Euclid Township History

History as compiled from town and county records and accounts of present day residents by Loren W. Parkin, town clerk — 1976.

The St. Paul and Pacific Railroad laid tracks from the north end of the line at Glyndon, Minnesota, crossing the Red River at the site of Crookston to a point three miles south of Warren, Minnesota, in 1872. This enabled them to retain huge land grants given them by the Federal government. This new line ran through an uninhabited area only previously served by Red River ox carts. It was known as the Red River Line. Trains were run intermittently during winter months, when there was no steamboat traffic on Red and Red Lake Rivers. This railroad went bankrupt in 1873 and J. P. Farley was appointed receiver and continued until the property was sold to Mr. James J. Hill and his associates in early 1878. During this period Mr. Farley, who had not acquired any locomotives or rail cars, was only able to provide occasional service on this line, when he could rent equipment from the Northern Pacific Company at St. Paul.

Mr. James J. Hill and partner, Norman Kittson, who owned the steamboat line on the Red and Red Lake Rivers, had difficulty providing services in 1873, due to dry weather and low water in the rivers. They entered into agreement with Mr. Farley to construct and operate a line from the new town of Crookston to Fisher’s Landing. Mr. Farley was to furnish the rails, which were to be taken up from the end of the line south of Warren, Minnesota. A total of 10.5 miles of rails were removed and placed on this new line. This was the original railroad line of James J. Hill, later known as the Empire Builder. The line then terminated at a point some four and a half miles north of Euclid. This lends credibility to the story of Peter Stuhr that in 1880 he had arrived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carsten Stuhr, by immigrant car on a railroad from Lake City, Minnesota. They unloaded at a rail siding, known then as Mr. Cielan’s Coulee, and transported their livestock and possessions southwest across-country to their new home on the south half of Section 4, Euclid township.

The reorganization of the railroad in 1878 brought construction to the line to St. Vincent, Minnesota and connected it with the new Canadian Pacific railroad to Winnipeg, Manitoba. The new rail line brought a tremendous flow of new settlers and immigrants to the area. During the ensuing period of 1879 through 1915, the freetholders of the territory petitioned the new Polk county commissioners to organize a township in the area of township 152, range 47 and asked that it be known as the township of Euclid.

Charles Lockart and Springer Harbough, who had come from Columbus, Ohio, held large holdings near and around the new railroad station site. Euclid was the name of the street in Columbus, Ohio, the boyhood home of these two friends. The petition was granted on July 22, 1879, according to the proceedings on page 94, book A of the Polk county commissioners.

The records of that date further state that L. A. Charboneau, R. O. Neal and George Charboneau were appointed first judges of election and Ed Charboneau and W. A. Perkins were appointed first clerks. The place of the first election was in the home of a Mr. A. M. Stuart. No present day residents recall

One of the engines and train crew that operated through Euclid in early 1880s between St. Paul and Winnipeg.
ever having known or heard of these persons other than that

their names are in the plat book of the original township of

Euclid. The following year the alley running north and south

through blocks 2-3, 4-5 was named Perkins Street. In the Pres-

byterian church records the name Perkins is listed as one of the

first officers. Again in the records there is a reference to a

“Mr. Perkins, a well-known widow lady.” These records lead

one to believe there was a Mr. W. A. Perkins in the early days

of the town; and in all probability he was the owner of the first

store in the town of Euclid. Mr. Boutain said there was no

town or settlement between Red Lakes Falls and Euclid, Min-

nesota, at that time.

There is a lack of existing records of the proceedings of the

new township from its organization until a new book of town-

ship records started in March 1911. This book shows Mr.

C. DeWitt as town clerk; the next entry records Harry Chapin

as town clerk but no mention is made of when he was

appointed or elected to office. Records are fairly complete

from that date to the present time. It is agreed that the early-

day, original records may have been lost in a fire that

destroyed the H. C. Misner store on lots 1 and 2 of the original

townsite in the early spring of 1921. The town treasurer’s

records were also lost at that time.

The completion of the railroad in 1878, the construction of

the bonanza farms, Buffinton and Keystone operations, the

construction of a hotel, livery barns, blacksmith shop, grain

storage and buying facilities helped to bring new settlers to

the new township at a rapid pace. During the period of 1879

to 1900, many of the well known families of the area

moved to Euclid township. Many came from Lake City and

Red Wing in southern Minnesota. These included the Carsten

Stuhrs, in 1880, who resided on south 1/2, section 4; and Dr.

and Mrs. J. S. Chapin, a well known doctor, who arrived

from Michigan in 1882 and continued to live in town until his death

in 1924. Mrs. Chapin resided in the area and in Crookston

until her death at the ripe old age of 100 years.

Others coming from Lake City and Red Wing area were:

Casper Tiedeman in 1884, who settled on section 19; the John

Goosens in 1885, on section 5; Fred Rieman about 1895; the

Otto Schulz, Sr., father of Werner Schulz, who emigrated

from Germany in 1889 and first lived in a home on section 20;

the Paul Nelsons, father and mother of the late Henry Nelson, on

north 1/4, section 20 in 1888.

The Canadian families who came from Ontario, Canada at

approximately the same time were: the Robert Casneys,

homesteading on northeast 1/4, section 29 in 1886; the Charles

Teals who settled on east 1/4, section 28. They built the first

known brick home here on that location. The Richard

Casneys, homesteading on northeast 1/4, section 35 in 1888 and

Mr. Casney's parents took up a homestead on northwestern 1/4,

section 26; Mrs. Etta Teal, a daughter of the Richard

Casneys*, has been a continuous resident of Euclid township

for nearly 87 years. She recalls that when she was a small girl,

bands of Sioux and Chippewa Indians would stop at her par-

ents' homestead in the summer months on their annual trips

from Dacotah territory to the Red Lakes on fishing and berry-

ing expeditions. She remembers other early residents of the

area: the Robert Fairwethers on section 21; the Loeys; the

Putkins; a Mr. Eastby; the Chase Misner; the Coleman Kee-

lys; the John Teids; the Ed Murneys, one of Euclid's first

known blacksmiths; also J. P. Schell, early missionary; and

Mr. L. S. Hancock, a Civil War Captain, who came here in

1885 and lived on southeast 1/4, section 10. He was one of

the first persons buried in the new Euclid cemetery across the road

from his farm.

In the passing years many changes have taken place for the

homesteaders from their hardships on the treeless prairies and

their sod houses, to the present day modern farms with scient-

ific techniques and power machinery; the improved farm-to-

market roads and means of transportation. The most far-

sighted pioneers in their wildest imaginations could never have

envisioned today's farm with its modern machinery; crops of

wheat of 50 or more bushels per acre; barley of 80 bushels per

acre; and oats in excess of 100 bushels per acre; and the mod-

er modern livestock farm with its automated care of large numbers of

beef and dairy cattle.

Some of the most startling changes have been in the field of

transportation: from the 1878 small-steam operated railroads
to today's modern diesel trains pulling 100 or more cars, carry-
in four times the capacity loads of the former years; today's

large trucks operating over hard surfaced highways, taking

the products of the farm to today's markets and terminals. The

greatest impact on the area may have been the energizing of

the first electric power lines in Euclid township in September,

1945, by the newly organized P.K.M. Electric Co-op Associa-
tion of Warren, Minnesota. The lines were constructed in

Euclid after a short but furious contest between Ottertail

Power Company and Minnkota Electric Co-op to see who

could provide electric power in the shortest possible time.

Minnkota Co-op, with the assistance from P.K.M., Red Lake,

and other crews, won the battle. The summer of 1946 and 1947

saw the lines extended to nearly every farm and home in

Euclid Township and the surrounding area. This would not

have been possible except for the work and foresight of the local

business men and farmers of the area. These included the

late Henry Zammert, Joe Garry, Claus Fiemann, Ed Hoef.

and many others. The local government affairs of Euclid town-

ship have been carried on from its organization in 1879

through many stormy issues and trying times by the many

dedicated and hard working residents. These services were ren-

dered for an inadequate remuneration and with little or no

thanks. The work of the present township board bears little or

no resemblance to that of the original board. Present day

necessity of modern roads, bridges and administration of an

increasing number of rules and regulations of the local, state,

and federal government make the task more implicated as the

years go by.

Today's officials of the township bring with them a long his-

tory of residence in the township and in several instances two

and three generations of services on the board. The present

board is composed of: Kenneth Wallace, chairman of the

supervisors, and on the board since 1972, whose father and

grandfather were both Euclid residents, supervisors; Leo

Tucker, appointed in 1973, his father Ben Tucker having

served on the board for 25 years; and Melburn Hoef, since

1964, whose father, Ed Hoef, was town clerk for the term

prior to 1945; present treasurer, Robert Tucker, elected in

1955; and town clerk, Loren Parkin, appointed in July, 1945,

who has served 31 years in that capacity. His father, Walter

Parkin, served for 24 years as town treasurer prior to 1952. The

present town clerk also serves as director and secretary and

treasurer of the Polk County Association of township offi-

cers, a nine man board.

The farms of this township, as all others in our country
today, have undergone drastic changes since their beginnings.

They have decreased in marked numbers during the past 30

years; but increased several times in size to keep pace with the

changing world. We have every cause to look forward to con-

tinued changes in unknown ways as time marches on.
City of Euclid

The origin of the town's beginnings are very vague and uncertain and appear to have been lost with the passing on of the early residents. Some stories seem to agree that a settlement did exist at the present site on or before 1872, when the first railroad was built through this area. The town's present make-up came into being in 1880 when Charles Lockhart and Springer Harbaugh, owners of the new bonanza farm known as Keystone Farm, caused the original townsite of Euclid to be plotted, and donated streets and alleys for public use. The townsite was registered and recorded in Polk County register of deeds office, on July 29, 1880, at 9:30 a.m. The plotting and recording of the Railway Addition on the east side of the railroad took place at 9 a.m., December 15, 1880. The plotting of Stuhls Addition on the west side of town took place some years later, between 1900 and 1915.

The railroad was purchased in 1878 by Mr. James J. Hill and his associates. A permanent station agent and maintenance crew were made part of the new town. The earliest known agent of the new railroad was a Mr. Blue. No permanent record of others are available until the property assumed the new name of Great Northern Railroad. Upon the purchase of the rail line, Mr. Hill appointed an early-day friend of his as section foreman at Euclid station in 1878. The new foreman, Mr. Coleman Keely, and his wife and family started their new home here. They continued to reside in their original home until their deaths. The property remained as home of one of his daughters and also a son, Martin J. Keely, until his death in August of 1950. Mrs. Coleman Keely was the first known white woman in Euclid and a Mrs. J. A. Hassard later of Denver, Colorado, the second lady.

Upon the death of Mr. Coleman Keely, his old friend Mr. J. J. Hill, at that time owner of the Great Northern Railway Empire, had a special passenger train dispatched to Euclid to carry the body and family of his long-time friend to Crookston for services and burial.

The first owner of the general store in the new town is not definitely known. Early stories tell of a Mr. Boutain who lived some ten miles east of Euclid. He traded cordwood for groceries in the winter time at a place of business in Euclid. This business was housed in the late John Goergen home. There was no town closer than Red Lake Falls at that time. This house still stands on the original site across the alley west of the present day St. Mary's Catholic Church. The owner of that business enterprise is not definitely established, but could have been a W. A. A. Perkins, who is known to have been an early merchant of the town. He was one of the first officers when the Presbyterian church was organized in 1880. The alley running between above mentioned house and St. Mary's Church is named Perkins Street.

The owners of the New Keystone bonanza-farming operation, who had plotted the townsite, used it as base of operations for their farm enterprise. They constructed the three-story Keystone Hotel with an accompanying livery barn and blacksmith shop to accommodate the many persons who arrived by train to conduct business on the farm. There were also numerous wealthy friends who visited in the summer months from the eastern seaboard. Many of these found it necessary to stay overnight at the new hotel while waiting for passenger train connections for the return trip. At one time at the turn of the century, when farm ownership had changed and Standard Oil Company of Ohio or Indiana claimed a substantial interest in its ownership, several of the sons of the late John D. Rockefeller spent some time visiting the farm.

One of the first needs of the new town and township was a school for the education of the young people. A petition was made to Polk County Board for formation of a school district. The board granted the petition and records show the former school district Number 47 was organized on March 16, 1881. Shortly thereafter, the original school building, a two-story
building with two rooms heated by two wood stoves, was erected. It served the district until 1928 when it was replaced by a new single-story two-room building complete with a basement, central heating and wash rooms. The district consolidated with two and a half other rural schools west of here in approximately 1945 and was known as district #598. This arrangement continued along with the bussing of elementary pupils to the Euclid school and those of high school age to Crookston. A state law in 1970 caused the consolidating with the Crookston district #593 and closed the elementary school here in June 1971. The school building and grounds were deeded to the township of Euclid for use as a town hall and a combined park and playground. Early day teachers were generally men and the pupils ranged from beginners to grown men and women up to 25 years of age. Teaching in schools at that time was a rough and tumble task at the best. Speaking well for those early day teachers is the fact that many of those pupils of that era grew up to become people of distinction in Minnesota and adjoining states. Included in the group were three or four doctors, attorneys, one state secretary of Y.M.C.A., a St. Paul newspaper editor, two missionaries, one member of the Illinois legislature, bank officers and accountants and successful owners of various business enterprises. This group also produced a former Polk County treasurer, Louis Hancock, and long time register of deeds, the late Walter Acker, and the present Minnesota Commissioner of Education, Howard Casmey, who spent his early years in Euclid. The last persons to teach in this school district were Mrs. Karl Peck and daughter, Mrs. Robert Zammert. Both continue to reside in the community at this writing.

Early day pioneers who came to Euclid and figured permanently in the town’s history from its beginnings through early 1900 era were: Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Chapin and his brothers; Chase Misner, Coleman Keely, John Kirsh, the town’s first postmaster. Peter Stuhr, grain buyer for Red Lake Falls Milling Company, farm machinery dealer and merchant W. A. Perkins, John Teidt, Mr. Pitken, all early merchants of note. The promoters of the town in its early days had visions of its becoming a town many times its size. The peak population never exceeded 150 and the present unofficial count is 120.

The period of 1880 through 1910 saw at one time or another the following places of business: government post office, attorney’s office, land office, depot and maintenance crew, two hotels, seven bars, two livery stables, two blacksmith shops, two general stores, one containing a drug department; three grain buyers, a lumber yard, school, two churches, creamery, two farm machinery dealers and one or two doctors.

The town at one time or another had several doctors who practiced medicine in town. The chief doctor was Dr. J. S. Chapin, who practiced medicine here from 1882 until his death in 1924. In addition to being a doctor, he at one time or another had interests in the general drug store of the town and the land office. He was vice-president of the First State Bank of Euclid and a lifetime booster of the town and community. Others who practiced medicine here at various times included early day resident Dr. Ralph Kirsh, son of the first postmaster who later helped to organize the Crookston Clinic and concluded his career in Pasadena, California. Others of this time were the former Drs. Dryden and Mitchell, later of Crookston, and Drs. Wood and Beardsly. The community at the present time has three churches whose histories appear elsewhere in this book.

Space does not permit relating in detail all of the startling events of the past years but a few causing more than a little excitement in the town included the apprehension and conviction of a William McNeil put in Stillwater State Prison for horse stealing in the era between 1895-98. This story came to light only a couple of years ago through finding of letters in the attic of an Euclid home. The letters, written in 1898 from the prisoner by McNeil, were to an aunt of his residing here.

Another exciting story concerns the closing of the First State Bank of Euclid in December of 1929. Due to the lack of business and the financial crisis of that time, the principal stockholders decided to consolidate its assets with the First National Bank of Crookston. This brought to light the double set of bookkeeping that was being carried on by the cashier and operator of the bank. Otto H. Mueller. He had short changed the checking and savings accounts of several patrons of the bank in the sum of several thousand dollars rather than face the consequences of his wrong doing, Mueller proceeded to end his life by hanging himself in the garage back of his home. The shortage of bank funds was speedily replaced in full by bank officials from the state of the late bank cashier. Other exciting events were: the fires in the winter of 1920 and 1921 that destroyed first Woodman Lodge Hall on the corner of Fourth Street and Pacific Avenue; the loss of H. C. Misner store; the LaRoche and Burns Garage in March, 1921 on lots one through five on Pacific Avenue and Second Street. This is the site of the present day Windy Corner and George Weiland Garage. The third serious fire occurred in the late part of the 1930 era, destroying one single dwelling and a family duplex on the corner of block one of the original townsite.

Euclid for many years was known for its Annual Community Picnics complete with parades, big dinners, horse racing, baseball games with other area towns, and dances in the evening. These events drew huge crowds from surrounding areas and the rivalry in the sporting events was keen. Many early day hard-earned dollars were wagered on the outcome of these events. Local residents are contemplating staging a similar event to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the town.

Note perhaps should be made of the fact that Euclid boasted of a community band in 1917-18 that performed at local events and in the surrounding area. Picture of band performance at a community picnic is included with this story. Director and organizer of the band was a Mr. Pubanz, who operated St. Anthony and Dakota Lumber Company yard at that time.

The oldest continuous place of business, with many modifications through the years, still operates in the original building. This is the general store and filling station operated today by Mr. and Mrs. George Magsam. The first known use of the building was as a feed and grain storage building by the Keystone Company. Later it was converted into a pool hall by Mr. Henry Weideman, a bachelor who died on the premises. Later owners of the business establishment were the late Joe Beiver, Percy Nelson, and Harold Misner. The late Claus Fieman and his wife, Justina operated the business as a general store and filling station for a period of forty-nine years, from 1918 through 1967. They sold it in ’67 to the present owners. A picture shows Claus and Tena. Mrs. Fieman continues to reside in her home on the north edge of Euclid. She is the last living child of Casper Tiedeman family, residents of the area since 1885. Other long established places of business: the Euclid Grain Elevator, that originally was known as the Red Lake Falls Milling Company, is presently owned by Gregory Weiland, Sr. of Euclid and Belgium community. The Standard Oil Company has maintained a bulk dealership in Euclid since approximately 1915. The first owner operator was Robert Balfour followed by Gordon Stuhr; Lloyd Hutchinson; E. J. Fitzsimmons; and the present owner, since 1949, Albert Shimpa and son, Allan.
The coming of automobiles and trucks and the building of modern roads have created many changes in the types of business in this small town. This, along with elimination of the local depot and maintenance crews operating over long mileage of tracks by mobile units have further changed the makeup of many small towns. The present town is changing more and more to the role of a commuter’s town with a large number of its citizens traveling daily to work to numerous positions in larger towns and cities of the surrounding area. The principal function of today’s place of business is to supply the needs of growing number of families who have constructed some fifteen new homes here in the past two decades. To them the small town is their home.

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 539

The American Legion Post 539 was organized in December 1945 by a team of organizers from East Grand Forks and Red Lake Falls. The first commander, Ed Gaber and the first adjutant, Lloyd Wallace were elected at this meeting.

There were twenty-five members at this time as follows: Raymond Altepeter, Summers Canady, Harold Chandler, Verne Chandler, Lawrence Cormican, Orville Dahlin, Raymond Dubuque, Willard Dubuque, Earl Fitzsimmons, David Gaber, Edward Gaber, Henry Gebhardt, Walter Gebhardt, Robert Goergen, Anton Goodyke, Harvey Haugen, Edward King, Herbert Kliner, Marvin Michaelson, John Pahlen, Maynard Piker, Darrell Sewill, Albert Shimpia and Lloyd Wallace.

Shortly after the Legion was organized a Wac Luella Tucker joined the Post as the first female.

The first meetings were held in the Keystone Hotel owned by the Royal Neighbors at that time. The building was acquired from the Royal Neighbors by the American Legion. The Keystone Hotel was later removed from the premises and a new Legion Hall was built on the same premises in 1953. The present membership has grown to 45 members in force. An addition to the American Legion building within the last two years was a new kitchen, running water, restrooms and a bar built inside the building.

The present Commander is Martin Schulz and the present Adjutant is Larry Larson.

EUCLID 4-H CLUB

The Euclid 4-H Club started in 1926 when G. U. Keppel was County Agent. Mrs. H. A. Pflughoft was instrumental in helping organize these clubs which were called Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs at that time. They got Loren Parkin to help talk to the young people and the club was started.

According to records they had an Achievement Day, October 16, which was attended by 75 people. Fourteen boys and girls showed products. Loren Parkin won a trip to the Junior Livestock Exposition with a Duroc Jersey Barrow. Elizabeth Gruhot also made the trip with turkeys.

In 1927 the records were misplaced, but 1928 was a successful year with George Beatty, President; and Pearl Armstrong, Secretary-Treasurer. 1929 also showed a good enrollment with Muriel Helm, President; and Alice King, Secretary-Treasurer. For a period of time, few records were kept; but Euclid did start an active club again in 1936. The first few years adult leaders were William Strickler and Bessie Chandler. Some of the Club presidents through that period were Kenneth Sewill, Ruth Janni and Vera Tiedeman.

More up-to-date records were found from 1940 through 1945. Presidents were: Marvin Chandler, Violet Teal, Allen Hoef. Etta Teal and Donna Tieman. Adult leaders were William Strickler, Harold Kollasch, Martha Wieland and Mrs. A. W. Teal. Ethel Marmorine was Home Agent and a very good 4-H promoter.

There was a short time when Euclid didn’t have a Club but many of the young people joined with a Club northeast of town called the “Double B” Club. This Club was getting too large so in about 1960 the Clubs divided and the “Euclid Club” came into being once more. It has remained this way. At the present time the adult leaders are Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Larson and Mrs. David Gaber.

ST. MARY’S CHURCH, EUCLID

Euclid, a small town located 13 miles north of Crookston.
and Euclid township, organized in 1879, were named by Springer Harbaugh, manager of the large Lockhart farm in Norman County, for the beautiful Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, where he formerly lived.

Mike Biever, his wife, Mary, and sons, Timothy and Henry, were the first Catholic settlers to plant their roots in the territory of Euclid. Mass was celebrated occasionally in their home (still standing on the Jacob Salentine farm northeast of Euclid) before a church was constructed. The first mention of Euclid in the Catholic Directory is in 1891. Euclid is listed as "Attended from Red Lake Falls, by Rev. Ignatius Balluf." Father Balluf used to reside at the Mike Biever home for a week during the summer-school period. Frank Stroot still recalls his catechism instruction there.

Another early settler was John Stroot, who came from Hanover, Germany, in 1878, to Wabasha, Minnesota about five years before he made his way to Euclid in a covered wagon, a trip of more than three weeks. Since there were no road maps, he and Mike Biever worked out a novel plan. Biever left Wabasha, the year before Stroot, and at each settlement he asked direction to the next town. These directions he jotted down on a piece of paper and mailed it to Stroot.

Frank Stroot made his First Holy Communion on November 2, 1889 in the Belgium Township Schoolhouse, now called District 179. Mass was offered in the school house as early as 1886, according to Frank Stroot and even earlier in the Keystone Hotel.

Mass was also celebrated occasionally in the year 1884, in the store of Peter Stuhr, a two story affair. Mass was offered on the second floor of the building. Entrance to the second floor was made by an outside stairs. The first indication of the size of the mission of Euclid is to be found in the report of 1899 to the chancery at Duluth, which listed 15 families and a population of 75. The property valuation is listed at $1,200 for that year. From this we might assume the church was erected in the year 1899.

In the years 1901 and 1902, Euclid was served from Tabor. After that it seems to have been served by Father Francis Huffnagel of St. Mary's in Crookston, and from 1906 to 1910 by Father John Smiers, also of Crookston. After the erection of the Diocese of Crookston, Father Joseph Wurm attended Euclid from Crookston. For the next five years the mission was attended from Stephen, Argyle and Warren. In 1916 Euclid was attached to Fisher as a mission, and with a few exceptions, it was served by the priests of Fisher.

In 1947 Father Francis Doherty bought the present property for $2,000 and became the first resident pastor. On this property was a three-story house with 15 rooms which served as a rectory until 1955. In 1948 the church was moved across the tracks to its present site, and a complete basement was provided. At the same time the church was renovated, decorated and celotex tile put on the walls and ceiling. On June 29, 1955, Father Joseph Sheehan was appointed to succeed Father Doherty. His first orders from the bishop were to erect the new rectory which was completed February 15, 1956.

Another milestone was reached June 6, 1959, when the first young man from the parish reached the goal of his life and was ordained a priest. Ordained at St. Mary's of St. Cloud, Minnesota, by Bishop Peter W. Bartholomew, of St. Cloud, he is Father Myron Kasprick. O.S.B. a benedictine monk of St.

John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota. Father Kasprick, O.S.B., celebrated his First Mass in St. Mary's, June 12, 1959.

After many months of planning and saving for a new Church, the present St. Mary's a modern octagonal brick building, was dedicated January 2, 1966, at the same time that the pastor Sheehan was honored by being invested as a monsignor of the church. The attractive new Church, built under the inspiration and guidance of Msgr. Sheehan, also provides a dining room and classroom space for religious instructions.

Father John O'Toole, began his term of office June 26, 1968. At that time St. Mary's served approximately 60 families. He was succeeded by Father Donald Archer on July 15, 1975. There are now 75 families.

**EUCLID PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The original church history was first written in 1939 by the late Mrs. Lucy Chapin, widow of Dr. J. S. Chapin who came to Euclid in 1882. Her accounts states first services were held on October 9, 1890 in newly plotted town of Euclid and were held in loft of new Hotel barn. The organization of the church was completed October 29, 1880 in unfinished dining room of new Keystone Hotel. The first officers of the church were as follows: Springer Harbaugh, chairman; Robert Fairwether, secretary; with George N. Ellis and W. A. A. Perkins acting as trustees. The first church services were conducted by Rev. J. R. Schell a former missionary who resided here at that time. The new church organization was helped along by Messrs. Harbaugh and Lockhart who owned the Keystone Bonanza Farm west of town. They had only a few months previously had the town plotted and after the church organization was completed they donated the property on which present church stands and started off the building fund with donation of $650. This was increased by donation from the farming company and several local business men of that era. The original church building was a long one story structure large enough for a town several times the size of Euclid. The original furnishings included planks placed on nail kegs for pews, a large wooden box cov-
erated with cloth served as a pulpit. A second hand small pump organ was donated by someone in the community. This building was erected on low property that was covered each spring and summer by floods caused by coulee that crossed the property. The original building was destroyed sometime in late 1880 by tornado and lumber was salvaged from it to build the present day structure.

The work of the struggling church was carried on by efforts of many early day residents including the Rev. J. P. Schell, Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Chapin, Chase Misiner, the Teal and Munrey families and many others too numerous to mention. The new church was built with heavy indebtedness and wasn’t until 1915 that it was finally paid for. A celebration was held in community at that time. Many former members of the church of early days were joined by many persons of other denominations of the community in this memorable event.

A complete record of all the ministers who have served the church from its beginnings are perhaps unknown. Many times the church was served by clergy from other towns and in several instances those of other denominations. The present church building was moved north of its original foundation in 1953. A basement complete with kitchen and central heating plant was added. Other changes have been added since that time.

This church has had the same problems of many other small congregations in recent years. A declining rural population with an unwillingness of modern day clergymen to serve small churches caused the church to combine with Angus-Tabor Presbyterian church and Warren Methodist church in 1969 into what is today known as the W.E.A. parish. This consolidation is governed by a joint parish council with each church having its own church officers. The first pastor of this new parish was Rev. Calvin Daniels, a Methodist minister. The present minister is Rev. Russell Markula, a Presbyterian minister. The present day membership has remained fairly stable throughout the past several years in spite of the many young people who have left to make their homes in other communities.

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF EUCLID

The church was built before 1898, seven miles northwest of Euclid and in 1947 was moved to Euclid, where it now stands. In the early days it was hard to get there in the winter. We went with a team of horses and bobsled. I remember my folks (Behlkes) going to Euclid and picking up the Pastor from Wylie. He drove with his car to Euclid, then we took him to church and had to build fire in a barrel type stove when we got

there. They later built a two-story parsonage and we have a cemetery there, which is still there. The parsonage was sold when we moved the church to Euclid. The pastors we had were: Reverend Carl Seltz, Reverend Heinez, Reverend Theodore Dorpet, Reverend Theodore Burgdorf, Reverend Martin Brammer, Reverend Rungie, Reverend Klaine, Reverend Erhart Eifert, Reverend John Ott, Reverend Walter Hanne- man, Reverend W. C. Hilpert, Reverend Edmund Bentrup and numerous others. A new church building is now going into Euclid, we have gone together with Fisher’s pastors. Reverend Borchert preached when we had a vacancy. Mrs. Werner Schulz plays the organ and has played it for over forty-five years.

FRANK AND ALMA ARMSTRONG

The Frank Armstrong family came to Norden Township in the spring of 1951 and settled in the house where they now live in Section 30.

Frank’s great-great-great grandfather Archibald Armstrong and his wife Ann bought land near Centerville, Delaware in 1732. Their son Hames went West to seek his fortune and settled near Rogers, Ohio. James’ son Nathan and Nathan’s son Dawsey, (who is Frank’s grandfather) were both born there. Dawsey’s son Harry Logan, was born November 18, 1878 at Rogers, Ohio. As a young man, Harry went west to Muscatine, Iowa which is situated on the Mississippi River. He went to visit an aunt and uncle, the Cyrus Copes, and there met Blanche Lamson, a foster daughter of the Copes. Blanche was born in Ohio but was left an orphan at age two. Harry and Blanche were married November 12, 1902. They lived near Guthrie Center, Iowa where two sons were born: Leslie, December 8, 1903 and Raymond, December 20, 1905.

In the spring of 1906 the Armstrongs moved to Lang, Saskatchewan, Canada and proved up on a 160-acre homestead. Frank was born there in December 8, 1908. In 1910 Harry, Blanche and sons went back to Muscatine but stayed only until 1911 when they moved to Euclid, Minnesota. While at Euclid three more children were born: Jack, November 1, 1912, Pearl, November 23, 1913 and Emma, October 2, 1919.

Mrs. Frank (Alma) Armstrong’s great-great-great grandfather Peter Kuhn came to America from Germany in 1760. He proved up on a homestead in Franklin County, Pennsylvania in 1790. Alma’s parents David Nathan and Martha (Kuhn) Mays moved to Euclid, Minnesota from Greencastle, Pennsyl- vania in 1914. Frank and Alma were married May 16, 1933. Their children are as follows: Eva Mae (Mrs. Dale Avers) at Thief River Falls; Doris (Mrs. Lloyd VeVea at Thief River Falls; Donald and his wife Betty at Greenville, Michigan; Janice (Mrs. Duane Olson) at Thief River Falls; Ronald and his wife Jan at Greenbelt, Maryland and two sons that were stillborn.

On July 23, 1911 Harry and Blanche Armstrong and three sons Leslie, Raymond and Frank arrived at Euclid, Minne- sota. Then in 1912 my Uncle Charles Armstrong and his wife Alma and their three sons Carlton, Lee and Clyde also arrived in Euclid. My folks Harry and Blanche shipped their belongings in a box car from Muscatine, Iowa. The livestock was Bill, a white horse; Pet, a black horse; King, a bay horse; and a red and white cow named Spot; and a crate of brown leghorn chickens.

Uncle Charles shipped a bay team up from Iowa, they were named Maude and Barney. When we six boys got together anything could happen and usually did! In 1915 Uncle Charles lived about five miles northeast of Euclid. The barn had small doors in two sections, so you could shut the bottom door to retain the cattle, but leave the top half open for ventilation. Well, this day the top door was shut and the bottom door open, of course we did not think of this. Cousin Carlton decided to ride a steer; he jumped on his back, the steer was “plumb green” so he refused to move. Cousin Lee knew how to remedy this. He threw a cat on the steer’s back, the steer took off with a great burst of speed and headed for the door which had the bottom part open. Carlton’s head collided with the top of the door so hard that to this day he is the shortest of the six.
of us! We sat cross-legged on a scoop shovel and slid down the tail side of a straw pile in the winter. This got too dull, so we used the scoop shovel to slide off the barn roof; jump a spot about three or four feet wide where the snow did not drift next to the barn, then land on the snowbank and go merrily on our way.

We lived through that so we put a wagon box on the snowbank, took the end gates out of both ends, then we still had to jump from the barn roof to the snowbank and be skillful enough to go through the wagon box on our scoop shovel! We even survived that!

In the winter of 1917 and 1918 my three cousins lived in Euclid in a shack with a single board wall, a cookstove for heat, and green wood for fuel. They did this so they could go to school. Otherwise they had five miles to drive. Of course we stayed there many times. We burned gallons of kerosene to coax the fire from this green wood. When we was 20° below zero my brother Leslie put pepper on the hot stove. Everyone was forced outside and we had to air the shack and cool it in the process. Carlton was the cook and his main dish was onion gravy. One night we played cards until midnight. Then the losers had to make pancakes for a midnight snack. Cousin Clyde and I were the losers.

The same fall 1917 our house and barn burned on August 26. We got a barn up in time for winter, but my father and mother and five of us lived in a new chicken house. It was 10 feet wide and 22 feet long, a dirt floor and a single board wall. Only a cook stove for heat. My two oldest brothers Leslie and Ray slept in the barn all winter. Of course they had company (horses, cows, pigs, and chickens), their beds were in a box stall. I remember sleeping out there one night. I did not like it when the roosters started crowing before daylight. On March 21, 1918 we were forced out of our shack as water was coming in due to melting snow. We moved into our new home even if it was not finished.

RAYMOND ALTEPETER
Raymond's father and mother are Henry and Margaret Altepeter. Their children are Ambrose, Raymond, Mary, Har-
Vonasek who farmed in Northland Township. Her dad was born in Czechoslovakia and came to Polk County with his parents when he was two. His parents homesteaded the land in the same area of that farmed by James and brothers, Frank and Rudolph. One sister died of drowning.

James married Emily Gust in 1914. They had two children, Ann and Edward. Emily died in 1918. James then married Louise Potucek in 1920. They had seven children: John, William, Lawrence, Frances, Angela, Verne and Delbert in that order. Delbert and his family live on the home place but have a new home now. The old place was destroyed by fire in 1975. Louise now lives in East Grand Forks. James died in 1953.

MRS. JUSTINA FIE MAN N

Throughout the early 19th century there was a steady flow of immigrants coming to the United States from Europe, especially northern Europe and Scandinavia. Every year from 1815 to 1860, the number of immigrants increased. But, from 1861 to 1865, during the Civil War, there was a drop in people entering the United States. After the war, the numbers picked up again, and there was a real boom of new citizens coming in. It was during this postwar boom, around 1868, that Casper Tiedemann left Hanover and arrived in New York. (Hanover was then an independent state, but is now part of West Germany.) From New York he went on to Minnesota, settling near Red Wing. In 1870, he married Mary Gattdinas Gehr (1838-1880), a widow. Mary died ten years after marrying Casper, and left him five sons: Henry (1871-1951), Casper (1872-1930), Fred (1875-1941), Otto (1875-1950), George (1879-1953). In 1881, a year after his first wife died, Casper married Justina Voelz (1813-1892), and Justine Shulz Voelz (1822-1906).

Casper and Justina stayed near Red Wing until 1884, when they moved to Euclid. In the three years at Red Wing, two children were born, Mary (1881-1958) and Wilhelmina (1883-1946). The five sons of Casper’s first marriage stayed at Red Wing with his first wife’s sister, when the move to Euclid was made. In Euclid, Casper farmed as he had in Red Wing until his death on July 16, 1912. There were six children born after Casper and Justina arrived in Euclid: Emma (1885-1899), Louise (1887-1957), William (1889-1958), Albert (1892-1937), Emil (1895-1961), Justina (1898- ).

All eight of Casper’s children married and lived in the Euclid area, or not too far from the Euclid area. When Justina Voelz Tiedemann died on March 2, 1951, she left 41 grandchildren, 56 great-grandchildren, and several great-great-grandchildren. Mrs. Justina Fiemann of Euclid is the only surviving child of Casper and Justina Tiedemann. The rest of their descendants are scattered throughout the United States, with many still in or near Euclid.

Bernard Goosen and Lois Goosen live on a farm in Euclid Township. Their children are David and Boyd Goosen of Crookston and Mavis (Mrs. F. W. Hoefer of Mazeppa). David and his wife, Kathy have seven children: Randy, Kim, Corrie, Larry, Donna, Glenn and Thomas. Bernard and Lois have five children: Robert, Mary, Karen, David and Lynn. Mr. and Mrs. Goosen are members of the Euclid Lutheran Church.

FRED AND BERTHA GOOSEN

Tammy, Brent, Jimmy and Tanya. David works for the Polk County Highway Department and also farmed for three years. Boyd and Kay Goosen have one daughter, Rachelle. Boyd works for United Parcel Service at Grand Forks; he also farmed. Mavis and her husband, Frederick have five children: Gary, Carolyn, Susan, Stephen and Michael. Frederick is part owner of John Deere Valley Equipment of Mazeppa, Minnesota. Bernard and Lois are members of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Euclid.

His father, Fred Goosen, bought this farm in 1898 and Bernard bought it from his mother in 1947. Fred Goosen was born in Germany. Bernard’s mother was the former Bertha Schultz and was born in Canada. She came to this area in a covered wagon with her folks, Herman and Minnie Schultz. They built a log cabin near the Black River by Wylie, Minnesota. The wolves would howl at night and came and chewed on the door of the cabin. Many time Indians would stop and camp near the school. The Indians were always friendly and the children would share a bit of cookie, cake or sandwich with them. Fred and Bertha spent their married life on the Goosen farm.

Bernard has nine brothers and sisters: Rudy, Frederick, Richard, Herman, Albert, Raymond and George and Mrs. Fred (Irene) Teal of Crookston and Mrs. Cyril (Bertha) Wavra of Red Lake Falls. Frederick, Richard, Herman, Raymond and George are deceased.

Mrs. Bernard Goosen is the former Lois Fiemann. Her father was John Fiemann, born in Hanover, Germany in 1885. He came to Euclid in 1896 with his parents, Frederick and Anna Fiemann. He did carpenter work all his life and built the Fiemann house in Euclid now owned by William Fiemann. Lois’ mother was the former Emma Tiedeman. She was born in Red Wing and came to live on a farm in Euclid Township with her parents, Casper and Justina Tiedeman, both parents were born in Germany.

Emma married William Wallace. Their children were: Glen, Lloyd and Earl Wallace and Mrs. Orin (Thelma). Dalve of Ogema, Minnesota. Glen, Lloyd and Earl are deceased. Emma married John Fiemann in 1916. Their children were: Esther, Lois, Marion, William and Donna. Esther married Harvey Haugen of Newfolden. They had five children: Roger, Karen, Janna, Richard and Alvin. Marion married Lee Watkins of Gunnison, Colorado. They have two children: Gail and Linda. Mrs. Donna Burdick has one son, Richard. She lives at Janesville, Wisconsin. William and his wife Ida (born in Italy) have four children: Mrs. Tom (Granra) Campbell of Minneapolis, Barbara, Willy and Larry. They live at East Grand Forks. Esther is deceased. Bernard’s father did custom threshing for years with steam and gas engines.

In 1939, combines were used. Crops raised on this farm were wheat, oats, barley and corn. In 1938 eggs sold for 12 cents a dozen. We also had milk cows and sold cream and later whole milk.
In 1964 we sold the cows and chickens. Bernard started farming in 1933 and retired and rented this farm out in 1975.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES KOPECKY

Charles was born on a farm in Northland Township one mile west of Tabor to Anna and Joe Kopecky. Lydia, Behlke, Kopecky was born on a farm one mile west of Euclid to Kattie and Adolph Behlke. Charles went to Sunnysview School and Lydia went to Euclid School District 47. We were married in June 1942 and lived by Tabor on a farm two years, farming with Charles' dad. Then in 1944 we bought land one-half mile south of Euclid, built up the buildings. We are still living here. October 31, 1944 our son Leonard was born. He went to school in Euclid and four years at Agricultural School and two years at Wahpeton. He served six years with the National Guard. He married Sue Lyngholm in 1965. They now live in Blairstown, Iowa. He works in Cedar Rapids, have a daughter Michelle seven and a son Matthew five years old. Charles farms. He drove the school bus 16 years until the school closed and consolidated with Crookston. We belong to St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Euclid.

CLARENCE NIENIEL

Clarence Nielsen came to Polk County in January, 1908, with his parents, Andrew and Mary Armbrust Nielsen from LaPlat, Nebraska. He has seven sisters: Dorothy (deceased), Elsie, Sophia, Lena, Annie (deceased), Marie (deceased), and Emma; and one brother, Andrew, born in Nebraska 1903.

The family moved to a farm in the Euclid area where Clarence lived most of his life. He is now retired, living in Crookston. In 1927 he married Ethel Slagger. Eight children were born to them. Leroy, who was born in 1928, attended North Dakota School of Agriculture. He lived with his father until he entered the service in 1951. He was discharged in 1953. He served in the military three years. He now lives in Crookston, Minnesota. He is a mechanic at American Crystal Sugar Company. He married Anna Kraft of Selfridge, North Dakota, in July 1951. They have five children. Thomas J., 1952, graduated from Crookston Central High, and attended Bemidji State College. He is now a SSGT in USAF, and has been stationed in Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Thailand, Korea, and at present at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota. Jeffrey D., 1954, graduated from Crookston Central and is employed at Dahlgen and Company. He married Shirley Goosen in 1972 and they have one daughter, Marciq, Valerie A., 1957, senior at Crookston Central, is captain of debate team, and a nurse's aid at Riverview Hospital. She has been accepted at Mankato State College for the fall of '76. She plans to obtain a degree in nursing. Vanessa M., 1959, is a Junior at Crookston Central. Marilyn K., 1961, is a freshman at Crookston Central.

Andrew, who was born in 1931, graduated from North Dakota State University in 1950. He attended the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1957 and is in surgical residency at Wilford Hall Hospital, USAF, 1963-67. Fellow American College of Surgeons 1971, USAF Medical Corps 1959 to present time. He has the rank of Colonel and has been stationed in Texas, France, New York, Turkey. He was the Chief of Surgery, Travis AFB, California, 1970-72; Chief of hospital services, Vandenberg, AFB Hospital, California, 1972 to present. Since 1970, he has participated as a member of the surgical team for the Launch and Recovery of Apollo 14. He married Thea Myren of Grygla, Minnesota in 1951. They have four children:

Mark, 1955, is a Senior at USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was nominated to the academy by Senator H. Humphrey of Minnesota. He will start pre-med in the fall of 1976. Renee E., 1958, Senior at Righett High School, Santa Maria, California. She intends to attend Cal Poly Tech at San Luis Obispo, majoring in business, computer programming and engineering fields. Tanya A., 1963, 8th grade, Orcutt Jr. High, Santa Maria, California. She was nationally ranked a junior Olympic age group swimmer. Eric A., 1965, 6th grade at May Grisham School in Santa Maria, California. Clarence W. Jr., was born in 1933 and attended Northwest School of Agriculture. He joined US Army in 1951 and was discharged in 1956. He lived in Euclid area for one year then joined the USAF, specializing in communications. He served in Texas, Idaho, Arkansas, Florida, Minnesota, Newfoundland, England, France and many other bases in Europe, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Saudi-Arabia and Thailand. He retired from the military in 1974 and now lives in Pinellas Park, Florida. He is attending Tampa College for a degree in Business Management. He married Janet Headland of Northants, England in 1954 and has three children. Karen, 1955, graduated from Pinellas Park High School. She is married and her husband is in the USAF. Martin, 1957, graduated from Pinellas Park High School and is entering pre-med school in the fall of 1976. Patricia, 1964, is attending grade school in Pinellas Park. Richard, 1964, is attending Northwest School of Agriculture. He served in USAF, stationed in Greece, Turkey and other bases. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1963 with a B.S. Degree. He is a CPA and has received his master's degree of Public Administration from Indiana University in 1974. He is employed by the Internal Revenue Service, St. Louis, Missouri, in the position of Chief Review Staff. He married Bebe Morales of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1958 and has three children: Richard Jr., 1957, Senior in High School; Linda, 1959, Junior in high school; Lisa, 1966, attending grade school. Lester, born in 1937, graduated from Northwest School of Agriculture. He served with the Minnesota National Guard. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1967 with a degree in business administration and accounting. Along with Eugene Ellingson, who was also raised in Polk County, Euclid area, he organized and formed their own company named "Herc-U-Lift" at Maple Plain, Minnesota; a dealership for Allis Chalmers Material Handling Equipment. He married June Lien of Gonvick, Minnesota in 1958. They have two sons and are living in Minneapolis. Mitche, 1959, who is married to Larry Lien, 1959, attended grade school in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Elaine, born in 1939, attended Central High School and Aakers School of Business in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She worked several different places in Crookston and Grand Forks. She married E. J. Ditlovson, US Navy in 1966 and has for three years lived in Japan, five years in Maryland and in 1974 they moved to Florida where they plan to make a permanent home. Her husband's rank is 1st Class Petty Officer. They have three children: Brenda, Caro Jean and Christine, all in grade school.

LaVonne, born in 1942, graduated from Crookston Central High School in 1960. She attended a nursing school as a LPN in 1962. She now works at Middle River Health Facility, Hawthorn, Wisconsin. She is married to Robert Amundson, salesman for I. J. Schuster Company out of Superior, Wisconsin. They make their home in Lake Minnecon, Wisconsin. They have two children: Brian Q., 11 and James A., 8, both attend grade school.

Elsie, born in 1944, graduated from Crookston Central High School in 1962, she attended Aaker's School of Business in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She was employed as a secretary to Art Greenburg. She married Gary Reese and moved to Mankato, Minnesota. She attended Mankato State College. Her husband's rank is 1st Class Petty Officer. They have one child: Michelle, 1964, and Kristine, born 1967, both are attending grade school.

LOREN PARKIN

The first known ancestors of the family, and past recorded history as such, began with the birth of Grandfather Henry Parkin in or near Sheffield, England on September 7, 1847. He grew up in that area and became a stationary steam engineer in the steel mills of Sheffield and Rotherham. They manufactured steel rails. He married Charlotte Hastings who was born in 1844. She died July 20, 1883 at the age of 39 leaving a daughter Alice and son Walter. Two sons died in infancy. The father, with eleven-year old Alice and fifteen-year old Walter, immigrated to America in 1883. They came to Jacksonville, Illinois
where they had relatives, Henry Parkin died January 29, 1908 at Kirksville, Missouri.

Walter was born in Rothern, England, May 27, 1868. His early days in America were spent as a farm hand and railroad laborer. A few years were spent with cousins homesteading in the Kansas Territory and operating a freight line near Wichita before railroads came to that area. He returned to Illinois and started farming. He married Sophie Mae Lewis on February 13, 1894. She was the daughter of Charles Ludvig (1859-1909) and Fredericka Schloff (1838-1919) both German immigrants who had been married in Trenton, New Jersey in 1867. The Ludvigs came to Illinois and started farming in that area. The family name was changed from Ludvig to Lewis, the English translation at that time, when they purchased a farm.

The newly married couple of Walter and Sophie Parkin farmed south of Jacksonville, Illinois until November, 1913. They then bought a 240-acre farm in Polk County, Minnesota. This farm adjoins Euclid N.W. 1/4 Section 24, Euclid Township. They continued to make their home there until 1948 when they retired to Crookston, Minnesota. They lived in Crookston until his death in January, 1955 and hers, March, 1966. They had four sons: James, who died in infancy in Illinois; Dewey of International Falls, Minnesota; Harold of Angus, Minnesota; Wilbur of Edina, Minnesota; and Loren of Euclid, Minnesota. Their only daughter, Charlotte, passed away in Crookston, Minnesota in September, 1958.

Loren started farming in the Euclid community in 1930 and resided with his parents until his marriage on March 23, 1946 to Gertrude Mae Mahla of Plummer, Minnesota. She was a school teacher in Polk County school system and daughter of Helmer and Florence Mahla, farmers in the Plummer area. Her father’s parents came to the Plummer area from Norway about 1885. They first lived near Twin Valley, Minnesota. Her mother’s parents, the Charles Howards, came to Red Lake Falls area in early 1900 from Iowa. Their ancestors date back on the mother’s side of the family to an ancestor who arrived on the Mayflower. Her parents still reside in Plummer. She has one brother, Arnold, who with his wife and family reside in North St. Paul, Minnesota. The Loren Parkins continued to live and farm at Euclid until October, 1953 when they moved into Euclid where they purchased their present home. Loren accepted a position in August, 1955 with the United States Department of Agriculture as Produce Inspector. He has worked for twenty years for the State of Minnesota and fourteen summers for the State of Michigan as fruit and vegetable inspector. He retired on October 4, 1975. Mrs. Parkin, in addition to being mother to one daughter and seven sons, served as custodian of Euclid school for fourteen years. For the past five years she has been an employee of United Hospital of Grand Forks, North Dakota. The family with the exception of two are married and away from the Euclid area; one daughter, Marilyn (Mrs. Henry Weiland) of Euclid; Robert of Provo, Utah; Wayne of Euclid, Minnesota; Keith with the United States Navy at San Diego, California; and Neil of Euclid. Five of the sons enlisted and served a four-year period with the United States Navy. Son Keith is still serving with the Navy. They have a total of five grandchildren at this writing with expectations of more to come. The Parkin name has certainly grown in this area since the coming to America of Henry Parkin in the late 1800’s.

The Parkins are busy in their spare time with various hobbies, Loren’s being gardening, camping, giving old time threshing demonstrations, collecting of model cars, and serving on the Board of Polk County Historical Society. Gertrude’s hobbies include sewing and machine knitting for the grandchil-

Leon was born in 1898 in Fond Lake, Minnesota. His parents were Lewis and Norah (Collins) Pierce. His father was born in Faribault, Minnesota, and was a carpenter by trade. His mother was born in Dassel, Minnesota. Lewis and Norah were married November 25, 1891, and had four children: Leon, Joe, Olive and Lillian. Joe Pierce presently lives in Bemidji. Olive Pierce Erickson resides at the Fosston Nursing Home, and Lillian (Maude) Pierce Haas is deceased.

Leon remembers his parents and three uncles journeying to the Badlands by wagon after leaving Faribault. While traveling in the Badlands, water ran off the mountains so hard in one spot that it washed several tops right off the wagons. His folks became discouraged and returned to Bemidji. Later they secured the 40-acre homestead north of Shevlin along the Clearwater River. Leon’s father built the log cabin in which they lived for three years before moving to Crookston.

In those days, the Indians used to travel and live in groups along the rivers, and it was customary for the family to visit and trade among them. Leon’s mother used to smoke pipes with the Indians who lived behind their cabin. The family made their living by digging snakeroot or Ginseng, a root used for medicine, and Mr. Pierce cut cordwood for sale. At this time, there were only hand saws and tools so it took much work and time to cut a cord of wood. They were paid 75¢ a cord. Besides cutting the wood, Mr. Pierce had to borrow the neighbor’s oxen and wagon and haul it to Shevlin. Leon also recalls his family roasting barley to use as a substitute coffee.

When Leon was five years old, the family moved from Shevlin to Crookston. During their first spring in Crookston, Leon’s father worked 10 hours a day with the section crew on the railroad for 90¢ per day. Leon’s folks lived in Crookston until their death. As a young boy, Leon traveled with his parents all over Minnesota and North Dakota during the summer months, trying to find carpenter work. Summers were spent in towns such as Fargo, Devils Lake, Minot, etc. During the winter they would return to Crookston. Of course, all this travel was done in covered wagons. Travel by this method was slow since they made only about 30 miles per day; so a trip to Minot was about a two-week trip. During the time Leon lived in Crookston, he held several jobs which included working for

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Mr. and Mrs. Leon Pierce 50th Anniversary.

Loren Parkin with daughter, Olive in Crookston, Minnesota.
seven years for the Crookston Transfer Company, a dray line. Leon moved north of Crookston in 1926 to take up farming. The family still lives there.

Leon married Bertha Eenstra, October 6, 1919, in the First Presbyterian Church, Crookston. Her parents were the late Sam and Nellie (O’Neill) Eenstra of rural Crookston. They celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on October 6, 1975. Children of Leon and Bertha are: Lewis, living in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Lewis has six children all of whom live in the Grand Forks Area; Lillian (Mrs. Albert Hust) lives in Crookston as do her four married children. Donna Corbin: Dione Ricord: Duane and Dale: Lloyd lives in rural Crookston. He has three married children: Linda, (Mrs. D. Johnson); Susie (Mrs. Tomaszewski); and Nickie (Mrs. L. Love). Luetta (Mrs. Jim Cooper), Washington has four children. Lyle lives in rural Crookston, as do his four children: Michael, Wayne, Kevin, and Karen. Lona (Mrs. Wm. Francis) lives in Crookston and has one child. Kim. Robert lives in Fargo, North Dakota and has two children.

Leon and Bertha have many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a number of whom still live in the Crookston area.

**HARVEY STRICKLER**

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Dershum Strickler are pioneers of the Valley! Harvey was born in 1862 at Mount Carmel, Illinois. After some roaming to Colorado and southern Minnesota, he came to Angus in 1891 and homesteaded the farm which is still operated by a son, William.

In 1906, he was united in marriage to Margaret (Maggie) Stroble who was born at Mount Holly Springs, Pennsylvania in 1877. She came to the Angus community as a young girl. Harvey and Maggie were blessed with five children: three daughters, Mrs. Wm. Duden, (Marie), Crookston, Mrs. Howard Masters, (Nellie), El Cerrito, California, and Esther, all of whom are deceased; two sons, William and Bennie both live in the Euclid community.

Harvey and Maggie were active in the Angus and Euclid Presbyterian Church. Harvey was township treasurer for many years and Maggie was active in school board affairs. Harvey farmed his entire life, 85 years, on the Angus farm acquiring many acres. He died in 1946. Maggie found time to do much outside work — milking, chores, and chicken raising.

**WILLIAM STRICKLER**

Mr. and Mrs. William Harvey Strickler (son of Harvey and Maggie Strickler). William was born in 1914 at Euclid. He was educated at a country school and attended the Northwest School of Agriculture. After graduating, he returned to the home farm and worked with his brother, Ben.

In 1939, he was united in marriage to Jean Tiedeman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Tiedeman (Marie Schuler), also of the Euclid area. Jean, born in 1921, attended country school and because Crookston began a rural bus route for Euclid students, she graduated from Crookston High School.

William and Jean are parents of a daughter, Marilyn, born in 1941. Marilyn attended school at Warren, Minnesota and graduated as a registered nurse from Fairview School of Nursing in Minneapolis. She was married in 1963 to Stan Sirek, a graduate of Moorhead State and they live at Wahpeton, North Dakota, where he is in partnership in an auto dealership. They have three children: Joel, 10, Deanna, 7, and Jason, 5.

A son, Donald, was born in 1944, attended Warren Elementary and Northwest School of Agriculture. In 1966, he graduated from North Dakota State University with an agriculture major. He returned to the farm to be in partnership with his father. In 1965, he was married to Ellen Filipi of Warren, Minnesota. They have four children — Brent, 7, Kari, 5, Kristen, 4, and Becky 1.

William and Jean Strickler are members of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. They have taught Sunday School many years and held many of the church and Ladies Aid offices.

Jean was a Homemakers’ member for several years.

William became interested in Angus cattle as a 4-H member and still has a herd, selling breeding stock. He has served as State Angus Association president as well as on the board of directors. Because of his interest in cattle, he has participated in the Red River Valley Winter Shows for 38 years, serving as vice president of the board of directors and president of the Livestock Association since 1941. He served as chairman of the fund raising drive of 14 counties to raise $400,000 for new buildings in 1962. Because of his efforts, the Livestock Show Arena was dedicated in his honor, naming it “Strickler Arena.” He was selected to the Hall of Fame in 1973, an honor for devoted citizens of the area who have given freely of their efforts to make the show go on.

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Sirek, Joel, Jason and Deanna.

In 1974, he was Crookston’s Pioneer Days Award of Honor recipient in recognition of pioneer ag achievements in the area of livestock.

Other honors in community affairs include: Master Farmers Award 1944, at Warren, Minnesota, Soil Conservation Award for West Polk County in 1963, Alumni Award for Class of 1930 awarded in 1971, and 4-H Adult Leadership Award. William served on the Bethesda Hospital Board for 23 years until it merged with St. Francis and became Riverview Hospital.

William was appointed township treasurer upon the death of his father, Harvey. He has served as treasurer upon election since 1946. In the 1940’s, the local telephone service was purchased by a group of farmers. William spent many hours and days as its new president to get service to as many homes as possible. He also served on the local REA to get signs and had one of the first vapor lights on his farm.

William and his brother farmed as a partnership until 1961 when they liquidated. Then William’s son, Donald, returned from college to become a partner in 1968. Angus Acres Inc. This farm has 3,500 tillable acres; raising small grains, corn for cash crop, and later adding sugar beets. William grew potatoes for ten years but found marketing for processing not too enjoyable or perhaps profitable for the long hard hours and a very expensive crop to raise. The starting of the potato processing plant in Crookston was a reason he started in potatoes, getting a 200-acre contract with a $20,000 share. However, marketing of the fries has always slowed processing which resulted in Jiffy Fry selling to Simplot with a larger area to supply.
Another venture, he took a “whirl” at was a partnership in Massey-Ferguson, then a locally owned shop. Very interesting, but again too time consuming; and about that time all local stores became company owned. However, it made the expensive machinery more accessible. Then in 1957 with the cooperation of Tom Cochrane, he started a liquid fertilizer plant. However, liquid fertilizer was frowned upon by the Extension Department so had many problems. With several farmers as directors and stockholders, it continued until again a large company took over and liquid fertilizer became more popular. At present this plant is known as Fert-L-Flow.

Now that we have turned many of the farm duties over to our son and family, we are building a new home away from the busy yard.

ETTA MAE CASMEY TEAL

Etta Mae Casmey Teal, born at Euclid, Minnesota, February 28, 1889 is the eldest living member born in Euclid Township. Etta was the seventh child in the family of twelve children and she has two sisters still living. Bernice Casmey Raudel of Mayville, North Dakota and Gertrude Casmey Nelson of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Her parents were Richard and Elizabeth Casmey who came to homestead in Euclid from Kingston, Ontario, Canada in 1887. Along with the homestead, her dad also did blacksmithing. The family lived off the fruit of the land, raising everything they ate and selling the extra. They sold eggs for 10¢ a dozen. The wheat was hauled to Crookston and ground into flour for the year’s supply. It took 1,300 pounds of flour, a 60-gallon barrel of dill pickles, a 60-gallon barrel of salt pork, and a 60-gallon barrel of sauerkraut; together with the potatoes, carrots, onions and squash that were kept in a root cellar to feed the family. There were seven boys: William, Charles, John, George, Frank, Thomas and Howard; and five girls: Ellen, Mary, Etta, Bernice and Gertrude.

The house on this homestead was a 3-roomed house. They had straw ticks for beds. The straw for these beds had to be put in fresh every spring and every fall. On the top of these ticks, they put feather ticks and it was such fun to crawl up on these to go to bed. Every fall the Indians would come and camp in our grove and at night we could watch them dance and play their drums. One morning after mother had finished milking, they took all the milk. We never trusted them so we let them have it with no argument. They stayed until after threshing when they picked all the screenings. We would have used it for chicken feed but they sold it. We had a lot of good times as kids. When company came, mother sent all the kids outside to pick up wood chips around the wood pile to start fire to get the tea kettle boiling. The kids who were company from town would come out on Sunday afternoon and we’d hitch up the goats and oxen to the bobsleds and go for rides. Then in the evening we’d make taffy and have taffy pulls. In the winter time mother would make scarves and mittens from the wool of the angora goats.

We went to the Presbyterian Church in Euclid which is still standing and I still attend. Our entertainment were house parties. We’d play cards, someone would play the violin or mouth organ, and we’d dance. We traveled from house to house.

Times were tough. Wood to burn would be so green one would have to put it in the oven to dry out. There were no fires at night. The cook stove was used for cooking and heating. My mother died when I was 19 and we were still eight at home. We baked 20 loaves of bread a week. The pigs would get out and we’d have to chase them to put them in. One winter it stormed so badly for three days that we couldn’t get to the barn to milk the cows. The drifts were so high the cattle could walk right into the hay loft.

I married Albert Teal on December 15, 1915. He was a laborer on the Great Northern Railroad. We had seven children, three boys and four girls. We lived in Euclid in the house I still occupy, a four roomed house. Grandma Teal lived with us 10 years, and my dad lived with us for many years. One winter we were nine all winter in a 2-bedroom structure.

My family was Everett, Orville and Alvin, and the girls were Dorothy (Mrs. Ray Dubuque), Lois (Mrs. Maynard Piker), Violet (Mrs. Louis Schue), and Etta (Mrs. Bernie Schue).

ROBERT TUCKER

I came to Euclid from Peoria, Illinois in 1910 at the age of seven years with my parents Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin and Maybelle (Birken) Tucker; brothers Benjamin, Clarence, March, Arthur, my sister Maybelle Tucker (Murphy) was born here in 1912. I attended rural schools in Keystone and Euclid Township, worked at farming with my father and brothers.

On October 19, 1938 I married Vesta Fiemann, daughter of Henry and Matti (Michaelsen) Fiemann, she had a brother Fred and two sisters, Florence (Mrs. Arthur Nelson), Ann (Mrs. Morris Willert). As a girl she attended school in Euclid and worked at many different little jobs. She went to work at her Uncle Clauss Fiemann’s store in Euclid until her marriage.

In November 1940, I bought the Clark Chandler farm, Southeast section 32, Euclid Township where we are still living. I have served on school boards, as town treasurer for 20 years, and have been church treasurer at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church where we are members.

We have three sons, Thomas born October 15, 1940, attended school in Euclid, Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston; Aakers Business College, Grand Forks, North Dakota; and served in the National Guard. He is now employed at Advance Shoring Company of St. Paul. He married Jean Cunningham April 30, 1966. They have Kevin, Mark, Michelle and Monica. Their home is in Rosemont, Minnesota.

John was born February 6, 1944 and attended school in Euclid, Northwest School of Agriculture and served in the National Guard. He is now engaged in farming on the home place.

Larry was born January 24, 1946, attended school in Euclid, Northwest School of Agriculture and served in U.S. Army. He was wounded in Vietnam November 27, 1966, a double-below-knee amputee, he returned to the states to army hospitals, Walter Reed, Washington, D.C. and V.A. in Minneapolis. After his recovery, he attended Vocational School in St. Paul taking

This new farm at Euclid consisted of 820 acres of which 350 acres was crop land. The chief crops were oats, wheat, barley, potatoes and sunflowers. Henry installed water and electricity in the home in 1947. The same year he sold his threshing machine and bought an International Harvester. In November, 1946, Kathleen was born at St. Vincent's Hospital, Crookston, Minnesota.

Henry served on the Euclid school board for twenty-three years and took an active part in St. Mary's Church activities as well.

The children all attended the school at Euclid. District #49 until they were ready for high school. The girls, Rosemary and Kathleen, both graduated from Mount St. Benedict Academy, Crookston. Rosemary continued on to St. Luke's Nursing School, Fargo, North Dakota. Kathleen continued her education at Thief River Falls, Minnesota Technical College. Later she worked for C. J. Carpenter Insurance in Crookston. She is now Mrs. George Miller and lives in Bismarck, North Dakota.

She and her husband have three children and she continues to work at the State Capitol. George works for a plumbing company. Rosemary is married to Richard Bongean and they have two daughters. They live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Rosemary works at St. Francis Hospital. Rosemary is especially interested in baton twirling. Her daughters are very good twirlers and Rosemary, herself, was elected Mother of the Year for the twirlers. The Zammert boys, Charles, Robert and Raymond, all graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture now known as the Minnesota Technical College. Crookston, Minnesota. Charles and Raymond both entered the United States Army. Charles was sent to Hawaii with the Wire Section. He returned to Euclid on March 6, 1962. Raymond served as a paratrooper in Germany and returned home in January, 1964. While Raymond was in Germany, he found his aunt, Maria Gieble, living in Raventu, Germany. She was County Nurse in that area. While Charles and Raymond were in the service, Robert, because of a physical disability suffered while a child, remained at home and farmed with his father. Henry left the farm in 1958 and bought the General Store in Euclid, Minnesota. In 1961, Robert married Carole Peck, daughter of Karl and Peggy Lerum Peck. They live on the Zammert farm and have three children. Carole taught school until 1971.

Charles married Dolores Weiland. They now have six children. Charles and Robert have been over the farm completely, buying most of the machinery from their father, Charles, and renting some of the land. In 1968, Henry built a new home behind the General Store. Charles and Robert helped with the building and finishing of the new home. Henry was suffering from emphysema and in 1967, he went to the University of Minnesota Hospital, Minneapolis. He had surgery on August 15. He returned home in spite of his very serious condition. His wife, Susie, ran the General Store with the help of her children.

In July, 1969, Henry finally persuaded his sister, Maria, of Germany to come to the United States. She came and stayed with her brother for six weeks. She was amazed at the large farms she found here. The friendliness of all people, the big machinery the farmers owned, but especially how one neighbor could visit the other at any time of the day without a special invitation. And the welcome she received from everyone! She returned to West Germany after her visit.

In June, 1972, Henry contracted pneumonia and never seemed again to be his old vigorous self. Finally on December 17, 1973, Henry Zammert passed away. Raymond bought and now operates the General Store. Susie, his mother, still helps in the store at rush times but she finds greater pleasure in her flowers, her home, sewing and visiting with her brothers and grandchildren.
Fairfax Township

“A special meeting held at Crookston, Polk County, Minnesota the 7th day of October 1879. The following members of the county Board was present: E. C. Davis and E. Tharaldson. The meeting declared open. On motion, Town 149 Range 46 were organized according to the petition from the people from that town and it to be known as Town of Fairfax. The first election to be held at the house of John Amundson in said town, and the Judges of said election to be John Sylvester and Hans Clauson and Nels Knudson and the clerks for same to be Erick Benson and John Amundson. Resolved to issue the amount of $1300.00 Dollars Co. orders as a part pay to the gentlemen. Mr. Netzer who built the county Jail and the same time they agreed with Mr. Netzer to give him $320.00 Dollars for laying one floor in the upper story of said Jail also for two coats of plastering of same and for painting the Jail in and outside.

First school District #35, section 2 was organized May 28, 1880. Second school district #123, section 19 in Fairfax was organized July 5, 1887.’ (sic)

JOHN BAATZ
Fred Baatz was born in Landschied, Luxemburg, 1854. At the age of sixteen he came to Wabasha, Minnesota. In a short time two brothers and two sisters came. John, Matthew and Mary took homesteads in Russia and Fairfax townships. Kathryn became a Benedictine nun at St. Scholastica’s in Duluth. She remained there the rest of her life. Fred and Emma Schwirz were married in Wabasha in 1880, and came immediately to start their adventurous life on the homestead which is now section four, Russia Township in 1881. Those first years were hard. Winters were severe and long. Water had to be hauled four miles from O. Simmons, an earlier homesteader, and wood had to be brought from Maple Lake or from along the Red River. Fred served as clerk of school district 278 and Russia township, and as chairman for many years. In the course of time five children were born to them: Rose, Mary, John, Anna and Frank. They walked over two miles to school district 35. Rose never married, Mary married Mark Malarkey and had one son, Charles. John married Edna Kuhn. Anna never married, and Frank died in 1913. The family attended the Catholic Church in Crookston, a distance of ten miles. In summer they went with horses and buggy. In winter they traveled with horses and sled. Sometimes members of the family walked. John attended the Agricultural School in Crookston. He farmed with his father until he married in 1926. At that time he built a new home on the former homestead of his Uncle Matthew. He continued to live here until his death in 1968. We were on a winter trip in Texas at the time. Traveling to see God’s beautiful country was one of his great enjoyments. He, the children and I managed to take a trip every year, including an unforgettable one to Alaska in 1955. We had six children. All attended county school district 278 where I had previously taught and later was school clerk for many years. Rosemary graduated from Mount St. Benedict High School, Crookston. College of St. Scholastica receiving a B.A. in Music Theory. She received a master’s degree in library science from Core Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. She now heads the Health Care Library for 3M in St. Paul. John graduated from Cathedral High School, Crookston and served in the National Guard and in Korea in 1952. He married Joyce Campbell. They have three sons: Steve, David and James and live in Council Bluffs, Iowa. John is an electrician. Dorothy graduated from Cathedral High School and Teachers Training Department in East Grand Forks. She taught school several years and is married to Marvin Michaelson who farms near Euclid. They have a daughter, Carol, and a son, John. Gerald graduated from Cathedral High School and was in the National Guard for seven years. He married Cecilia Schirrick, who received an R.N. degree from the Sister of St. Joseph School of Nursing, Grand Forks, North Dakota. They now live with their four children: Scott, Perry, Brenda and Jill, in their new home in Russia Township, where they farm. Donald graduated from Cathedral High School and Bemidji State University. He served two years in the Army. He married Sandra Johnson, a graduate of Jamestown College, Jamestown, North Dakota and is a social worker. They live in Fergus Falls with their two sons, Andrew and Charles. There Donald owns an insurance agency. Robert graduated from Cathedral High School, St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota and the University of Washington, Seattle, with a master’s degree in social work. He was a captain in the Army and served in Vietnam. He now lives in Duluth where he is a social worker for St. Louis County working in child abuse.

My Kuhn ancestors came from Wurtemberg, Germany. In 1760, Peter Kuhn came to America in a sailing craft. In 1768, he married and in 1771 homesteaded near Guencastle, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He erected a log cabin — their home, which stood there until 1952 when it was razed and a monument replaced it.

My grandfather John W. Kuhn (third generation) was a school teacher and Franklin county surveyor. He lived near here. This is where Michael Kuhn, my father, was born. My mother was Emma Musselman. They farmed a short distance from the old Pela Kuhn homestead. Here is where my sisters, Barbara, Mary and I were born. In 1913, my parents decided to come to Minnesota. We came by train to Euclid, having bought a farm east of there. Barbara and I attended school district 179. Katherine King was our teacher. She is now Mrs. Fred Abrecht. I will never forget the fight a school mate and I had over the words “You-uns” (Pennsylvania Dutch), “Youse” (Her French). Later we moved to a farm near Dorothy and finally south of Crookston where John, Helen, Jean and Dorothy Mae were born. John and Dorothy Mae died as babies. We five girls are graduates of Central High School, Crookston. I taught in Polk County school for several years. Barbara is an R.N. She married Edwin Culbert, a school principal. They live in Minneapolis. Mary married Carl Hanson, a railroad man who passed away in 1972. She lives in Crookston. Helen married Ralph Weiland. They live near Euclid. Jean works at Marquette Bank, Minneapolis. Our mother died in 1938. Our dad later married Wilma Thompson. They had a son, Lyle, who with his family lives in Rush City, Minnesota. Our father, Michael Kuhn, died in 1966.

Fred and Emma Baatz 1880.