WARREN M. WOOLERY

Warren M. Woolery was born on a farm near Elmore, Minnesota on September, 1908, and attended school the first year in a Little Red School House located near by. In 1915, his family moved to Hazen, North Dakota, where they lived till 1917; when the family moved to Dunn Center, North Dakota. His father operated a butcher shop and dealt in livestock. He attended school, but did not finish high school because he was needed in the business. In those days bicycles were a luxury, but we were given a horse to ride, that was our transportation! I can remember the times we would pick up buffalo horns on the prairie and polish them to a shiny ebony color. If we didn’t like the one we picked up, we would look for another as they were not hard to find.

In the early 1920’s, Warren heard his first radio broadcasts and became interested. In 1926, he came to Minnesota looking for work. He found work at the telephone company as a groundman on a heavy construction crew, which was just completing the northern phone line. He worked as a lineman; splicer; foreman from North Dakota to Nebraska to the state of Maine. In 1941 at the start of the war, he was transferred to the telephone exchange at Crookston, Minnesota.

In 1935, Warren Woolery married Beatta Fritz at Killdeer, North Dakota. Beatta Fritz’s parents were German and were trying to come to the United States. They could not come directly, but had moved to the Crimean Peninsula, U.S.S.R. where they met and were married. Beatta was born there in 1905. Later they moved to Turkey and then to England, finally to the United States. They landed at Boston. In 1915, they were the last immigrants able to come because of the start of World War I. They came to Halliday, North Dakota, where they lived in a straw barn for a year. They later moved to a homestead north of Dunn Center where Gottfried and Emma Fritz and their family farmed. Beatta attended school at the country school and worked in Dunn Center. After her marriage, she came to Minnesota to live with her husband.

Warren, being interested in electronics, had a radio license under the call of W9SFF, later WOSFF. This license was granted in 1934. He also had a commercial license associated with the telephone and radio in the area. He helped get KROX radio on the air, set up the first microwave radio telephone service and maintained it out of Crookston till he retired in 1973.

They have one daughter, Mrs. Dwight Thibert, “Betty,” and three grandchildren who live at Red Lake Falls, Minnesota.

The City of East Grand Forks

The City of East Grand Forks had its beginning after the Civil War as a trading center and stopping-off place for teamsters who drove the Red River Valley ox carts between Winnepeg and St. Paul. Resources, ideas and human ingenuity help explain the diversity of the community. No single development would sufficiently in itself explain the specific character of the community established by W. C. Nash in 1867.

Nash had been up and down the Valley for five years as a fur trader and government mail carrier between Abercrombie and Pembina. The community was first known as Nashville when permanent settlement took place. James Deering became the first entrepreneur when he brought in a stock of goods in 1871, and set up the first store in a tent on the banks of the Red River.

With the establishment of a post office in 1873, the name was changed to East Grand Forks. Eight years later, the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad, later renamed the Great Northern, extended its lines to the community and a building boom began.

East Grand Forks is located in one of the world’s richest agricultural areas. The Red River Valley produces an abundance of grain, sugar beets, sunflowers, soybeans and potatoes each year. The principal manufacturing enterprises are for the most part directly related to the native economy, the processing of agricultural products. Barley was also grown extensively, a brewery was built and beer was exported over a seven-state area. Prohibition ended the enterprise.

At one time the town was well known as a lumbering center, having one of the largest sawmills in the country, producing forty million feet of lumber annually. For some years the manufacture of lumber exceeded all other local industries. The Red Lake River provided an excellent means of getting the logs from forest to mill.

When the timberlands were exhausted and the mill closed, the community turned its attention in earnest to agricultural development. Sugar beets were grown experimentally for several years. When it was established that the soil and climate were adequate for beets, the development of a processing plant became advisable. The American Crystal Sugar Company built the local plant in 1926.

About that time, the first World War, having ended, the importance of potato growing was recognized. The production has steadily increased bringing about the building of potato processing industries.

East Grand Forks prides itself on its greatest asset — its civic minded citizens. With a population of 8,397, determined by a city-wide census in 1975, East Grand Forks has made more community improvements the last ten years than in the previous 50 years. Holiday Mall, an enclosed climate shopping center, and many other stores are available and convenient in the downtown area.

Education is very important to the resident of East Grand Forks. Four elementary schools (one parochial) and two high schools (one parochial) have been built in recent years. The Junior High School has undergone extensive remodeling. The Vocational Education Center is supplying vocational needs to the area students, while the new Area Vocational Technical Institute provides further educational opportunities.

Several churches have been built during the past ten years. The community swimming pool was constructed in Sherlock Park, which is one of the five parks in the parks system. Tennis courts were installed in 1967, and recreational programs are planned for everyone each year. The Civic Recreation Center completed in 1974 provides a place for recreation both summer and winter, and one which can also house many conventions.

Street improvement projects have been completed in most areas of the city and street lighting improvements have been installed throughout the entire city. The cemetery is another improvement of the city.

East Grand Forks takes great pride in its civic buildings, which include an attractive, multi-purpose city hall — housing a library, police station, water and light department, as well as other city officials — and a fire station, both built in 1964. The water treatment plant, handling four million gallons per day, opened in 1965, to meet future industrial and residential needs.

The elderly are also cared for in East Grand Forks. The Good Samaritan Nursing Home was dedicated in 1965, with a good portion of the cost raised by the community toward this 119 bed building. Construction was completed in 1975 for 20 apartment units for the elderly at the Good Samaritan Complex. Sunshine Terrace, a six story senior citizen’s highrise housing unit, was dedicated in 1971 and provides low cost housing for the elderly.

Major manufacturing companies are closely related to the agricultural economy. There are many potato warehouses in East Grand Forks with a total storage capacity of over ten million bushels. The Potato Processing Research Laboratory opened in 1964 as a part of the Red River Valley Potato Research Center, under the United States Department of Agriculture. Because of its base as a shipping center, East Grand
Forks is known as the "Potato Capital" of the world. Thousands of tons of sugar beets are processed each year at the American Crystal Sugar Plant. A 40-million dollar addition to the plant in 1975 makes it one of the largest sugar beet plants in America.

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Shortly after World War I a few families of Christian Reformed background bought land in Grand Forks County in North Dakota. In the early 1920's meetings were held in Hon-eyford. When services were discontinued in the rural church, a few families associated with the Christian Reformed Church in Crookston.

In the 1950's several families interested in the Christian Reformed Church moved into Grand Forks. In 1957 services were conducted on Sunday evening by Reverend Keuning of the Crookston Church. The group met in the YMCA during the winter of 1957-58. The attendance at these meetings was approximately 25-35, including relatives of some of the settlers of the early 20's.

In 1959 services were held in the Mission Covenant Church. Later the group moved to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. After it was decided to locate in the point area of East Grand Forks, the Lincoln School was used for Vacation Bible School and services during the summer of 1961. That fall saw the beginning of the construction of the Chapel. Nearly all the work was done by members and friends who came from as far as Fergus Falls, Minnesota. In the early summer of 1962, the chapel was completed on Tenth Street and Rhinehart Drive.

The Reverend M. Keuning of Crookston gave freely of his time and energy to all the activities of the church. Largely due to his recommendation, the Home Mission Board agreed to support the East Grand Forks work by providing a full-time pastor. Reverend Peter Lagerwey came in August of 1963, a few months after services were first held in the church, which later became the parsonage.

It was on July 23, 1968 that ground breaking ceremonies were held for the new church building. The cornerstone was placed in the building in October of 1968. The first service was held in the new building on February 9, 1969.

The congregation was formally organized on March 5, 1971. Three years later on March 24, 1974 Pastor Lagerwey left. After a year's vacancy, Reverend Larry Slings became the congregation's second pastor.

The Christian Reformed denomination has its roots in the Protestant Reformation, whose followers of John Calvin formed both the Reformed and the Presbyterian Churches in Europe. The Christian Reformed Church had its origin in the United States in 1857 when the members of the Reformed Church immigrated and settled in Michigan and Iowa.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

On January 18, 1944, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Forks agreed to formulate a plan for a release of members who lived in East Grand Forks so that they might form a congregation. In the summer of 1944, the old Sullivan house was purchased to serve as a "Mission House." Sunday School was started on October 15, 1944 with Student Robert Otto in charge.

The Mission House was dedicated on November 12, 1944 by Reverend Theodore Dorpat of Grand Forks and Student Otto. Mr. Willard Zimbrick was appointed the first Sunday School superintendent.

Early in 1945, Student Otto was replaced by Student Wilton Fluegg. On June 25, 1945, the congregation was officially organized and the name First Lutheran Church was adopted. Twenty families affixed their names to the articles of the organization.

On the first Sunday in July of 1945, the first morning worship was held at the Mission House and on July 12, 1945 a call was extended to the Reverend M. T. Wolfram of Marble, Minnesota. Pastor Wolfram was installed on September 2, 1945.

The congregation soon outgrew the Mission House and services were transferred to the Central school auditorium. The Mission House was sold and moved off and on September 15, 1947 excavation for the basement unit began. It was completed and dedication services were held on August 28, 1948.

On April 22, 1949, Reverend Wolfram accepted a call to Tucson, Arizona. Reverend E. W. Borchert of Dodge Center, Minnesota was installed on July 17, 1949. On April 16, 1952 work was started on the super-structure by the Johnson-Gilander Company of Grand Forks. The Church proper was completed and dedicated on March 22, 1953.

In 1954, a new parsonage was built at 1309 North 5th Street, the present home of the pastor. June, 1963 property at 224 S. 4th Street was purchased for additional Sunday School classroom space. November 28, 1965 Reverend Borchert accepted a call to Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Reverend Heintzen of the Wittenburg Chapel at the University of North Dakota served as our vacancy pastor.

Reverend E. F. Behling, our present pastor, was installed on March 27, 1966.

February, 1967 the property at 213 and 215 S. 5th St. along side of the church was purchased for expansion purposes. The new educational unit was completed in 1971.

MENDENHALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In May, 1888 about fifty interested persons attended a meeting to organize a church in East Grand Forks. The meeting was held in a building on DeMers Avenue loaned by Messrs. McNicol and McAdam. Seats were planks placed on bundles of shingles. The Reverend Harlan G. Mendenhall of Grand Forks presided. Elder W. E. Parsons of Grand Forks was appointed the first Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Cameron Anderson and Alexander Patterson were ordained the first Elders. Building lots at South Third Street and Second Avenue South were donated by the Reverend Mendenhall and William Budge. Lots for the first church site came from George Coulter.

At the cornerstone laying of the church, on September 16, 1890, the trowel was accidentally dropped into a trench, and so Elder Cameron Anderson lowered Nelly Barlow Praether (Harold Sullivan's aunt) down into the trench to retrieve the trowel.

In 1892 the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavors was formed and they purchased a piano in 1900. The pastor's salary was $1,000 a year in 1893.

The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized in 1896. In July 1897, the Ladies Aid turned in $43.60 to the Trustees and with it some debts were paid. The following year, 1897, a janitor was hired at one dollar per week.
Mendenhall Presbyterian Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

In January 1898, the newly installed furnace was found unsatisfactory since smoke came out of the pipes instead of heat.

At a Trustee's meeting bills were allowed for: furnace repairs, $3; J. H. Hiler, $5 for wood and $56 for kerosene. This was in 1901. In February, 1906, a milestone was reached, the church was wired for electricity at a cost of $29.30.

Dr. Mendenhall gave $2,000 for a church hall under the sanctuary. It was built in 1910 and named Peden Hall in memory of the Scottish martyrs. The hall and sanctuary floor burned December 12, 1913. On December 1, 1946 the Bethel Church of Mallory burned and on October 17, 1948, they united with the Mendenhall church.

The congregation voted to build both sanctuary and Christian Education units in 1955, and on December 23, 1956 the first services were held which included two baptisms, two weddings and Church School Christmas program.

On March 3, 1957, the present church building on 10th Avenue North was dedicated during the ministry of Andrew M. Lowry III.

The new pipe organ was dedicated, the first pipe organ in East Grand Forks, in November 1960.

In 1960 the church congregation chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Verne McWalter sponsored Mr. and Mrs. Karel Rugebrecht and baby Gerde, refugees from Indonesia. Indonesia declared that all who were not pure blooded Indonesian had to leave the country. They arrived February 17th. An apartment supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Herb Lammey, furniture, clothing and food by the members. Mr. Rugebrecht secured a job at Black's bakery. In 1963, they moved to California and is working as an airplane mechanic. They and their three children returned to Mendenhall to celebrate their American citizenship. Mr. Rugebrecht spoke fervently on what becoming a citizen meant to him.

As a part of the diamond Jubilee Celebration of the church in 1965, the mortgage of $200,000 was burned by Donald Peterson, Mrs. A. G. Vickery and Nancy Boyer.

On June 10, 1971, fire broke out in front of the church sanctuary, completely destroying the altar, choir loft, piano, electric organs, pews and skylights.


As early as 1674 this area was included in the Diocese of Quebec, then Santiago de Cuba, Havana, New Orleans, Baltimore, St. Louis and Dubuque. From 1850 to 1875 it was a part of the Diocese of St. Paul, which was bordered on the east by the St. Croix River and on the west by the Missouri River. The parish was a part of the Diocese of Duluth from 1889 until the forming of the Diocese of Crookston in 1910.

The first Catholic religious service in East Grand Forks was conducted by Father Scherer in July 1883 in a building on DeMers Avenue. At that time this part of the country was thinly populated by some white people (among them an occasional ranchman) and a few Indians (some of whom were traders).

With Father Hendricks as pastor, the Sacred Heart Parish was organized in 1892. The first church building was completed in 1895 at an estimated cost of $3,000. Soon afterwards it was destroyed by fire.

Undaunted, the parish constructed another and larger church on the same site. This building and its furnishings cost $12,000. In 1908, Father Green was appointed pastor. Two years later "an elegant" pastoral residence, costing $8,000 was ready for use.

The parish now numbered about 200 families. A Ladies' Auxiliary of the Church, a Men's League of the Sacred Heart, an Altar Society, and the Catholic Order of Foresters were formed to further the interests of the Church.

Sunday school classes were conducted and a class of 57 received First Holy Communion in June 1900. That same year in September 60 pupils registered for the first Sacred Heart Grade School.

In 1911 Father Klinikhammer was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Church. Under his supervision, a school was built in 1911 for students of grades 1 through 8. The Sisters of St. Benedict, Duluth, Minnesota, were in charge of the school. In 1917 the convent was built for housing the Sisters. In 1919 the Benedictine Sisters from the Crookston Priory (newly formed) opened the first high school classes at Sacred Heart. The first graduating class received their diplomas in 1923.

Monsignor Klinikhammer remained in charge of the parish until his death in 1947.

In October of 1947, Father A. I. Merth arrived to be in charge of Sacred Heart Parish. One month after his arrival a meeting was held to plan a new structure. There were $200,000 in the Father Klinikhammer Building Fund. More land was purchased and a new church, rectory, high school, and gymnasium were constructed at a cost well over $500,000. The first Mass was offered in the new Church in December 1951. The high school students moved into the high school building in early 1952.

A 16-classroom building was constructed on South Fourth Street in 1958 to accommodate the increased grade school enrollment. During the same time an addition to the convent building was built to house the growing faculty.

Necessarily, for the parishioners there were times of great sacrifice to meet the payments on such huge construction projects.

In 1970, because of failing health Monsignor Merth found it necessary to retire. To succeed him, came Father Donald Krebs, the present pastor.

Sacred Heart High School celebrated its Golden Anniversary, there having been nearly 1300 graduates, many of whom returned to celebrate.

The Post-Councilian times dictated that Father Krebs would spend much energy and many efforts in re-decorating the Church, in instructional and organizational matters. Although the Parish Council had been organized in 1970 and the Men's Athletic Association had been functioning for years, reorganization was needed. Religious Ed. Board was formed and CCD Program was initiated. Parish Life and Social Action Committee, Finance Board, School Board, etc. became alive. Adult Education through Theology Series, Lenten Forums, Reconciliation Seminars, Marriage Preparation and Marriage Encounters, and Community University represent continuous building of Sacred Heart Parish, albeit interior, under Father Krebs vital leadership.

SACRED HEART PARISH

The parish of Sacred Heart Church of East Grand Forks comprises all of Rhinehart and Grand Forks and parts of surrounding townships.

This territory was first claimed by France, but in 1763 France ceded it to Spain. In the year 1800 it was restored to France. In 1803 it was sold by Napoleon to the United States.
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The organization of Our Savior's Lutheran Congregation of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, was the result of a survey by the Board of Home Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Board recommended that the steps be taken to form a congregation here and called the Reverend Truman P. Mohn to undertake the task. Rev. Mohn was at that time serving his first parish at Pequot Lakes, Minnesota.

Reverend Mohn arrived in East Grand Forks on February 22, 1947 to begin the work of organization. The first service was in the Smaller Finger Hall of the Mohawk State Bank. There were fifty-six people in attendance. On subsequent Sundays attendance at services increased rapidly, and by October 5, it was necessary to move to larger quarters in the American Legion Hall, 126 South Third Street. Somewhat later, services were again moved, this time to the old auditorium in Central High School, where they continued to be held until the new church building was occupied in September, 1949.

In the meantime, the organization was being perfected. The name "Our Savior's Lutheran Church" was adopted on June 29, 1947, and the Articles of Incorporation were signed in August of that year.

The Sunday School held its first session on September 7, 1947 with an enrollment of 75. By 1949 it had grown to 192. In 1957 the enrollment was 313 and the Sunday School required three sessions, four departments and a staff of forty-five teachers and supervisors. The Senior Choir was organized by Miss Gladys Eagle on October 9, 1947. The Women's Missionary Federation was organized on October 7, 1947, with Mrs. Emil Homme, first president.

A building site was purchased on Fifth Avenue and Third Street and construction began for the first church building with the total cost of $43,352.00. First services were held on September, 1949. The Service of Consecration was held on October 23, 1949 with the Reverend R. M. Fjelstad, President of The Northern Minnesota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, bringing the message. There were at that time 600 baptized members, a Sunday School of 191, with a staff of 32, a choir of 32, Junior and Senior Luther Leagues, a Ladies' Aid with five circles and 90 members.

Reverend Mohn continued as pastor until the end of 1952, having accepted a call to Chicago. The call committee issued a call to The Reverend Alvin L. Stenberg, Scottsbluff, Nebraska. He accepted the call and was installed on August 30, 1953 by Dr. O. L. Proehl. Reverend Stenberg was a graduate of Concordia Seminary, Moorhead and of St. Paul's Seminary.

On August 30, 1954 the congregation purchased a temporary parsonage at 1343 North Fifth Street at a cost of $16,900. The Sunday School immediately held classes in the old parsonage.

The 25th Anniversary of Our Savior's was celebrated on September 24-25, 1972 with the Reverend Truman Mohn and The Reverend Loyal Tallakson as guest speakers. Greetings were also given by the Honorable Mrs. Vivian Harney, Mayor of East Grand Forks; Father D. H. Krebs, Chairman of the East Grand Forks Ministerial Association; and by Pastor Peter Lagerway, President of the Greater Grand Forks Ministerial Association. The general theme for the anniversary was, "This Has Been the Work of God."

Mr. Fred Haugo served as Director of Youth and Parish Education from 1970-1974, with a leave of absence to serve in the military. Upon his resignation, the Congregation voted to call a part time pastor to be an associate of Pastor Stenberg. The Reverend Paul Meierding was installed by the Bishop of the Northern Minnesota District of the American Lutheran Church, Dr. Cecil Johnson, on October 5, 1975.

The staff presently includes Pastors A. L. Stenberg, Paul G. Meierding and Carl J. Field. The manager of the office is Mrs. Dennis Thompson and her assistant, Mrs. Don Danielson. The Custodial staff includes Warren Johnson and Mrs. Florence Mattson.

November 9, 1975 the congregation celebrated the 10th anniversary of its new church facilities with Dr. Paul Dovre, President of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota as its guest speaker. Our Savior's has generously shared its facility with many worthy enterprises of our community, such as providing classrooms for our public schools, various health and medical clinics. Currently we provide facilities for the Head Start program, and Euterpe Music Club and Barbershop Choirs for their rehearsals and concerts . . . also for 4-H banquets, regular meetings of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Our Savior's congregation has benefited greatly by the sacrifices of its many people living in East Grand Forks and surrounding community. As a church we seek to benefit the lives of as many people as we can in Proclaiming the Gospel, ministering to people in all their needs, and by joining other Christian congregations in a spirit of ecumenism. Our Sunday Services have been broadcast every Sunday continuously since 1959 over Radio Station KRAD in East Grand Forks.

At this time we have a baptized membership of 1,323; confirmed membership of 881; 340 Sunday School students; 34 teachers; Organist is Mrs. Gary Berg; we have four choirs: Senior Choir directed by Donald Danielson; Junior High Choir directed by Wally Selmanson; Youth Choir directed by Mrs. A. L. Stenberg; Chorub Choir directed by Mrs. Dale Brekke.

Celebrating the Bicentennial with the people of East Grand Forks is a time for us to renew and redevelop ourselves to service for people in our community and to the Glory of God for all people throughout the world.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

A meeting to organize the Minnesota National Bank of East Grand Forks was held on December 12, 1929. People who attended this meeting were H. G. Giese, A. O. Rudh, John Martin, James B. Bingham, E. Deverell, M. M. Hayden, and E. A. Hoff. On this date they moved to form the Minnesota National Bank of East Grand Forks. The First Bank Stock Corporation of Minneapolis, Minnesota, bought the First State Bank building at the corner of DeMers Avenue and South Third Street. The capital stock of the association was $50,000 and divided into ten shares of $100 each. At a meeting of the Board of Directors on December 13, 1929, John Martin, A. O. Rudh, James B. Bingham, H. G. Giese, and E. A. Hoff were elected directors. Mr. M. M. Hayden of St. Paul, one of the corporation officers, was elected president of the bank. E. A. Hoff, who had been an officer at The National Bank of Jamestown, North Dakota, was elected vice-president and cashier. The Board authorized that the bank should be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays.

A public reception from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. marked the opening day, January 2, 1930. On April 10, 1930, Miss Clara Bakke was hired by the Board of Directors.

At the annual meeting of the directors of the Minnesota National Bank on January 14, 1947, the following officers were elected: L. H. Everett — President; H. G. Giese — Vice President; Clara S. Bakke — Cashier; Howard R. Gravsett — Assistant Cashier; John Malmberg — Assistant Cashier. On Thursday, August 28, 1947, the Minnesota National Bank celebrated the opening of the new bank building with an open house. The bank's new home was a one story building with frontings of 50 feet and 72 feet located on the corner of Third Street and Second Avenue South formerly known as Kittson Avenue.

On October 17, 1958, the First National Bank of East Grand Forks took out a building permit for the construction of the present bank building. When finished this new building will be twice the present size of the existing bank. At that time it was said by Lee H. Everett, president, that the extensive expansion and remodeling program now under way on the First National Bank of East Grand Forks will give East Grand Forks one of the most modern and distinctive bank buildings of any city of its size in the Upper Midwest. Highlights of the program include frontage totaling 100 feet along South Third Street, doubling the present space for customer service and operating departments, the first drive-in teller's window of any bank in the Grand Forks area. It was estimated that this project would take approximately eight months to complete.

During the summer of 1966 the interior of the bank was completely remodeled. The note window was moved to the
teller line, walls were painted, and paper and new drapes were hung. Red carpeting was installed throughout the portion of the main bank. The bookkeeping room was carpeted and panelled and all new desks and office furniture were installed. An open house was held in November and a rose was given to each lady customer.

In December, 1974, an open house was held to celebrate the complete remodeling of the interior of the bank. A new directors' room and president's office were built, the complete interior of the bank was redone with new carpeting, drapes, and wall covering, a five-lane drive-in, which is presently the largest drive-in in the area, was opened. An open house was held on a Sunday afternoon with free coffee, punch and cookies for customers. The open house continued for three days and was received by over 2,500 people. Numerous door prizes were given out; and a grand prize of a trip for two to Mexico City was won by Mr. and Mrs. Viggo Nelson.

The present officers of the bank are D. A. McRae, President; Arvy J. Larson, Vice President; and Agricultural Representative; George E. Ruth, Assistant Vice President and Cashier; Kerry L. Knoff, Timepay Officer; and Shyla Peterson, Auditor.

The current directors are Clarence S. Amundson, John J. Gaddie, Ardell Jeffrey, Jay Johnson, Thomas W. Ryan, Ordean Thompson, and D. A. McRae.

**AMERICAN CRYSTAL SUGAR COMPANY**

I. C. C. Orr (Champ) was sent by officials of the American Beet Sugar Company to East Grand Forks, Minnesota along with men from their other sugar mills to work during the construction of the factory and help in the operation of said factory. I., with two other factory men, left Denver, Colorado on April 1, 1926, landing in Grand Forks on the morning of April 3, 1926.

Most of the steel framing was up and some equipment installed in the beet end of the mill. That spring was rather dry. There was not much snow during the winter; at least the fields were bare, and we had quite a lot of wind. The black soil filled pits along the highway and we worked out in the open and at night and at the end of the day we were black with the blowing soil.

I don't know how many men were employed during construction, but the construction ended and operation started some time in late September or early October.

As is the case with all new plants, we had the usual difficulties. The first campaign (running season) was rather short, which was a good thing. We found the weak spots and partially trained the crews, which is a big job. The men that they sent in were only a skeleton crew. We had to use, and wanted to use, local labor and train them for future use. A sugar mill, like a new plant, has many bugs or defects to be found out and corrected. The University of North Dakota made a survey of the sugar beet industry during the 1940's, showing that the history of beet processing had its beginning in countries bordering on the Mediterranean Sea. There is another story that during a war in Europe between Germany and France in the 1700's concerning the manufacturing of sugar beets. As for the sugar beet crops, we never had a failure during the 1930's. But dry years affect the quality of the beets. Dry years take impurities out of the soil, mostly lime salts, which are hard and costly to remove. Insects were and are very bad at times. The Sugar company has trained field men who advise farmers on the proper way to plant, cultivate and harvest their crops. The sugar company wants beets with sugar in them, not just beets. A beet with low sugar content is expensive to process and not much good.

The pulp of the body of the beet after the sugar is removed is processed for stock food, with high food values. If it were not for by-products, sugar would be terribly high.

The process has improved very much since I went to work for the sugar company in 1914, and equipment has made very radical improvements. The number of men required to operate the mill has decreased very much — only one-third or one-fourth as much as was needed in early years.

Not only the growing of sugar beets is a very large job but the agricultural aspect; the farmer has to fight insects and disease of beets, as well as improve quality and quantity. The farmers' organizations own the sugar company, but are going to have to depend on sugar men to operate the mills.

The process of operation goes way back in history: Chemist, engineers of all types, and finally the plant. The company, years ago, depended on European countries for beet seed, such as Germany, Romania, Bulgaria and countries in central Europe. The United States growers tried to grow their own, but were not successful. Now they have experimental processes to grow good seed. Seed produced in Europe had pods with multiple seed germs. Now they produce pods with single germs, which cut labor costs to farmers. The sugar company now has land in Arizona for fall seed planting. When the plants are up, the season is such that the plants go dormant; or rather, the weather is such that they stop growing for a short time. When they start growing again, they produce seed. The old way was to take regular beets from an old crop, keep them in cellars or root cellars, set them out the following spring and they would produce seed. The process has changed, but the fight against insects and disease goes on.

“Whitey’s Wonderbar” was a familiar East Grand Forks landmark in the 1930’s and 40’s.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF WHITEY’S**

*by Mr. Greg Stennes*

*Owner/Manager*

*Whitey’s Cafe, Inc.*

Whitey’s Cafe is among the oldest and most reputable restaurants in the Northwest. The beginning was in 1925 when a young man named Edwin “Whitey” Larson opened the Coney Island Lunch Room at 108 N. 2nd Street. It was very small in comparison to the many establishments that lined DeMers Avenue.

East Grand Forks was known throughout the Northwest for its many fine nightclubs, restaurants, and clubs. The ambitious Whitey saw the opportunities and set out to build the finest bar in the area. He purchased the building at 110-112 DeMers Avenue from the Duluth Brewing Co., and built the first stainless steel horseshow bar in the United States. The glass front was designed by an East Grand Forks man, Samuel DeRemer, and was publicized in the Saturday Evening Post and in Time Magazine. It was appropriately named “Whitey’s Wonderbar.” The stainless steel construction of the Wonderbar was truly unique in 1930, as were the modern fixtures and design of the building. “Whitey’s Wonderbar” was done in Art Deco, a traditional style of the 1930’s. Today, Whitey’s is one of the best examples of this type of architecture in the country.

“Whitey’s Wonderbar and Cafe” was destroyed by fire in
During World War II, James and Otta moved to the West Coast, where their children then resided. Both were employed by the R. L. Polk Company and worked in cities from California up to Seattle, Washington, where they had resided for fifteen years when he died in 1961.

Since then, Mrs. Amble has spent most of her time in East Grand Forks. For two years she lived in Bemidji, Minnesota, where her son, Stanton ("Bud"), and his family reside, returning to East Grand Forks to live when Sunshine Terrace was opened in 1971. She fell and broke a hip early in 1973 and has made her home with her son-in-law and daughter, Arthur and Alva Amundson, in East Grand Forks. Her other daughter, Anita, is married to Elton Grina and lives in Grand Forks. Otta has eighteen grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren. She is a member of First Lutheran Church and their Golden Circle.

Mrs. Otto S. Amble.

KLUNDSETERS BECOME AMUNDSONS
As was the custom, when the sons of Amund Klundseter came to the United States from Norway shortly after the turn of the century, they changed their name to Amundson, designating that they were sons of Amund. Thus Olaf, Otto, Ole and Emil Klundseter became Amundsons, while Martin and Helga, who stayed in Norway, remained Klundseter's. Emil later returned to Norway to live, but Olaf, Otto and Ole stayed in this area — Olaf and Otto in Grand Forks and Ole at Blackduck, Minnesota, where he later died.

Otto moved to Strandquist where he married Jennie Heggstrom and farmed for many years. After her death, he returned to Grand Forks to make his home with a son, Vernon, and both men died about ten years ago. Otto had ten children, two of whom now live in East Grand Forks.

Elmer, the oldest son of Otto, is a retired truck driver and lives in East Grand Forks with his wife, Minnie, and daughter, Jennifer. They also have three married children, Bonnie (now Mrs. Thomas Todd), Elroy and Donna (Mrs. Kenneth Huff). Minnie's father, Charles Nelson, is a resident of Good Samaritan Nursing Home and in good health for his ninety years.

The other son of Otto Amundson who lives in East Grand Forks is Dale, who drives for Dan Dugan. He and his wife, Florence, have seven children: Gerald, Roger, Daniel and Elaine, all married, and Ronald, Debbie and Dale Jr. at home. Olaf Amundson married Rena Nygård at Grand Forks in 1911. She was a native of Oslo, Norway, and all of her relatives had remained over there. Olaf was a cement contractor and later worked for the city of Grand Forks. He died in 1952 and Rena died in 1965.

Olaf and Rena had nine children, all of whom are still living. Roy lives in the family home built by his father in 1911. Margaret is married to Lawrence Stauning and they live in Grand Forks. Lillian (Mrs. Wilbur Hemenover) and Helen (Mrs. Kurt Schmuckal) both live in California. Donald and Maybelle (Mrs. Earl Bushy) live in Denver. Arthur, Gladys (Mrs. Harold Rosenberg) and Dorothy (Mrs. J. Howard Olson) all live in East Grand Forks.

1942, was rebuilt, and named "Whitey's Cafe & Lounge." The 1940's marked the end of an era in East Grand Forks. The gambling industry was closed down in 1947, and, with the loss of traffic on the Avenue and tightening of license requirements, many nightclubs were forced to close. Whitey's was one of the few to survive and survival meant change.

With the same enthusiasm that Whitey employed to build his "Wonderbar" he now used to build the food reputation that his Cafe and Lounge is now famous for. Whitey would settle for nothing but the best; anything else would be out of character.

Because of his enthusiasm, his constant attention to detail, and his insistence on quality, "Whitey's" remains among the finest and most successful restaurants in the country. The wonderful food and comfortable atmosphere of "Whitey's" still attracts people from a wide area to East Grand Forks. Started in 1925 with one employee, today "Whitey's" employs 65 people. After five decades in a rapidly-changing world, the quality and the image, and the name of "Whitey's" still remain in a class of their own.

MRS. JAMES (OTTA) AMBLE
Otta Skeie was born at St. Hilaire, Minnesota in 1894, the eighth of ten children born to Christian A. and Inger Berke-land Skeie. They had come from Norway to New London, Minnesota, in 1881, moving to St. Hilaire to make their home a short time later. Christian Skeie was a shoemaker and operated a second-hand store. He later homesteaded near Spooner, Minnesota. Their ten children were Arne, Nicholas, Helbertina, Caroline, Anna (now Mrs. Peter Lerfeld of Towner, North Dakota), Christine, Ida (Mrs. Erbie Stoyke of Park Rapids), Otta, Ella (Mrs. Julius Torgeson of Minneapolis) and Od, who is called "Diek" and lives with his wife, Alice, in San Diego, California.

Samuel J. and Carrie Johnson Amble were also born in Norway, and both came to Grand Forks, where they were married in 1883. In 1906 they moved to St. Hilaire and started the Park Ridge Nursery Farm. Their five children were: Blanche, Nettie, May, James and Cleo. May, the widow of Floyd Purvis, now makes her home with her son-in-law and daughter, Robert and Fyrne Rudh in East Grand Forks.

Otta Skeie and James Arthur Amble were married at St. Hilaire in 1916. She had been postmistress there and was organist at the Lutheran church. James, a graduate of Union Commercial College in Grand Forks, was associated with his father in the nursery business and later employed in the Merchants State Bank in St. Hilaire. In 1919 they moved to Grand Forks where he became affiliated with "The American," a daily newspaper then being published there. He then became associated with the Credit Bureau of Grand Forks, which he purchased from Francis McKernan in 1925 and operated until 1937, when he sold the business to Maude M. Adams. James and Otta Amble had five children: Alva, Stanton, Raymond (who died in infancy), Anita and James Jr., who died in 1970 in California.
Dorothy, the youngest member of the Olaf Amundson family, and her husband, Donald Fore, bought a home in the newly-developing district on Nineteenth Avenue North in East Grand Forks in 1956, where they lived with their daughters Dawn and Renee. Their youngest daughter, Deanne Ellen, until moving to California in 1962. Dorothy and the girls returned to East Grand Forks in 1963 and have lived here since that time. Dorothy was employed in the office of Sylvania Company while they were laying cable for the missile sites here, later working for Colborn School Supply. Since 1967 she has been employed at the University of North Dakota where she is now secretary in the chemical engineering department.

In 1973 she married John Howard Olson, a driver for White Seal Sales Company for more than twenty-five years. They live at 520 Seventeenth Avenue North with the two girls. Dawn, a graduate of East Grand Forks High School, is a student in medical technology at AVTI. Diane is a student at Central Junior High School where she participates in chorus and band. She is also actively working with the Humane Society and is a member of the choir at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

ARTHUR AMUNDSON

When Arthur Melvin Amundson and his wife, Alva, moved to 519 7th Avenue South in East Grand Forks from Grand Forks in 1950, it seemed an ideal spot to raise their children. There was a football field and playground on one side, a congenial bachelor on the other, and just a few blocks to walk to school or church or the downtown area. The home, a duplex, was destroyed by fire on a cold March day in 1954, but fortunately everyone, even the old cocker spaniel, escaped without injury. The house was rebuilt, and with it friendships that will last a lifetime! The football field has long since given way to the Valley Elementary School, so there has been no shortage of playmates for children or Jeffie, the funny little dog who has been every child's friend for the last ten years. There have been some broken windows and trampled flowers, but the enjoyment of seeing happy children at play more than compensates for them.

Arthur was born in Grand Forks, the son of the late Olaf and Mabel Amundson, and attended school there. For two years he enjoyed life in a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where he played on the hockey team. He then worked with his father, a cement contractor, for a few years before starting a rural dry-cleaning route. He was affiliated with States Cleaners as long as they were in operation and the last few years had been with American Cleaners in Grand Forks. His dry-cleaning route extended from the Halstad area to the Canadian border, and for more than 32 years he watched this area and the hard-working people in it change and grow. But wash-and-wear fabrics came along and, with the rising cost of gasoline, he reluctantly retired.

Alva, the daughter of James and Otta Amble, was born in St. Hilaire in Pennington County, and moved to Grand Forks as an infant. She graduated from Central High School and for many years was a reporter at the Credit Bureau of Greater Grand Forks. In 1966 she became office manager for Leonard Driscoll and Son Potato Company of East Grand Forks, and now holds the same position for Jerry Driscoll's farming operation. She enjoys meeting and working with people and for eighteen years her avocation has been demonstrating Stanley Home Products at parties, ever widening her circle of friends and acquaintances in this area. In raising their nine children, she has been involved in PTA, Brownies, Cub Scouts and Sunday School activities, as well as Women's Club and circles at First Lutheran Church. Her greatest satisfaction, however, has come from her part in organizing a Golden Circle at First Lutheran Church early in 1971, when her mother returned to East Grand Forks to live — and working with this group since that time.

Mr. and Mrs. Amundson are members of First Lutheran Church and both are sustaining members of Polk County DFL. They are avid sports fans and enjoy a quiet weekend of fishing at a nice little lake.

Yes. East Grand Forks has been a good place to live and raise their children.

Throughout the years, the Amundson home has been "much lived-in": with friends of the children gathering there and the family room resounding with music and laughter. The children have grown now, but the grandchildren are all close enough to be frequent visitors.

With the exception of Carol, better known as "Corky," who is married to Tim Lavelle and operates a furniture store in Redding, California, all of the children live right in this area. Ronald married Sandi Clemenson and they live in Grand Forks. He travels the entire country as a semi-truck driver. Janice and William Ferguson lived in his home state of Ohio for a few years, but returned to Grand Forks as a better place to raise their children — Richard, Robin and Jenny. Bill is an electrician for Three Star Electric. Judy, twin sister of Janice, married Dennis Jenson, the son of Elmer and Thelma Jenson of the Bygland area. When Dennis joined the Grand Forks Police Force, they moved to Grand Forks and live there with their son, David.

Bonnie married Donald Vonasek, son of Frank and Nettie Vonasek of Tabor, and they live in a home they built in Huntsville township, with their three children — James, Gary and Beth Ann. Jimmy and Gary are students at Crestwood Elementary School and both play on the basketball team there. Don is a skilled cabinetmaker as well as an employee of Northern States Power Company. All are members of Sacred Heart Church.

Thomas also lives in East Grand Forks and is following his father's line of work with C & R Laundry and Cleaners. Richard Noyes, Darlene's husband, is the son of Michael Jerome (Jerry) and Margaret Noyes, formerly of East Grand Forks but now living in Fisher. Rick is also an electrician for Three Star Electric. They have two daughters, Stacy and Jody. Linda Diane is employed in East Grand Forks and lives at home.

One son, Gary, died in 1960 after being extensively burned while working in Bismarck, North Dakota.

ELMER AND MINNIE AMUNDSON

In December of 1939, Elmer, the eldest son of Otto and Jennie Hegstrom Amundson, was married to Minnie Nelson, the daughter of Charles and Amelia Linstad Nelson of Newfolden, Minnesota.

Charles Nelson came to East Grand Forks in 1900 — at the age of sixteen — and made his home with his uncle, the late Ole Hansson. In 1908, Charles was united in marriage to Amelia Linstad, daughter of Martha and Berger Linstad of Adams, North Dakota. They made their home in Grand Forks, where he was employed by the police and fire departments of that city. There Marie and Edwin were born. In 1915, Charles and Amelia and their two young children left Grand Forks and took up a homestead at Roseau, Minnesota, where Minnie was born. Marie and Edwin became of school age and, with no school available at Roseau, they moved to Newfolden and bought a farm, which became the family home. There Ivadell,
Lorraine, Beulah and Robert were born. Edwin passed away in 1947. Because of ill health, Mrs. Nelson came to live with Minnie and Elmer in 1951, and she passed away in 1952. Mr. Nelson continued to farm until his retirement. In 1970, he fell and broke a hip, and since that time has been a resident of Good Samaritan Nursing Center in East Grand Forks. He is active and in good health. In honor of his 90th birthday in May of 1975, a family reunion was held at the home of his daughter, Minnie Amundson, in East Grand Forks — with Marie Dahli coming from Medford, Oregon; Iadell Ott from Cheyenne, Wyoming; Lorraine Roppe from Fargo; Beulah Olson from Grand Forks and Robert from Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

After their marriage, Elmer and Minnie Amundson had farmed in the Strandquist area and lived at Langdon, North Dakota, before coming to East Grand Forks in 1950 to make their home. Here Elmer began employment with the Dan Dugan Oil Transport Company of Grand Forks, as a transport driver. In September, 1952, he received the National Driver-of-the-Month safety award at Fargo, North Dakota. In 1974, after driving in excess of two million miles, Elmer retired from the trucking business. He is currently a part-time instructor at AVTI of East Grand Forks.

Minnie has been employed by the Pillsbury Company since 1964. She is a member of the Women’s Club of First Lutheran Church, of which the family are members.

Their four children are: Bonita, now Mrs. Thomas Todd of Omaha, Nebraska; Elroy, married and living in Lewiston, Idaho; Donna, now Mrs. Kenneth Huff of Kansas City, Missouri; and Jennifer, who recently married Mark Monson of Grand Forks and now makes her home in East Grand Forks. Jennifer is a graduate of East Grand Forks High School and of AVTI. While in high school, she was active in school choir and as a pom-pom girl, and also taught Sunday school at First Lutheran Church.

The Amundsons spend their summers visiting their children and grandchildren out of the area, and relaxing at their summer cottage near Lake of the Woods, where they enjoy fishing.

**JAMES AMUNDSON**

James Amundson is a life-long resident of Polk county. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Amundson: brother of Lester and Arnold Amundson. He is engaged in farming with brother, Lester. His wife Gylfia is the daughter of Gylfie and Julia Anderson of Swedish ancestry. She is from rural Argyle, Minnesota, Marshall county. They have two sons, Glenn, eight years; and Mark, six years old. They are members of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

**BETSY ASLAKSON**

Ansil and Knud Sorensen came from Norway in 1841. There were many hardships in crossing which took six weeks. They brought their food, and much of it was flatbread, carried in a large wooden chest. They came to Minnesota and lived at Starbrick, Minnesota for a few years. They had four children: Osmund, Sam, Ole, and Betsy. A few years later, they moved to Bygdland, Minnesota. Their occupation was farming. Knud fought in the Spanish-American War in 1898.

Betsy was married to Ole Aslakson at the church of Bygdland January 18, 1890, by Pastor Halvor Roalkvam. They had two children, Aslak (Arley) and Torbjor (Tillie). Ole died in 1896.

Ole’s parents were Torbjor and Aslak Aslakson, who came from Norway. In 1898, Betsy married Ole’s brother, Ben and had two children, Alice and Berglot. Ben died of tuberculosis in May, 1900. Betsy lived in Bygdland until April. On April 24, 1909 she homesteaded near Tioga, North Dakota for one year. Her claim was 160 acres and she paid $1.25 per acre. Arley, Alice and Berglot were with her.

We lived in a one-room sod house. Josie Danielson had a homestead nearby. There was a post office and grocery store about three miles from home. We walked to get our mail and food. We were always waiting for mail from our relatives in Minnesota. One stormy day Arley had gone for the mail and supplies and we thought he was lost, but imagine our joy when we saw him coming. After one year, we moved back to Bygdland.

Tillie attended Moorhead Teachers College. She taught in rural schools for many years. Alice married Elmer Torgerson and they had no children. Arley married Alma Thorson and they had three children: Barbara, Harvey and Paul. Berglot worked for the telephone company in Grand Forks and twelve years in Washington, D.C.

**TRYGVE H. BINDE**

Norway was the birthplace of Helmar and Lena Binde, who came to Volga, South Dakota, in 1890, arriving by oxcart with two small children. Helmar was a shoemaker, who walked back and forth daily to his shop in Summit (a distance of more than four miles).

Trygve H. Binde was born at Summit in 1896 and lived there until the Depression and “dust-bowl” years made him seek the greener pastures of the upper Red River Valley in 1936. For two years he worked on the Robert Rutherford farm, east of East Grand Forks. He bought a house in East Grand Forks in 1938, and began working at the American Crystal Sugar plant during each campaign, doing carpenter and farm work in the area the rest of the year.

He married Mary Mahlum, the widow next door, in 1959. Typical of his devotion and thoughtfulness was the tireless way he took care of her during the three years she lay paralyzed as the result of a stroke, changing the decor and wallpaper to help break the monotony of it for her, and taking her for long rides in the wheelchair on nice days and in the car when it was colder. After a stay in Valley Memorial Home, she died in 1963.

In 1967 he married Coralinda Braden Haggerty and they
lived in Salem, Oregon, for two years. She died in 1971.
He continues to make his home in East Grand Forks, doing some carpenter work, making fishing lures, braiding rugs, and enjoying an occasional visit from his brother, Hubert, who lives in Canada.
He's been a "Grandpa" to the children next door, and a kind and patient neighbor who is always ready to lend a helping hand, and never complains if the children or dog runs in his yard.

JAMES CUMMING
James Cumming was born in County Carleton, Ontario, Canada, on October 17, 1861. He was the son of William and Elizabeth (Whyte) Cumming, natives of Scotland. His father died in Canada in 1880. Soon afterward his mother died, and James and his brother Peter came to the Red River Valley. Harry and John, two other brothers, were already in this locality, working as blacksmiths in Grand Forks. James and Peter took up land in Grand Forks County, North Dakota, and lived on it for two years. In the fall of 1882, they moved to the land that Mr. Cumming owned in Huntsville township, Polk county, Minnesota. The Northern Pacific railroad was later built through here, and Cumming's Siding, a grain loading station, was located near the farm.
James Cumming was active in community affairs. He served as chairman of the township for many years. In 1898 he was elected to the State House of Representatives. He served in the 1901-1902-1916 sessions. He was elected State Senator in 1919 and 1921. He was active in prohibition work, worked for agricultural bills, and for the development of rural schools. In religious affairs, Mr. Cumming took an active interest. He was one of the founders and an elder of the Bethel Presbyterian church on the Marais. Years later this church was destroyed by fire and the congregation affiliated with Mendehall Presbyterian Church in East Grand Forks.
Mr. Cumming was president of the Polk County Fair Association. He was one of the founders of the Huntsville Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company in 1903 and is still active in the area.
James Cumming married Katie Ferguson in 1887. She was a native of Canada but of Scotch ancestry. They had eight children. William graduated from the Agricultural College in Crookston. He married Nettie Hannah and they had six children. William farmed in Huntsville township until his death in 1947. He served for many years on school and township boards. John Cumming, William's son, now manages his father's farm.
Mary Cumming married Melvin Johnson of Kensal, North Dakota. She taught school for many years. She passed away in 1962. They had two sons. Peter attended the University of North Dakota. He married Gen McNamara, and they had five children. Peter worked with the grain business in Minneapolis until his death in 1965.
Elizabeth married John McIver of Grand Forks. He worked for the Great Northern Railroad until his death in 1967. Elizabeth is employed with the Benson Quinn Grain Company. She has been organist of the Red River Chapter of Eastern Star for over 50 years.
Anne married David Robertson. He served for several years and later was associated with the International Harvester Company. He is one of the better known auctioneers of the area. The Robertsons now reside in East Grand Forks. Mr. Robertson served on the city council and was president of the Chamber of Commerce. He was the second Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, being a World War I veteran. The Robertsons are active in the Star, Masonic and Shrine work. They were formerly active in church work in Forest River, North Dakota, where they farmed. Mr. Robertson served as an elder in the church both in Forest River and East Grand Forks. Mrs. Robertson was active in the local Presbyterian and Synodical levels in the Presbyterian church. They have two children.
Mrs. Jean Larson has been Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star of Minnesota. Their son, James, lives in New Jersey and is affiliated with Monsantos of New York, as administrator in charge of textiles. The James Cumming lost one son, Daniel, in infancy and John died in 1930. Leslie graduated from the University of North Dakota. He was an accountant until taking over his father's farm. He served on the township board for many years. At the time of his death in 1975, he was secretary of the Huntsville Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company and treasurer of the Nisbet Cemetery Association. He married Mary Gerszewski of Ardoch, North Dakota. The original Cumming farm is still in the Cumming family but is now being leased out. Mrs. Leslie Cumming resides in East Grand Forks since her husband's last illness.

ODELL DANIELSON
Mr. and Mrs. Odell Danielson live in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. He is the son of Daniel T. Danielson and Mathilda Thompson Danielson. She, the former Bernice Sorenson, is the daughter of Knute Sorenson and Dora Jeffrey Sorenson Humble. He has retired from the Minnesota Produce Inspection Office and she has retired from Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. They have one daughter, Rae Lynn, now Mrs. John Patter of Palatine, Illinois.
Both Mr. and Mrs. Danielson were born in Huntsville Township and received their education in rural schools and are graduates of East Grand Forks Central High School. Their family histories are recorded elsewhere in this book.

Marilyn L. Hagen
I, Marilyn L. (Pender) Hagen was born September 6, 1930 at Fargo, North Dakota. My parents were James Harrison Pender and Thelma Medilia (Larson) Pender. Mabel Aproague who resides at the Valley Memorial Home in Grand Forks is my only living grand-parent.
I am the oldest of three children. My sister, Rosalie, married Technical Sergeant James Stanke, and lives in the Philippines Islands. Brother, James Pender Junior is employed as draftsman at Erickson Lumber Company in East Grand Forks.
My father was employed by the railroad. During the depression he was bumped frequently because he lacked rights and he moved from town to town. Consequently, I attended several schools in Northwestern Minnesota during my elementary years finally settling in Grand Forks when I was in the sixth grade. I graduated from Grand Forks Central High School in 1948 and attended Aaker's Business College in 1950.
I married Vernon Grant Hagen on November 14, 1948 at the Thorvold Hagen homestead two miles north of East Grand Forks. The Hagens were farmers and raised potatoes, beets and grain.
Vernon and I bought the two hundred and ten acre farm (where I now reside) one mile south of Mallory, Minnesota in 1955. I also own ten hundred and twenty-four acres of top farm land all in Huntsville Township. Vernon and I were

Presently I own and operate Hagen's Arena Equitation school and stables at the Mallory farm. I also show and train riders and horses. Since the opening of the school in 1973 I have graduated over three hundred students.

I am the mother of four children, namely; Gloria, Cynthia, Mark Allen and Melanie Joy.

Horses have been my way of life since my ex-husband and I bought the first high grade Quarter horses into the valley in 1962. We were the first to establish a breeding program of this calibre with a top stallion that area people could also use to upgrade their stock.

Our accomplishments have been many, but I will list a few of the highlights.

We bred, campaigned and trained several top winners on the open and registered horse show circuits, traveling thousands of miles in the Midwest and Canada.

We organized the Junior Riding Drill team in 1961 of the Agassiz Riders Saddle Club teaching the youth drills and horsemanship. We organized and ran the first Great Midwest Horse Show with other co-workers, and today this is one of the largest shows in the Midwest.

We ran the first Rodeo Queen Competition in the area in 1964 along with the promotion of the Great Midwest Rodeos, sending the winner on to State Competition to vie for the trip to Miss Rodeo America Pageant.

I am a member of several local, regional, state and national horse organizations including membership in the Canadian Quarter Horse Association in Manitoba.

I was named and was honored as Horsewoman of the year in Arena Festivities at the Red River Valley Winter Shows in 1972.

**HARRY HARM**

Hans Heinrich Christian Harm was born in Dartmund, Germany. He came to Chicago for the World's Fair and decided to look up a cousin in Argyle, Minnesota. While there he heard about a job in a clothing store in Crookston. During his stay there he met Edith Anna Boelker. They married and moved to East Grand Forks.

Here he was known as Harry Harm and worked at the Arneson Mercantile Company. Later he operated his own restaurant. During this period Company M of the U.S. Army was stationed here and ate all of their meals at his restaurant, to the joy of Mr. Harm's two daughters. When Company M left the area he presented a silver-handled cane to Harm on which was engraved, "from the boys of Company M."

Harm also ran the Texaco filling station in town. While he was active in many organizations, he served the city most through holding the office of mayor for twelve terms.

During the flood of 1897, Harm's family had to leave their home through an upstairs window with the aid of a rowboat. After that experience he built a home on what was considered the highest level land in the city. The house is now occupied by his grandson and his family.

Harry and Edith Harm had seven children: Minna, Harold, Carol, Evelyn, Roland, James, and William.

**VIVIAN E. HARNEY**

This is the story of the life of Vivian E. Harney: a wife, mother, grandmother, prominent business woman, and the first woman mayor of East Grand Forks.

Mrs. Harney was born of Elise and Theodore O. Propp on November 21, 1902. She lived in Echo, Minnesota with her parents and one sister, Mildred. When she was six months old she and her family moved to Woodside, Minnesota, until she was two and a-half years old. At this time, they moved to Fertile, Minnesota.

In Fertile her father set up a general store. Two more girls were born to the Propp family. They were Doris and Theodora Propp, twins.

She got her first business experience by going with her father while he sold farm machinery. When she was in sixth grade, she was helping her father run his store. By the time she was in eighth grade, she was doing her father's bookwork, using the Burrough Posting and Listing Machine — an innovation at that time. Mrs. Harney feels she owes much of her business career to her father for his faith in her and his letting her work in his store.

She graduated from high school in three years and was valedictorian of her class. After high school she went on to the Minneapolis Business School and graduated with a secretarial degree. She then returned home to help her father in his store.

In January of 1922 she came to East Grand Forks to work for F. C. Massee, Attorney-at-Law. She married Earle Harney, a conductor on the Northern Pacific Railway February 3, 1923. She has three children, Donald of Anaheim, California, Harold of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Dorothy, Mrs. John R. Boe, Jr. of East Grand Forks, Minnesota. She also raised a stepson, Raymond Harney, who was killed on a bombing mission over Strutgort, Germany in World War II. Her husband passed away in 1956.

In 1928 Mrs. Harney took over the books of the Building and Loan Association of East Grand Forks. In 1933, when the Home Owner's Loan Corporation act was passed, Mrs. Harney went to St. Paul, Minnesota and Chicago, Illinois, to meet representatives to determine whether it was advisable for the Building and Loan Association to convert to a Federal Association.

Through her efforts, the Building and Loan Association was converted to a Federal Savings Loan Association, and through her efforts the association grew from $110,316 at time of conversion to twenty-three million at the time of her retirement in 1971.

Mrs. Harney's civic mindedness and leadership abilities are shown in her many activities through the years. The following is a resume of positions she has held: First President — Central High School P.T.A., East Grand Forks; President — Columbia Study Club; District Treasurer — Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs; Worthy Matron — Red River Chapter Order Eastern Star; District Instructor — Grand Chapter of Minnesota — Order of Eastern Star; Grand Representative of State of Maryland — Grand Chapter of Minnesota; Order of Eastern Star; President and Charter Member — Quota Club of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks (Club of Executive Women); Chapter Chairman — Area Chapter of American Red Cross; Member of Advisory Committee of Midwestern Area American Red Cross (22 states); First Woman elected to Board of Directors — East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce; Member of the Upper Midwest Health Planning Committee; Secretary — Savings and Loan League of Minnesota; Various committees of the U.S. Savings and Loan League; Member of church council of United Lutheran Church of Grand Forks and Secretary and the President of the Church Council: First Woman to be President of United Lutheran
Church; Member — Citizens Advisory Committee — Housing and Redevelopment Authority in and for the City of East Grand Forks; Manager — Executive Secretary — East Grand Forks Federal Savings and Loan Association (retired April 1971); Beta Sigma Chi — Woman of the Year — 1965; Junior Chamber of Commerce — Boss of the Year 1967; Member and Secretary of Advisory Committee — Vocational School East Grand Forks; Member — Community Service Clearing House — Moorhead State College Moorhead, Minnesota: Director — United Hospital Board — Grand Forks, North Dakota; Member Advisory Committee Good Samaritan Nursing Home, East Grand Forks; Member — Red River Basin Water Commission; Member — Citizens Advisory Council — Souris — Red — Rainy River Basin; President — American Association Retired Persons — Chapter 1976 East Grand Forks; Mayor of East Grand Forks.

Mrs. Harvey was elected to the mayorship of East Grand Forks by a write-in vote. She took no part in the campaign. Her term has been significant. The downtown area has been rebuilt, the city has expanded and many new businesses have come into the city. The city has been more progressive during her term of office than any other years in its history. Her dedication to any job she undertakes to do is known by the citizens of our city and she has earned the respect of the populace of the area. I am proud that I can call her “MY GRANDMA”.

JOSEPH HOLY

My mother, Betty Sladek, was born to poor parents who lived in Czechoslovakia. As she grew up she listened to rumors of milk and honey flowing freely in the United States where sugar plums dropped in your lap. She wrote to her uncle, who was living in Montgomery, Minnesota, and asked if he would pay for her passage in exchange for two years’ work in house and field. He replied, “Yes.”

In 1889, she boarded a second-class steamership on a five weeks’ trip. The voyage was very rough. As the steamer rolled from side to side, the private receptacles raced across the aisle, spilling the contents. This added to the stench and misery of the terrible sea-sickness.

Two years later she married Joseph Holy. Their wedding gift from his parents consisted of four cups, four plates, four spoons, one kettle, and one cow. Jacob Holy, Joseph’s twin brother, coached them to come and farm near Tabor, Minnesota. They arrived by train at Angus, Minnesota, in the springtime. Father drove a pair of horses hitched to a two-wheeled cart containing their few possessions, while mother led the bawling cow over a very icy road. Mother cried all the way for five and a-half miles to a one-room house which was on an 80-acre farm. Additions were built on to the house over the years. Eleven children were born, but four died at birth, leaving six daughters and one son living.

Machinery was hard to buy as there were not any loans. Much hand labor was done with hoes and rakes; scythes were used to harvest the grain. Wheat was taken to a miller for flour and meal.

Father died in 1910, leaving mother, six daughters, the oldest just 16 years, and a son who was two and a-half years old. At that time there was no Welfare, so mother rolled up her sleeves and began farming, raising grain, hay, cattle, sheep, poultry, and a huge garden. She could build fences, drive horses, and manage all farm machinery as well as any farmer, clearing the swampy weedy patches, and burning brush. One day while burning brush, her skirts caught fire. She sat down quickly and rolled on the ground to extinguish the fire. Her two petticoats and top skirt were burned above her knees, so she rotated them around to cover herself with the remaining cloth. A neighbor passed by and complimented her on her very colorful dress.

Winters were spent sewing garments, carding wool, and spinning, knitting, stripping feathers to be made into fluffy pillows and quits. The school children had to recite their lessons for the next day. School was reached by walking two and one-half miles in all sorts of weather. All groceries and supplies for winter were bought in the fall, as roads would become covered with snow. In 1910, eggs brought ten cents a dozen, cream was churned and fresh butter sold at 25 cents a pound; buttermilk and garden vegetables were sold from house to house in the city.

Mother taught us that necessities must come first; if possible, a dollar was set aside for emergency or as a savings and she always reminded us that, “Who won’t work, shouldn’t eat.”

All the daughters and the son married and lived nearby. Then in 1922, son Jim, who was the youngest, began farming. This eased Mother of this hard field work. She always praised the Lord for giving her the strength and courage to make a living for her family.

She was laid to rest and peace one-half mile from home in the Old Settlers’ Cemetery. Six of her children are still living: the oldest is 82 and the youngest, 68; they are fairly healthy, proving that good plain wholesome food and work prolong life.

ISREAL JEFFREY

Isreal Jeffrey came here from Canada in 1880 and landed at what was then called Fisher’s Landing, which was as far as the railroad had reached. At the time they landed, there was one of our spring snow storms.

His oldest son, Joe, 19, came with him. He had worked for three years for a farmer named Mustard. Mustard was a strict Presbyterian and was never too busy to stop to read a chapter from the Bible three times a day. You weren’t even supposed to shave on Sunday. Until he died, Joe carried a picture of the two Mustard girls, whom he was very fond of, and we found it in his wallet when he died.

Joe worked for $16 a month for three years. He saved $300 which took the family of eight at that time to East Grand Forks. Minnesota. They crossed at Detroit, Michigan, through the tunnel. At that time, it was the only way to cross. One of their boys, Mary, was left behind, to be married to Sam Greenwood back in Canada and was already living here.

The Jeffrey family lived near Lake Huron in a little town called Zurick. To make a few dimes, Grandma Jeffrey used to go to the town of London to sell her straw hats that she had made out of wheat straw.

There were twelve children in the Isreal Jeffrey family. All but one were born in Canada. Their names are Joe, Mary, Greenwood, Leon, Reme, Louis, Lizzie Lawerence, Isreal, Harvey, Eddie, Millie Duffy, and Fred and John, the twins. Louis and Leon, who went back to Canada to live, married two Canadian girls. They lived there the rest of their lives. Eight of the children lived here all their lives.

Joe married Josephine Morrow, who came from a family of nine children. They came from Michigan, but I guess originally they came from Canada because Grandma Jeffrey used to tell about helping Grandma Morrow make her wedding dress in Canada.

Six of the Jeffrey children still live in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. They are Minnie Gorman, Dora Humble, Irene Cariveau, Frank, Nellie Hannah, Merrie Wehe, Ida Cariveau, and Albert. Ida, Albert, and all the Isreal family have passed away. Only Fred, who now lives in Milwaukee is still living.

OSCAR LLOYD DOBLE

Oscar Lloyd Doble was born August 29, 1895 in Wright County at Howard Lake, Minnesota. He was the second son of Avery and Catherine Doble. As a child he came with his parents to Carver County, Minn., where he received his education.

In 1915 he enlisted in the Canadian Army at Calgary, Alberta during World War I and served overseas in France with the Tenth Brigade from 1916 to 1919. He was twice wounded in action. Following his discharge from military service at Toronto, Ontario, he came to East Grand Forks.

He married the former Ann Werre in 1930. They made their home on DeMers Avenue in East Grand Forks. They had six children: Lloyd, East Grand Forks, married to the former Esther Egeland of Bygland; Robert, Lakewood, California,
museum is unique in that it is a home furnished almost entirely with antiques that are used in daily living. Duffy, a graduate of North Dakota State University, held several positions in the area, including Home Extension Agent in Traill county and home economist for Northern States Power in Grand Forks. She was a past president of Mrs. Jaycees of East Grand Forks and a member of PEO Sisterhood at the time of her death in 1973.

Jerry and his four daughters live on the farm in Huntsville township which has been his home since 1957. Kathleen Elizabeth is a junior at East Grand Forks High School. Kathy is very active in girls' sports, band and chorus. Lisa Ann, a student at Central Junior High School, also likes athletics and plays in their band. Both Kathy and Lisa won several medals and ribbons in competition in the midwest states and Canada as members of the “Y” Swim Team from 1967 through 1971. Jerrilyn Marie, a student at Valley Elementary School, is a winner of the little Irish pixie and Jennifer Dianne, a pre-schooler, is the cheerful little sunbeam who brightens the world.

All are members of Sacred Heart Church, where Jerry has been an instructor in the Junior High CCD for four years and is currently serving as president of the Religious Education Board. He has also served as president of the Valley Elementary PTA, is a past president of the East Grand Forks Jaycees, a sustaining member of the DFL and a member of the American Legion.

OLE S. FARDER

Ole S. Farder, one of the first settlers, was born in Assyris, Solon, Norway, February 20, 1844. He married Hannah Falos in Norway. They came to the United States in 1880. They lived near East Grand Forks for a few months. Ole cut timber for a man named Higdom for one winter; not knowing how, he struggled along. But soon he noticed the other men would size up all the trees and pick out the ones which were easier to cut and split. In the spring they settled into land near Northland and later moved to a farm five miles south of Oslo, Minnesota. From 1892 to 1897, they lived on Oak Street in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Then they moved back to the farm and lived there until they sold it to a son Olaf in 1920.

The Farders built a house about two miles south of Oslo, where they lived until Mrs. Farder (Hannah) died in 1930. Ole then made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Lars Lofthus (Helen), until his death on August 18, 1944, at the age of 97. They had nine children. One baby girl was born and died at sea while coming to the United States. Four girls and four boys were born in the United States. Sigward was married to Elyda Donstrand and lived in Minneapolis. They had four children — Raymond, Melvin, Hannah and Lorraine. Edward was married to Clara Clementson and lived at Beaudett, Minnesota. They had two girls, Elyda and Dorothy. Helmer was never married; he served in the United States Army.

OlaF married Clara Lofthus and then lived in the home place. They had eight children: Orville, LeRoy, Maynard and Eunice. Three babies died shortly after birth: Gerald died in 1966.

Ida married Ed Gulbranson and they lived on a farm near Oslo. They had eight children: Hulda, Nina and Edith; twin boys who died shortly after birth; Obert, Clarence, and Ethel also died. Helen married Lars Lofthus and they lived near Oslo. They had six children: Geneva, Luella, Lilian, Orlys, Leeward and Patricia. Anna married Gilbert Bratvold and they lived near East Grand Forks. They had two children, Arthur and Hazel. TenA married Martin Syratad, and they also lived near East Grand Forks. They had eight children: Ovie, deceased; Morris, Lester, Minerva, Dolores, Omar, Raymond and Allan. At this time, Tena is the only child of Ole and Hannah that is living. In 1967, Olaf sold the home place to Milo and Wayne Nelson.

WALTER GADDIE

My birthplace was in the state of Illinois. I was born September 18, 1898, the oldest of four children. In 1916, at 18 years of age, having completed the course at Browns Business
College in Springfield, Illinois, I decided to go out and seek my fortune. My plans were to locate in the state of Montana. I boarded the train but had to get off at Grand Forks, North Dakota as my money had run out. With seventy-five cents in my pocket, on a cold, snowy March day I crossed the bridge into East Grand Forks. After inquiring around, I stopped at the Sinclair Livery Stable hoping to go out with some farmer to do chores. There I met-up with John Haynes, who lived north of East Grand Forks in Sullivan township and I did just that.

During my stay there, I met the neighbor girl, Josephine Driscoll, daughter of Michael Driscoll, farmer and homesteader in Sullivan township. We were married on December 19, 1918 by Reverend Klinkhammer in Sacred Heart Parish in East Grand Forks. Three of our children, in order of their ages, Leroy, Robert and Dorothy were born in Sullivan township. We then moved into East Grand Forks, where I started working as a carpenter. This was to be my life-long work.

After having worked for several contractors in the constructing of many of the potato warehouses and residences in and around East Grand Forks, my son Leroy and I started our own business in the 1940's. Our other four children, Lenore, Donna Claire, John and Michael were born in East Grand Forks. Lenore, now Mrs. A. C. Brantl, lives in Prior Lake, Minnesota. Michael, married Carol Santa, California. Leroy, Robert, Dorothy, John and Donna, widow of John Spoor, reside in East Grand Forks. My wife, Josephine, our daughter, Dorothy and I reside at present at 426 4th Avenue South, East Grand Forks in the home I constructed in 1939.

MRS. ELLA DARRAGH GEDDES

Paul and Ellen Fossbakken were married on April 2, 1880, in Tynset, Norway, in Osterdale, a county area. They sailed for North America, homesteading near Fergus Falls in the Dalton, Minnesota area, where they farmed for three years. Their first child, Marie Pauline, died at eight months, an infant epidemic. Their second daughter, Clara Marie, was born December 26, 1882. Later in March of 1904, she married Oscar Bratvold of Fosston. They farmed in Albertia, Canada, where Marie passed away September, 1909, a victim of tuberculosis. Their only child, Kenneth Bratvold, was cared for and educated by the Fossbakken brothers and sisters, first at the Crookston Agricultural School and later at the Fossbakken Farm near Fosston. His father took him back to Canada at age eight. Kenneth's home is in Victoria, British Columbia, when he is not spending winters in the Southern states with his wife, His three daughters are all married.

Paul, Ellen and daughter moved by ox team to Fosston, Minnesota, in the spring of 1883, having exchanged Home stead Rights with a Mr. Larson, who felt the land was too low and wet. By persistent work and long hours, Paul Fossbakken and his family of six children, developed a beautiful landscaped farm home, which later, sons Chris and Lewis worked and developed into a profitable and well planned project, a credit to their community.

In the fall of 1906, a Mr. Wilson, representative of the University, called on my father, Paul, urging him to send his older children to the new Agricultural School, just developing, north of Crookston. He was very impressed and I can hear him say, "That's the kind of School I want my children at." Immediately he wired my sister, Mollie and Chris, then working in North Dakota, to come home at once to start school at Crookston. They, all the four older ones, had attended school in Fosston, at least two years, but he felt several subjects were not practical enough for farm children. The three, Mollie, Chris, and Lewis all started the Agricultural School that fall, and graduated in the spring of 1909. That was the first class of only eight students. I believe only two are living now.

My father, Paul, was a very ambitious and aggressive man. The first thing he did on arrival at Dalston was to attend the school there for fourteen days, to learn to read, write and talk English. He had no foreign accent! His letters to me when I spent a summer in Edmore, North Dakota, with my sister, Marie, in 1905, were almost letter perfect.

Perhaps his yearning for education stemmed from his earlier work of driving the horsedrawn stage coach, hauling mail and people, between Tynset and Trondheim in Norway, from the time he was twelve to nineteen, when he married and came to America and later to Brandsvold township six miles north of Fosston.

Sadly, I lost my mother, when I was a little past two in 1898. I'm sure she was as wonderful as I've always been told. My father tried so hard to make up for this loss. He loved me so! But my father was still so young, 38! My sisters, ages sixteen, thirteen, five and me, two, and my brothers ages ten and eight felt quite capable of carrying on. We later realized how necessary Dad felt the need of an older woman in our home. So my father married Anna Hausel of Dalton. They had four children; Almer — six; Iva — four; Ruth — two, and Esther — six months old, when my father lost his life so tragically. He saw smoke and screamed "Fire!" He ran like a madman, up the loft stairway to open the loft door towards the windmill. This was a case of spontaneous combustion. He made it to the door, but I'm sure he suffocated before his hand could throw up the hook. His cremated bones were found the next morning in the ash remains by the door.

My stepmother and sister, Ida, got the thirty cows, six horses, seventeen calves out safely. The western wind would have prevented using water from the windmill as the windmill was clogged by fire! Only the night before, I held the lamp high for my father to put down hay for the stock. I sat on a mound of hay and I felt the hay hot but having felt heated hay before, I did not mention it to my father. How tragic!

After my father's death, my stepmother was induced to have a personal property sale, retaining the land to rent. This left us without a home. She, with her children, went to live in Dalton near her brother and sisters.

I went to live with my sister Marie near Lloydminster. Alberta, where a year later, tuberculosis took her life at age 27. My sister, Mollie after graduating in 1909, came to help take care of Marie; she took our nephew, Kenneth and me to school at Crookston. My brothers and sister, Ida, were all employed there in the summer. They financed our school term and I had a babysitting job with the Professor C. E. Brown family.

Our first superintendent, William Robertson and wife, Eva, were wonderful to us making it our home on the campus. She planned a course for me as I had not finished my elementary grades, taking four years instead of three. Due to finances, I was out six years before going back to finish in 1919, plus a post-graduate course in 1920, specializing in music, home nursing and athletics. For two years, my brother Chris, with Lynn Robertson, after high school days, operated the Robertson Farm, north of the Agricultural School. After Superintendent Robertson's death of a coronary on the train to St. Paul, my brother, Fosston, Minnesota, first renting the home farm from my stepmother, later at her instigation, bought her and the four children's share. Borrowing money to pay off most of the heirs the next years at ten per cent was a burden they carried for years. They were hard workers, good farmers; but they had tornadoes, lightning taking two barns and several hail and other crop destruction. They were the early purebred Holstein cattle raisers. Their blood lines can be seen all through the Valley.

They died in November, 1949 with Hutchinson's disease, resulting from a foul ball hitting, just missing his eye in earlier years. Almost every Sunday afternoon there was a ball game at our home. Chris promoted the project for years, playing himself with practically all the neighbor boys against other area groups. Chris, with almost perfect health, but overweight, after selling the livestock, trapped m孰krat for a diversion. He got wet one day and developed a cold, infection and a coronary condition. He passed away March, 1952. Mollie, a registered nurse in California, came home to live with him; and was with him when and as well as myself. Mollie cared for the farm, then sold it to Harry Pearson of East Grand Forks, Minnesota. She built a lovely home a block from the Fosston Hospital where she worked. She lived there three months when she passed away at her home of a heart condition. Sister Ida married Vernon Holliday in 1918. They had four boys and four girls. She died in April of 1949 at age 56. My husband Dar-
ragh, married me November 18, 1926, and passed on with a coronary and hardening of the arteries on November of 1964. I am almost eighty years old.

MIKE GORMAN
The Mike Gorman family came from Smithfall, Ontario, Canada in 1880. Of twelve children two died at infancy. Four were born in Canada, and all grew up on the point. They were Bill, Maggie, twins Fred and Frank, Bertha, Etta, twins John and Jim, Pat, and Ida. All have passed away and all but Etta are buried in Calvary Cemetery in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Etta and her husband are buried in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Grandpa Gorman was a carpenter and ran a cabin shop in the same spot as his son Frank. Frank was married to Minnie Jeffrey in 1917. They had four children. They are Eileen, Ethel, Patricia, and son Mike. Mike and his two sons, Stephen and David, still own and run the Gorman’s Cabin Shop in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. So for four generations, the Gorman sons have been cabin builders and carpenters. The wages were not so good in 1917. Frank was working for 37¢ an hour, and they worked ten to twelve hours a day. In the winter, there was no work, but some way they managed to make it stretch. No one ever knew what an empty plate was. They had a garden and did much canning.

Our children grew up on what used to be Mike Gorman’s family home. We lived there for seventeen years and then moved to town.

I am still living in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, in 1975 at the age of 85. I am living by myself in an apartment and can remember back eighty years. I am still enjoying good health. I was born in a tar paper shanty, December 10, 1890. When I was four, we moved to the Joe Jeffrey home place with one room upstairs and one room down. There were four children then, but we grew to a family of eight. As the family increased to eight, so did two more rooms.

CORNELIUS J. KELLEHER

“N to N, 2/5/08” is the inscription inside the gold wedding ring presented to Ellen Louise Racine by Cornelius Joseph Kelleher in the Sacred Heart Church in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, on February 5, 1908. Neil and Nellie were the nicknames of the couple.

Cornelius J. Kelleher, the son of Eugene Kelleher and Bridget Silke, came from the city of Cork, County Cork, Ireland, to the United States around 1880 when he was twelve years old. The family lived in Ithaca, New York, for a time and then moved to St. Paul, Minnesota where young Neil apprenticed as a plumber. Later he and his brother Eugene came north to East Grand Forks and were engaged in the plumbers’ trade. Their mother followed soon after to keep house for her sons. Soon Neil opened a business of his own. He was very active in church and civic affairs and eventually served several terms as city alderman. He had a beautiful singing voice and was a great entertainer.

Ellen Louise Racine, “Nellie,” was the daughter of Louis Racine and Mary Sullivan, both immigrants from Canada, one of French, the other of Irish origin. Mary Sullivan came to the Red River Valley from Renfrew, Ontario, in the summer of 1876 with her brother, three sisters, and their father. They settled on a homestead just outside of East Grand Forks, presently the Wy’s Gardens, and built a log house and barn before winter. Andrew and his family, James, Mary (Mrs. Louis Racine), Katherine (Mrs. Michael McGuire), and Anna (Mrs. John Harvey), were among the first settlers in this territory and farmed the land for many years. As a perpetual memorial of this family, the steeple bell in the Sacred Heart Church, given by Andrew, still calls many of their descendants to worship when it rings.

Neil and Nellie Kelleher resided in East Grand Forks. They had five children: Mary, Firmin, Louis, Cornelius, and James. Neil had his own plumbing shop on DeMers Avenue, on the present site of Evelyn’s Apparel. During the war years he was very active in patriotic events and made an excellent Uncle Sam as he led many a parade held at that time. He was elected Mayor in 1917. He died on January 24, 1919, a victim of the flu epidemic raging at that time. Nellie was left a young widow with her five children, but she carried on courageously, caring for her children and supporting them. She was a very talented seamstress and continued this profession until her untimely death on June 10, 1940, at the age of 52.

All five children attended Sacred Heart School. Mary, the oldest child, entered the Benedictine Convent at Mount St. Benedict in Crookston in 1925. She had been playing the piano and organ from childhood, so continued her music studies as a Sister and became a music teacher and an organist. At present, Sister is teaching music and is organist at the Cathedral in Crookston.

After Firmin, the oldest son, grew up, he entered the United States Army and served his country in the South Pacific in World War II. He was disabled and most of the time since 1945 has been a patient in a Veterans Administration Hospital.

Louis showed great mechanical and electrical ability. During his senior year in high school, he had a fatal attack of appendicitis and died on October 17, 1930. He was greatly loved by all and his death was a tragic experience for his family and friends.

Cornelius, named after his father, bore the old Irish name which everyone knew he disliked, and so was called Con or Connie. He enjoyed an outstanding athletic career in high school and at Northern State College in Aberdeen, South Dakota, playing both football and basketball. He was named to the All-Conference teams in both football and basketball for 1937-38, and in October, 1975, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Northern State. He is a Chartered Life Underwriter and resides at Los Gatos, California, with his wife, Frances. They were blessed with five children, Joseph, Patrick, Colleen, Timothy, and Michael.

James, the youngest, grew up in East Grand Forks. He was privileged to live at home with his mother, and after her death married Evelyn Erickson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gunnar Erickson of rural East Grand Forks. Jim and Ev still live in the family home on North Second Street. Jim served as a switchman on the Great Northern, then was a partner in an electric appliance store, and entered the life insurance business in 1953. He became a Chartered Life Underwriter in 1963. He was named North Dakota Underwriter of the Year in 1974. He and Evelyn have four children, Mary Kay, Richard, Kathleen, and Paul and four grandchildren.

This is the Cornelius Kelleher family history since the day Neil put the ring on Nellie’s finger in 1908. This same ring will be worn by Sister Mary when she celebrates her golden jubilee as a Sister of St. Benedict in 1977. It is a symbol of the bond of union for this family that dates back to the early pioneer days of Polk County.

DR. GEORGE P. KIRK
Dr. George P. Kirk was born June 8, 1874 in Cook County, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. He came to East Grand Forks in 1896 to set up a medical practice and lived in East Grand Forks until his death, January 20, 1955. He married Anna Schilling in 1899.

Shortly after his arrival in East Grand Forks, he was appointed city health officer, a position he held at various times, the last period extending about thirty years until his death.

In early years he was active in civic affairs, serving as an officer and director of the Commercial Club in the years shortly after it was founded in 1908.

He was honored by the Minnesota State Medical Association upon completion of 50 years of practice of medicine in the state. His service to the people of the community spanned the era from calls made by horse and buggy in sub-zero weather over primitive roads to the use of the modern automobile on today’s surfaced highways. Many of his calls were made without expectation or hope of recompense from poor families.

He was always an avid sports follower, particularly of local high school and University of Minnesota teams. He served as
team physician for the local school sports for several years.

Essentially a modest man, Dr. Kirk halted several attempts made by local civic groups to pay him public honors after his completion of a half century in the practice of medicine.

He was examining physician for the Selective Service System — gratis — for about 15 years. On April 22, 1955, four months after his death, the family was the recipient of a citation from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, for their father, in grateful recognition of valuable service contributed to the Nation and the Selective Service System.

He was an avid reader. His medical library was given to the University of North Dakota.

He was a great chess player and played with world champions. He also used to play via telegraph with players throughout the country, depot agents, professional men, etc.

Dr. and Mrs. Kirk had three sons, Cyrus, Ralph and Paul and one daughter Mary.

HARVEY J. KIRK

The story began when Harvey James Kirk of Mallory, Minnesota, and Berget Omlid of Fisher were married on September 22, 1935, at the Norwegian Lutheran Church by the Rev. Halvor Lie. Harvey was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kirk, who had come to Polk county in 1932 from Niagara, North Dakota, when the depression forced them to locate elsewhere. His grandparents had homesteaded in North Dakota. They bought 430 acres of rich valley land in Huntsville township near Mallory, Minnesota; some years later his parents retired to the city and Harvey and I carried on with the farm.

My parents were Charles and Annie Omlid. My father came from Walle township in North Dakota, where they homesteaded. My mother’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Langlie, settled in Bygdland township. An uncle still resides on the old homestead. I was one of eight children. We grew up on a little farm along the Red Lake River about three miles west of Fisher, Minnesota. I graduated from Fisher High School with a class of 13 students. We rode the rural school bus, which was much different than today’s modern buses. The bus drivers used their own cars for transporting students. In muddy weather or winter time, they used a horse-drawn wooden bus. The trip was long and slow. We left home in the dark and returned after dark. But we were young. We sang songs, told stories, ate the bread crumbs from our sandwiches left from noon, because by then we were really hungry.

When I married Harvey, I moved about two miles from my old home to the farm where we lived for 35 years, located along Highway #2, between East Grand Forks and Fisher. For several years we used horses for the farm work, milked cows, and sold milk to Grand Forks dairies, besides raising grain crops and sugar beets. After a while, we abandoned the dairy. The sugar beet farmers will find it hard to believe that in 1936, the sugar beet crop was so small because of severe dry weather that we and others ended the year by owing the American Crystal Sugar Factory money for migrant labor, seed and fertilizer. But we survived and the years went by, good and bad ones. Our family grew up, four girls and one boy. They are Patricia, married to a farmer. Lynn Porter of Hillsboro, North Dakota, with three children; Lisa Ann, Michael, and Greg; David married wife Patti, and Jimmy, who was a firefighter, owns the family farm with the three children. Kelly, Tony, and Tommy: Bonnie with her husband, Duane Miller, and children Kim and Robert, living in Grand Forks; and Dorothy Lynn and husband Wayne Ferendik with Tommy, Steve and Linda Diane, a special education teacher, now returned to Moorhead State University for her elementary degree.

Harvey retired in 1974, but he still helps David on the farm. We live in the city of East Grand Forks. Our only reason for leaving the farm was the fact that State Highway Officials told us that a new four-lane highway was planned to go directly through our farm yard. So they made an offer — market value, they said. No one can realize the shock and heart ache it is to know that in a free and wonderful country, our home and land can be taken from us. In due time the bull dozers came along and left our home and farm yard a total shambles. Harvey and David will rebuild it elsewhere. We have a new wide highway, and with today’s traffic, we realize it is necessary.

KARLEUS KNUSTON

Karleus Knutson Sparby and his older brother Oluf came to this country as young men. Oluf settled in Iowa. Karleus came to East Grand Forks, Minnesota. His boyhood friend, Olof Hoff, lived here. They came from Hof i Solar, Norway. Solar is an area and Hof a town. 'Sparby' was the name of the place where likely the family lived or worked, and they took the Sparby name which was customary at that time. Oluf kept the Sparby name but Karleus eventually used the father’s surname Knutson. Mrs. Knutson, Mathilda Katrina Svenson, came to the United States with her mother from Stockholm, Sweden. They lived with her Aunt and Uncle Sven Svenson. After their marriage Karleus (called “Charlie” by everyone) and Mathilda Katrina, who was called “Carrie,” lived north of town. Later they purchased 12 acres from Axel Wahlstrom, who was also Carrie’s uncle, and at that time owned what is now the Wahlstrom Farm Addition. He was considered wealthy.

Charlie was a devout man and loved to sing. Every Sunday they walked to the little Danish Norwegian Church in Grand Forks, North Dakota. There was no road, as such, but either the path above the river or the ‘cut across’ through Suprenant’s pasture, now north end. In the winter time they could walk across the river and catch a street car in Riverside Park. As the children grew older they had a boat and rowed across, being sure all were ready to go home at the same time. As Charlie tilted the patch of grain and hoed the garden he sang. He worked for others and they enjoyed his singing.

Maybe he was a dreamer but he recognized that the East Side had a bigger and better future. He often told his children “Not in my time, maybe not in yours, but some day East Grand Forks will take over this area.” At that time there were trees to be grubbed, the open spaces lush with berries and bushes, where Carrie picked and sold gooseberries for 10¢ a gallon. The river edge had vines of wild grapes for jelly. His dream came true, the hill in front of the house where the children slid down on skis, sleds or mother’s dust pan, is now filled with soil and all in lots, new homes being built.

Karleus and Carrie had four children that grew to adulthood: Axel, who became a Northern States Power Co. engineer; Hildur, now Mrs. W. Ray, worked as a secretary-treasurer; Oscar, who was a plasterer; and Palmer, who was a brick layer. Oscar was an enthusiastic ski jumper and won trophies around the northwest area and in Canada.

Mr. Knutson died in 1918 when Axel was overseas during World War I. His brother Oluf died a year later. Mrs. Robert Bride of Iowa, and daughter of Axel’s cousin, got some information when they toured Norway. Mrs. Axel Knutson

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kirk.
got help from relatives and friends to relate this short history about the Knutson Family.

**MR. AND MRS. ADOLPH LARSON**

Adolph Larson was born October 28, 1879, to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Larson at the farm home 6-1/2 mi. no. of East Grand Forks and Edith Steele Larson was born April 12, 1882, to Mr. and Mrs. Olof Erickson at the farm home 6 mi. no., 3/4 mi. west of East Grand Forks.

Mother and Dad grew up on neighboring farms — she belonged to the Swedish Lutheran Church and he to the Norwegian Lutheran Church, located a half mile apart on #220 north. They went to the same public school, District #78, where about half the pupils were of Irish descent and half of Scandinavian parentage. Frequently among the bigger boys fights would ensue on the playground and Dad said there was thought of dividing the playground in two with a high fence.

My parents were married in the Swedish Church November 23, 1904 and following the ceremony a many-course dinner was served to what seemed like hundreds. (So said an uncle who was about eight at the time, adding “Myrtle, your mother was beautiful and your dad a handsome fellow.” From photographs I couldn’t agree more.)

Their first home was in Grand Forks — an upstairs ‘apartment’ with no running water. Sister Mildred and brother Arthur were born at this abode. Dad was a machinist for the Minneapolis Moline Co. and later purchased a steam rig. Each fall he would take time off to thresh for farmers living near his birthplace.

The family later moved to East Grand Forks and here my brother Lester, myself, and sister Vivian were born. Streets were not paved, so after a rain we youngsters loved to go barefoot and squeeze the mud between our toes. I recall tagging along of an evening with Mildred or Arthur carrying a half gallon syrup pail to get milk from a man down the street who kept a cow in his back yard. We moved again — this time to a house with indoor plumbing, and, shortly, brother LeRoy was born, but this time the event took place in a hospital.

A few years went by and one day Mother asked if we’d like to move to the country. Grandpa Larson, a widower who was getting on, had proposed to my parents that they operate the farm. We were overjoyed, and in December 1924 made the move. Thus, we younger children wound up going to the same school our parents had attended. In winter Dad took us to school by sleigh — this we loved, and for many years my father served on the school board.

Work on the farm was hard, especially for Mother — no electricity, and water had to be brought in by hand. Even so, it was a good life. On clear nights Mother would summon us to the window to see the northern lights, and for many years she happily served as church organist.

There was little money to spare, but our home was filled with reading material of all kinds and with music, for Grandpa had a piano and Dad had his fiddle. We were one of the first in the area to have a battery powered head-set radio.

In 1948 my parents retired and moved back into town. Just six months later, at age 69, Dad died of a heart attack. Mother passed away in 1961 at age 79.

The family has left a wonderful legacy — having instilled in their children concern for one’s fellowman, faith in God, an abiding interest in what is going on in the world, and a deep appreciation of nature, music, and books. For all this and more, I shall ever be grateful.

**ALVIN M. AND AVIS M. LARSEN**

As the Alvin M. Larson Family, we have been Polk County residents for just a few years; however, our heritage goes back to the early homesteaders in the Thirteen Towns area of Polk County.

In 1884 Aadne (Ed) and Maren Vangen Larsen moved from Flom, Minnesota to Rosebud township, Fosston area, having emigrated from Norway in the 1870’s. They had three children, Laura, Martin and Carl. Carl was a year old. Stories are told of Indians coming into their home and staying for supper; grandmother Maren going for the cows, getting lost and sitting in a tree until daylight; of her walking into Fosston to sell butter and eggs but still having time to stop along the way to visits friends. Carl, as a young boy, helped his father and a neighbor by leading oxen to break the ground for the King Lutheran Cemetery.

About 1913 a young woman, Anna Lunde came from Buxton, North Dakota to work for her cousin Emil Ensrud. On November 11, 1914, she became engaged to Carl, and they made their home on the Larsen farm. Grandmother Maren lived with them and their five children: Elmer, Alvin, Lester, Mildred and Kermit. They have memories of skiing for fun on the nearby hills and also to check trap lines; climbing trees to check for birds’ nests, walking four and a-half miles morning and evening to go to Fosston High School. For Alvin this led to a love of nature and, eventually to his volunteering his time for 21 years to Boy Scouting. Alvin went to Interstate Business College in Fargo, and then worked at McIntosh at the Soil Conservation Office. In 1941 he went to Milwaukee to become a J.C. Penney Associate.

Carl, 92, is now a resident of Fosston Nursing Home, but as weather permits, Elmer, who now farms the home place, takes him there on Sundays.

Even and Mina Olsen emigrated from Norway in 1880, coming to Lessor Township McIntosh in 1883. In Norway Even had been a carpenter and wood-carver, who carved for the King of Norway. As a charter member of Trinity Lutheran, he carved and helped build the pulpit, altar, and baptismal font. They had six children; John, Anna, Sarah, Edwin, Marie, and Anton.

Carolina (Lena) Johnson emigrated with her father and sister Augusta from Grenna, Sweden, and came to do housework in the McIntosh area in 1884. The next year she married Ole Emundson, a Norwegian homesteader, who came to Lessor Township in 1883. They later sold this homestead and moved to one in Lessor township. Their five children were: Alma, Hilma, Martin, Mabel, and Anna.

Mabel Enevold and Anton Olson married in 1917 and became the parents of Avis and Lilah. They lived most of their life in McIntosh. Anton worked on the Section Crew of the Great Northern Railroad. The family had of Sunday School at Our Saviors, basketball games at Mac Hi, going out to supper to various aunts homes during threshing, and pulling the wagon around the neighborhood to deliver milk as the parents had several cows and chickens. Mother sewed to earn extra money as Dad’s job on the Great Northern gave him employment only in the spring and summer. During the winter he did odd jobs around McIntosh. After graduating from Mac Hi, Avis went to Northern Business College in Bemidji, and came...
back to McIntosh to work at the First National Bank.

On February 15, 1942, Alvin M. Larsen and Avis M. Olson were married in Minneapolis, and came to Grand Forks, North Dakota in September, 1942. Their oldest sons, Lynn and Gary, married and left Grand Forks before Alvin and Avis purchased their present home in East Grand Forks, where Curtis and Brian, their youngest children, attend school.

JAKOB J. LARSON

Jakob J. Larson, the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of Wild Rice township land and a quarter section in Beltrami county, Minnesota, was born at Helgeland, Norway, on October 5, 1860, the son of Lars Johan and Anne Jacobson, both natives of Norway, where they lived and died, the father being a farmer. Lars Jacobson was married twice, and Jacob J. Larson was the only child by the second wife.

In his childhood Mr. Larson attended school in Norway and, as he grew to manhood, derived valuable experience on his father’s farm which he used handily when he started the plow in the raw prairie in the New World. In 1880 when he was twenty years old, Mr. Larson emigrated to America, coming directly to Swedish Grove, Kandiyohi or Meeker county, Minnesota, and worked on a farm there for two years. In October, 1882, Mr. Larson came northward to Norman county and located on a farm one mile west of Twin Valley, which was comprised of one quarter section of disputed land. There on the bare prairie he erected his house and farm buildings, around which he planted a grove. Later he homesteaded another quarter section in Beltrami county, Minnesota, which the government allowed him without his having to reside on it for the required number of years, in lieu of the disputed land which he later had to buy from the railroad. Mr. Larson carries on general farming and in his pursuits he is a careful manager and industrious man.

In June 1883, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Julia Nenison, who was born in Nicollet county, Minnesota, on April 7, 1861, and died August 3, 1888, the daughter of Guilder and Torbjor Nenison. By her, his first wife, he has three children: Augusta, George, and John. Mr. Larson was married the second time on December 13, 1889, when Elsie Hanson, who was born in Norway, January 13, 1867, the daughter of Hans and Jacobine Peterson, became his wife. To this union have been born five sons, namely: Helmer, Albin, Emil, William and Bennie, and three daughters, namely: Nora, Hilda and Dagny. Mr. Larson and family are active and consistent members of the Lutheran church, he having helped to organize the first church in Twin Valley.

Mr. Larson’s activity has not been entirely limited to agriculture, in the pursuits of which he has been so successful, but he has branched out into business, being one of the organizers of the creamery at Twin Valley.

MARY RUBENA HANNAH LEE

Mary Rubena Hannah Lee is 96 years young, born February 13, 1879. Mary’s mother and father, Janet and John Hannah, along with Mr. and Mrs. James McDonald, settled in the Mailly area after leaving Perth, Ontario, Canada. They shared a log house for awhile and when the children started arriving the two families built separate homes. Mary was one of ten children: William, Lawrence, Stewart, Alfred, Lottie, Minnie, Nettie, Annie and Pearl.

As a girl, Mary took sewing lessons from a seamstress in Grand Forks and would go to the home of a customer, take measurements and make her own pattern from a newspaper. She received piano lessons from a music teacher in Fisher and later played the organ at Bethel Church at Mallory. She also taught School for many years in the church.

Mary’s childhood holds many memories, some of them recalled vividly, others fading as time passes. There were quite a few Indian families living in the area; sometimes these Indians would come to their home rubbing their stomachs and say “Bucketty-Buck”. This was a sign they were hungry, and Mary’s mother Janet, would always find something for them to eat. An Indian custom was to put a new born baby in a pan close to the bonfire to keep it warm.

Mary still laughs when she recalls the day she and her sister and brother were coming home from church. She and Lottie were literally dumped in a snow bank when they slid off the board used as a seat on a “Jumper.” They laughed so hard they couldn’t shout to their brother to stop, so he had gone about a mile or more before he missed his two passengers.

About this time Thomas Duncan Lee entered the picture. Tom, at the age of four, came to the United States with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Lee, in 1878, arriving at Fisher’s Landing. They had lived in Lanark Ontario, Canada. A year later in 1879, they moved to Mallory and started farming. This was where Mary met and married Tom in 1898. Like her parents, Mary and Tom had a large family, eight to be exact: Lila Mae Knox, Myrtle Larson, Violet Zimmerman, Laurence, Wallace, Kathryn Haynes, Luverne Bundlia, and Elaine Olson. A log house was their home the first years of their marriage and their first two children were born in the long large bedroom. This log cabin still stands about two miles East of Mallory. As more children arrived, they moved into a larger house one half mile from Mallory. This was their home until Tom passed away in 1954. As of right now, there are sixteen grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

After Tom passed away, Mary came to live with her daughter, Elaine, and son-in-law, Kenneth, in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. But the following spring, she went back to the farm, taking Elaine, Kenneth and family with her. They lived there the next eighteen years. For the past eight years, Mary, having sold the farm, has lived in East Grand Forks with Elaine and Kenneth. She is still an active member at Mendehall Presbyterian Church, attends circle, UPW nights, helps at bazaars and is an Eastern Star member. Until this past year, she would fly alone to visit her daughters in Seattle, San Jose, San Diego, St. Louis and her son in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

LARS LOFTHUS

Lars Lofthus, son of Halvor and Gunhild Lofthus, was born in 1889. He was married to Helen Farder, who passed away in 1966. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Olof S. Farder. There were five children; Mr. and Mrs. Willard (Geneva) Olson: Mrs. Luella Haugom: Mrs. John (Lillian) Hipkins; Mrs. Erwin (Orlys) Fish; Mrs. Gary (Patricia) Gowan and one son, Leeard.

In his early married years, Lars lived in Oslo in the present Robert Jamison house, which he built when they were first married. At that time he did carpenter work. In 1919 he purchased the I. Anneland farm, which is located two miles south of Oslo and is presently farmed by his son. This was the site of the former settlement of Granville, which consisted of the church, which was built in 1894, and is still located at this site. There was also a general store, built by Hilden, and another store operated by T. Anneland, a blacksmith shop operated by Carl Anderson, and a post office. In 1905, when the Soo Line Railroad came through, the settlement of Granville ended and the buildings were moved to the present site of Oslo. In the early years of his farming career, Lars did custom threshing with steam engines and he did custom lumber sawing for 24 years. Steam engines were his hobby for many years. He is presently making his home at the Good Samaritan Nursing Center in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.
PETER MALLINGER

The Peter Mallinger family moved to Polk County from Oslo in Marshall County, Minnesota, in the fall of 1891. They came to a farm in the northern corner of Polk County. This farm, like many others along the Red River, had to be cleared of trees, brush, and stumps. This was a lot of hard work, most of it hand labor, but the land when cleared was very productive and well worth the effort.

Peter Mallinger had come to this country from Luxemburg in Europe in 1895 and to Oslo in 1905. He had learned the butcher trade in Europe and had worked in butcher shops in Grand Forks and Meckinock, North Dakota, before coming to Oslo. He ran his own meat market most of the time in Oslo from 1905 to 1917. He had bought two farms while in the butcher business to use mostly as summer pasture for cattle.

He was married to Hjerda Loff in 1908. She had come to Erskine in Polk County from Niagra, North Dakota, about 1890 as a child with her parents. Two of their seven children, Felix and Earl, continued the farming operation as a partnership after Peter retired in 1938. This partnership continued until 1970, when Felix retired. Felix and his wife, Marion, now live in East Grand Forks. Earl and his wife, Julia, now live in Oslo after many years on that original home place. Of the other children two, Roy and Irene, are deceased. Marian (Mrs. Norman Lien) now lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Ina (Mrs. Leverne Dahlen) lives in Moorhead, Minnesota; and Dr. Ralph Mallinger lives in San Bernardino, California.

Hjerda died in 1935 and Peter in 1952 at the age of 77. Peter was remarried in 1941 to Kate Roberson Swenson, who is still living in Oslo.

Like most farms in this area, that original unit had been expanded greatly and many times, both when Peter ran it and even more so during the Mallinger Brothers partnership. Peter was among the first sugar beet and potato growers near Oslo, having started commercial production of potatoes in 1924 and signed his first beet contract in 1927. Substantial acreages of sugar beets and potatoes have been grown every year since then.

Peter used to make trips to Grand Forks, a distance of about 20 miles, with horses, taking livestock and other products to market. Field work was done mostly with horses, the two bottom gang plow, and walking all day behind a harrow, until about 1926. He bought his first car, a Ford light delivery truck in 1912 and despite many misgivings by some people, it was still running in the early 1920's.

Felix and his wife, Marion, are the only members of the family now living in Polk County. They moved to East Grand Forks in 1965 after many years near Oslo. Marion (Ugland) came from Minneapolis to Oslo in 1943 to teach in the high school there. Both have been active in church and community organizations. Felix was especially active in sugar beet organizations and was a member of the Red River Valley Sugar Beet Growers’ Association board of directors for 22 years. Felix and Marion were one of 17 couples honored by the Sugar Beet Growers' Association and North Dakota State University on November 1. 1975, as pioneers of the sugar beet industry and for their contributions to the industry.

HOWARD AND MABEL MEYERS METCALF

Charles Metcalfe was born in London, England, 1832. At the age of fifteen he left his home in foggy London, and worked his passage on a sailing ship to New York, and then West to Ann Arbor, Michigan. He married his employer’s daughter, Miss Hulme, in 1855. Her father, the head of the Hulme foundry, in Ann Arbor, was a soldier in Wellington’s Army, and fought gallantly through the war that brought to a close the existence of the first Napoleon.

Mr. Metcalfe went to work for the railroad, and in 1852, was one of the crew that brought the first engine, the “Little Monroee,” into Chicago from the East, and announced to the world that Chicago was no longer on the “Wild Frontier”. It was a time of wild celebration; all the city could afford was at their disposal, when the “Little Monroe” arrived on a frosty Febru-

ary morning.

He made his home in Brainerd, Minnesota and retired there after sixty-three years, except for the simple routine duties involved in running a Northern Pacific yard engine. Charles Metcalfe was a man whose life story runs side by side with the history of railroad development in the West. He had visited this city many times at the home of his son, Fred Metcalfe, and grandson, Howard.

“Fred Metcalfe came to East Grand Forks in 1887. Transferred here from Brainerd, Minnesota, as an engineer for the Northern Pacific Railroad. In 1891 he married the former Margaret Scanlan in St. Michael’s Church, Grand Forks, North Dakota. She came to this country from Ireland in 1865. Her father, Michael, also pioneered in railroading in the Hastings, Minnesota area.

“Mr. Metcalfe was featured in Ripley’s “Believe It or Not” cartoon, because he had travelled one million eight hundred miles in a locomotive cab, between Fargo and Pembina. Often picked as engineer, he piloted trains for every Northern Pacific Railroad President. One of the highlights of his early years was when he was at the helm of a special train carrying Henry Villard, President of N. P. Railroad, and General Ulysses S. Grant in the late 1880’s, who were returning from a ceremony making completion of the railroad to the West Coast. He was engineer of the first locomotive purchased by the N. P. Railroad, the “Minnetonka.” His last run was September, 1930, fifty-five years of railroading thirty years as an engineer. He served as member of the East Grand Forks Water and Light Commission, until 1939. Mr. Metcalfe resided at 327 North Second Street, where the original home still stands.”

Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe both died in 1940. F. Howard Metcalfe was born in East Grand Forks in 1892, received his education here, and was a 1911 graduate of East Grand Forks Public School. After attending the University of North Dakota for two years, Howard enlisted in the United States Navy, and served aboard a Mine Cruiser in World War I. After his discharge from service, he went to work as a stenographer for the First Savings Bank in Grand Forks, which was located in the space now occupied by J. C. Penney Company.

He married the former Mabel Meyers in 1920, and they made their home at 515 North 4th Street.

In 1925, Mr. Metcalfe began working for the American Crystal Sugar Company and remained until his retirement in 1957 as cashier. Being wise minded, also, Howard served on the Water and Light Commission for eleven years taking over for his father, who had retired in 1939 because of ill health.

Howard did not come from a large family, having only one sister, but went on to have a large family of his own, however; and of his thirteen children, five still reside in this area. Mr. Metcalfe died in 1970, and Mrs. Metcalfe in 1975. The children in East Grand Forks are Terry and Howard, Patty Kramchuck, Margaret Lewis, and Rosemarie O’Leary.

WARREN E. AND ELSIE LARSON MILLER

Warren E. Miller was born in North Ferriburg, Vermont, January 14, 1921, the son of Louis H. and Etta Higbee Miller. He attended the little country school near their farm and high school in Vergennes. When he was 16, he clerked in the country store, the feed store, and was employed as a milk tester and in a plant making precision machinery.

In 1942 he enlisted in the Air Force, serving until 1945. On February 14, 1945 Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Elsie Larson, daughter of Helmer and Emily Larson of Hillboro, North Dakota.

After his discharge from the Air Force, Mr. Miller enrolled at Bentley College of Accounting and Finance in Boston, Massachusetts. A mobile home was engineer which was to be their home for the next few years.

Following graduation in 1947, the West beckoned — and the mobile home, pulled by a 1934 Pontiac, made its way back across the United States. Harvest was in full swing that August of 1947, temperature 108, when the Millers arrived at the home of Elsie’s parents.

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In the fall of 1947, the Millers moved to Moorhead, Minnesota. Mr. Miller was employed at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company until a civil service appointment came through for the Internal Revenue Service. After a training appointment in St. Paul, the family was transferred to Crookston, Minnesota in January 1949. The mobile home was sold and the family rented the farm buildings at the Holte Farm one-fourth mile from Girard Station. Warren was employed by Internal Revenue Service until 1954, when the decision was made to move to East Grand Forks, and work for the Rychart Potato Co. That same year, Mr. Miller opened his office in the old First National Bank Building at 202 DeMers as a public accountant. He attended graduate school at the University of North Dakota and became a certified public accountant. In 1967 the accounting practice was sold to Ivan Ferguson and an appointment at the Auditor General’s office at the Grand Forks Air Force Base was accepted. Mr. Miller is still employed there. The Millers have four children: Mrs. Matthew Reese, (Cheryl), East Grand Forks; Rodney L., Orange, California; Garry L., student at Bemidji State; and Rebecca J., a student at the University of North Dakota. They now have four grandchildren.

Elsie Larson was born September 20, 1922, the fifth child of Helmer and Emily Larson at Hillsboro, North Dakota. Elsie attended all twelve years of school at Hillsboro, graduating from the high school in 1940. In 1941 she was hired as a secretary at the City Auditors office in Hillsboro for the sum of $25.00 monthly. Elsie remembers her first train ride, when she and a girlfriend took the Empire Builder to Grand Forks... the date was December 6, 1941... Louie Armstrong, the old Satchmo himself, was playing at the States Theater in East Grand Forks, and they took in the big dance. On Sunday, December 7, 1941, while visiting with an aunt in Grand Forks we heard the radio reports of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and felt the heart ache when President Roosevelt made the announcement declaring the start of World War II.

In the fall of 1942, Ruth Andersen and Elsie made a train trip to Kansas to visit a friend with the intention of going on to California. They ran out of money and both secured jobs in Kansas. It was here that Elsie met and married Warren Miller. Their life thereafter is listed elsewhere in this book. In 1959 after the children were all in school, Elsie went to work at the East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce. The office was then on a full time basis for the first time, and Elsie was hired to help Howard Kramer out on a half-day basis for $25.00 weekly. The office proved to be so successful she was then hired for all day, 9-5 each day and one-half day on Saturday, and the salary was doubled to $50.00 weekly. She worked at the Chamber with Howard as the manager until 1965, when her husband needed her to help out in the accounting office. In 1971 with Ernest Straus as manager, she was encouraged to come back to the Chamber. Ernest Straus left as manager in 1973, and Mrs. Miller was elevated to the manager position.

The Chamber office had its location at 202 DeMers Avenue, upstairs first; then the A and H Vending Building at 307 DeMers, and finally purchased the Barnard Building at 315 DeMers, which is its present home since 1962.

THE GENE MILLS
Gene Mills, son of Lewis (Lars) and E. Victoria (Monson) Mills, of Cannon Falls, Minnesota. At the end of 1975, Lewis was 76 years old, and E. Victoria was 65 years old. Gene was born in Cannon Falls, Minnesota on March 24, 1932. The Mills were farmers in the Cannon Falls area.

Gene’s wife Janet (Miller) Mills was born in Red Wing, Minnesota on November 7, 1937 to Leonard and Jean Miller of Cannon Falls, Minnesota. The Millers operated Miller Feed Mill in Cannon Falls for many years. Mr. Miller now works for Cannon Ball, a truck stop near Cannon Falls.

Gene and Janet were united in marriage on February 25, 1956 and now have four children: Marilyn, born October 2, 1956; Roy, born October 22, 1958, a junior at East Grand Forks Senior High School; Martha (Marty) born August 23, 1963, a student at River Heights Elementary; and Ruth, born October 10, 1957. Ruth is married to Paul Flaas of East Grand Forks. The Flaas are now residing in San Clemente, California while Paul is serving in the Marine Corps. They are the proud parents of a new baby boy, born in January.

Gene Mills is employed as General Manager of the Minnesota Grain Pearlizing Company, East Grand Forks Division.

Janet is employed by the Blue Cross-Blue Shield in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

CALVIN S. NELSON
Calvin S. Nelson was born November 15, 1928 to Albert and Edna Nelson. He was a member of the United States Marine Corps from 1946 to 1948. He married Shirley M. Heggesteven in 1948. Shirley was the daughter of Byron P. and Alma O. Heggesteven. She was born November 27, 1928. Calvin is the owner of Calvin Nelson Painting and Decorating Company of East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

They have one daughter, Cheryl R., who was born July 1, 1949. She married Benjamin E. Smith in 1974. Their son, Charles D., was born December 22, 1954. He is now a member of the United States Armed Forces.

JOHN (JACK) J. O’LEARY
A city whose history is as colorful as that of East Grand Forks owes much of that heritage to a few men of determination, fortitude and stamina. One such man was John (Jack) J. O’Leary.

Born in Almont, Ontario on April 16, 1853, O’Leary moved to Grand Forks in 1878, earning his living as an experienced carpenter. Before long, however, he established himself in the real estate business and realizing the potential of the fertile Minnesota Point district, settled a homestead there in 1883. He resided there with his wife, the former Mary Ann Murphy, a Grand Forks resident who was born in Packenham, Ontario, May 2, 1861. Together they raised a family of five daughters, Mrs. Thomas (Mollie) Powers, Mrs. E. J. (Margaret) Logan, Mrs. N. A. (Genevieve) Fischer, Mrs. Lawrence (Cecilia) Norman, Elizabeth, and two sons, Jack and James E.

O’Leary’s interest in politics led him to the post of mayor of E.G.F. for four terms. He was first elected in 1906 and the tall wiry Irishman made an early impression as a man of firm and outspoken convictions in dealing with the growing pains of the rugged pioneer town.

O’Leary’s administration faced corruption in the city government, graft among most members of the town’s underpaid police department, rampant gambling and open prostitution within the city limits. These things were in addition to the standard problems faced by a city whose population at that time had reached 3,500 and was climbing steadily, with an assessed valuation upwards of half a million dollars.

In lengthy speeches, which were to become a trademark of his political career, O’Leary charged head-on into the major problems facing the city. Just weeks before O’Leary took office, the city clerk, C. P. Zimmerman, had absconded with thousands of dollars in city funds. The new mayor ordered a
being active in political life. At the time of his death in 1960 at the age of 66, he was serving as alderman-at-large and previously served as alderman from the 1st ward from 1940-49. In addition to farming, he worked at American Crystal Sugar Company for 27 years.

O'Leary married the late Laura Sullivan on February 3, 1918. They had five sons: Keith, Bob, Jack, Duane and Mike and one daughter Mrs. John (Gloriann) Norton, who still resides on the farm just east of where the old Lincoln School stood on the Point. Mike, the youngest of the sons, still farms his grandfather's homestead.

**MYRTLE C. PETERSON**

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Nisbet and Mr. and Mrs. James McDonald, were among the early settlers of this area. They established their homes during the 1870's. My father, William James Nisbet, and my mother, Eva Bell McDonald were married on November 11, 1911. They began their farming career on 160 acres of the original James Nisbet farm. They lived the first few years at the Nisbet home and for a brief time at Mallory, Minnesota. During this time two children were born, a son, Herbert J. and a daughter, Jean I.

When Jean was about a year and a-half old, they started building a new home on their 160 acres. Two more children were born at this home, a daughter, Myrtle C., and a daughter, Helen E.; this was home for us from that time on. We attended grade school at Mallory, Minnesota, which was one and one-half miles west of the farm. On Sunday we attended Bethel Presbyterian church one-half mile east. It didn't seem long until we were grown and leaving home. Jean was the first to leave. She married Walter Roberts and moved to Mallory, Minnesota. I was the next to leave. I had graduated from Demmings Beauty College in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and moved to Portland, Oregon in 1942. That same year on December 11, 1942, Herbert married Betty McVeety and they began their farming career on the home place with Mom and Dad. Later Helen also moved to Portland, Oregon. She is working at Sandy's Camera Store in Portland at this time.

On July 2, 1945, Mom and Dad had the opportunity to rent the manse owned by Bethel Presbyterian church. Services were still being held in the church, but the decline in membership made it impossible to retain a full-time minister. During this period a minister, usually from the East Grand Forks church, also held services at Mallory and Key West churches. On December 1, 1946, tragedy struck when Bethel church burned.

The few members that remained considered rebuilding, but finally decided that they would join other churches in the area. A lot of the members joined Mendenhall Presbyterian church of East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Following the loss of the old

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thorough check of the city books by the state public examiner. Among his early recommendations to the council were increases in the wages and number of men in the police department, reasoning that "the city will be much better off financially, as well as morally." He also recommended that the Municipal Court be brought under control of the City Council, with the judge to be salaried instead of collecting directly from fees paid to the court. He also worked to improve the condition of the city's streets and sidewalks and tried to establish a cemetery within the city's own limits. "I believe," he said, "that the time has come when we could own a cemetery of our own. It looks very bad to see a city of our population and valuation compelled to carry its dead into another state for burial."

Perhaps the most colorful of O'Leary's efforts was his battle to rid the city of the "houses of ill fame" which dotted DeMers Avenue. His tactics were forceful. "I have given the inmates of the houses in the hollow 24 hours to get out of town. There are to be no such houses within the city limits." His stern measures were effective to say the least. In fact, in view of subsequent events, perhaps too much for the growing town. In February of the following year the city clerk presented a written report to the council which pointed out that since the cleanup campaign fostered by O'Leary, the city revenue from fines had dropped more than $2,000. He concluded his report with a rather bold statement regarding the economic and political realities of the times: "The statement of the Municipal Court is a strong argument in favor of re-establishing them (houses of prostitution) but the question is do the people of this city want them." The answer to his question came in the following years, for it was not long before the red light district had a firm stronghold on DeMers Avenue once again.

O'Leary's political career continued for three more terms as mayor. In addition, he also served several terms as alderman for the Point District and was a member of the school board for 27 years.

Chief among the accomplishments of his later administrations were the development of a park system, resolutions regarding a revamping of the saloon regulations and the organization of efforts to redistrict the city and secure a home rule charter.

John J. O'Leary died on December 26, 1930 at his farm home on the Point as a result of injuries he had received when a calf threw him and broke his hip.

His son James (Jim) E. O'Leary followed in his father's footsteps, taking over the farming operation after his death and

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Mr. and Mrs. James E. O'Leary.
Bethel church, Mom and Dad decided to buy the Manse. They lived here until Dad's death April 1, 1967. Mom moved to Portland, Oregon late in 1967 and lived with Helen until her death May 13, 1971.

During the period from 1942 to 1973, I made my home in Portland, Oregon. I was married on September 16, 1949, to Sterling (Ted) Peterson. Ted had one son, Richard S., age 16, at the time of our marriage. Another son, Douglas Henry was born August 2, 1953. On October 27, 1968, my husband died. At this time Richard was married and Douglas was in high school. I decided to remain in our home until Douglas completed high school. Following high school, he made the decision to come back to this area to attend Wahpeton State School of Science. It was after he spent two years back here that he began talking of moving back here.

We arrived here May 15, 1974, and are busy restoring the old house. It is so good to be back home again!

LEONARD T. POWERS

Leonard Thomas Powers (1901-1955) was born in East Grand Forks and resided there all his life. He graduated from Central High in 1919. That same year he took a position with the Red River Power Company, which was later to become Northern States Power. He remained there until 1926 when he became assistant to Paul Kolars, head of the Water and Light Department in East Grand Forks. In 1929 Powers became the Department's superintendent.

In 1930-31 the Department's chief worry was not the mechanics of treating and distributing water, but finding the water to distribute. A drought had reduced the Red Lake River so much that all the cities located along it were greatly concerned about their water supplies. At that time one could walk across the Red Lake River at several points between East Grand Forks and Mallory without getting more than one's ankles wet.

In 1951 Powers was building official and special assistant. He then became Secretary of the Water, Light and Power and Building Commission. In his years with the department he saw a remarkable growth in demand for both water and electrical power and a boom in residential building.

Leonard Powers married Carol Mae Harm, the daughter of the late mayor, Harry Harm. They have three sons: Richard, of Seattle; Dr. William T. of Grand Forks; and Dennis who now lives in California. Leonard had a twin brother, Roy; three other brothers, Clarence, James, and Thomas; and three sisters, Catherine Veliquette, Irene Mullaney, and Mary (Mrs. Joseph Crystal).

Leonard's father, Thomas Powers, came to East Grand Forks in 1887. He was city engineer and served on the school board. He also served as fire chief for a period of time.

ALBERT G. RAND

Albert Gilman Rand (1897-1971) was born and raised in East Grand Forks. He went to Central grade and high school there, graduating in 1915. He began studying at the University of North Dakota, but left to serve in the United States Army in 1918-19. Upon his return, he returned to University of North Dakota and graduated from the School of Law. He served an apprenticeship with W. H. Rasmussen for six months before being admitted to the bar. He was engaged in the insurance business for one year before he became City Clerk of East Grand Forks.

He was first appointed the post in 1926 when Paul Kolars resigned to become Superintendent of the Water and Light Department. The City Council was evenly divided by party at the time and neither faction's candidate could prevail. Rand was chosen in a compromise, and was to keep the position for 42 years until his retirement.

During those years — the longest service of any city clerk — Rand was re-appointed by each new council. He recounted that during one election the campaign issue was "too much family." At the time his father-in-law (Harry Harm) was mayor and his wife's brother-in-law was Superintendent of the

Minna and Al Rand.

Water and Light Department.

In addition to his appointed duties, Rand had a great interest in the city, and kept detailed records on such things as the floods. He was active in the Rotary Club, Toastmasters, and the Masonic Lodge. He was an early adjutant of American Legion Post 157 and served for many years as its service officer.

In 1934 Al married his Central High School classmate of 19 years earlier, Minna Harm. They had two children: Carol Jean attended Michigan State University and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota. She earned her master's degree from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where she now lives. She has taught music in Concord, Massachusetts, and at Putney School, Putney, Vermont. She is also a professional accompanist. Tom attended Macalester College, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and a B.D. from Harvard Divinity School. He teaches at the University of North Dakota. He is married to Alice Jean Skyberg of Fisher, and they have three children: Douglas, Ho, and Kathryn. They now live in the family home of Al's father-in-law.

PETER PERCIVAL RAND

The Rand ancestors came from England to Maine in 1630. Before Peter Percival Rand came to Folk county in 1876, the RANDs established themselves in the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Boston areas. Peter P. Rand's grandfather was in the Boston Tea Party and his father was a Free-Mason of the sub-

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Cummings with daughter and son and family.
way in Boston.

Peter P. Rand was an engineer for the Northern Pacific Railroad and this was his job in East Grand Forks. He married Sarah Hewena Patterson, whose ancestors were from Ireland.

Their children were: Peter Percival Rand, who worked for the sugar beet plant in East Grand Forks and died in 1971. Ida, who graduated from the University of North Dakota and taught music. She married J. Calvin Jackson and they lived many years in Duluth. Ida now resides in Northwood, North Dakota, where her son and his family also live. Albert, who worked for the city of East Grand Forks.

D. P. Reeves

David Porter Reeves, my grandfather, was born in England in 1826. His father was anxious for him to become a shipwright, so he was sent to Glasgow, Scotland to learn shipbuilding there in the big Navy Yard. He was only a lad of fourteen years when he had to leave home and become apprenticed to a stern but accomplished seaman. In due time, he had finished his course and was ready to ship out. His work took him to many parts of the world, and in my childhood I can remember clearly my boasting about my grandfather's having made three trips around the world. His work eventually took him up the Mississippi River and into the Ohio. Here, at Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, he met and married Elizabeth Wilkins. They settled in a home across the Ohio River, in the state of West Virginia and in the city of Wheeling. They lived there for a few years, but the urge to travel was still strong in his blood, so leaving his little family with relatives, he took off for new lands. Grandfather boarded a boat for Panama, walked across the Isthmus, then took another boat up the Pacific Coast to San Francisco. Here he joined in the "gold rush of '49." He was not very successful in his panning of gold, and after about a year returned home with no gold, except a few souvenirs of gold, some of which are still in the family.

Stories of steamboating on the Red River of the North reached Grandfather's ears, and again his itchy feet, and love for travel drove him on, so eventually in 1879, he and his family were on their way to the much talked of Red River Valley. Here they embarked at the well-known Fisher's Landing. Grandfather lost no time in setting his family, which now consisted of his wife and six children. Because of his skill and excellent training, he landed a job building and repairing boats for the R. S. Griggs Company. This was at the height of river transportation on the Red, and such luxurious boats as the Selkirk graced the muddy Red. Grandfather Reeves, with much sagacity, filed upon a homestead, and soon became owner of a quarter section of land, which became the site of the city of Grand Forks. The main avenue at that time was named Reeves Avenue (now called Reeves Drive). The old Reeves home still stands, much remodeled and enlarged on Reeves Court. About this time James J. Hill entered the history of the Red River Valley, and with his "powerful" steam engines began to take the trade of the river boats. Consequently, boat building began to decline, and Grandfather, seeing the handwriting on the wall, decided to try his luck with the soil of the rich Red River Valley. Thus in 1882 he bought a section of land seven miles north of Grand Forks on the Minnesota side of the river. Here in Farmer township the "exorbitant" price of $9.00 per acre was paid for the fertile land bordering the Red River of the North. In 1883 a house was built on this land, but the family continued to live in Grand Forks, where Grandmother Reeves boarded men, who worked at the boatyard. Here, one little hundred pound woman, my grandmother, with the aid of one "hired girl", cooked for sixty men.

In 1886, the family moved out to the farm, but unhappily Grandfather Reeves died shortly afterwards. Courageous little Grandmother was left to manage the farm, hire the "hired men" and keep the family solvent. Two of these "hired men" later married into the Reeves Family. Frank Swanson married Nan Reeves and William Huggins married Raphael. Later the Huggins moved onto their own farm south of the home, while Frank Swanson continued to farm for Grandmother Reeves.

My father, William Reeves, son of D. P. Reeves, moved onto the northwestern section of the farm and built a home there. About this time my father met Jessie Nichols, a young woman from Winnipeg, and soon the wedding bells rang for them, and my Dad took his bride to the new home he had built on the edge of the woods. Here my sister Grace and I were born and lived there until 1903. Then my father decided that we lived too far from the little country school, so we moved to Grand Forks, where we lived for several years. During those early years of my childhood, I have many vivid memories, for instance, we had little room to fear, when they first frost, take a flour sack and go searching for hazelnuts. How good they were in cakes! Then what has happened to the sweet juicy, wild strawberries, which sprinkled the hay lands. Then there were gooseberries, haws and wild plums, where have they gone? Oh! yes! I remember my Uncle Frank (Swanson) playing tricks on my father, as he would sometimes do, when they were loading hay. My father would stand in the hayrack spreading the hay around, while Uncle Frank would toss the hay onto the rack. Uncle Frank knew my father was deathly afraid of snakes, so when a harmless little garter snake was encountered, it was "accidentally" thrown up with the hay into the rack. When my father beheld this wriggling creature headed his way, many colorful antics were performed accompanied by still more colorful language; while Uncle Frank with sober face disclaimed any knowledge of the snake.

Uncle Frank and Auntie Swanson had one daughter, Elizabeth, who was more commonly referred as Girlie by her beloved Grandmother Reeves, and with whom she had a very close and enduring relationship. One little girl on a farm with only adults around her, needed someone in her life to give her companionship, understanding and love, this Grandmother did! This close association continued through the years, until 1922, when Girlie had grown up and Grandmother had passed away. Later the farm was divided up and sold, with the exception of a quarter section of land which Grandmother bequeathed to Elizabeth. In 1927, Elizabeth married Floyd Currie on. They soon built a house on their land and began to farm it. They have lived there and farmed the land ever since. Here in 1974 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They have two children, Doris, who lived in Moorhead, and Roger, who with his family lives in Los Angeles. This is the only part of the original farm that remains in the hands of
the descendants of the D. P. Reeves Family.
Today as one drives down that river road past the "old Reeves Farm" nothing remains to remind one of the living past: of the rambling home, the welcome shade trees, the cultivated gardens and the spacious barns. Now it is the "Reeves Farm" only in the memories of the "old timers", and a farm soon to be forgotten entirely when they, too are gone.

WALTER AND JEAN NISBET ROBERTS
Walter Roberts has been a resident of Polk county of 43 years. He came here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Roberts, in April 1932, after fire destroyed their home in Arville, North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. George Roberts were natives of Nebraska and moved to the Arvillo area in the early 1900's. They farmed and worked at various jobs in the Arvillo area until 1932, when they bought the farm at Mallory, Minnesota.
Walter Roberts farmed with his father until his father's death in November, 1939. At that time he took over the family farm. Walter married Jean Nisbet on September 12, 1937. Jean is a native of Polk county. She is a daughter of William J. Nisbet and Eva B. McDonald, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Nisbet, and Mr. and Mrs. James McDonald, homesteaded in the Mallory and Davidson area of Polk county in the 1800's. Walter and Jean Roberts lived on the family farm at Mallory from April 1940, until October 1971 when the highway department took over the farm yard for a four lane on Hwy. 2. At that time they moved to East Grand Forks.
Walter and Jean are parents of four children, Gerald and his wife, the former Joyce Hanson, and their three children: Nanette Lee, Jeffrey Clifford, and Teresa Jean. They live in a new home on the family farm. JoAnne and her husband, C. Anthony Johnson, and daughter, Cyd Suzanne. They live in Woodbridge, Virginia. Marjorie and her husband, Lynn Stauss, and children: Scott, Raymond and Kelly Jean live in East Grand Forks. Delores and her husband, Paul Meland, live in East Grand Forks. Walter, Jean and family are members of Medenhall Presbyterian Church of East Grand Forks transferring membership there after the Bethel Presbyterian Church at Mallory burned December 1, 1946. They and their family have been active in church work, 4-H club, Farm Bureau, Beet Growers Association and many other activities in the community.

MR. AND MRS. A. NORMAN ROOD
Mr. and Mrs. A. Norman Rood came to East Grand Forks in 1959, after fire destroyed their new home and all their belongings on April 1, 1959. A. Norman Rood was born in Wisconsin and moved with his parents to a farm eight miles from Hannaford, North Dakota. He is the son of Åle and Lise Rood. His parents were both born in Norway. Norman is a World War II veteran. He married Inga E. Iverson at Finley, North Dakota. She is the daughter of the late Ingvold and Ellen Iverson. She came with her mother from Norway in April, 1910, to join her father. Mrs. Rood was born in northern Norway. They lived on the farm which is now owned by Mr. Marvin Iverson of Crookston.
Mrs. Rood has had a congenital hip plus rheumatoid arthritis all her life. Their daughter, Loual, was born with the same condition, but is fine after being nine and a-half months at the Children's Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. Norman and Inga Rood, together with Orlin, moved to Tenstrike, Minnesota in 1948. There Bruce and Loual were born to them.
Mrs. Rood has had several surgical procedures on her hips. Mr. Rood farmed and cut lumber and built a new home in 1957. This home and all outside buildings were burned on June 8, 1959 while he was in Minneapolis to see his wife who was desperately ill. After the fire, he had a sale of machinery and cattle, because he had to have a home ready when his wife and children could come home. This was when we came to East Grand Forks where he bought a mobile home. He had his first job with Western Auto in Grand Forks. But since he was a mechanic as well as machinist and welder, he got a job with Skinner Manufacturing Company, and Tri-Steel Manufactur-
Harold, better known as “Hersh,” is a son of the late Sam Rosenberg, who was a meatcutter and buyer for Zejdlik and Martin’s in East Grand Forks for more than thirty years and was well known throughout the area. Born in Russia, Sam lived in Devils Lake for a short time and started working at Zejdlik and Martin’s in 1915. He and his wife, Ethel, had seven children: Sidney, Archie, Lillian (now Mrs. Bernard Gutnik of Grand Forks), Leonard, Harold, William and Max. In 1945 Sam went to the West Coast for a few years, but returned to operate a locker plant on South Second Street in East Grand Forks from 1949 to 1951, when he opened a meat market in Grand Forks.

After his father’s death in 1952, Hersh continued in the meat business until back trouble forced him into less strenuous work. He was an insurance salesman for a time, then assisted his brother, Bill, in the operation of Mike’s Pizza Palace in East Grand Forks. He now operates a Dairy Queen in Grand Forks.

Gladys worked at One-Hour Martinizing for a few years and, since 1970, has been employed by Sweetheart Bakeries.

Their son, Leonard, enlisted in the Navy after graduating from East Grand Forks High School, serving for four years. He is now enrolled in Weber College at Ogden, Utah, working toward a degree in audio-electronics. Carrie Lynn was active in athletic programs in school and at the “Y,” and for two years has been a member of the top-ranking women’s softball team for River Queen. She has taught Sunday school at First Lutheran Church and takes part in other activities there. She graduated from East Grand Forks High School and is now a business student at AVTI. When not in school or playing softball, she helps her dad at the Dairy Queen. Another son, Paul Carroll III, was stricken with leukemia while a student in Senior High School and died in 1964.

**ESTHER SWENSON SJOLINDER**

Esther was born to John and Emma Swenson, March 22, 1904, on the farm home on Rhinehart Road, Rhinehart Township Polk County. I attended part of a year in the Elm Grove School, and the Lincoln Elementary School “on the Point,” which was built in 1910. I remember Miss Lydie O’Brien and Miss Julia Zengel (Mrs. Frank Gorman) as dedicated teachers. I graduated from Central High School in 1922, and received a B.S. in education at the University of North Dakota in 1925, and taught business education in the Ada Minnesota high school. I married Laurence Sjolinder in 1927 and have one son, Edward, and three grandchildren. I did substitute teaching from 1937 to 1950 in the East Grand Forks High School.

I have been active in church and community — taught Sunday school for about 40 years — 20 as primary superintendent, and am presently serving my sixth year on the Augustana Lutheran Church Council in Grand Forks, North Dakota. I served on the East Grand Forks Community Chest Board; am a charter member of the East Grand Forks P.T.A., filling the elective offices: secretary, vice president, and President, and also first vice president of District 16 P.T.A. of Minnesota.

In 1946, my husband and I were Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Red River Chapter #226 Order of Eastern Star. I served on the Guardian Council of Job’s Daughters, Bethel #71 from its institution in 1958, and was Guardian Treasurer for fifteen years. I loved working with children and young people. There have been many changes in the East Grand Forks Community, and I feel very fortunate in knowing some of the history, as told by those who lived it. Over the years, I added to my own 72 years of residency in East Grand Forks.

Here are a few items I call Nostalgic Glimpses into a Corner of Childhood Memories:

- A slice of warm homemade bread with freshly churned butter; Finding baby kittens in the barn; A gift book from the Sunday School at the Christmas program; The kerosene lamp in a wall bracket with a reflector which could be adjusted to give light on the table where we did our lessons, or directed to light the stove area where Mother prepared supper; Picking violets and May flowers in the woods behind the Elm Grove School, and transplanting some of them in my own flower garden by my play house. And I have transplanted some of those violets to my present home on South Fourth Street; Driving in the ditch road or horse and buggy road north of town, so the horse wouldn’t be frightened by the cars; An auto trip to Grand Forks North Dakota, one of us in an Overland car, one in a Maxwell, and my family in a Buick. It was a whole day excursion, and it seemed the men were fixing flat tires nearly all afternoon. Our Buick had no flats.

- Seeing the “Perils of Pauline,” as a silent movie serial, on Saturday afternoons with my mother and sister, and the ice cream cone treat at Black’s Ice Cream Factory on the “Point” on the way home; Riding in our cutter sleigh with jingling sleighbells on the horse, and cuddled under a robe made from the hide of our beautiful horse, Fanny, and the Lumber Wagon sleigh with hay and blankets and warm bricks; The
dancing flames as seen through the isinglass of the parlor coal stove. Warming cold feet on the open oven door in the kitchen and ice melting in the kitchen range reservoir. My father brought home several loads of ice when it was being cut in the river — some he put close to the house to be melted for clothes washing, and some was stored in an ice-house with sawdust between the layers to insulate and keep for summer use; Midsummer church festivals and the Fourth of July celebrations in Sherlock Park, and the basket of chicken-dinner to share with friends; Watching a fire from our upstairs window and learning the next morning that Central School had burned!

LAURENCE SJOLINDER
Laurence Sjolinder was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, March 21, 1898, the oldest of four children of Pastor and Mrs. L. E. Sjolinder. When Laurence was one year old, his father was called to be pastor of the parish which included Gustavus Adolphus Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church — now Augustana, Grand Forks — Bethesda and Nyskoga Churches north of East Grand Forks. The family lived here until 1906, when Pastor Sjolinder accepted a call to the parish of Tracy, Ivanhoe and Walnut Grove, Minnesota. While they lived here, Laurence attended Wilder Grade School for two years. The family had applied for a Homestead Claim in Western North Dakota. Of course, Pastor could not leave his parish, so Mrs. Sjolinder, her two sons, a sister and two other families went out to take care of their claims — each 80 acres. A sod house was built and a cow and chickens were housed next to the living quarters; one neighbor had horses and he helped the others plow the required number of acres, and to bring supplies from the nearest town. They lived there through one winter, and snow drifts almost covered their home and a lantern was hung on a high pole beside the house to guide any travellers at night. They plowed furrows all around the home as a protection against prairie fires.

The family lived in Tracy until 1919, when they moved to St. Paul so the boys could attend the University of Minnesota. When Laurence finished high school, he worked for the Chicago, Northwestern Railroad for two years until his brother finished high school. They both graduated from the University of Minnesota.

In December 1922, Pastor Sjolinder was called to Grand Forks again, to serve as interim pastor until the fall of 1924. He was retired at that time and served as supply pastor during vacations in churches and also on the Home Mission Board. At this time Laurence and Esther Swenson met and they were married in 1927, and moved into their home on South Fourth Street, East Grand Forks.

He worked for Montgomery Ward and Nash-Finch Wholesale in Grand Forks, and from 1934 until his retirement in 1963 for Sears Roebuck and Company as master plumber.

He was elected to the East Grand Forks Board of Education in 1946, and served as clerk for 12 years, during the first extensive expansion of the school facilities and property — the school cafeteria addition, Valley Elementary and River Heights Elementary, and acquisition of land for a new high school.

He served six years on the Augustana Lutheran Church Council during their new church building program. He was a member of Red River Lodge #292 A.F. and A.M. serving as Worshipful Master for two years, and serving the Red River Chapter #226 Order of Eastern Star as Worthy Patron for three years. He suffered a minor stroke in 1964, the year after his retirement, and on December 25, 1967 had a massive stroke which caused his death in January 1968. He was a student of literature and history — ancient, modern and church history. Books were his hobby. He also loved music, and for a time sang with the Northwest Singers.

Laurence and Esther have one son, Edward, who graduated as valedictorian of the 1945 class of East Grand Forks High School; he graduated from the University of North Dakota as an electrical engineer. He served in the United States Army in 1946, and again the 1952-1953 in Korea. He worked for General Motors in field service and also on the Apollo Guidance system; he is now plant manager of Iowa Electric Motors and Equipment in Mason City, Iowa. He married LuAnn Manecke of Bemidji in 1955, and they have three children, a son and two daughters.

A beautiful and important part of the family history is that Laurence’s father, Pastor L. E. Sjolinder, performed the marriage ceremony of John and Emma Swenson in 1901, and baptized their daughter Esther. He also married Laurence and Esther Swenson, and baptized their son, Edward. He also officiated at the marriage of another son, Julius, and Alice Swenson, and for his other son and daughter in St. Paul, Minnesota.

LINUS K. SORENSON
I. Linus K. Sorensen, am a son of Knute O. Sorensen and Dora Jeffery Sorensen Humble. I was born at Mallory, Minnesota and educated in Mallory and East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

I married Orvilia Dokken in 1941, at Fisher, Minnesota. I spent three and a half years in the Service, with the Tenth Armored Division; one and a half years were spent overseas. I have four children: Kenneth in Seattle, Washington, married Randall Kennon of Seattle, and has a daughter, Danna; Bonnie, teaches at Crosby, Minnesota; Patricia, who married Charles E. Cleveland and lives in Durham, New Hampshire; Candace, who married Jeffery C. Graves and lives in Waco, Texas.

I had a brother, Orville D. Sorensen, who lost his life on Okinawa, April 25, 1945. A sister, Bernice (Mrs. J. Odell Danielson) lives in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

EDWARD AND BERTHA RUTH STINAR
Edward, the youngest son of Andrew and Mary Stinar, was born in Tabor township, Polk county, January 5, 1912. Bertha Ruth Ferencik, the youngest daughter of George and Mary Ferencik, was born September 28, 1919 in Farley township, Polk county. After a two-year courtship, they were married in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, April 11, 1942, by Pastor Aner O. Bloom, and since then have resided in East Grand Forks. They own their home at 327 South 4th Street.

Edward has been employed by the Leo Dunlevy Inc. since September 30, 1941 as a truck driver. Bertha Ruth is employed by the Valley Dairy Corporation, being with the firm since August 1971. She is also representative for the Royal Neighbors of America Fraternal Life Insurance. She serves the Angus, Euclid, Oslo and East Grand Forks Camps.

Edward and Bertha Ruth are members of the Augustana Lutheran Church in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where both are very active. Edward is head usher and Bertha Ruth is serving as a member of the church council. She is also a Past Augustana Lutheran Church Women President.

They have three sons who have graduated from the East Grand Forks High School. Dale Edward, the oldest, born February 28, 1945, was married to Linda Eikenes February 27, 1965. They have two children — Lisa, age 10 and Robert, age 6. They live in Crookston and both teach in the Crookston school system. They received their degrees in education from the University of North Dakota. Dale has a master’s degree in counselling and education, and Linda teaches special education classes.

Daniel Raye, born July 18, 1949, was married to Carla Jean Kaufman May 6, 1972. Daniel served in the Marine Corps from 1968 until 1970. He also attended the Area Vocational Technical Institute in East Grand Forks and received his certificate in welding and is employed by Concrete Inc. Carla attended the University of North Dakota where she is employed. They live at 2511 Estabrook Drive, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Deane Rodney, born September 12, 1954, was married to Colleen O’Leary August 9, 1973. They live at 33 Amherst, Grand Forks, North Dakota. Both are students at the University of North Dakota. Deane is a senior and majoring in business. Colleen is a junior, majoring in education.

Edward and Bertha Ruth attended a one-room country school in West Farley — three and a half miles north of Tabor, Minnesota. Edward lived one and one-fourth miles south from the school and Bertha Ruth lived one and one half mile. They
walked to school every day except on stormy days when Mr. Ferencik would give Bertha Ruth and her sisters a ride in a bobsled to which was hitched a team of horses.

Edward was more fortunate. He could ride to school in a caboose sleigh with the Frank Filipys on stormy days.

Bertha Ruth continued her education by taking correspondence studies and adult education courses to receive the equivalent of a high school diploma. She also took a course on insurance. The educated Ruth was an all-around farm girl. She drove horses, worked in the field and helped with all the farm chores. Edward also kept busy on the farm North of Tabor. For recreation they liked to dance and attended many Tabor dances.

Both Edward and Bertha Ruth remember the depression days of our country and also have lived through the progress and prosperity.

**OLE H. THOMPSON**

Ole H. Thompson, born in Dane County, Wisconsin, July 23, 1861, came to Fisher Landing in 1884, and then walked to Grand Forks. He was married to Johanna Lerum at Grand Forks, May 6, 1885, by Pastor F. Jorgensen. Johanna came from Leri, Soren, Norway, at the age of 18 and lived with a family in Wisconsin before she went to Grand Forks, North Dakota. They had seven children. They lived first at "Thirteen Towns," now Fosston, Minnesota, and at Mekonock and Thompson, North Dakota, before settling at East Grand Forks. Their first child died shortly after birth at Thirteen Towns. Carl, Teman, Elmer and Anna were born in North Dakota and Oscar and Clarence in Minnesota. They were married in East Grand Forks. They had two children — Genevieve, a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force Nurses Corps, who lives in Lompoc, California, and Orbin, who married Dorothy Haugen, May 6, 1951, and has three boys.

Teman married Esther Johnson from Masklshult, Sweden, July 22, 1922. They farmed many years and have lived in the city 20 years. Elmer died at 21. Oscar married Marie Peterson in Fisher, July 10, 1913, and had two children, Marlene married Wayne Nelson. They have four girls and live in Roseau, Minnesota. Ordean married Carol Schol and has two boys. They farm near East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Anna married Olaf Hoff, November 30, 1922, and has four children. Howard married Agnes Ertman from Netche, North Dakota, and has two children. Lyle married Donna Fisher, and has one girl. Ruth married Thomas McMahon and has seven children, and Shirley married Martin Gulden, and has four children. They live at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Clarence married Ella Spicer and lives at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, with three children. Eugene married Mary (Betty) Sullivan from Crookston, and has three children. JoAnn married William Markland, and has two boys and lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. Sharon married Curtis Thureen. They have three girls and are farming near East Grand Forks.

**GEORGE TIEDEMAN**

Maria Gehr and Casper Tiedeman were born in Germany and immigrated to southern Minnesota near Hay Creek. These were the parents of George Bernard Tiedeman of East Grand Forks. George was born February 12, 1879.

William Shultz and Johanna Voltz were born in Germany. They came to America and settled in southern Minnesota. From this marriage Wilhelmina Shultz was born July 18, 1885. Wilhelmina Shultz and George Tiedeman were married in November 1905. They lived in East Grand Forks all their married lives. Their children are: Edward Fredrick who was born in September 1907, married Estelle Hickman from Warren, Minnesota, and died in an accident July 1, 1953. No children.


**AMENUAL A. WEEKLEY**

Amenual A. Weekley and wife Julia (Bell) Weekley were early settlers on Minnesota Point. She was eldest daughter of Efron Bell of Cordwaller, Michigan, who was born May 21, 1852. They moved from Michigan to Hastings, Minnesota, when the children were young. Julia and her sisters attended a basket school at their church. The young man who saw her and bid the highest price for her basket was Amenual A. Weekley. They became well acquainted after that and were married in May, 1876. They made their home in Glenco, Minnesota, where their two sons, Frederick and David, were born. When the children were still young, they moved to Tower City, North Dakota, where they had a dairy. Later they moved to Minnesota Point, where the family operated a grocery store. Fred, 15, and David, 14, took care of the candy department. After several years in the grocery store, they sold it and bought a 40-acre farm south of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, a hill-top farm, with a tree lined driveway that led to the big grove and to the house. This place was known as the Weekley Homestead. They grew prize vegetables, fruit, and flowers, and won many blue ribbons at the fairs in Grand Forks. Amenual Weekley became very ill and had to be kept alive by shock treatments, administered by a battery machine that had to be cranked. As there was no electricity in this part of the country at that time, each member of the family took turns keeping the machine working. One night the boy on duty became tired, fell asleep for a moment, and the machine stopped. Amenual died that night, April, 1913, at 58. He was laid to rest in the family plot in the cemetery in Grand Forks.

In 1927, Julia Weekley, Frederick and David had to farm the Weekley Homestead. They raised bushels of vegetables, crates of luscious everbearing strawberries and many flowers. Every year they had blue ribbon exhibits at the State Fair.

In 1901 a young lady came from Kilarny, Manitoba, Canada, with her father, Edwin Sliter to Larimore, North Dakota. She was Effie Sliter, and she worked in the home of Maggie Spicer, the Stinson family and others of Grand Forks. Edwin Sliter made his home in East Grand Forks, Minnesota Point, where he lived a 91 years of age. When Effie went to the Weekely Homestead to work for Julia, she met the boys Fred and David. Both boys had more than a friendly concern for Effie. In the spring of 1904, Frederick asked Effie for her hand in marriage. When their plans were announced, David became sick and was bedridden for six months. Fred and Effie had to postpone their wedding until David finally recuperated. Fred and Effie were married July 4, 1905. They lived on the Jane Louis homestead. Here two daughters were born, Hattie Valentine, February 14, 1906, and Lilian Bell, May 28, 1907.

When the children were still toddlers, Fred bought a ten-acre truck garden in the district known as Rhinehart Drive. He raised vegetables, fruit and flowers. His family increased to four daughters and seven sons. All the children helped F. Weekley raise his million dollar garden as soon as they were old enough to work.

The children attended Lincoln grade school and Central High School in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Sanford and his wife Maria (Ostrem) Weekley live in East Grand Forks, where they operate the Sandy's Body Shop, and have a thriving business. They have one son, Ronald, who helps in the body shop.
eleven children: Jake (Renton, Washington, married to the former Ella Kruse), Joe (Grand Forks, married to the former Elizabeth Balogh), George (Deceased 1926), Fred (Deceased 1975), Ann (Mrs. Oscar Dobie, East Grand Forks), Katherine (Mrs. Pete Jorgenson, Renton, Washington), Martha (Mrs. John Weber, Renton, Washington), Mary (Mrs. Mack McCumber, Grand Forks), Dave (Renton, Washington married to the former Vina Vinsky), Lydia (Mrs. Pat Egan, Denver, Colorado), Beatrice (Mrs. Floyd Walter, Grand Forks).

Later they moved to Ashley and Anamoose, North Dakota where they homesteaded. Selling their farm, they moved back to East Grand Forks about 1911, where he was employed by the Northern Pacific Railroad. Later he moved to Grand Forks, where he was employed by the city street department.

He was a member of Grace Baptist Church where he was Sunday school superintendent for many years and church deacon for eight years. He died March 1, 1962.

His wife, 95 years old, still survives in Grand Forks. Living alone, she does her own housework, cooking her meals, and produces a garden which she harvests and stores for the long winter months. An outstanding woman, strong in health and character, she radiates her faith and trust in God. Seventy-one years a member of Grace Baptist Church, it is very unusual that Grandma Werre misses a Sunday in church! She is an inspiration to her many friends and relatives.

EDWARD H. WILL

Edward H. (Ted) Will, a long time resident of Polk county, was born on February 26, 1870, near Madison, Wisconsin. The fifth of eleven children, he went with his family by team and wagon to Blue Earth County and remained with his parents until he was nineteen years of age, when he moved to Huntsville township in Polk county.

For the next seven years, Mr. Will lived with his brother Dave in Huntsville and worked for him and other neighboring farmers. He purchased the northeast quarter of section nine in Nesbit township in 1896. At this time he married the former Mary Ellen Henry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Henry. The couple had four children: Edward, Walter, John, Robert, David and Marion (Goodwin).

Mr. Will, like most farmers in the area, raised small grain and kept cattle and a few hogs, thus supplying meat for their own use. Occasionally the sale of one or two farm animals would supplement their meager income. Mrs. Will also helped by raising chickens and turkeys.

In spite of the time and effort needed to make a living for his family, Mr. Will was never too busy to help people in time of trouble. He would walk miles to give comfort and aid.

In addition to working his farm, Mr. Will was active in community affairs. He was Nesbit township supervisor for more than 25 years and served as clerk of School District #136 where his children received their elementary school education. A charter member of the Key West Farmers’ Club, Mr. Will also helped to build the Key West Community Hall and served as trustee and caretaker of the Hall for many years. Mary Ellen Will died on February 24, 1932. Ted Will died on November 12, 1963. They are survived by five of their six children, twenty-two grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren.

WALTER H. WILL

I, Walter H. Will, was the second son of Edward and Mary Ellen Will. I was born in Nesbit township on April 14, 1889. I received my education in the Key West school and later worked for many of the Key West farmers and for the Northern Pacific Section near Key West.

Our house at that time was very small, consisting of two rooms. One of my earliest memories was of the four men from the telephone Company who came to install the telephones and string the wires. My dad was one of those who worked hard to get the telephone in the Key West area. Each farmer was to dig the holes and set the poles for one mile — all done by hand at that time. The four men then came to string the telephone wires and install the phones. My mother fed and housed the four. In our small house I remember them all sleeping on the kitchen floor.

My mother also churned butter and made cottage cheese and buttermilk which my brothers and I delivered to some of the big homes on Reeves Drive and to Colton-Wilder grocery store in Grand Forks.

I began carrying the United States mail on January 3, 1921. My route then was twenty-nine miles long, and only one mile was gravel, so it took many hours to make the route with a team of horses. When I retired in January, 1966, the length of the route had been increased to 66 miles, all paved or gravel: and the team of horses had been replaced by an automobile. I could make the increased miles in about four hours.

When I left with my Model “A” Ford snowmobile one winter Saturday morning in 1936 to begin my rural East Grand Forks mail route, I fully expected to be home later that afternoon. Instead, I found myself stranded in a Polk County snowstorm and was unable to return to the post office until noon of the following Monday. This was the longest time that it ever took me to complete my route during a career that spanned 45 years. During that time I served under three post masters: Tessa Thoreson, Ed Buckley, and Bill Murray. I carried the mail on all five rural East Grand Forks routes; however, I spent most of those years delivering mail on Route #2 from 1938 to 1966.

I married the former Alma Stennes in Bemidji on June 14, 1930, and we had three children: Maxine (Garves), Walter and Wayne. Alma died on October 12, 1962.

I served as president of the Seventh District of the Minnesota Rural Letter Carriers Association. I am an Elder in the Mendenhall Presbyterian Church and a Past Master of Masonic Lodge #292 AF and AM.

On October 25, 1973, I married the former Ann Garves. We reside at 30 Wylie Court, East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

P. W. ZEVIC

I was born in Russia on March 10, 1901. I came to America with my parents when I was four years old. We settled in North Dakota first in a little town named Belfield. Our post
Fertile, Minnesota History

Fertile was platted on May 25, 1887, at 5 p.m. in the office of Andrew Gilken, register of deeds, in Crookston. The original plat included 19 blocks with 239 lots and a public park in the southwestern corner. The D and M Railroad ran through the middle. Washington Avenue bordered the original townsite on the north and Garfield Avenue on the south; Mill Street on the east and a half block west of Third Street. The townsite of Fertile was platted by James B. Holmes and his wife, Caroline F. Holmes, owners and proprietors of the property, of Minneapolis, James M. Payne of Carlton had bought the site from Holmes.

Henry L. Gaylord, lawyer, real estate agent and farmer, who was the third settler in Liberty Township in 1882, “was in charge of the sale of lots when the original townsite was put on the market in 1881.” He sold 50 lots the first week. The advent of the railroad to Fertile in 1886 caused a building boom. Merchants who had been located at the Home Mill site, at Aldal and at Valley moved their stores into Fertile.

The first building in the Village of Fertile was the store of John LaDue, moved once from LaDue Grove to the old Town of Fertile, located one mile south at the Kankel and Sohler Mill. Other old Fertile merchants followed: Fritz Barholz moved his Fertile House Hotel up. (His home is still standing on Mill Street, where the Lloyd Domiers live today.) The Law office of H.L. Gaylord was the fourth building to be erected in Fertile. It was located between the Fertile House and the old Village Hall in the area of where Gamble stands today. George Kronschnabel was duly elected president, or the first mayor of Fertile.

Andrew Opheim, general merchandise store owner: Fritz Barholz, owner of the Fertile House; and A.W. Mott, an attorney were elected councilmen. Norman Hanson, a partner in the Matthews and Co. Bank, was elected recorder. Filling out the village offices and positions in 1888 were: A. Nelson, justice of the peace; Knute Sandvig, treasurer and later marshal; Martin Engelstad, poundmaster; Brown Knutson and C. C. Dillon, constables; C.C. Bartlett, justice of the peace; D.H. Fisk, village attorney; J.H. Pelhaus, fire warden; and the Board of Health; Dr. Arne Nelson, O.O. Kvienvolden, a blacksmith; and J.C. Johnson. The council voted 4-1 to grant licenses to sell intoxicating liquor within said village provided that it could be done legally, and set June 28, 1888 as the date for receiving saloon licenses.

The first bill was paid on July 9, 1888, $30 for incorporation of the village. Other business at the first meeting was to get the books and blanks printed. Dr. Arne Nelson, the first doctor in Gargeld Township, who was a partner from 1882-93 with Andrew Opheim in general merchandise and drug store, moved from Aldal to Fertile in 1887. The building Nelson and Opheim had at Aldal is today’s Fertile Bakery building, one of the oldest buildings in Fertile. The village had a newspaper early in its history. The Fertile Journal was founded in 1882 by Fred Puhler, just three years after the first settlers arrived, and six years before the village was incorporated. Puhler also founded the Red Lake Falls Gazette the same year. A Norwegian newspaper was also published in Fertile for less than a year in the 1890’s.

Fertile was incorporated shortly after it was platted and the village government was organized on June 11, 1888. The first meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Fertile was held in the office of D.H. Fisk (an attorney) June 11, 1888, according to the council minute books of that date. The original Public Park Land was vacated in 1902, as it was located in the southwest corner of the original townsite, an area unsuitable for parklands. In 1975 Fertile had 106 blocks of street system, 39 blocks with hard surface and the remaining 67 blocks gravel surfaced. Fifty acres of land in the city are presently dedicated to parks: The Fertile Hillside Park with Fertile spelled out in flowers, which has caused the community to be known as “The Flower City”; J.D. Mason Park with a wading pool, picnic shelter, overnight camping facilities, permanent barbecue grills, sandbox and playground equipment; Top Notch Park, adjacent to Highway 32, a wayside picnic facility.

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FERTILE’S HALL OF FAME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOHN D. MASON</td>
<td>Editor local paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melvin Sherva</td>
<td>Editor Fertile Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supt. S. A. Aase</td>
<td>Fertile Public School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal S.A. Jordahl</td>
<td>Fertile Public School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supt. Dayton Lauthen</td>
<td>Fertile Public School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. G.W. Tolo</td>
<td>Pastor Concordia Lutheran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ted W. Thorson</td>
<td>Band and Choirs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hilbert S. Dahl</td>
<td>Vocal Instructor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hjalmar Erickson</td>
<td>Mayor Village of Fertile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert O. Gullikson</td>
<td>Mayor Village of Fertile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Helga Lundby</td>
<td>Parochial and Sunday Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. A. Asa</td>
<td>Parochial and Sunday Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Cyrus Sannes</td>
<td>Parochial and Sunday Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Inga Hamre</td>
<td>Parochial and Sunday Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odd Eide</td>
<td>Business man</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nels Vaseviken</td>
<td>Business man</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norman Hansen</td>
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<td>Knut Nelson</td>
<td>Community doctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. Kostick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Risjord</td>
<td>Community doctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. B. Bang</td>
<td>Local dentist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russell Knutson</td>
<td>Nursing Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>J.B. Austinson</td>
<td>Attorney at Law</td>
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Fertile salutes the many outstanding citizens who gave dedicated service to the community during the first half of the century. We build on the foundations they have laid.

ALFRED BERG

There weren’t many ways of making a living in Os, Norway, so many young men took to the sea. Alfred Berg became a sailor and eventually found himself in the Great Lakes and the Duluth seaport. In the meantime, Jorgen Rud as a young man left Nesbyen, Norway, and came to America to head south west of Maple Bay. Mary Kittleson took a homestead next to Jorgen and the two decided to farm together. They were married around 1880. Rev. Megrund officiating. To this union, nine girls were born, one of them being Millia.

Alfred came to Fertile from Duluth, as he had a brother Vincent there. He met and married Millia Rud on January 3, 1920. They were married by Rev. Aakre, They lived in Minneapolis for six years and their two children were born there. They are Dr. Arnold Berg of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, World War II and worked at a defense job doing shop work.

In 1935, I was working for a farmer near Mentor when a big storm struck! I thought the house would blow away, so I did go. I drove my car into the thickest brush I could find and sat there. Sheds flew by up in the air and I saw a building just turn on its foundation, the roof lifted off and fell down.

I have three sons and a daughter living in various parts of the country. I now live in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, in the Sunshine Terrace apartment house.