and Mamie, in 1890. When Frank Stainbrook came to Crookston 85 years ago, the town was booming. It was rapidly becoming a good-sized city. The lumber industry and railroad building offered many job opportunities to the newcomers. The muddy streets full of ruts and holes and the horse drawn wagons and hacks were taken for granted as part of everyday life.

Frank settled his family in a house at 211 Fifth Avenue South, in Carmen. It is now the home of Mrs. Roy Stainbrook, the widow of the oldest son, Roy. Frank practically rebuilt the house himself, and it is here that five more Stainbrook children were born: Fred, in 1891; Bloveh, in 1893; Grace, in 1895; Frank, in 1897; and Elva, in 1898.

Frank was employed in a saw mill when he first came to Crookston. He was a carpenter by trade and skilled at working with his hands so he soon became a self-employed builder. Many houses and barns in the area were built by him. Among these are the house and barn on the Penny farm, the house on the Kiewel farm and the Gordon Leguee home at 215 Avenue South. He remodeled a home for his youngest son, Frank, at 213 Euclid Avenue, which is presently the home of the Roger Tuseth family.

Besides being a carpenter, Frank Stainbrook was an avid sportsman. He enjoyed hunting. This was one of his reasons for moving to Crookston. There was good hunting in the area. The prairies near his home provided excellent hunting for rabbits, prairie chicken and grouse. He also enjoyed fishing and went fishing whenever he could. The Stainbrooks in Crookston today are the grandchildren, the great-grandchildren, and the great-great-grandchildren of Frank and Elizabeth Stainbrook.

Their son, Frank, married Angeline Willette from Delavan, Minnesota on November 7, 1923. They reared a family of twelve children. Two of their sons, Jack and Dale, preceded them in death. Four of the family, Ronald, Margaret, Rosalind, and Karen married and moved away from Crookston. Six of their children, five sons and daughter, have their homes in Crookston. They are Norman, James, Jerome, Mary (Mrs. Robert Tuseth), Roger and Dennis.

The fourth generation of Stainbrooks, in Crookston, the great-grandchildren of the pioneer couple, numbers twenty-two. A fifth generation has five. They are Kristin and Karen, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. David Stainbrook; John and Charles, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Johnson (Mary Lynn Berglund); and Troy, son of Mrs. Pat Ann Berglund Sewill.

The great-great-grandparents of the Stainbrook family had a power of endurance; a sense of responsibility; an energy for work; a loyalty to family, church and country; and the vision and courage of the pioneer that are part of the Stainbrook heritage today!

HUGH STEFFEN

Hugh Steffen is a son of German immigrants that settled and farmed near Hibbing, Wisconsin. He was born in 1886 and was one of 13 children. When he was 14 years old, he left his home to work as a fireman on the Chicago Northwestern Railroad. He was the first railroader to fire an automatic coal stoker on one of the big 12-wheeler Mallet-Compound steam locomotives on the iron range. He was studying to become an engineer, but a tragic fact came to light. He was color blind as a result of an eye injury from a live cinder and so could never be a railroad engineer. So one day in 1918 when his train stopped in Beltrami, he thought that would be as good a place as any to try his fortune farming. He readily secured a job as a farm hand for the Bond family. His engineering studies stood him in good stead here.

Mr. Bond owned a threshing outfit and did much of the area threshing. Hugh was his engineer. He met and married Flora Lee Sampson, a widow with four daughters. They bought a farm one and a-half miles southeast of Beltrami and farmed until 1931. They had three children: Glenna, Charles, and Otis. Probably the highlight of the year for the farmers of that area was threshing time. A group of neighbors: Hugh Steffen, George Gast, Otto Gast, Leonard Leiran and the Drivold brothers organized a threshing company. They bought a large grain separator and steam engine. Again Hugh was the engineer. At 7 a.m., he blew a whistle. That meant the two bundle men better be in position to start feeding the separator. At 7 p.m. he blew the whistle again, and the day’s work ceased. The farm wives fed the crew morning and afternoon lunches and dinner. Dinners were like company dinners, so it was a well fed crew. In 1931, Hugh moved to the Crookston area, where he farmed until he retired at the age of 72.

There are two stories Hugh likes to tell of his early days in Beltrami. Myron Johnson, now a retired dentist, was at that time raising chickens to raise money to start his college career. Hugh and two other guys stole one of his chickens, prepared a dinner and invited Myron. When dinner was over they told Myron they had eaten one of his chickens. I don’t think those two ever met each other without chuckling about that incident. Hugh had a motorcycle. Tom Haf Dahl, bankster at Beltrami,
bought the first car that was in Beltrami. Hugh bet Tom he could beat him to Crookston on his motorcycle. He claims he won, but I wouldn’t like to corroborate that fact.

Hugh lives with his daughter Genna, Mrs. Walter Mueller, of Crookston. The Muellers have eight children. Only two of them, Roy and Celia, are still in school here. Walter is a car mechanic for Yates. Charles married Lorraine Leguee. He is foreman for the Burlington Northern track crew. Only four of his 16 children are home now. Four of them, Kathy, Mrs. Bill Hultz; John Steffen Peters and his wife Sharron; Mike and his family; and Brian all live in Crookston. Otis and his wife, Gloria, and their three children live in Crookston. Otis drives a semi-truck and so is away from home much of the time.

NELS P. STENSHOEL

Nels Peter Stenshoel was 41 when, in 1906, with his wife Valborg and daughters: Geneva, Lilly, Gladys and Emma, he moved to Crookston as an "undertaker.

Child of an immigrant family from Eidsvoll, Norway, Nels had begun life on a farm in southeastern Minnesota's Fillmore county in 1864, while his father Lars served in the Union Army. After two years of school he joined the family's struggle for survival on the farm. At age 21 he set out to seek his livelihood, beginning with a short "business" course at the Decorah Institute, Iowa.

With modest success Nels sold lightning rods, windmills, tombstones, farm machinery, pianos, furniture, and candy. For five years he ran a confectionery in Valley City, North Dakota, where his older brother Hans had begun a long career as county sheriff. Finally, through apprenticeship in a furniture-undertaking business in southern Minnesota, he found his occupational strength.

The early years in Crookston were difficult. Building a reputation and clientele took time; meanwhile the family had to eat. Encouraged, perhaps, by his brother's elective success, Nels decided to supplement his income: he would run for coroner. Twice elected (and regularly kept busy by the institutionalized mayhem that was then East Grand Forks), he was able, in 1909, to purchase the property on South Main Street, since known as the Stenshoel Funeral Home.

The beginnings of professional success were tempered by personal sorrow: in 1909 Valborg Kirkelie Stenshoel died. Other changes would soon occur: "Neva married the Rev. Emil Salveson in 1912. For a decade, until her marriage in 1921 to Herbert Wagstrom, Lilly became her father's "lady assistant" at the funeral home. Gladys died in 1918. In 1919, Nels married Mary Jorgenson; born in 1884 near Trondheim, Norway, as "Marit," she had grown up in Norman County and was a nurse in Crookston. A second family followed: Norton, Myles and Nadine.

As a funeral director, Stenshoel interpreted his task as a service to the community and especially to the bereaved. Having begun in the days of the horse-drawn hearse, when "undertaking" was an adjunct of the furniture business, he worked to make it a professional activity. He changed the undertaking parlor into a "funeral home." In 1920 he introduced Crookston's first motorized funeral carriage, a gleaming silver coach with carved side panels; he invented and patented equipment for embalmers' use; he provided the city with its first ambulance. In the mid-1930's he turned over the funeral home to his daughter, Emma C. Stenshoel, who retired in 1968 after 35 years of building on the tradition of service.

But Nels P. Stenshoel is most appropriately remembered as social critic, political pamphleteer, and economic iconoclast. If his occupation was mortician, his vocation was, in his own words, "fighting for the underdog." Formally untutored in government, politics and economics, he read and argued intensively, corresponding with reformers, preachers, politicians and pacifists. Up and down Main Street he engaged every willing ear; he wrote ardent letters-to-the-editor in English and Norwegian; he was utterly committed to making America and the world a better place. Progressive, populist, free-silverite, single-taxer, Non-Partisan-Leaguer, Farmer-Laborite — he was all of these — a midwestern radical who was also a Lutheran, a business man, and a Rotarian. He opposed United

WALTER POWELL STONE

As early settlers in the Red River Valley, we wish to be included in their history. Walter Powell Stone with his father, mother, sisters: Lucia, Ida, Gertrude and brother, William, arrived in Carmen in 1879, which was supposed to be the City of the Northwest. As the population increased, more people moved across the river to Crookston.

Nathan Stone established his business of grain and machinery in 1879 and continued until 1900. At that time, his sons, William and Walter, joined him in the N. P. Stone Company, which continued in business over 75 years at 3rd and Main Street. In June 1923, Walter Stone and Alice Lee were united in marriage at Hudson, Wisconsin, at the home of her parents: Mr. and Mrs. John A. Lee, also early residents of Wisconsin.

Alice Lee had come to Crookston, December 1, 1917, to teach in the public schools. To them were born four daughters: Merle, Norma, Shirley and Margaret. They attended and graduated from Crookston High School. Following high school, they attended the University of Minnesota from which they graduated. Each girl chose her major: Merle, Mrs. Ken Miller, music; Norma, Mrs. Glenn Lewis, dietetics; Shirley, Mrs. Ernest Ager, nursing; and Margaret, Mrs. Fred Harris, physical education.

They all are active in their church and community. Seventeen grandchildren have been born to these families. All were members of the United Presbyterian church. Mr. Stone served as an alderman, president of the Chamber of Commerce and a fire department volunteer for many years. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. He died suddenly of a heart attack in 1950.
CHRISTIAN C. STRANDER

Christian C. Strander immigrated directly to Crookston from Lillehamer, Norway, the home of his parents, in 1888. He was an energetic, personable young man anxious to make his mark, not only in business, but as part of the Crookston community. His success in business gave him this opportunity. Early in his career he married Inez Dahl and this union resulted in six children: Herman, Helen, Mildred, Mathilda, Agna and Osmon. In 1905, Mr. Strander built a beautiful home, a full two-story structure, at a prime location at the apex of a triangle at the intersection of South Ash Street and Houston Avenue. With four lovely daughters, this home was the location of many parties as well as lavish entertainment of friends and business associates. At this writing Agna Strander Eagle is the only living member of this family.

Upon his arrival from Norway, Christian Strander was able to get a job as clerk in the register of deeds office. He worked here about a year. The Christianson Brothers who operated an abstract of title business started in 1886, saw a lot of talent in this young man and Christian Strander went to work for them. The abstract of title business was booming about this time due to the fast growth of the area with newcomers and settlers wanting proof of title to their land. By 1894 Mr. Strander was able to buy a partnership in the business and at this time the name was changed to Christianson and Strander. In 1907 the business was incorporated as Strander Abstract and Investment Co. with Mr. Strander holding controlling interest. Mr. C. C. Strander was named president; O. O. Christianson, vice-president and O. W. Peterson, secretary-treasurer.

In 1910, Adolph Morek, father of Alpha Morek, joined the firm as secretary. Upon O. W. Peterson's retirement, Mr. Morek became secretary-treasurer and served until his retirement in 1958. C. C. Strander retained his position as president until his death in 1936.

Herman Strander, the oldest son of C. C. Strander, worked a short time for the firm in 1915, then enlisted in the Navy during World War I. After the war he was employed in the Scandinavian American Bank at Grafton, North Dakota for nine years. He then returned to Crookston and worked for his father's firm as vice-president and treasurer and served in that capacity until the death of his father in 1936, when he became president of the firm and served in this position until his death in 1973.

To insure perpetuity to the firm, Herman Strander arranged for the sale of the business shortly before his death. Leonard Erickson and Kenneth Erie became the new owners. Red Bennen was named president; Donald Kanten, vice president; Leonard Erickson, secretary and Kenneth Erie, treasurer. The Strander family enjoyed continuous ownership of the Abstract business for 84 years, a span that saw Crookston grow from a fledgling town to a thriving city. During this span the names of Strander, O. W. Peterson, and A. E. Morek appear on thousands of abstracts, recording the history of successes and failures in the abstracts over those many years.

The C. C. Strander home and the Strander Abstract and Insurance building on Broadway still stand as a memory to Crookston's early years and a proud, ambitious immigrant who made good.

A. J. STREETER

In the Saturday, October 22, 1887, issue of the Crookston Times appeared the following front page story: "A pall of gloom was cast over the city on Tuesday morning when the news became generally known that Jack Streeter had lost his life in a railroad accident near Petersburg, Dakota Territory. Mr. Streeter was the engineer on a cattle train of nineteen cars, on its way to this city. When the train approached Petersburg, the engineer discovered the switch was open, and before he could reverse his engine and jump the track he left the track and turned upon its side while the heavily loaded cars of cattle telescoped each other and were piled up in an entangled mass." Mr. Streeter's body was pinned beneath the engine.

This is the end of the story of the life of one of Crookston's early settlers, Mr. A. J. Streeter, who came to Crookston from Illinois in 1880. He was survived by one married daughter, Delia Dargan of Black River, and by his wife, the former Phoebe Hockings, also of Illinois, whom he had married in LeRoy, Illinois, on December 5, 1865.

Mr. Streeter was a Civil War veteran, having served from September 2, 1861, to July 3, 1865, with Company K., 7th Regiment of Wisconsin as an infantry volunteer. According to the Crookston Times of October 22, 1887, "He saw considerable service in the field of battle as a Union soldier and for several months suffered the torture of Andersonville Prison."

Mrs. Streeter continued to make her home in Crookston after her husband's death. She was a member of the D.A.R., a fact she often discussed with her grandchildren, Clare and Leon. She was president of the Women's Relief Corps in 1883. One of her greatest interests was in nature and wildlife, birds in particular. This interest has been handed down to her descendants.

One of Mrs. Streeter's aims after her husband's death was to have a monument erected in honor of Civil War Veterans at Oakdale cemetery. Her grandchildren often listened to her tell about the many benefit ice cream socials she gave on her spacious lawn on Bridge Street. Among others who took part in the money making effort for the monument were members of the Congregational church, of which she was a member. The monument to Civil War veterans which still stands in Oakdale Cemetery was erected partly through efforts of Mrs. Streeter as well as others. Among her friends were Alice B. Hall, Florence Scolum and Dolly Bunell.

Mrs. Streeter brought up her grandchildren after her daughter died on January 2, 1898. Burtram, the eldest died a year after his mother at the age of 11. Clair who was eight and Leon two years old when they lost their mother. They grew up in the Bridge Street home. The large acreage there was ideal for nature study; and the large collection of birds she had mounted were eventually donated to the Central High School. Taxidermy was a hobby of Mrs. Streeter.

Leon Pike Dargan became a charter member of Nels T. Wold Post No. 20 of the American Legion after serving in the navy from May 20, 1918 to May 23, 1919. He worked for the Railway Express Agency as Railway Express Messenger for 46 years. Clare Dargan, a school teacher, died in 1961 and Leon, whose wife was the former Hazel Haroldson, died July 4, 1963. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Rae-Dell Kaiser and a son, Dale. Rae-Dell's two sons, Mickey and Gary, are the great-great-grandsons of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Streeter, who came to Crookston in 1880.

Mrs. Streeter sold roughly 35 acres of land to the City of Crookston in 1915, a year before she died. Her interest in nature and her love of the outdoors were passed on to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and to their great-great grandchildren.

LEONARD AND REGINA SVEDAHL

Leonard was born in Ottertail County. In 1922 he moved to Mahnomen county with his parents. He spent several years working in Illinois before coming to Crookston in the spring of 1932. Here he was employed by Elk River Concrete Products for whom he worked for almost 40 years. He retired March 1, 1972.

Mrs. A. J. Streeter
Grandmother of Leon and Clare Dargan.
In 1935 he was married to Regina Teuber. She was born in Stearns county, moving to Mahnomen county in 1920. For five years she taught in rural schools in Mahnomen county. They have resided in Crookston since 1935. They have five children: Doris, Ralph, Lilah, Clifford and David. They were all born in Crookston except Lilah, who was born in Brainard, Minnesota.

Lilah is the only one still residing in Polk county. She worked at Bethesda Hospital as a Practical nurse for several years. She is married to Melvin Wang of Fertile, Minnesota, who owns and operates Wang Trucking of Fertile. They have five children: Mark, Michael, Leanne, Mitchell and Lori — all of whom were born in Crookston.

JOHN AND SOPHIA THOMFORDE

John Thomforde was born in Hanover, Germany in 1876. At the age of sixteen he came to Lake City, Minnesota, where he had a half-brother residing. Later he moved to Ada to work on the Lockhart Farms, which were bonanza farms. Here he met his future wife, Sophia Kerber, who was also working there.

John in later years would tell his children stories about his trip over from Germany, which was a very frightening experience, because of the many storms at sea. At times the waves went over the sides of the ship. Once the waves were so high they went down the huge smokestack of the ship and nearly put out the fire. He was certain the ship would be capsized, but they made it safely to America.

Sophia Kerber was born in 1884 in Germany and when she was fifteen her whole family made a trip to America, settling in Crookston where they had relatives living.

John and Sophia were married in 1902 and set up housekeeping at 612 Pine Street. John bought the house with solid gold, which he carried with him. Like many others at that time, he didn't trust banks. They lived in that same house till their deaths — John in 1958 and Sophia in 1968.

They had seven children, three of whom died as children. Lorenz Karl was born in 1903; Anna Sophia born in 1904 and died at six weeks; Clara Elizabeth, born in 1905; Harold Frederick, born in 1909; Art John, born in 1911 and died at the age of eleven from rheumatic fever; Clifford Albert, born in 1914 and died at eight months, and Clifford John, born in 1917.

John worked as a carpenter with Bill Waterstrat for the law and real estate firm of Miller, Foote and Miller, who hired them to re-do farm buildings. They would build, rebuild and decorate the entire farm where needed, from the house to barn to other out-buildings. They would pack up their tools and be taken to the farm to stay all week and would be home over Saturday and Sunday.

Sometimes, the whole family would be invited out to the farm that was being worked on to spend a Sunday. Good friends were made by the children on these Sunday outings — friendships that still continue.

John would hire a two-seated buggy and a team of horses and take the family for Sunday afternoon rides in the country.

Clara remembers one Sunday that they were invited to spend the day at the Eisner farm. Everybody was busy getting ready and didn't notice little Harold, age two or three, up in the driver's seat. He picked up the reins and the horses took off. She says she can still remember Ma and Pa running down Sixth street after the buggy. Luckily, it was soon caught with no harm done, except to the bottom of Harold's pants.

Mr. Foote owned a car and he sometimes would take the whole family for Sunday afternoon rides. Clara still remembers the good times had on those days and of the times spent picking chokecherries at the Minderman farm.

Entertainment in those days usually consisted of neighborhood parties on Sunday nights — "bring your family and come over for beer". Babysitters were unheard of so the children got to join in the fun too. When they got tired, they found a corner in the bedroom to sleep and then later were awakened by their parents to walk home in the cold night when the party was over.

Germans are notorious for their love of beer and the parties always featured a wooden keg of beer. The highlight of the evening in the eyes of a child, was when they tapped the keg and the beer squirted out. There was always music at the parties; an old man would play a violin or mouth-organ and an old lady would sing and the grown-ups would dance.

The Thomforde's always had chickens and a cow or two. The children would sell milk to the neighbors at 5¢ per quart. They could buy a book of twenty milk tickets for $1.00 and on the day they bought the ticket they were given free milk.

In 1907, John was working in a brickyard when he was buried in a cave-in. He said he owed his life to a transient worker who dug and dug to get John out exclaiming "We've got to get Thomforde out; he's got a wife and two little kids to feed". John was hospitalized at St. Vincent's for a long time with a broken leg, which caused a limp which never left him.

Just before this time, a family picture was to be taken at the photography studio. Clara was only two years old and became frightened when the photographer put a big black cloth over his head. She cried and cried and the picture could not be taken. So they walked back home and tried again in the afternoon. This time Clara got to hold her father's gold watch and she was all smiles for the picture.

Language was something to be reckoned with for the German settlers. Sophia was always amazed that her first child went off to school not knowing any English, only German. But when the last child went to school, seventeen years later, he didn't know any German nor could he understand it.

Early radio was very intriguing. The three older children saved money to buy parts for a crystal-set, which they then built. They would sit for hours with the head set on and turn the dials listening to CKY-Chicago and other far away places. One of their favorite music programs was Whoopee John.

The three surviving children are Clara, Mrs. A. J. Anderson, who lives in Crookston; Harold, Crookston's mayor and owner of Thomforde Garden Center; and Clifford, who lives in Grand Forks and is a professor of electrical engineering at the University of North Dakota. Lorenz died in 1965 in St. Paul, where at the age of twenty-one, he started working for the Great Northern railroad and was the labor-management relations co-ordinator.

EMIL LUNDEEN AND HANNAH

THORERSON

Emil Hammarlund Lundeen, the youngest of five children, was born August 14, 1868 to Johan Peter Hammarlund and Johanna Samuels on the island of Torro Hasselo, which had been deeded to the Hammarlund family in the early 1700's and is located near Vastervik, Sweden. Emil's father, Johan, a commercial fisherman, was born on the island July 27, 1823 and his mother, Johanna, was born February 5, 1826. They were
KEITH R. THORSON

Keith R. Thorson, the third child of Lillian and Ted Thorson, 327 Houston Avenue, Crookston, Minnesota was born June 10, 1925 at Fertile, Minnesota. The family moved to Crookston. He attended Franklin Elementary and Central High Schools, 1931-1942. He was active in music, chorus, band, orchestra, ensembles, tenor sax and clarinet; solo work State Music Festival A in male 4 and clarinet solo.

He was active in sports, lettered in track, football and baseball; also active in drama, publications and student government. He served in the United States Army, June 1943-April 1946. Received combat infantryman badge, three theatre ribbons.

He attended the University of Minnesota, 1946-1951, graduating cum laude in both School of Business Administration and Aero-Engineering, Member and Officer of four honorary societies. President of the Senior Class Cabinet, Class of 1951.

He served in the United States Air Force 1951-1953 with Special Weapons Command.

Keith married Dorothy Joyce Barr of Wells, Minnesota June 1951 and their children include Keith R. Jr. (November 1952), Steven T. (July 1954) and Jana Lynn (March 1960). In residence with family in Alamogordo, New Mexico from March 1953 to July 1972. Was employed as a Flight Test Engineer by Hughes Aircraft Company at Holloman AFB September 1957. Subsequently served as Test Director of two multinational flight test programs (Swedish and Swiss), then Flight Test Program Manager, AGM-65A "Maverick" Missile Program and as Manager of the Hughes Holloman Facility until June 1972.

Keith was active in the Presbyterian Church serving as President of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Building Committee, ordained Elder, and Church Controller in addition to Choir and adult education.

Keith is active in community music, theatre and arts including director of the Alamogordo Music Theatre Board, and participation as lead in MUSIC MAN, and other leads in productions over ten seasons; also orchestra, male quartet and production activities. Officer of the Community Center for Theater and Arts.

The Thorsons moved to Tucson, Arizona in August 1972, joining the staff of the Missile Systems Division of Hughes Aircraft Company at Tucson. Current position is Senior Project Engineer, Special Projects, Maverick Programs Office. Is active in church and community music in the Tucson area.

Wife, Dorothy Joyce (Deejay) is primarily a homemaker. Serves on the advisory board to the Amphi School District for community education. Served as consultant to Pima College for a community education.

Son, Keith R. Jr. has just completed (August 1975) requirements for a Bachelor of Individualized Studies degree at New Mexico State University. Son, Steven T. is a junior in Chemical Engineering at the University of Arizona. Daughter, Jana Lynn is a sophomore in High School in the Amphi School District.

Keith Thorson — far right.
LILLIAN ERIKSON THORSON

I was born in Bear Park township February 9, 1893, to Johanna and Erik Erikson, who immigrated to America from Orebro, Ystmorland, Sweden, with their daughters: Hannah, five years old; Hulda, three years old; and Agnes, one year old; November 10, 1880. They homesteaded on the land now known as the Bergeson Nursery, east of Fertile. Mother planted the first apple trees on that land, one of which flourished and bore fruit for many years. This was told me by Mrs. Bergeson, whose parents, the Ole Johnsons, later bought the farm. I was one and one-half years old when we moved from the homestead to the Sand Hill Farm southeast of Fertile, and six years old when I started walking the one and a half miles to school in Fertile. After five years, we moved to Fertile. Memories of family activities of those early pioneer days on the homestead are related in a separate account by my sister, Julia Erikson Michelsen.

I graduated from Fertile High School in 1912, and the next year entered Thomas Normal Training School in Detroit, Michigan, a private school specializing in teacher training for domestic art and science, music, manual training, physical education and art. This school later became part of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Particularly vivid in my memory of these Detroit years are recollections of many thrilling concerts by world-famous symphonies and artists such as Paderewski and Melba. In three years I graduated from Thomas Normal and then because of added state requirements, returned to Minnesota where I trained nine months more at St. Cloud State College, graduating in March, 1916. I went to Cromwell to fill a vacancy which occurred that spring.

During the summer and fall of 1916, I was hired to help organize and equip the first home economics department in the new Fisher High School, and in January, 1917, started the first classes. I stayed on through 1918-1919. In 1919, the new agriculture and manual training teacher, Ted W. Thorson, arrived in Fisher just out of the Navy in World War I. He had been band master on the “U.S. New Jersey” while overseas, and it wasn’t long before he was organizing music groups in addition to his teaching. In May we became engaged and were married on August 18, 1920. We moved to Fertile, Minnesota, in 1921, and lived there until 1929. During this time our three children were born: Ted Jr. in 1922; Marilyn in 1923, and Keith in 1925. In Fisher and Fertile I served on local church committees and participated in community activities as Girl Scout Leader, 1918-19, charter member of the Fertile Study Club, and charter member and president of the Fertile American Legion Auxiliary No. 238.

In 1929 we moved to Crookston. Community and professional service has included: American Lutheran Church Women, past president; American Legion Auxiliary No. 20, past president; Current Events Club and Matron’s Club, past president; Order of Eastern Star (Worthy Matron); Member, Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, Polk County (four years); Trinity Lutheran Church Welfare Board, West Polk County (three years); membership drives, Civic Music League, for many years; taught home economics at St. Joseph’s Academy, spring term, 1938; taught foods and nutrition for Crookston Public Schools-Bethesda Hospital Nursing Program (ten years); during World War II, member of Trinity Lutheran Church Refugee Sewing Groups, Red Cross Nurse’s Aide, and 12-hour course Civil Defense “Citation”; Member, Crookston Garden Club; Riverview Sewing Guild; Senior Citizen’s Club; County Fair judge with Rete Bede of the Northwest School of Agriculture (eight years); pioneer couple, 1973, pioneer week, Crookston, Minnesota.

T. W. THORSON “MR. MUSIC” (1894-1973)

Theodore Wilhelm Thorson was born October 14, 1894, and raised on a farm in Sibley county, Minnesota. His parents were Anna Bengston Thorson and Torkel Thorson. He graduated from Winthrop High School in 1912 and the University of Minnesota (Agriculture) in 1916. He served in the United States Navy from 1917 to 1919 as musician and bandmaster. He taught agriculture at Fisher, Minnesota, during initial beef planting and experimentation from 1919-1922. He reorganized and directed the Fisher Community Band, and also the Fisher-Bygland Octette which sang at the Crookston Winter Shows in 1926. This group was the forerunner of the 175 voice North-Western Singers Association, organized by T. W. and his brother, N. A. Thorson in 1921. This group, directed by T. W., gave annual concerts at the Winter Shows from 1922 to 1942.

On August 18, 1920, T. W. married Lillian Erikson, home economics teacher at Fisher. They moved to Fertile in 1921 and became associated with the Erikson Produce business. Three children were born there: Ted Jr., 1922, Marilyn, 1923, and Keith in 1925. Thorson reorganized the Fisher City Band, directed the high school band and also started the first high school bands in Erskine and Mentor. He directed the Odin Male Chorus and the Concordia Church Choir. In 1925, he organized and directed the Fertile Choral Society, 210 voices and an orchestra of 30, in four spring concerts. He also served as scoutmaster for two years and on the city council for three years. In 1929, he accepted the position as director of the Crookston Municipal Band and his family moved to Crookston.

Crookston (1929-1973) Mr. Thorson directed the city Municipal Band from 1929 to 1959. He taught over 1,600 beginners on instruments during Saturday lessons from 1929 to 1958. He directed Trinity Lutheran Senior Choir from 1929 to 1970. He organized and directed the 9th District Legion Band in 1928 — four times State Champions. He served as music director of the Crookston Legion Auxiliary Drum and Bugle Corps — five times State Champions.

In 1932, T. W. accepted the position of supervisor of music in the Crookston Public Schools. He formed the acappella choir and directed orchestra and band for 28 years. He instigated memory song contests in the grade schools and started a music council which has functioned since 1934. He helped establish the Farden and Carey Music awards to encourage students to do better work. He served as a member of the Minnesota State Music League Executive Committee for six years. He also served as president of the Crookston Educational Association in 1943-44. He organized the girls’ Drum and Bugle Corps, which became Crookston’s “Ambassadors of Good Will.”

From 1929 to 1969, T. W. directed the annual presentation of the Good Friday Cantata, “The Seven Last Words of Christ”, given by combined church choirs and orchestra.

After his retirement from the public schools in 1959, he toured England, Europe and Russia. He remained active in community affairs. During 1961-62, he was president of both the Crookston Rotary Club and the Civic Music League. In the 1960’s, he served as chairman of the Music and Liturgy Commission of the American Lutheran Church. He served on the first Board of Directors of the International Music Camp at the Peace Gardens in North Dakota. He was active in the affairs of the Polk County Historical Society until his death.

T. W. Thorson, instructor in
music in the public schools,
band leader, civic leader and
President of the Polk County
Historical Society.

Conventions. He was the recipient of the 9th District Legion Award (1947), Golden Deeds Award (1952), KROX Community Award (1960) and was elected to the Hall of Fame of the Red River Valley Winter Shows. With his wife, Lillian, he and she were chosen as Pioneer Couple at the 1973 Pioneer Day Celebration. He died on September 29, 1973. Memorial gift money was used by the family to establish a "T. W. Thorson Music Award" at Crookston High School.

THEODORE W. THORSON JR.

Born July 17, 1922, at Fertile, Minnesota, the first child of Lillian and Ted Thorson. He moved to Crookston in 1929, and attended Franklin Elementary and Crookston High School, graduating in 1940. He was active in all music groups, earned letters in basketball and golf, and was Region 8 Golf champ in 1939. He attended the University of North Dakota from 1940-42. During the war he served as Marine Air Corps pilot with the rank of captain. He continued his schooling and graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1948, having served as student assistant band director to the late John E. Howard. He was married in 1948 to Margaret Anderson of Manfred, North Dakota. From 1948 to 1950, he taught music in the Perham, Minnesota, schools. While working on his master's degree in music from 1950-51, he served as graduate assistant director of the University of Minnesota bands. From 1951 to 1955, he taught instrumental music in the Edgerton, Wisconsin, public schools. From 1956 to 1961, he was on the faculty of Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He served as director of the music division of the National High School Institute and as an instructor of music education.

In 1961, Theodore earned his Ph.D. in Music Education from Northwestern University and became Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. He held the positions of Director of Bands, Chairman of the Music Education Department and Chairman of the Graduate Committee in the School of Music. In 1964 and 1965, his band appeared over CBS television during halftime performances at the Chicago Bears' professional football games. He also directed the Decatur Municipal Band, one of the oldest professional bands in the United States.

In 1966, he took the position as Director of Bands and Director of the Summer Music Clinic at Bemidji State College. He served as chairman of the faculty senate during the 1969-70 school year. Active as guest director, he was clinician and judge in the Mid-west. He is a member of Music Educators National Conference, College Band Directors National Association, National Band Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Phi Kappa Lambda, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and Kappa Kappa Psi. He is active in the Lutheran Church and directed church choirs for twelve years.

Mr. Thorson is the father of seven children: two still living at home at 1001 Beltrami Avenue, Bemidji, Minnesota. His wife, Margaret, teaches in the Bemidji Public Schools. His children are: Ted, a music teacher; Robert, a geologist; James, Leif and Erik, college students; Thor, a ninth grader and Ingrid, a seventh grader.

ARTHUR R. THOMPSON

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Thompson moved to Crookston in July, 1945. The Consumer's Gas Co., a propane and appliance business at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, had appointed Art as Director of the firm's new Crookston branch. The office was first located on the corner of Robert Street and Main Avenue, later moved to 119 South Main. The company is now known as Northern Propane Gas Company, with office and storage facilities on Fairfax Avenue.

Art, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thorwald Thompson of Oslo, Minnesota, attended the local schools, and later worked at the Citizen's State Bank at Oslo. From 1927-1945 he was employed at Amundgaard's Implement and Hardware Co. of Argyle, Minnesota, previous to becoming a Crookston resident.

Geneva Nelson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Nelson of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Arthur Thompson were married in 1931. Following her graduation from the University of North Dakota, Geneva was a teacher of home economics at Alvarado, Minnesota, and Central High School, Grand Forks, North Dakota. She also taught at Argyle, Minnesota and the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston. From 1965-68, she worked as Assistant Director of Tri-Valley Opportunity Council in Crookston.

The Thompsons have two sons, Robert and Larry. Robert entered grade eight the first year the family lived in the city. After high school, he attended the University of North Dakota; where he received his Bachelor of Arts and 2nd Lieutenant's Commission of the Air Force Reserve, in 1954. Robert and Joan Jacobson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jacobson of Crookston, were married in April, 1954. Bob who is now a Lieutenant Colonel in Strategic Air Command, has served as a Navigator on squadrons assigned to many United States bases, as well as Korea and Thailand. He continued studies while in the service, earning a Master of Arts degree in Business Administration from Ball State University at Muncie, Indiana. He has served 21 years in the Air Force, and feels that it has been the right career for him.
Larry, the younger son, was born in Crookston in 1946. He graduated from Central High School in 1964. Then attended University of North Dakota where he received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Political Science. Since 1971 he has been employed as a Research Analyst with the Colorado Legislative Council. He finds government work interesting and challenging, and enjoys living in Denver.

During the years the Thompsons have lived in Crookston, they have been active members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Art and Geneva have served on the church council, been involved in stewardship programs, Lutheran Brotherhood, American Lutheran Church Women and Sunday School work. Art has been a member of the Crookston Rotary Club for 24 years.

Since Art retired from work with Northern Propane Gas Company, he has been employed on a part time basis at Stenshoej's Funeral Home. Retirement has meant time for travel, caring for yard and flowers and woodworking projects. The Thompsons plan to continue residing in Crookston.

AUGUST THURN

"Come to America, the land of opportunity," were the inspiring words that led to the migration of August Thurn, wife Doris Fridfinnson, to America from Sweden in 1903. The voyage was difficult but they finally reached their destination, Mentor, Minnesota. Carl Engstrom, Hilda's brother and an earlier immigrant, owned a meat market there and my father August secured work with him for awhile.

The family had now grown to four, with the birth of my brother Karl, and a need for a better living. Crookston, Minnesota, was becoming known as a lumbering center and T. B. Walker built a first class milling plant in Carmen Addition. So Crookston became our permanent residence as Dad worked at the mill. During that time another daughter, Doris, arrived and the family was now five. Our residence was the living quarters in Carl "Huggie" Sampson's grocery store in Sampson's Addition. With the closing of the mill some years later because of funds, we moved to the Northwest School of Agriculture where Dad was a custodian. He continued in that capacity the remainder of his life. I have fond memories of the sixteen years he worked at the Polk County Court House.

A supply room was also called "the carpenter shop" in the family and Dad's recreation hours were spent building row boats that were so substantially built we had no fear of our Sunday outings when we packed a lunch and went up the River past Pigeon Hill in the area of Mount St. Benedict. Our "catch" was to bring back two logs firmly moored to each side of the boat. It was anchored a little east of Central Park and each evening would find Dad sawing the logs. Working with wood was an inheritance given to his son and grandson who were both proficient in home building.

From the courthouse we moved back to Sampson's Addition where we purchased a home at 420 Woodland Avenue that became the homestead. Dad worked at Crookston Trust Company and First National Bank. He was a lover of the outdoors, never owned a car so walked to his work. He would always whistle and take along some bread to feed the birds on his way. Mother passed away in 1936 and Dad in 1959.


Carl taught music and later settled in Willmar, Minnesota. He had a great interest in history and laid some strong foundations for the Kandiyohi County Historical Society. He was also the author of a brief history of that county entitled "Round Robin." He served in World War II and returned to become active in the American Legion. He passed away in 1972. His son, Folland, resides in Moorhead, Minnesota with his wife, the former Geraldine Hanson and daughter, Nancy. Both parents teach in the Moorhead school system. Folland served in the Korean conflict and returned to become active in the American Legion where he is serving on District and State levels. Nancy served in the Waves. Ours has been a Masonic family with my Dad, Karl and Folland belonging to the Shrine.

I, Doris Fridfinnson, served as Deputy County Treasurer of Polk County for a number of years. I am a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Eastern Star and an active participant in the American Legion Auxiliary. I continue my residence in Crookston having been widowed for some time.

ULSETH BROTHERS

All five of the brothers emigrated from Norway during the 1880's and settled in Polk County, Minnesota. Evan, Ole and Martin farmed two miles south of Crookston; Chris farmed near Fosston. Ole later was a rural mail carrier for many years. In 1889, Iver settled in Crookston, where he found employment with the Vance Brick Company, later called the Crookston Brick and Tile Company.

In 1898, Iver and three companions went to Alaska during the "Klondike Gold Rush", and were gone about two years. One of the others who went was Charlie Booth, who later operated a grocery store on South Main Street for many years. It was called the Booth and Lundgren Store.

Iver went back to work with the Brick Company, of which he later became manager, and worked there many years until the clay deposit ran out. In 1925, he moved to Grand Rapids, Minnesota, where he operated a brick yard and lived there until his death in 1935.

One of his daughters, Mrs. M. W. McMahan (Cora), is still living in Crookston. Other daughters are Mrs. Gordon Sherman (Florence) of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

JAMES AND NETTIE (ADAMS) WATT

James Edwin Levi Watt was born September 15, 1884, in Wichita, Kansas, the son of Orphi (Mosher) and John Watt. He had two sisters, Elva and May, and a brother Olin. Orphi Mosher, his mother, was born in Canada. John Watt was born in 1845 and died in 1910.

Nettie Belle Adams was born September 15, 1882, in Glasgow, Illinois, to John Pierpont and Zora Vernillia (Young) Adams. She had two brothers, Benjamin Harrison and Earl. Zora, her mother, was born on December 25, 1861, in Kansas to Serena and John Young. Her father was a preacher and she claimed kinship to Brigham Young. She died at the age of 93 in 1954 in Bethesda Hospital in Crookston. She took care of her crippled daughter, her grandmother, up to two years of her death, ending 23 years of backbreaking labor. She outlived three husbands and three children. Her world had passed her by and even the depth of our love couldn't hold her away from the love she felt coming from wherever we all go. I wept bitterly as I watched her go for she had been a part of me for as long as I could remember and I loved her as much as she loved me. But my mother cuffed me up sharply by stating, "Donnie, your tears are of self-pity, for you wouldn’t have her come back and leave all of those she is with now."

Ulseth Brothers: Left to right, top row: Evan and Iver. Left to right, bottom row: Christopher, Ole and Martin.
John Adams was born in Kentucky. His family were anti-slave people in the South and were burned and run out by Southern armies, losing everything they had. They started over in southern Illinois, along the bluffs of the Illinois River. He was born in 1833 and died after a long and successful life in 1910. He was a rancher with his own fleet of flatboats on the river. He truly was one of the giants of his time as a businessman and civic leader. His family enjoyed living in a 26-room farm home. He became the patriarch of a clan still prospering on the home place and in that region. And although we didn’t know him, his life and successes have been a driving force and inspiration for us.

Jim Watt and Nettie Adams were married in 1902 in Glasgow, Illinois. On April 6, 1904, their only child, Eileen Ruby, was born in Glasgow.

The couple owned and operated a family enterprise, Adams Mercantile, in Glasgows for a number of years.

In 1917, they purchased 480 acres of “rich Red River Valley land” in Hammond Township south of Crookston, having disposed of their holdings in Illinois. They farmed the property for two years.

In 1919 they rented out the farm and moved to Crookston where they shortly opened one of the community’s first motion picture theaters, the Bejou. It was located in the Fournet Block on Broadway.

In the early ‘20s they disposed of the Bejou and obtained the interests of Ross Chesterman in the Lyric Theater. The Lyric was located in the McKinnon Block on South Main, a building purchased in 1952 by Mrs. Watt and her son-in-law, A. O. Myrold.

A number of Hollywood stars including Tom Mix made personal appearances at the Lyric regularly. As typical of this era, the Lyric was a family affair. Jim ran the projector, Nettie ran the box office and Eileen, an accomplished pianist by that time, played the piano for the then silent films. Fred Simmons, a family friend and later owner of the theater, was ticket man and usher.

In the late “20s” the Watts sold their interests in the theater and Jim was secretary of the Crookston Elks Club for several years. In 1928, he had a stroke and he died on July 3, 1929 at the age of 45.

In 1930, Nettie became the victim of the slow form of multiple sclerosis, but she continued to manage her farms from her wheelchair and finally from her bed until her death on April 23, 1953 at the age of 70.

She fought her illness with the passion of a pioneer and with the determination of the Scotch-Irish blood in her veins. And during the ‘30s and the War, whenever any of us needed a little courage, a tender pat, a joke and hearty laugh to build us up, she was the pillar we came to — the pillar being destroyed, muscle-by-muscle every moment of every day.

There was always a warm spot for me to sit on the step of her wheelchair. There was always a bonus of her dish of ice cream when I finished mine. At Christmas and on birthdays there were always those gifts that one can never forget. She had the money and the deep love to make them all extra-special.

After an incredible 23 years of struggle against the enemy in every part of her, against her companion night and day, she said quits and went on to find a new and strong body to fit her vital and dynamic spirit.

When she left, I was in the army and wasn’t home to see her off. I was bitter I wasn’t there, but when we meet again there will be a great reunion and extra ice-cream as the affection we feel only increases with time.

MYRTLE HOVDESVEN WILSON
From parent to child God makes a bridge,

Spanning the valley of fears;
Connecting the peaks of splendid dreams,
Cemented with love and tears.

The early pioneers possessed these splendid dreams; a love of freedom, a desire for land, a place to raise a family in the open spaces of mind and heart. I believe that this heritage should now be bequeathed as a treasure to our children.

Although I am not a native of Polk County, I have lived here for 56 years and feel a part of it. I surely am a part of the pioneer family as my grandparents on both sides came to Minnesota over a hundred years ago. My maternal grandparents left Norway in 1857, lost their first baby at sea, came to Minnesota from Wisconsin by horse and wagon to LaCrosse, steamboat to St. Paul, railroad to Darwin, as far as the railroad went. My grandfather walked to Montevideo, then called “Chippewa City”. By ox-drawn wagon he went back to get the family, where they had stayed with relatives in Willmar. My grandmother couldn’t have entered that first “dug out” door if she had worn her gray silk wedding dress with hoop skirt.

The little family had the same hardships as those in Polk County: blizzards, prairie fires, grasshoppers, epidemics. In 1880 blizzard followed blizzard. Families had to cut up furniture for fuel. Some ground wheat in their coffee mill. Through it all they kept their courage. Grandmother started the first Sunday school in her home, which by now housed more children.

In the summer of ’75 my family on the paternal side had their first reunion to celebrate the arrival of my grandfather, Ole Hovdesven, to Cottonwood, Minnesota, the homestead now owned by his great grandson. All four of my children from different states were present. I really think they absorbed the sense of heritage, which takes on meaning when one gets older. It is a bridge which we continue to walk, overlooking the vistas of great technological change, while continuing to search for spiritual values.

I came to Beltrami to teach in 1919 and made many friends. That fall Ina Carlson (Overland) and I attended the John Philip Sousa Concert in Crookston. Roads, when wet, were almost impossible, and many times we slithered in mud to Grand Forks to hear Schumann Heinck, Paderewski, Rachmaninoff and many other artists. Yes, we had culture in those days!

Then came marriage, children, the depression, the move to Crookston, where my husband, Henry Wilson, became associated with the First National Bank. My father was also a banker and lived through bank robbery, bank failure and resultant hardships. After his death, mother came to live with me and died at the age of 97, a woman of great spiritual resources.

Henry’s family were New Englanders, so had a different background. One forebear fought in the Revolutionary War, one in the Civil War. Henry was in the medical corps during World War I in France. My son David sailed the high seas on a destroyer in World War II. My grandsons were too young to fight in the Vietnam War.

The pioneers of yesterday produced the stalwarts of succeeding generations and still pass on the intelligence and integrity which makes America great. From parent to child God makes a bridge!