is not married. Diane was born June 26, 1944. She married Paul Egggebraaten of Fisher, where they are engaged in farming. They have two children, Denise and Dean. David was born August 13, 1947. He married Patricia Strese of Rosemount, Minnesota. He is a career man in the United States Army. He and his wife were stationed in Germany for three years and are now stationed in Key West, Florida. Jay was born February 9, 1951. He is a graduate of Moorhead State College, majoring in journalism. At present he is helping on his parents' farm. Karen was born May 27, 1953. She married Royal Rivard of Argyle, Minnesota, where they are engaged in farming.

Iner and Inez own and operate the farm that was purchased by Iner's grandfather, Christian Quern, in 1895. In 1936 Iner and his brother, Oscar, took over the farming operations from their father, Carl Quern. They farmed in partnership until Oscar retired in 1973. Oscar turned over his operations to his son Reed.

Iner has six other brothers and sisters: Kenneth and Vernon, who are engaged in farming with him, and C. Arthur, who lives in Vancouver, Washington; Mrs. Juel (Eveline) Smoeback, and Mrs. Mildred Betts of Vancouver, Washington, and Mrs. Thomas (Clara) Botko of Warren, Minnesota. Inez has two brothers, Arthur Nelson of Grand Forks, North Dakota and Harold of Los Angeles, California; one sister, Mrs. Harry (Bernice) Gerszewski of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Iner and Inez have been active in church and community affairs. Inez served on committees in the local Lutheran Church Women, P.T.A., and Homemakers. They are both voting delegates on the Valley Memorial Home Board of Grand Forks from Zion Lutheran Church.

Inez has held offices in the Oslo community club, Our Savior's and Zion Lutheran Churches, the Higdem Township, the Polk County Township Officers Association, the Middle River-Snake River Watershed District Board of Managers, the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Inc., the Polk County Crop Improvement Association. He was also on the rural school board 13 years and 16 years on the Oslo school board, also the Oslo Credit Union, the VM 1000 Club board, and a member of the Red Lake Basin Planning Commission. In 1970 Mr. and Mrs. Quern received the West Polk County Conservation Award, and in 1972 the Polk County Valley Farmer and Homemaker Award. He is a member of the Minnesota Farmers' Union, Democratic Farmers Labor Party, and the National Farmers' Organization.

Their farming operations involve growing registered and certified seed grains, and sugar beets. He is also a contract seed grower for the University of Minnesota. At the present time he is involved in a community effort to build levees along the Red River for flood control.

Hubbard Township

The first settlers came to what is now known as Hubbard Township in 1871 and settled in the northwest corner of the township. Another group of settlers arrived in this same general area prior to 1879 and claimed land a little farther south than those arriving in 1871. It is interesting to note that they founded their homes near the Red River, perhaps as a source of fuel, logs for building and nearness to water for home and livestock.

Early records show that Hubbard Township in the early days was part of Vineland Township. These records show that the early roads were laid out by the supervisors of Vineland Township. Hubbard Township became an independent township in 1883. The first supervisors elected were Nels O. Paulsrud, Ole Gilbertson and Halvor G. Dale. The supervisors were responsible for laying out roads. This was of great concern to the settlers. The settlers drew up a petition for a road they needed. This was presented to the supervisors and upon their approval, a survey was made according to the report and plat. Most roads were four rods wide. The roads were built by the settlers living within a mile of the road. The roads were built with scrapers drawn by two horses. This was a very slow and tedious task.

Simon Bakke was a director and vice-president of the Farm Loan Association. He was active in his church throughout the years, holding various offices. He was also active on the school board and Hubbard township holding offices in both groups. Children born to the Bakkes were Sigrid, John, Helmer, Bella, Clifford, George, Sherman, James, Imagene and Elaine. The Bakkes were members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church. Annie passed away in 1929 and Simon in 1955. They are buried at the St. Petri Cemetery.

Sigrid Bakke Olson attended high school in Nielsville and Moorhead State College. Mrs. Olson taught school for a number of years. From 1942 to 1947 she was postmaster at Nielsville. She was married to Leonard Olson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Olson of Nielsville, Minnesota. Leonard passed away in 1950. John Bakke attended school in Nielsville. He served in the United States Marines for four years. He owned and operated an oil station at Nielsville which he sold to his brothers George and Sherman when he became manager of Ireland Lumber Company in Climax. He later became general manager of Ireland Lumber Company in Grand Forks. He married

SIMON J. BAKKE

Simon Bakke was born May 13, 1870 in Fosston, Norway. He came to the United States in 1893, stayed for a short time at Fosston, Minnesota and then went to the Hayes Farm at Nielsville, where he was employed until 1902. He homesteaded at Grygla, Minnesota. In 1902, he married Annie Fosso. Annie was born at Fertile, Minnesota on November 28, 1883. Her parents, Helge and Bergit Fosso were born in Tinn, Telemarken, Norway and came to Herman, Minnesota in 1881. In 1882 they joined a covered wagon caravan and settled at Fertile, Minnesota. They had eight children: Nels and Gulick were born in Norway; Annie, Guder, Agnes, Sven, Helge and Ole at Fertile, Minnesota.

After their marriage, Simon and Annie moved to their homestead at Grygla, Minnesota, where they lived until 1905, when they purchased a farm three miles east and one mile north of Nielsville. In 1918 they purchased another farm one and one-half miles east of Nielsville and moved there. Simon Bakke and Sons: L. to R.: Clifford, Sherman, James, Simon; John, Helmer and George.
Evelyn Soes of Climax. They have one daughter, Laurel, who is married to Ted Ecklund. The Ecklunds live in Denver, Colorado. Evelyn passed away in 1963. John later married Helen Gullingsrud Shoupe. They are retired and live in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Helmer Bakke attended school in Nielsville. He was employed on his dad's farm. He married Elsie Twight. They had two sons, Gerald and Dale. Helmer later purchased his dad's farm. Helmer passed away in 1970. Bella Bakke Sawyer attended school in Nielsville and Interstate Business College in Fargo. She married Carl Vogt of Malta, Montana. Bella is a Veteran of World War II having served in the W.A.C.'s. After Carl's death she married Charles Sawyer. Bella spends the summers at her home in Montana and the winters in Arizona. Clifford Bakke attended school in Nielsville, Minnesota. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in both the Pacific and in Europe. He was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. After he returned, he was employed in Seattle until 1972, when he retired and moved back to Nielsville to make his home. Clifford passed away in 1974.

George Bakke is a graduate of the Nielsville High School. He was employed by Douglas Aircraft in Colorado. George, a Veteran of World War II, served in the United States Air Force. He is a member of the American Legion. After he returned, George and his brother, Sherman, purchased an oil station in Nielsville. George purchased a farm at Guthrie, Minnesota. He was employed at Bemidji State University for a number of years, but is now retired and lives on his farm.

James Bakke is a graduate of the Nielsville High School. After high school, he became a leader in the Civilian Conservation Corp. He is married to Mary Dahl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hartvig Dahl. They have one daughter, Sharon, a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota. At present James is employed at the Billing Paper Mill in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, where he has been employed over a period of years.

Imogene Bakke Johnson is a graduate of the Climax High School. She took nurses training at the Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota. At present she is employed in the nursing office of the Crookston schools. Imogene married Laurence Johnson of Ada, Minnesota. They have three sons. Loren graduated from Crookston Central High School. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War. After his return, he attended Thief River Falls Vocational School. At present he is employed by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. He married Carol Bakken of Crookston. They have one son, Chad. Dan Johnson is a graduate of Crookston Central High School and Bemidji State University. He is presently employed with the Department of Natural Resources at St. Paul. Dan is married to Barbara Hamerlick of Thief River Falls, Minnesota. In Johnson is a graduate of Central High School in Crookston and is presently attending the Moorhead Vocational School.

Lawrence passed away in 1971.

BERTHA BERG

Beathe (Bertha) Berg was born March 12, 1881, at Hedemarken, Norway, to parents Anders and Karen Berg. They immigrated to the United States in May, 1886, with her parents and a two year old sister, Christine. They settled in the vicinity of Caledonia, North Dakota. She was employed as a housekeeper in several of the farm homes in Hubbard township. She was an active member of St. Petri Ladies' Aid. She was very adept at crocheting and making patchwork quilts. She passed away September 29, 1962, and is buried beside her parents in Salem Cemetery, situated in Bingham township, Traill county, North Dakota. One daughter, Blanche Myrtle, was born near Caledonia, North Dakota, May 21, 1905, and at the age of ten months moved to the Billings area with her mother. She attended the Nielsville schools. On February 3, 1925, she was united in marriage to Bennie Alfred Iverson at Crookston, Minnesota. He was born near Nielsville, Minnesota, December 10, 1893, and passed away at his farm home near Pinewood, Minnesota, January 30, 1969. They had three sons: Marilyn B., Robert A., and Delaino R. Marilyn and Delaino were both drowned in Big Buzzle Lake near Pine- wood, July 2, 1950. Bennie and two sons are buried at Oster- dalen Cemetery, Pinewood. Robert is an airline pilot and resides on a small ranch at Hilmar, California. Myrtle sold the farm and is residing in Bemidji, Minnesota at the present time.

ANTON BRAATEN

Anton Braaten, youngest son of Gunnar and Elisabet Ivers- braaten, was born in Valdres, Norway June 30, 1874. His wife Marit Nybraaten was also born in Valdres, September 28, 1872. Both were baptized and confirmed in the Bagn Church, Bagn, Valdres. They were married in the same church November 24, 1900.

Anton was a strong, hardworking man but cutting timber did not bring in much of an income in those days. They realized there would not be much of a future for them or their family living in Norway. It was a hard decision to make, leaving their beloved country and knowing they would never see it again. With their children, Gunder and Eliza they sailed to America, arriving in Nielsville, Minnesota March 4, 1904, on a cold windy day. They thought of their home nestled among the tall pine trees in the Valdres Valley, where they never felt the wind.

They settled on a farm four miles east of Nielsville, the present Norris Smith farm. That area was then known as the swamps, where prairie hay grew. Anton worked for John Eids- moe the first years; he had to repay his uncle, Lars Eidsbak- ken, the money he sent them for their fare to America. Then he bought a team of mares, both with colt. When they foaled one mare and both colts died. That was a big loss. By 1909 he had many acres seeded and the grain crops looked good. But when it was about harvest time the Fertile dam broke and the water came rushing west and completely destroyed the crops. Flocks of duck came to feed on the heads of grain sticking above the water. The flocks were so large it was like big dark clouds; a neighbor, John Skael, shot down 32 ducks with two shots.

There were many disappointments, but the Braatens' courage and faith in God helped them through many trying times. Mariit had brought her spinning wheel from Norway and during the long winter evenings Anton would card the wool and she would spin the yarn and knit socks, mittens and scarves; he also carded wool for quilts.

During the haying season farmers from along the Red River would camp in their yard, where they could water the horses. This was quite interesting as they would meet many more people. During the winters farmers hauled logs from the Red River for wood for their stoves, sawed it in chunks and split it.

In 1910 the Braatens moved two miles west to the Martin Simonson farm which they rented until 1918. Then they bought the Lars Rodseth farm, a quarter of land on the banks of the Sand Hill River. There they lived the rest of their lives.
They were active members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church where Anton served as trustee for many years. In the winter he would walk from place to place collecting money for the pastor’s wages. Mrs. Braaten passed away in 1948 and Mr. Braaten died in 1956. They are buried in the St. Petri Cemetery. They had six children: Gunder, Eliza, Inga, Oscar, Martin and Christopher. There are 18 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Gunder married Anna Rohrbach, and they live on their farm near Climax. They have two children, Donald who farms and Sharon Mahn at Lisbon, North Dakota and Eliza married to George Gunderson and lives on the Gunderson homestead east of Buxton, North Dakota. Eliza is now a widow but still lives there with her son, George Jr., who owns the farm. Other children are Miriam, Eileen, Corale and Richard. Inga married Ingeman Jevning. They have three children, Margaret, Karl and Orley who live in Hubbard Township.

Oscar married Marion Scott. They live on the Braaten home farm and have five children: Carol, Dorothy, Bonnie, Allan and Gary. Martin married Ila Asmundson. They live on their farm in Hubbard township and have two sons, Arlen, at home and Robert, who lives near Two Harbors and works for Reserve Mining. Christopher married Doris Sheridan and they live in Hubbard township and have one son, Christopher Jr., who lives in Anoka, Minnesota.

CHRIST BRAINTEN

Christ Braaten was born in 1912 to Mr. and Mrs. Anton Braaten of rural Nielsville, Minnesota. He has three brothers: Gunder of Climax; Oscar and Martin both of Nielsville; two sisters, Mrs. Eliza Gunderson of Buxton, North Dakota and Mrs. Ingeman (Inga) Jevning of Nielsville; all of whom are farmers.

In 1939 we were married. I was Doris Sheridan. My folks are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sheridan of Climax, then of rural Nielsville; I have four brothers: Charles (Bud) of Los Angeles, California; Glen of Murdock, Minnesota; Leslie of Monticello, Minnesota; and Donald of Shelly, Minnesota. I had two sisters, Mrs. Harold (Blanche) Einarson of Goodridge, Minnesota, who passed away in 1974, and Mrs. Harley (Bernet) Howland who lives in Moorhead. We are members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church at Nielsville.

In 1940 we borrowed $500 and bought our farm, then known as the old Viland farm. There was a good well, an old log barn, and a few trees then. We built a small two-room house and made our first barn out of straw bales. We had one cow, some pigs and chickens and a few turkeys.

As time went on, we replaced boxes with chairs and tables, our little one-burner oil stove for a beautiful white Quick Meal Wood range.

In December our son Chris Jr., was born prematurely and had to spend almost two months in the incubator. When we finally brought him home, the doctor said that we had to keep it very warm, about 80 degrees, for a few weeks. It was a very cold winter and one night our stove went out. We thought for sure our baby had frozen to death, but he was warm as toast in his little buggy. We put an oil burner in our stove then.

We were busy farming, raising chickens, had milk cows, and for a few years we had a herd of Herefords.

In 1948 we got electricity through R.E.A., and also a telephone. In 1952 we decided to build a bigger house. I designed it, and Chris built it with the help of relatives and friends.

Chris Jr. graduated from Climax High School and a two-year course in carpentry from the Vocational School at Thief River Falls. He married Helen Metzger of Fisher.

We have two granddaughters, Patricia Ann age ten, and Richard Paul age eight. They live at Anoka, Minnesota where Chris Jr. is employed by Gourmet Foods of St. Paul.

In 1970 I started painting and rosemaling, and have exhibited at many local art shows. In 1974, my sister Bernice Howland and I painted a mural 6 x 15 feet. It depicts the history of farming and we named it “Century of Progress”. It can be seen at the P.C.A office in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Through the years, we built up our farm and planted 5000 trees. We had a beautiful yard and big garden.

On August 31, 1975, a beautiful week-end, ended in disaster when a tornado destroyed our home. Our son and family had been home for the week-end but had left about 3 o’clock Sunday afternoon. Christ and I then got ready to visit my folks in Climax, so Christ and I headed home to see how much hail we’d had. As we turned east off highway 75, we could see where the tornado had gone. The further east we drove the worse the storm had been. High line poles were snapped off and wire was lying in big coils on the road.

Our neighbors, Lester Vigness and Vernon Larson, were both hit hard. High lines were down all over. Lester’s tractor, combine and a car had been picked up and thrown into a field. Our dear friends Mr. and Mrs. Oley Roningon had been killed. It was horrible! By now we knew our home had been destroyed. The buildings were all gone — the house lifted off the basement, the roof was gone and part of the ceiling. A big evergreen was in our basement and most of our trees were broken, twisted, and pulled up by the roots. Our machinery and steel bins also were broken and twisted. Wheat swatches were gone, scattered and mixed with glass, oil, mud, and all kinds of debris everywhere.

At this time, Christ and I are living in Oley Roningon’s house. Our future plans are indefinite.

OSCAR BRAINTEN

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Braaten are presently living on a farm in Hubbard township. Mr. Braaten was born in Hubbard township to Mr. and Mrs. Anton Braaten, who immigrated from Norway. Oscar has lived in the Nielsville area his entire life. Mrs. Braaten, nee Marion Scott, was born near Fertile, Minnesota, to Mr. and Mrs. William Scott.

There are five children in the Oscar Braaten family: Carol Braaten Sonstelie, who lives presently in Laurel, Maryland, and has four children, Carol and her husband Arvid have lived in many places including East Grand Forks, Minnesota, Quito, Ecuador, Lima, Peru, and Barstow, California. Carol is a licensed x-ray technician. Dorothy Braaten Meyer has lived in Hillsboro, North Dakota, since her marriage to Tim Meyer; Dorothy graduated from McConnel Air Line School in Minneapolis. Dorothy and Tim have four children and are engaged in farming near Hillsboro. Bonnie Braaten is a speech and English instructor in the Crosby-Ironton School System, Crosby, Minnesota. Bonnie graduated from Moorhead State College, Moorhead, Minnesota with a B.S. degree in English and speech-theatre. Allan Braaten has taken over the family farm and is active in community activities such as the Climax Jaycees. Gary, the youngest, attends the Climax High School. All the Oscar Braaten children were baptized and confirmed in the St. Petri Lutheran Church in Nielsville and graduated from the Climax High School, except Gary, who will soon follow in his older sisters’ and brother’s footsteps. The interests of the Braaten family are many: they range from music to horsemanship and hunting to drama; the Oscar Braaten family enjoy each other’s interests and learn from the various family hobbies.
As in most families, there have been many family stories over the years. We can now laugh about the snow storm in March of 1966, when after three days of being snowed in, we came out and were able to touch the high line wires leading into the house. Another family story is about Bonnie’s confirmation, when shortly after that Sunday the Braatens had to move out because of the Sand Hill River reaching “flood stage”. Several years later another flood caused problems. Now, after two floods, the family home sits on a man-made hill.

Families always have a tale to tell about the grandparents and we have a good one on our Grandpa Braaten (Anton). Grandpa Braaten’s good friend, Ole Brekke, was a dedicated fisherman and loved to have company when he went on his fishing trips to the Red River. Grandpa Braaten soon tired of his friend’s sport and the next time Ole came to go fishing, Grandpa commented to a member of his family, “I suppose I have to help that old man.” Both Ole and Grandpa were around eighty years old. Grandpa thought he didn’t have time to entertain someone, he was always so busy. The word “busy” has been passed down from Anton to Oscar and to the whole Braaten family. Now as we children live in various places, we are all busy, but never too busy to keep our family as close as the miles will let us.

SELMER K. BRATAGER

Selmer Kornelius Bratager was born December 15, 1897 in Hubbard township to parents Sven and Kari Bratager. He had five brothers and sisters, Birgit, Carl, Bertha, Carl and Bernt. He was united in marriage to Alvina Bergstrand by Reverend O. T. Ness in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Upon the death of his mother in 1926, they promised to live with and care for his father. In 1933, they rented the 48-acre farm from him and on April 28 Arlen Dale, three months old, joined the family. They bought seven acres from Carl Simon which adjoined their place on the east. In 1934 the home was lost through foreclosure but they continued to rent from the State and bought it in 1937. They had a rest home for the aged from 1940 to 1950. Many improvements had been made. A well had been drilled, the road opened the last half-mile through Simon’s pasture and the house was remodeled and modernized.

Selmer was afflicted with arthritis which began its crippling effects in 1926. In November 1936 a windstorm lifted the roof with a load of hay off the wagon, where it overturned throwing Selmer into the frozen ditch. His spine was badly injured. In 1949 he suffered a heart attack and Dr. Erickson advised him to go to Arizona. After a farm sale they left for Tucson in December, 1950. He worked at Tucson Medical Center and was janitor at the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers. The Bratagers were active members of the Lutheran Church. She as a member of A.L.C.W. He died September 28, 1963 and is buried at South Lawn Cemetery, Tucson. She worked for Hugh Aircraft Company, that developed and builds guided missiles, surveyors, and other space craft, for over 13 years, until she was retired. She worked on parts for the Falcon, Maverick. Walleye and others, also on Surveyor III, built for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, that landed on the moon, April 19, 1967. Two and one-half years later Apollo 12 astronauts Charles “Pete” Conrad and Alan Bean made their touch-down on the moon November 19, 1969. They were close enough so that they walked to the Surveyor on a crater slope in the moon’s Ocean of Storms and Alan Bean removed the T.V. Camera from the space craft and returned it to earth.

Arlen Bratager and Margaret Davis married January 19, 1954. They have one son Jeffrey Selmer, born December 2, 1963. He was crowned “Jr. Supreme Lord Jeffrey” in the King and Tucson Baby show in 1964, conducted by the Masonic Order of the True Kindred. He received a beautiful trophy. Arlen, Chip Brady, is a musician and works in entertainment and they live in South Dakota.

OLE BREKKE

Ole Brekke came to the Nielsville area from Telemark, Norway, in 1882 at the age of seven and one-half years. Ole commented on the beautiful “gaard” which was their home in Norway, remembering especially the cherry trees. He was the son of Saave and Gunhild Brekke. Other children were: Vetle, Signe, Elsie, Annie, Gina, Julius, and Hilda. They sailed for America in an old ship, and one day they collided with an iceberg. The crew, after being assured that all was well, kept on sailing. Ole lay down to see if there was any mark on the ship after the collision, and noticed a hole in the ship. He ran hol- lering, “There’s a hole in the ship.” Everybody became frightened, some praying. One woman got on her knees to pray and had a cow horn tied on her forehead. He never found out what denomination she belonged to. The crew moved the cargo to the other side of the ship and repaired the break. The ocean voyage lasted seven weeks. They sailed up the St. Lawrence River to Detroit, Michigan, arriving in May. From there they traveled by train, stage coach or wagon. Finally they arrived at Old Nielsville, where they settled on a farm located on the


bank of the coulee that runs into the Red River.

In the late 1890’s Ole homesteaded west of Grygla, Minnesota. In addition to farming, he operated a saw mill where neighbors brought their logs and had them made into lumber for their buildings. He was among those who helped promote and build the St. Petri Lutheran Church at Grygla, donating land for the building site.

Anne was the youngest of ten children born to Nels J. and Bertha Skalet, who were of the earliest pioneers who came to
the valley from Valdres, Norway. They first settled in Fillmore county but after hearing about the rich valley, they moved by wagon train to Nielsville in 1878. Bertha Skalet was widowed at an early age. Nels became ill with blood-poison, which caused his death. Bertha carried on the farming operation with the help of faithful farm hands, among them were Andreas Regedal, Claus Rodal, and Even Hildahl.

In 1916 Ole Brekke and Anna Skalet were married and have operated the Skalet farm since. They have two sons, Stanton and Gene, who are also farmers. Ole's hobbies were baseball, hunting and fishing. Being a very good baseball pitcher, he became well known in baseball and was hired to pitch for many teams throughout the Valley, including North Dakota and International Falls. Stanton was also a good pitcher and Gene enjoys hunting.

ROBERT W. BREKKE, SENIOR

Robert Brekke ("Bob"), the youngest son of William and Clara Brekke, was born January 1, 1921, at Nielsville. He attended the Northwest School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota. During World War II he served in the United States Marine Corps. In 1942, he married Opal Orvik, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Orvik of Nielsville. Robert has been actively engaged in managing and operating his farms in rural Nielsville and the farms belonging to other members of the family. For 22 years he served on the Village of Nielsville Council. He is vice-president of the Halstad Telephone Company. His keen interest in flying led him to obtain his license as a private pilot. He is a member of the Nielsville Flying Club and of American Legion Post 336 of which he has been the sergeant-at-arms for 25 years. Robert and Opal Brekke are members of St. Petri Lutheran Church, where he has served as deacon and as trustee.

Bob's interest in designing and constructing farm machinery materialized in the building of the Brekke Harvester. The six-row beet harvester, which was assembled in his farm shop, works efficiently and has proven its many advantages. He has other ideas and projected plans for improving farm equipment, but his busy farm schedule has not provided sufficient time for their development.

Bob and Opal Brekke have four children — Robert Jr., Vickie, Richard, and Stephanie. Vickie and Robert Jr. are graduates of Halstad High School. Vickie attended Weaver Air Lines School in Kansas City. She lives in Thief River Falls where her husband, Paul Durdahl, is employed as a hospital x-ray technician. They have one son, Justin Paul. Richard and Stephanie were graduated from Climax High School. Richard is engaged in stock raising. He married Cheryl Strand and has a daughter, Angela. Stephanie and Robert attended Thief River Area Vocational and Technical Institute. Stephanie lives at home and is employed in the business office of Riverview Hospital.

Robert Jr. ("Billy") is engaged in farming with his father. He is the present Mayor of Nielsville. While serving with the United States army in Germany he married Adelheid Klaudt of Untengruppenbach. They have one son, Shawn William — a fifth generation Brekke to live in Nielsville.

WILLIAM S. BREKKE

William S. Brekke was nine years old when he came to Polk County in 1882 from Norway with his parents, Saavi and Gunhild Brekke. They settled on a farm near old Nielsville located on the banks of the coulee that runs into the Red River. Saavi had a blacksmith shop in the village. He was considered an excellent blacksmith who could fix, repair and construct whatever tools and implements were needed by the early settlers to turn the rich black soil of the Red River Valley. It seemed that he was an orthopedist of sorts and was called upon to construct braces and casts for children having congenital defects or traumatic injuries. Gunhild had a gift for telling marvelous stories. It displeased her to have them called "skroner." The stories she told were the old Norwegian sagas.

William and Clara Brekke had six children — Viola, Eleanor, Cardiff, Spencer, Muriel and Robert. Viola and Eleanor are graduates of the University of Michigan. Viola obtained her M.D. degree from Wayne University College of Medicine and practiced the specialty of pathology for many years in Detroit. Eleanor was a teacher at Denby High School in Detroit. She married Arthur Hupp who was vice-president of the National Bank of Detroit. Arthur's uncle was Robert C. Hupp, the founder of the Hupp Motor Company. Eleanor died in 1975 in Boca Raton, Florida. Cardiff attended the Northwest School of Agriculture and was active in farming. Spencer, a graduate of the University of North Dakota, got his master's degree from the University of Southern California and taught in the Long Beach Schools. Since his retirement, he and his wife Elsie (Millington) have lived in Medford, Oregon. Muriel remained at home. Robert attended the University of Minnesota and served in the United States Marine Corps. Robert and his wife Opal (Orvik) live in the Nielsville area where he operates and manages his farm and those owned by members of the family.

Saavi and Gunhild Brekke were natives of Telemark in Norway where they had lived with Saavi's parents on the Brekke farm in Morgedal. A source relating to Saavi's origin states that he descended from Vetle Akslaksson Storashid, who was a bailiff in the 1580's and owner of the Brekke farm. The farm was passed on to his son Saavi and descendants. The names Saavi and Vetle were kept in that family for generations. When Gunhild and Saavi came to the United States, they had five children including William (Vetle), Ole, Else, Tone, and Signe. Their four other children were born later — Anne (Garst), Gina (Stromsmoe), Julius and Hilda (Odie). Saavi died in 1912 and Gunhild in 1915. They are buried in Sundet Cemetery.

William (W. S.) married Clara Hanson on February 3, 1904, in St. Petri Lutheran Church. She was the only daughter of Christian Hanson who lived on the farm one-fourth mile west of Nielsville. As a wedding gift, Christian gave Clara the grove.
the house which has remained the family home to this day. William purchased the land surrounding the grove from his father-in-law. He steadily acquired more farm land and became one of the early large scale potato growers in Polk County. For several years he was mayor of Nielsville and chairman of the local school board. His special interest was classical music. He had studied violin at the Northwest School of Music in Minneapolis and with leading violin teachers in the Twin Cities. He was a member of St. Petri Lutheran Church. William Brekke died in 1952 and is buried in Sunset Cemetery. Clara Brekke, aged ninety, lives in her family home at Nielsville.

LYNN BURD

Lynn was born in Pennsylvania and as a young man followed his two brothers, George and Charles, to Minnesota where he worked on the Hayes Brothers Farm. James and Sam Hayes came from the same area in Pennsylvania, so this made the Burd Brothers feel at home.

Work on the farm was done with horses, which required a lot of help. Because it was hard to get a housekeeper for so many, the Hayes offered to pay Lynn’s tuition if he would go to the A.C. in Fargo to learn cooking and then come back to be their housekeeper. But at that time, cooking wasn’t offered to men, so he decided to take buttermaking.

Upon graduation, he went to LaMoure, North Dakota, where he worked for a co-operative company until the manager bought a creamery at New Rockford and he moved there with him. This is where we met as I lived in an apartment across the street from the creamery.

When Mr. Krumpel, the creamery owner, passed away, Lynn decided buttermaking wasn’t that interesting and he wanted to work outside; so he and a young friend, Frank Grinnell, rented a farm thirteen miles from New Rockford in the spring of 1916.

I was born, Ethel Maude Nash, on a farm in Eddy County, North Dakota, and grew up there. Because of the long distance to school, we had school in the summer. Sometimes we drove a horse and cart, or walked three and a half miles if father needed “old Kelly” in the field.

Mother passed away when I was fifteen, then I went to stay with my aunt Cora Kinnaird in New Rockford during the school term and I spent summer vacation doing housework to earn money for clothes.

I took a teachers preparatory course and after passing the examination, taught in a country school near Carrington, North Dakota. Although I really liked teaching, Lynn wouldn’t take “No” for an answer so we were married the day after my school closed. Personally, I think he and Frank were tired of matching their horses.

We hauled our cream and eggs to New Rockford with horses. In the fall of 1918, we had a sale, Frank went to Illinois and we moved to Nielsville. Lynn and his brother, Charles, rented a part of the Hayes Farm, where we lived until the spring of 1927, when we moved to a farm by Buxton.

At that time, Nielsville was a busy little town; a new school building, two stores, hotel, confectionery, butcher shop, two garages, two cafes, a hardware store, lumber yard, blacksmith, gas station, harness shop, two elevators and potato houses, perhaps more that I can’t think of now. The post office was in the Bye Store. The stores kept open late Saturday nights and people gathered in town to visit and to get their Crookston Times when it came down on the evening train. Norwegian was still the main language spoken, so I didn’t go to town often — until later years when my family was older.

Very few tractors were used; except for threshing, when a group of farmers would go together helping one another. The grain at the Hayes Farm was elevated by having a horse walk in gears to pull the motor.

Our first son, Harry, was born in 1919, and when he was two weeks old, there was a big wind and hail storm which swept through the area, blowing down buildings and destroying the crops. Three more children, Norman, Evelyn and Jean were also born on this farm. Norman died of diphtheria when he was three years old. In 1927, we moved to Buxton where Mary and Norman were born. Harry and Evelyn had polio while there which hospitalized Evelyn and resulted in her wearing braces or casts for several years; later surgery helped her to live a normal life. We thank God for this.

We moved back to the Nielsville area in 1930 and Dorothy and Paul were born here. The children attended Aker, Stavanger, Sunnybrook, Nielsville and Climax Schools. We also boarded some of the school teachers. Two winters we had as many as twelve at our table which meant a lot of baking, churning butter and cooking.

Lynn enjoyed butchering and did a lot of extra work for the neighbors, which included a lot of visiting. Because of my ill health, he was a good nurse and housekeeper besides doing outside work. When I had pneumonia, the neighbor ladies came in and helped clean house.

Harry was a school bus driver for many years, also township constable. He was the only citizen who didn’t marry and have children.

The rest are married, and have families and grand-children. All are living in Minnesota or North Dakota with one exception, Dorothy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They were all confirmed in St. Petri Lutheran Church. Lynn and I joined St. Petri in 1953 where I am still a member and also of the ALCW. Lynn passed away in 1967 and Harry in 1973; after which I moved to Halstad where I live now and Paul and his wife, Marjorie, and their three sons; Timothy, Terry and Ricky live on the farm.

I have traveled in all directions, but I like the Red River Valley best. I love to see the snow even though I can’t be out in it.

PAUL BURD

Paul LeRoy Burd was born in Crookston, July, 1933, the youngest in the Lynn Burd family. His schooling started at Sunnybrook School, then to the Nielsville School and High School in Climax. After finishing high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and took Paratrooper training and went to typist school. In 1955, he moved to Minneapolis where he worked with various ceramic tile contractors in the Twin City area until moving to Nielsville and the home farm in 1968.

Marjorie Burd (Isaacson) was the first born to Olaf and Edna Isaacson who live on the north shore of Pelican Lake, twelve miles north of Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. My father is Norwegian and mother is of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. My early childhood found me helping my Dad with our sheep, sitting in the dark house fishing with him in the winter, bringing in fish from the fish nets on Pelican Lake, and in the summer we had the weighing-in station for June Grass strippers. My schooling started at Cormorant School in Cormorant Village and I attended there until eighth grade when we went to Pelican Rapids to school. I vividly remember especially the Christmas Programs, how much fun I had for weeks and learned many parts, and the school house was full of Moms and Dads. Also, how our school work and attention changed when the County Superintendent came to visit school. It’s great reminiscing about basket socials, Valentine Parties and playing Skip-to-my-Lou.

High school was such a change but it was my fortune to be able to participate in many extra-curricular activities because my Grandmother lived in Pelican Rapids and a good share of the year was spent staying with her. My interest tended to lean toward the music field, with lots of singing and accompanying groups throughout the years. The summer of my Junior Year, I worked as a dish washer at Fair Hills Resort to earn enough money to go on the Senior Trip the next year to Chicago. It was worth it, but I sure did a lot of dishes! After graduation, I enrolled in Interstate Business College in Fargo, North Dakota, and got a job as pianist for a dancing studio in Fargo to supplement my income during business college. My first job was for the A.S.C. Office in Fargo, this was at the time of Soil Bank Transactions so we were busy. In the fall of 1973, I transferred to the Agricultural Research Service in Minneapolis during which time I met Paul and we were married in 1958. We lived in Northeast Minneapolis and Fridley, and I worked at Honeywell at the time John Glenn made his historic orbit. Some of the engineers I worked with designed some parts for
this module so it was an exciting time in the office. In March, 1968, we moved to the farm here in Nielsville and guess city living didn’t take the “country out of either of us”. We have three sons: Timothy, Terry and Ricky and they attend Climax School. We farm in the summer and snowmobile in the winter. Terry’s interest is mainly horses and consequently we belong to the Halstad Saddle Club. For several years, I’ve been so lucky to be able to go to oil painting classes so in the winter months you might find me deeply engrossed in a picture, practicing my organ or knee-deep in various craft projects.

OTTO EIDSMOE

Otto Eidsmoe was born October 5, 1889 east of Nielsville. His parents were Amund Eidsmoe, born April 16, 1863 and Anna Hansebraaten, born April 12, 1865. Both were born in Valres, Norway. They came to the United States in their early twenties and were married after they got here. They homesteaded on a farm three and one-half miles south of Nielsville, where they raised seven children. Ingqvold married Gunda Rasmussen and they had two children, Adeline and Arnold. Otto married Lillias Johnson and had three children, Margaret, Shirley, and Orrin. Gustav married Elaine Bakke and had three girls, Georgie Ann, Kathleen, and Bonita. Inger Marie married George Larson. Henry married Helen Rasmussen and had three boys, Allen, Myron, and Wayne. Albert married Clara Howland and had three children, Arlene, Luverne, and Myles.

There was a great deal of hard work in those early years, breaking up the sod and getting it ready for planting and seeding. When the people visited the neighbors they walked, and went to town about once a week to get groceries and the mail. The Dekora Posten was a favorite paper for all to read. In the spring and fall there were always plenty of wild geese, ducks and prairie chickens out on the prairies. So much hunting was done and also trapping of fox and coyotes. Most of the children walked to school, which was over a two mile walk. In the cold winter the parents would come and get the children in bob sleds.

Church services were held in Norwegian at Nielsville. Otto entered the army and was wounded by shrapnel October 12, 1918. When he returned he farmed the home place for a while and then moved to a farm east of Shelly. He moved back to the Nielsville area and farmed until he retired and bought a house and moved into town. After a lingering illness, he died at the Fargo Veteran’s Hospital. He was survived by his wife, one son, two daughters, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was a member of the St. Petri Church and the American Legion.

JULIUS ENGELSTAD

Julius Engelstad was born December 16, 1857 near Nannes- tadt, Norway. Julius’ father was Jens Engelstad. Julius migrated to America in 1875, arriving at Ada, Minnesota and then going to Shelly to the home of his sister, Mrs. Hans (Jorgine) Paulson, where he stayed for a short while.

He married Maren Norby, who was born at Lanesboro, Minnesota, Fillmore County. She was the daughter of Christina Fredrica Ursin and Ole O. Norby. After their marriage they lived on the present Emil Hanson farm, where most of the children were born. They bought the Engelstad farm one mile northwest of Nielsville in the late 1880’s. Children born to them were: John, Carl, Eddie, Melvin and Annie Mathilde (Tillie). Mrs. Engelstad passed away when Tillie was a baby. Tillie was then raised by Mrs. Jacob (Martine) Danielson, who was a sister of Mrs. Engelstad. Julius and the boys remained on the homeplace tending the farm and doing the housework. Later, Bertha Berg became the housekeeper and remained for over 20 years.

Eddie attended Sather’s Business College at Crookston, where he also studied commercial law, graduating in 1908. In January, 1910, he became bookkeeper at the State Bank of Shelly. He held all positions in the bank becoming president, a position he held for 20 years. In 1960, he was awarded recognition of 50 years of banking service by the Minnesota Bankers’ Association. He retired in 1964. He married Selma Egeness on June 12, 1912. Three children were born to this union: Earl, Elizabeth and Katharine. Tillie married Herbert Myers, and lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa until she passed away. They had one daughter, Merle. Julius died August 20, 1936. Mr. and Mrs. Engelstad, Carl, John and Melvin are buried in the St. Petri Cemetery at Nielsville.

MR. AND MRS. GUSTAV GILBERTSON

Mr. Gustav Gilbertson was born in Iowa in 1870. His parents both passed away when he was a child and he was raised by the Breilands of Fargo, North Dakota. He homesteaded in Montana but returned to Minnesota and married Tomine Tolifson in 1895. Tomine Tolifson was born in Cresco, Iowa, January 22, 1873, the daughter of Ole and Gunvor Tolifson. Ole Tolifson was a Civil War Veteran and fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. Gustav and Tomine Gilbertson homesteaded east of Nielsville. Later they moved to a farm at Climax, where they farmed for many years.

In 1909, Gustav Gilbertson and Marcus Nelson purchased the flour mill on the Sand Hill River in Climax and operated it for four years when they sold it to Bestad. Gustav was a school bus driver for many years.

Gustav and Tomine Gilbertson had nine children: Mrs. Thomas Demers (Emma); Mrs. Archie Sundet (Clara); Mrs. Carl Kunkel (Gena); Mrs. Edwin Amundson (Alice); Mrs. Lawrence Kraker (Irma). Sons were Obert, Ernest, Lyman and Alvin.

The Gilbertsons moved back to a farm west of Nielsville, where Mrs. Gilbertson passed away in 1941 and Mr. Gilbertson in 1944.

ANDREW GULLINGSRUD

Andrew Gullingsrud, the youngest of nine children, was born September 5, 1871, in Ness, Hallingdal, Norway. His parents were Ole T. Gullingsrud and Kari Sanden. They came to America in 1880, sailing to Bremen and Bremenhaven, then on to America. They spent some time in Oxford, Wisconsin, later homesteading in Edinburg, North Dakota. Andrew worked out there from the time he was twelve years old until he grew up. He did all kinds of field work and often had to drive oxen, which wasn’t exactly pleasure. Later Andrew joined his parents at Gary, Minnesota, where they had moved from Edinburg. He learned the carpenter trade and it was while helping build Bjorn Lanager’s house that he met his future wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gullingsrud.

Julia Lanager was born July 29, 1873, in Spring Grove, Minnesota. She was the youngest of four children who came with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Bjorn Lanager to Gary Minnesota at the age of three years. Bjorn Lanager homesteaded at Gary. He also purchased a quarter of land from the railroad. He was a
leader in building the first church and school in the Strand
township. Julia learned the dressmaking and millinery trade at
Crockston.

Julia married Andrew Gullingsrud July 6, 1899 at the Strand
church, rural Gary. Friends and relatives came in 200 wagons
and buggies to attend the wedding. The Ada band played for
the reception at the Lanager farm.

Julia and Andrew continued to live on the Lanager farm for
a few years. Four of their six children were born here: Obert,
Carl, Russell, and Helen. Bernice and Rana were born at Goo-
ridge, Minnesota. The family moved to Goodridge, Penning-
ton County, in 1908, where they homesteaded. They traveled
from Gary to Thief River Falls by horses and wagon which
had a hayrack and a covered canvas. The stock were tied to the
barn. There was much work to do when they arrived there. After
they had built a house and a log barn, there was land to be cleared. Oxen
were used for the heavy
work. Andrew raised his cattle, horses, and pigs and Julia
raised chickens, turkeys, geese, and a few sheep. She
sheared the sheep, carded the wool, spun it into yarn, and
knitted wool socks, mittens, and scarves for her family. Made-over clothes
were the order of the day and Julia made good use of her
dress-making ability. In summer she and her children picked
wild strawberries, chokecherries, gooseberries, and pincherries
and made them into sauce, jams, and jellies. She was a great
gardener and had a green thumb with flowers. Her windows
always had blooming geraniums in them. She had a knowledge
of sickness and was often called to the sickbed of a neighbor.

They were affiliated with Telemarken church, which
Andrew helped build. He served on the town board and the
school board of district 68.

The Gullingsruds moved to Nielsville, Minnesota, Polk
County, in April, 1926, where they farmed until 1937. After
their retirement they purchased a home in Nielsville. Mr. Gull-
ingsrud died November 23, 1947. Mrs. Gullingsrud died April
10, 1951.

Obert was born May 23, 1900 and died March 2, 1950. He
never married.

Carl was born November 20, 1902. He married Mabel Palm
December 3, 1924. They now live in Winchester, California.

Russell was born August 3, 1905 and died February 3, 1931
at the age of 26. He was not married.

Helen was born April 22, 1908. She taught school until her
marriage to Jacob Sharpe at the Nielsville Church, June 14,
1936. They farmed the Sharpe farm until Jacob's death in
1959. Helen then returned to teaching and her son Robert took
over the farm. Helen remarried in 1971 to John Bakke of
Grand Forks, where they now reside.

Bernice was born July 5, 111. She taught kindergarten in
Los Angeles county until 1974. She married Ed Will of East
Grand Forks, June 21, 1934. Mr. Will was employed by Robi-
inson's of Van Nuys until his retirement. They now live at
Oxnard, California.

Rana was born August 1, 1914. She taught school in Polk
county for ten years. She married Albany Capistran June 18,
1941 at Crookston. They live on a farm eight miles east of
Crookston and together with their son Wayne and Albany's
brother Virgil farm about 1800 acres.

HELEN GULLINGSRUD

Helen Gullingsrud, daughter of Andrew and Julia Gullings-
rud, was born in Gary, Minnesota. She had three brothers,
Obert, Carl and Russell, and two sisters, Berniece and Rana.
Obert and Russell are not living.

Helen is a Moorhead State University graduate. She taught
school for five years in the rural districts until her marriage to
Jacob Sharpe, which was at the Nielsville Church, June 14,
1936. They farmed the Sharpe farm until Jacob's death in
1959. Helen then returned to teaching. She taught in Climax,
Halstad, and Chatfield schools.

Helen and Jacob had two children, Sonya and Robert. Rob-
ert was in the Air Force when his father died. He received an
honorable discharge to come home to take over the farm. He
married Maureen Mickelson at the Shelly Marsh River
Church, June 18, 1966. Robert and Maureen are the third
generation on the Sharpe Farm, which they now own and operate.
They have two sons, Shane and Kelly.

Sonya married Jerome Knapp at the Shelly Marsh River
Church June 19, 1960. Sonya is a St. Olaf graduate and is on
the teaching staff at Chatfield, Minnesota. Jerome is senior
high school principal at the same school. The Knapps have
three children, Lisa, Randall and Paul.

Helen remarried in 1971 to John Bakke of Grand Forks,
where they now live. Before retirement John was manager of
Ireland's Lumber Company. John had one daughter, Laurel.
Laurel is a UND graduate. She married Ted Ecklund August
12, 1965 at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Grand Forks. Ted
is director of the Holiday Inn in Denver, Colorado.

MR. AND MRS. OLE GULLINGSRUD

On May 1, 1880, Ole Gullingsrud, a Norwegian farmer, and
his wife Kari, and their two daughters Karen and Gunhild and
their three sons Eric, Olaf, and Andrew set sail for America.
Four older boys already were in the Land of Promise. Ole, the
oldest son, had come here three years before and Herbran
and Elling had been here two years. Thomas had been here only
about a year. The boys had worked and sent money back for
the rest of the family to come. The tickets were approximately
seventy dollars for adults and half that for children. Olaf and
Andrew came over for half fare, Andrew, the youngest, being
only eight years old.

The family traveled by rail from their home village, Ness
to Christiania (Oslo). There they boarded a steamer for Bremen,
Germany. This steamer, the King Bjorn, was quite new and
didn't seem to be entirely finished on the inside. They were
traveling on the German-American line. The trip across the
North Sea was a hard one. A bad storm overtook them and
most of the passengers became very seasick. Andrew was over-
come with seasickness while on deck and was carried down
to his cabin by a husky sailor. Before leaving the deck Andrew
noted a sailboat up on a high mast which was standing at a pre-
carious angle. They weathered the storm and docked at Bre-
men. While there the family was amused at the large size of
the German draft horses, being used to very small horses in Nor-
way. In Bremen they had six large horses hitched to the dray
wagons to haul the freight. The hand bags were put into carts
drawn by large dogs.

From Bremen they traveled by rail to Bremenhaven and
there boarded the steamship "Visor" which was an older
steamship. Now the family was really on their way to America!
They saw the white chalk cliffs of Dover, but did not dock at
any English ports. The journey was a hard one for the older
members of the family, all being seasick most of the way. A
death occurred on the voyage. A little girl died and was buried
at sea, an incident not soon forgotten by the family.

When they neared Newfoundland they saw a large whale
spouting water into the air. They also saw an iceberg which
was approximately thirty feet high.

There was an interpreter on the boat. This was very neces-
sary, since most of the passengers spoke a foreign language.
The Gullingsrud family could speak only Norwegian.

It was customary for each passenger to bring his own food; so the Gullingsrud family had brought a chestful of flatbread, cheese, prim, and dried beef. This they kept in their cabin.

Finally after about eight weeks the steamer docked at New York City. The immigrants were taken to Castle Gardens. This was a huge building which was all one room with great pillars throughout. The children were very tired so they went to sleep. All night long guards marched around the top railing of the building often calling to one another.

From New York City they went to Chicago by rail. They stayed over in Chicago. From there they went to Oxfordville, Wisconsin. There Ole and his family stayed with an acquaintance, Herrick Lee, for about a year. Then they got a farm of their own and farmed in the area two more years. Then they moved to Edinburgh, North Dakota and homesteaded. They lived there for five years. From there Mr. and Mrs. Gullingsrud moved to Gary, Minnesota. The rest of the family remained behind and worked for wages for a while. The older brother took over the homestead.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Gullingsrud in 1875 Hallingdal, Norway.

Ole accompanied his daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Torgerson (Karen), to Idaho where he met with an accident and died April 18, 1900. Kari lived on in Gary and died March 22, 1909 and was buried in the Strand Cemetery.

This story was written by Mrs. Albany Capistran, granddaughter of Ole and Kari Gullingsrud and daughter of Andrew Gullingsrud, Polk county resident for twenty-five years.

NELS HANSON

Nels S. Hanson was born March 18, 1877, in Vestre Gousdal Gudbrandsdal, Norway. He was the son of Simon and Bertha Hanson. The family arrived in Polk County in 1890, settling on a farm at Erskine, Minnesota. Nels came to Nielsville area where he was first employed at the Hayes Brothers farm. On January 18, 1908, he was united in marriage to Amanda Mathilda Ellington, daughter of Halvor and Anne Ellington. In 1909 he settled on Section 27, Hubbard Township where he established a farm of his own. They lived here the remainder of their lives. They had seven children: Agnes (Mrs. Ole Roningen); they had one son, Vernon, who is now living in Switzerland. Agnes died in 1975. Vernon had two children, Nels Oley and Jeanne.

Harry Hanson who married Hilma Holte on June 16, 1945, Hilma was born at Grjvla, Minnesota, to Pete and Hannah Holte. They have operated the home farm since their marriage, moving into Nielsville in 1963. They have two children, Richard and Marlene. Richard attended N.D.S.U. at Fargo and was a member of the National Guard for six years and is now engaged in farming. Marlene graduated from Minnesota School of Business (Junior Accounting) and lives in Minneapolis.

Norman Hanson married Myrtle Holte on January 6, 1946. She is daughter of Pete and Hannah Holte. They farmed at Nielsville for a number of years. Norman served in World War II. They are the parents of four children. Darrel, employed at Grand Forks, married Donna Wilt and they have two daughters, Kimberly and Lisa. Diane Ren married Don Auter. They have one daughter, Denise Lynn. They live in New York. Gary and Debra are living at home. Norman passed away January 10, 1976. Alfred Hanson married Bette Moore July 2, 1943. He is Postmaster at Nielsville and Bette works at the Polk County Library. Alfred served in World War II. Four children were born to them.

Sharon, married to Steven Seegmiller, graduated from Lutheran Deaconess Hospital at Minneapolis and spent two years working in the hospital at Chiayi, Taiwan. They are presently living in Stockton, California and have two children, Alan and Susan. Alan Morris was born August 9, 1946. He died July 2, 1967, from wounds received in action in Viet Nam. Renee graduated from Mankato State University and is employed in St. Paul.

David, born July 2, 1962, is a student living at home. Mabel Hanson married Donald Sparrow October 6, 1942. She is employed at Riverview Hospital. They live in Climax and have three sons. Donavan married Colleen Ellingrud. They have one son, Jeffrey David. Robert married Darlene Foley and have one son, Chad Erik. Bruce Joseph Sparrow is employed at Langdon, North Dakota.

Elmer Hanson spent a number of years at Coos Bay, Oregon, now living in Nielsville and employed there.

Daniel Hanson married Elizabeth Webskowski November 5, 1946, and is a merchant at Thief River Falls. Their children are Gerald, Michael and Sherry Ann all living at home.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN HANSON

Peder Paulson and Inga Skalset were married November 12, 1903, at Nielsville, both having come from a family of early pioneers. They were born one and a half miles apart. Peder was the son of Otto Paulson and Mina Aamold, both from Nannestad, Norway. Other children were Carl and Clara, Mrs. Matt Hanson. Otto Paulson, his parents and brothers, Ole, Hans, Johan, Martin and Christian, and a sister, Maria, first settled at Rushford, Minnesota, in 1873, and in 1877 moved to Nielsville where he homesteaded on the present Otto Hanson farm, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Mina Aamold came with her parents, the Lars Aamolds, at the age of ten to Rushford, Minnesota. When 20 years old, she came with her family to Fosston. As was customary in Norway, all property in the family was given to the eldest son, so the rest of the family came to America. Mina had four brothers, Anton, Mikkel, Hans and Louis.

Inga Skalset was the daughter of Nels J. Skalset and Berte Klubberud. Other children were Jonetta, Ivar, Clara, Nicholas, John N., Oscar, John, Nannie and Anna. They first came to Fillmore county in 1873. Congress had passed the Homestead Act. The Skalsets and several families came in a caravan by covered wagon and oxen and homesteaded on the present Anna Brekke farm at Nielsville, in 1878. When they first came, they spent the winter in a dugout, building a one-room house the next summer. Records show that the Skalset and Paulson families paid $8 for their quarter of land. This covered the legal fees; homestead certificates were signed by President Chester A. Arthur.
Hardships were prevalent in pioneer days. Inga Paulson related that when she was a young girl, the men hauled grain by horse and wagon to Halstad, which was as far as the railroad was built. Women folks and children were left at home to tend chores. They were ever fearful of Indians and constantly watched the tall prairie grass for any sign of Indian visitors. This era was in the horse and buggy days. Because of the slowness of travel and distances involved, social life consisted chiefly in visiting neighbors.

Mr. and Mrs. Peder Paulson settled on a farm adjoining Nels J. Skalset's farm and spent their entire married life there. They had four daughters: Mabel (Mrs. Edward Shanley); deceased, who lived at Milroy and had two children, Terrence and Sheereen, Belva (retired), and living at Nielsville; Inez (Mrs. John Hanson); and Junice (Mrs. Elmer Miska), who lives in Tabor township.

When the Model T became the mode of travel, life became more exciting. We never missed a Ringling Brothers Circus, and Fourth of July was the big event of the year with picnics, bands and ball games. If caught in a rainstorm, we often removed our shoes and stockings, walked home, and left the car stuck in the mud. Attending silent movies was fun, with a piano player furnishing music which didn't always coincide with the picture.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hanson were married in 1931 and farmed in Hubbard township. Now retired, they are still living on the farm. John was born in Amery, Wisconsin, later moving with his family to Grygla, Minnesota. They have three daughters: Idelle, Mrs. Donald Sandberg, graduate of University of Minnesota, who was a member of the University Chorus, and now teaches music in the Brainerd school system. They have three children: Jean, Paul and Lin; Lorraine, Mrs. Edgar Haugstad, graduated from Interstate Business College, and is now employed at Penny's in Fargo. Their children are: Richard, Jeffrey, Rebekkah and Jane. Both Idelle and Lorraine were organists at St. Petri Lutheran Church; Joan, Mrs. Lowell Vettel, who attended Concordia College, and is now living at East Grand Forks. Their children are: John, deceased, Denise, Mark and Anthony. John Hanson was town board supervisor for a number of years, and also served as trustee in St. Petri for many years; he was also a member of the school board. They are members of the St. Petri Church.

HAYES BROTHERS

The Hayes brothers, James C. and Samuel C., who were associated in business as partners and almost inseparable, were located in farming on what was later known as the Tom Lentes farm. They maintained separate homes on opposite sides of the main road leading through their land. They were some of the biggest and most successful farmers in the Red River Valley, farming several thousand acres of land. Their land was in sections 9 and 16, Hubbard township.

The brothers were born, reared, educated and married in Union county, Pennsylvania and began their business careers as lumbermen there. They were of Scotch ancestry and members of the Presbyterian Church. They also served in the United States Navy. When the lumber trade showed signs of exhaustion in Pennsylvania, they were induced by an editor friend at Pembina to come to the Red River Valley in 1878. They bought the land in Hubbard township at $7.50 an acre, with the usual rebate of $3 an acre for breaking and cultivating the land. In hard years they suffered from crop failures and other losses, and were unable to make the stipulated payments on their land. But they found the railroad company generous in its accommodations and had nothing but words of praise for James J. Hill and his policy in selling land and encouraging settlers. They found the Polk county banks liberal and were large borrowers from these institutions.

The specialty of the Hayes brothers was grain. Seven men were employed by the month during parts of the year and three throughout the year, while 20 were required during the threshing season. Besides a gas engine used for plowing and threshing, they also used forty horses in their work and numerous pieces of modern machinery.

James C. Hayes was married in 1884 to Miss Mary Glover. They had three children, who all died in childhood. Samuel was married in 1893 to Miss Ella Burn and they had no children.

IVER IVERSON

Bertha Marie Iverson, mother of Benhart and Iver Iverson, was born at Solar, Norway, May 20, 1896. Her husband, Iver Iverson, of whom we have no record, is buried at St. Petri Cemetery, Nielsville. She had lived in Southern, Minnesota: Belmont, North Dakota, and near Nielsville, before moving to Buzzle township in the spring of 1899 with her son, Benhart, and family. She passed away at her son's home, September 26, 1915, and is buried at Osterdalene Cemetery, Pinewood, the first body to be interred there. This cemetery is an acre plot of ground donated for this purpose by her son and family, Iver Iverson.

Benhart Iverson was born November 2, 1866, in Dakota county, Minnesota to Iver and Bertha Iverson. He married Edina Westgaard at Belmont, North Dakota. She was born at Osterdalene, Norway, December 29, 1863. They resided near Belmont, North Dakota and Nielsville, Minnesota a few years before moving to Buzzle township, Beltrami county, Minnesota in the spring of 1899, by covered wagon, accompanied by five of their children. He was a blacksmith engineer and saw mill operator. Edina was a midwife and assisted in homes during illness. Edina passed away October 13, 1928 and Benhart, July 14, 1929. Both are buried at Osterdalene Cemetery, Pinewood. Children born to them were Inge, Regina, Marie, Johannie, Bennie, George (died in infancy), Alma, Gena, Carl and Tena.

Iver Iverson was born in Renville county, Minnesota, February 4, 1869, to parents Iver and Bertha M. Iverson. Sophie Erickson was born December 29, 1870 in Hedemerkon, Norway. They were married in 1890 at Belmont, North Dakota. They lived on a farm southeast of Nielsville until the spring of 1900, when, accompanied by children Bennie, Ella and Irvin, they left by covered wagon for Buzzle township, Beltrami county, Minnesota and resided there until their deaths. Iver passed away August 4, 1932, and Sophie, September, 1947. Both are buried at Osterdalene Cemetery on ground donated by them for a church site and burial ground. Children born to them were Bennie, Ella, Irvin, Melvin, Edwin, Mabel, Ragna, Lucy, Bella and Albert. Ella (Oscar) Trones and Mabel (John) Knutson are residents of the Nielsville area.

INGEMAN JEVNING

Ingeman Jevning was born in Vineland township October 9, 1902, son of Karl and Karlotta Jevning; at a very early age he worked on different farms. On April 7, 1925, he was married to Inga Braatin from Nielsville. They have lived in that area except for two years when they lived in rural Buxton, North
Dakota. There he worked for Martin Nettun. They moved back to Neilsville in 1931 to the former McLain Brothers farm in Hubbard township and have lived there ever since.

In April 1975 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Both have been active members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church. Ingeman served as trustee for many years, also as deacon and treasurer of the A.L.C. He was a member on the school board of District 17. They have three children, Margaret, Karl and Orley, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Inga and Ingeman, together with their son Karl and his family, flew to Norway for a visit with relatives and for sightseeing in July, 1975.

The Ingeman Jeving Family: Standing, L. to R.: Karl, Margaret and Orly. Seated: Inga and Ingeman.

Margaret graduated from Climax High School, was a medical technician at St. John's Hospital in Fargo for two years, attended the University of Moscow, Idaho, enlisted in the WAVES and served two years in the Medical Corps at the Naval Hospital Bethesda, Maryland. In 1948 she married Raymond Hayes and they are now living in Miami, Florida. They have three sons, Randy, David, both married and are land surveyors in Ft. Myers, Florida; and John works in Miami.

Karl, a graduate of high school, served four years in the United States Air Force. 1951-55. He works for Reserve Mining Company, in Silver Bay and is a foreman in the pelletizing department. He married Frances Crumely from Tennessee, they have one son, Steven, a student of Bemidji State University.

Orley graduated from Climax High School and is a farmer. He rents 550 acres and is an active member of the St. Petri Lutheran Church, having held several offices, including president, vice president, secretary, trustee and memorial secretary; also A.L.C.M. offices several times. He is secretary-treasurer for the Nielsville Flying Club, and holds other community jobs. He lives at home.

**PETER JOHNSON**

Peter Johnson was born in Juteland, Denmark, October 9, 1861. Together with his parents, brothers and sisters, he immigrated to the United States in 1892. They settled in the St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin area, where he worked for some time. In 1893, he came to the Red River Valley and homesteaded on a quarter of land east and south of Nielsville, where his brother Sam was living. Sam died some time after that. Peter rented three quarters of land from his brother-in-law, H. K. Hanson of Stillwater, who had land out there. Emil Casper worked for him for one year and received $200.

Peter returned to St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin and married Sina Andersen. She was born near Juteland, Denmark, and had immigrated with her family to the St. Croix Falls area. They were married February 20, 1894 and came out to Nielsville to live. They came by train to Beltrami and the ride home was by lumber wagon, not a pleasant ride for a young bride who had been working in St. Paul. On April 11, 1898, Peter Johnson applied and was admitted to become a citizen of the United States. He was active in community affairs and served on the town board and school board for some years. The Johnsons got their mail at the Kalmer post office near Shelly and belonged to the Zion Lutheran Church.

Six children were born to them: Lillias, who married Otto Eidsmo, had three children; Shirley, Margarett, and Arrin. William, who married Clara Haugen, had one son, Robert. Mildred, who married William Hetland, had four children: Barbara, Wayne, Eldon and Janice. Palmer went to Pontiac, Michigan where he died suddenly January 1, 1942. Earl married Alice Oppereid and had four children: Bruce, Sonia, Brian and Brent. Earl died October 18, 1970 at Jacobsen, Minnesota. Evelyn married Alfred Hetland and had two children: Dennis, who has died, and JoAnn. Evelyn died June 28, 1967.

In 1900, after living in a small house, Peter and Sina Johnson were ready to move into a nice big house they had just completed building, when a big hail storm struck and broke all the windows and made big dents in siding and destroying the grain fields. In farming a section of land with horse machinery, it took a great many horses and a big horse barn. They had 20 nice horses. One year the horses got sick with what they called swamp fever and 10 or 12 horses died. They used binders to cut the grain and the grain had to be shocked; so men would come out from the cities to work through the harvest and threshing season. During the threshing season the farmers had to feed all the men. They were always well fed with coffee, cake, sandwiches, cookies or doughnuts for lunch, and for dinners there were a few kinds of meats, potatoes, lots of vegetables, bread and always pies. So the women really had a lot of work to do to feed all those men during harvest. The men received about $1 a day and $1.50 during threshing.

It was over two miles to walk to a one-room school. The teacher had to come early in the morning to get the stove started in the winter. School was about six months a year, with two weeks of Norwegian Parochial School. Foot heaters had to be used to keep the children's feet warm against the bitter cold. Gradually the farmers started buying tractors, swathers, and combines, so not so much help is needed to do the farm work. Times have changed very much since those early days in the Red River Valley.

Peter Johnson died at the age of 71 years and his wife Sina was 80 years old when she passed away.

**MR. AND MRS. BJORN LANAGER**

Bjorn Lanager and Ronoag Halvorson were married in Ness, Norway in 1862. Three children were born there: Elling, Halvor, and Jessie. They emigrated to America in 1872. The journey was a long hard one lasting eight weeks.

They came to Spring Grove, Minnesota in Houston county and it was there their youngest child Julia was born, July 29, 1873. They lived two years in the town of Spring Grove and one year on Ole Berg's farm. Then the family moved to Twin Valley, where Bjorn worked for Jens Aurdahl. He moved from there to Gary, Minnesota, where he homesteaded. Later he bought a quarter section of railroad land; this was in the town of Grove. At that time, as soon as the land was surveyed by the government, immigrants began to drift northward and settlers came from southern Minnesota in quest of free land. In the years 1879 and 1880 almost all the homestead sections were taken up. Only railroad land remained, which could be bought for $2.50 per acre and at some places for less.

The first town meeting in Town of Strand in the county of Polk, state of Minnesota, was held at the residence of Bjorn E. Lanager, on the thirteenth day of March, 1880. The meeting was called to order by Bjorn E. Lanager, Town Clerk.

A first school was held in the homes. Then a log schoolhouse was built which had homemade sloping desks, a homemade stand for the teacher, and a large box stove to keep it warm. There were up to 38 pupils in their school. Bjorn Lanager was a leader in building the first school and first church.

The Lanagers started out with two cows, one all brown, one all white, called Redling and another white and brown called Culta. Their first team was a pair of dark brown mares which Bjorn
paid $400 for. One mare raised eight colts. The Lanagers remained on the farm and prospered. When their youngest daughter, Julia, got married to Andrew Gullingsrud they lived with the Lanagers for a few years. When they moved away, Bjorn Lanager bought a house in town and lived there until Ronoag had a stroke and became an invalid. They then went to the home for the aged and lived out their lives in Glenwood, Minnesota where they are buried.

The Lanagers had four children. Elling, the oldest, was born June 3, 1863 and died March 15, 1956 in Plummer, Minnesota, where he had been in the hardware business 43 years. When Elling Lanager came to Plummer in 1904, there was no hardware store and very little others. The streets were rutted with deep mud holes and high tree stumps. The creamery was actively operating and on cream days farmers drove ox teams to town carrying their produce. He was married to Mary Torena Thompson, February 16, 1890. They had three daughters: Irene, Ida and Laura.

Bjorn Lanager’s second son, Halvor, was born in Halingdal, Norway on December 29, 1868 and died March 16, 1907. He traveled for the Avery Threshing Machine Co. and was killed near Larimore, North Dakota in a train wreck. They had lived ten years at Climax, Minnesota and at the time of his death, he and his family lived in Crookston, Minnesota. He was married to Regina Garden in 1899 and they had two daughters, Palma and Myrtle.

Jessie Lanager was born April 1, 1866 in Halingdal, Norway. She married Christ Espe in 1889. In 1901 they made their home in Shotley, Minnesota and lived out their lives there. She died April 19, 1955. They had six children: Ben, Ray, Art, Ovidia, Bertha, and Cora.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Bjorn Lanager, Gary, Minn. 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gullingsrud, Mr. and Mrs. Bjorn Lanager, Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Lanager, Mrs. Ole Gullingsrud, others unknown.

Julia Lanager was born July 29, 1873 in Springgrove, Minnesota. She went to Crookston and learned dressmaking and millinery. On July 6, 1899 she married Andrew Gullingsrud. They lived for a while in Gary and farmed. In 1908 they homesteaded at Goodridge, Minnesota. They lived there until 1926 when they moved to Nielsville where they farmed until they retired. They had six children: Obert, Russell, Carl, Helen, Berniece, and Rana.

Bjorn Lanager died in March 1921 and Ronoag died in August 1926.

CARL M. PAULSON

Carl Martin Paulson was born at Nielsville, Minnesota, in 1882. He was the son of Otto and Mina (Aamold) Paulson, who came to America in 1873 and 1879 from Oslo and Namnestad, Norway. He had one brother, Peter, and a sister, Clara (Mrs. Math Hanson).

Carl’s parents were members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church and were the first couple married there when the church was in old Nielsville. Carl’s mother, Mina, was widely known and well liked for her generosity and hospitality. Carl married Otilie (Tillie) Melsen of Erskine, Minnesota, in 1907. She was born in Northfield, Minnesota, and moved with her parents to Erskine. She came to Nielsville to work on the Hayes Bros. farms and at that time met Carl.

Carl and Tillie were in the hardware store business and restaurant business before settling down on a farm on the east outskirts of Nielsville.

They were parents of two children born to them: Myrtle (Mrs. Arthur Stenberg of Thief River Falls), and Clarence, who resides in Nielsville. They also took into their home a foster son, Garfield Arneson, when his parents died. Garfield lives in Grand Rapids with his wife, Ellen.

Carl and Tillie continued the hospitality of his mother and their home was always filled with relatives and friends who were warmly welcomed.

Tillie passed away in 1958 at age 79. Five years later in 1963, Carl died at the age of 80 years.

Their daughter Myrtle has three children namely: Beverly (Stenberg) Holm of Thief River, Joan (Stenberg) Salveson, whose husband is a pastor at Kindred, North Dakota, and Arthur Jr. Stenberg, a hardware dealer at Buffalo, Minnesota.

Their son Clarence has one child, a son, Dr. Paulson of Grand Forks.

Their foster son Garfield has three offspring: Shirley Arneson Holm, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Peggy (Arneson) Nyhre of Ellsworth, Wisconsin, and David Arneson at Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

CLARENCE AND PHYLLIS PAULSON

Clarence was born in Nielsville, the son of Carl M. and Tillie Paulson. He has a sister, Myrtle (Mrs. Arthur Stenberg) of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, and a foster brother, Garfield Arneson, of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. He attended the Nielsville public school and then went into farming with his father. He still continues to farm the family farms.

In 1939, Clarence was married to Phyllis Simon, the daughter of Alfred and Bessie Simon. They were married in a traditional church wedding at the St. Petri Church with Pastor Jacob Dordal officiating. Phyllis also attended the Nielsville school and went on to Pauls Academy in Minneapolis after graduation. She later worked at Stephen, Minnesota.

Throughout his youth Clarence was involved in sports, playing basketball on the high school team and also with the Independent village teams. He also played baseball with the Nielsville “Spuds” baseball team.

Phyllis with her sister, Lucille, did a lot of singing in the area in duets and also as a soloist at weddings, funerals and programs. Both Phyllis and Clarence belonged to the church choirs and cantatas and Clarence also sang with a men’s octette. At one time they were both members of the Northwest Singers Association at Crookston.

In 1943, a son, Michael Dana, was born to them. Michael attended school at Nielsville and graduated from Halstad High School. He received his bachelor of science degree from Moorhead State and majored in psychology and mathematics.
In 1965 he attended the University of California at Los Angeles Graduate School upon receiving a United States Public Health Fellowship. Receiving his master's degree he transferred to the University of North Dakota and enrolled in the doctoral program in clinical psychology, receiving his Ph.D. there in 1970. He served as a teaching assistant while attending graduate school and has continued on as a lecturer in psychology at the University of North Dakota since then. He also serves a four county area as staff psychologist with offices at the area Social Service Center in Grand Forks.

Michael served his internship at the Norfolk Hospital and Regional Center in Norfolk, Nebraska. He is unmarried.

MARTIN PAULSON

Martin Paulson Engelstad was born in Norway and came to Rushford in 1878. He came to Polk county in 1882 and decided to file a homestead claim on section 20-147-48 in Hub bard Township. He was issued a homestead certificate No. 1253, signed by President Chester A. Arthur on July 5, 1883, for the sum of $8. Land taxes for the 160 acres, in 1892 were $13.51.

Martin P. Engelstad, later known as Martin Paulson, was married to Caroline Johnson from Fillmore county. The children born to this union were: Mathilda, Julia, Clara, Hans, Melvin, Emil, Henry, Selmer and twin girls that died at birth when his wife also passed away. Martin's daughter, Julia married Olaus Jensen Engelstad on November 4, 1897.

On October 8, 1898, Olaus and Julia purchased the farm and personal property of Martin. Martin left for Pangman, Saskatchewan, Canada, where he changed his name to Hendrickson and married his second wife, Anna Bjorne of Fosston, Minnesota. From this union the following children were born: Alma, Mabel, Clara, Elmer, and Floyd. Martin passed away December 22, 1927 and is buried at Pangman.

Olaus and Julia Engelstad farmed the homestead until April 25, 1929, when Olaus passed away. His son, Oscar, who had been farming with his father, took over the estate. Other children in the family besides Oscar were: Mabel; Alice; Hilda; Harry and Ethel with two other children; Mabel and Ella, dying in infancy. Oscar married Edythe Ruthenberg on November 18, 1933. A son, DuWayne, and a daughter, Judith, were born to this union. Oscar purchased the farm from the estate August 14, 1942. DuWayne farms with his father and by buying and renting land has brought the farm up to 6,000 acres. DuWayne is the fourth generation to farm and live on the homestead, having built a new home on the land. DuWayne married Yvonne Einess on March 24, 1957. They have two adopted children: Darin and Kristi. In 1969, Judith and her husband, Bernard Semeling, joined the farming operation. They were married January 3, 1959 and have three daughters: Lynnette, Pamela and Beth.

JULIUS PAULSRUD

Peter Johannes Paulsrud was born in Tretten, Norway on May 22, 1865. Coming to the United States in the spring of 1882, he landed in New York and came directly to Ada, Minnesota. From Ada he worked his way across the country to the farm of Nels Paulsrud, a distant relative near Nielsville, Minnesota. He worked for Nels for two years, receiving $150.00 with board and room for the first year, and $25.00 with board and room for the second year.

Peter then went to North Dakota and worked as a farmhand in the Buxton Area for the next three years. He met Olena Gilleboe, a newcomer, who was born in Oyer, Norway. In the spring of 1887 Peter and Olena were married and returned to Minnesota to manage Nels' farm while the latter served as the first sheriff of Polk County. Nielsville, first located on the present site of the Bjornstad farm, was named after Nels. When the railroad came through in 1896, the town was moved to its present site.

Peter and Olena had one son, Julius, born at Nielsville on March 9, 1890. Julius received his early education at Nielsville and went on to the Agriculture College at Crookston, where he graduated with the second class from the college in 1910.

After graduation, Julius went to Williams County, North Dakota, where several of his relatives had taken up homesteads. He filed his own claim in 1911 near Wheelock. His widow still owns the land, which has recently been leased for gas and oil.

It was while out here that he met Cora Viker, who was born at Halstad, Minnesota on April 1, 1894 to Ole and Olena Viker, early pioneers of Norman county. Cora finished her early schooling at Halstad and graduated from St. Andrews School of Nursing in Minneapolis. She was working at the Wittenburg hospital in Williston when she met Julius. They were married on December 18, 1917 in Williston; later they came back to Nielsville for what was planned to be a visit with their families.
Edna married Clarence Sargent of Crookston. They have four children and live at Osakis, Minnesota.

Curtis and the former Luella Hemmng of Shelly have two sons.

The Paulsrud children were all baptized and confirmed at St. Petri's Lutheran Church in Nielsville and attended the confirmation reunion in July of 1975. Rev. O. H. Brodland, the first minister, confirmed Julius in 1904; Orris in 1934, and came back in 1954 and baptized Orris' daughter, Lynnette.

Cora and Julius worked hard and were active in community affairs. Perhaps the highlight of Julius' career was acting the part of the bride in "THE WOMANLESS WEDDING," a home talent play.

Julius passed away March 29, 1958 and is buried beside his parents in the St. Petri Cemetery. Cora is living in Nielsville and recently celebrated her eightieth birthday with all her family present!

BERTSEVND ROEN

Bersvend Roen was born in Atnedal, Norway, October 26, 1857. Dorthe Gustu was born in Norway, January 7, 1865. They were married in Norway October 29, 1887, and came to the United States in 1890. They lived in Rugby, North Dakota, and Nielsville before coming to Beltrami county in the spring of 1898, by covered wagon, accompanied by six of their children. While en route to their new home and during a sleet storm near Fosston, a daughter Ellen was born in the covered wagon. Mr. Roen died in Canada December 18, 1931, and is buried there. Mrs. Roen died at home near Pinewood, January 15, 1917, and is buried in Osterdalen Cemetery. Children born to them were Ole, Olga, Clara, Bennie, Charley, Anna, Ellen, Martha, Edvin, Helge, and Olaf. As of November 1975, Martha (Roen) Nielsen, Duluth, Minnesota is the only survivor. Ole Bakken was born in Norway, October 14, 1858; and Helena Bakken was also born in Norway, September 26, 1871. They were married at Hillsboro, North Dakota, in 1892. Accompanied by their three children, Hjalmer, Thora and Helga, they left their home in the Nielsville area by covered wagon for Buzzle Township, Beltrami county, in the spring of 1898. Ole passed away in June, 1904. Helena, after a few years of widowhood, married a neighbor, Halvor Tronnes, born in Norway, May 24, 1854. He arrived in the community from Minneapolis in the early 1900's. He passed away in June 1945, and Helena in 1950. Both are buried at Pinewood-Dodge Cemetery, Pinewood.

Children born to them were: Hannah, Ottena, Bella, Ragna and Alice.

ALFRED AND BESSIE SIMON

Alfred was the son of Paul Simon and Ingeborg (Amundson) Simon. He was born in 1881 at Nielsville on the farm now occupied by Raymond Bratager. He was the second oldest in a family of eight children. Alfred's parents were of the first settlers arriving in this area in 1871.

Alfred took a great deal of interest in music and was accomplished on the cornet, playing in several local bands and orchestras. One of his greatest thrills was being able to play in a mass band in Kansas City under the direction of the famous John Philip Sousa. Playing on local baseball teams also provided an outlet for his interest in that sport. As with so many others at that time, farming became his main occupation, although for a short time he tried the hardware business. His main crop was wheat but he also raised potatoes, flax, barley, oats, corn and livestock.

Alfred married Betsy (Bessie) Bramseth from Climax in about 1912, and four years later settled on a farm just a mile or two east of his parents' home.

Alfred and Bessie had two daughters, Phyllis (now Mrs. Clarence Paulson) of Nielsville and Lucille (Mrs. Harold Sydenstricker) of Los Angeles, California.

In 1927, the family moved to Tucson, Arizona and later to Colorado Springs, Colorado, because of Alfred's health. He died in Colorado in 1928 at age 47. Bessie and the two girls moved back to the farm in Nielsville, where she continued to farm until 1957. In spite of the Depression years she managed to send each of the girls to further schooling after high school. Phyllis attended Paul's Academy in Minneapolis and Lucille the teacher's training department in East Grand Forks.

Phyllis married Clarence Paulson at Nielsville in 1939 and makes her home there. They have a son, Dr. Michael Paulson of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Lucille left for California in 1942 to engage in national defense work and later worked at Security National Bank there. She met a young man from Missouri, Harold Sydenstricker. They were married and reside in Los Angeles, and own an auto parts store there. They have one daughter Lynne Ellen, now 23.

Both of Alfred and Bessie's daughters were musically inclined, having lived in a home where music was a daily activity. Both received instruction in piano, Lucille earning her teaching certificate in piano while Phyllis concentrated on vocal. The two girls sang duets for many years in the area having been started in piano and singing by a former Climax resident, Lillie (Nelson) Knutson.

When Bessie quit farming in 1957, she moved into Nielsville and later had a mobile home directly next door to her daughter, Phyllis. There she lived until becoming ill in 1971. She had been an unusually active woman until becoming ill, was vitally interested in her church and community and genuinely loved people. She passed away in 1973 at age 88.

PAUL AND INGEBORG SIMON

Paul Simon was born in Telemarken, Norway, and in 1861 came to the United States. His family went to Stoughton, Wisconsin and later to Houston County, Minnesota. According to reports his brother, Henry, who came to America in 1860, served in the Civil War. With his brother Henry, he went to Polk county in 1871, being among the first settlers there. They traveled by ox team a distance of 500 miles from southern Minnesota. At first they threw up an emergency shanty and in the fall built a log house, which served as home until 1892. They then built a very fine, large house, where the family of Carl Bratager now lives. The grasshoppers took Paul's first crop in 1872 in about two hours. Later he engaged in diversified farming and the raising of stock for which his farm was well suited.

Paul was married in 1878 to Ingebog Amundson. Ingebog was born in Minnesota in 1856. Mr. and Mrs. Simon had the following children: Anne, who became Mrs. Hilbert Howe, the
wife of a local schoolteacher and had two children; Clarence Howe and one who died at birth; Alfred, who married Bessie Bramseth and they had two daughters; Phyllis (Mrs. Clarence Paulson) and Lucille (Mrs. Harold Sydenstricker). Carl was single, Mary became Mrs. Adolph Lindahl and had the following children: Emery, Irvin, Allen, Irene (Mrs. Harper Jung) and Dolores (Mrs. Lloyd Norling). Palmer married Thea Romo and they had the following children: Carl, Berniece and Audrey (Mrs. Bill Letnes) Henry was single. Obert married Olga Bramseth and they had one child, Elaine (Mrs. Bob Gunlickson). Thomas was also single.

Paul Simon assisted in the organization of Vineland township; which included what is now Hubbard. Four or five years later it was divided. In 1874 he was elected county commissioner and served three years. He also was a candidate for county treasurer in 1880.

**PALMER SIMON**

Palmer Simon was born in Hubbard township on March 3, 1890, three and three-fourths miles northwest of Nielsville, Minnesota, on the family farm. His parents were Paul and Ingeborg Simon who were of the first settlers to come to this area in 1871. He had five brothers: Alfred, Carl, Henry, Obert, and Thomas, and two sisters, Annie (Mrs. Hilbert Howe) and Mary (Mrs. Adolph Lindahl). For a time after growing up, Palmer worked on the farm and later on was employed at one of the grocery stores in Nielsville. Some time later he went to work for his brother-in-law, Adolph Lindahl, in the hardware store in Climax.

In the year 1916, Palmer purchased a restaurant in Climax and on May 12, 1917, he married Thea Romo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Romo, who were also early settlers in the Climax vicinity. Thea and Palmer continued to operate their restaurant for about 25 years and raised a family of three daughters: Carol, Bernice, and Audrey. In about 1942, the family moved to the Seattle-Washington area, where Palmer was employed at Boeing Aircraft and where he continued for about seven years. Moving on to Bremerton, Washington, Palmer and Thea went into partnership with their daughter Carol in a hotel and beauty shop. He continued to manage the hotel up until his retirement in 1960. At that time the Simons built a new home in Bremerton, but in 1961 Palmer passed away.

Mrs. Simon continued to live in the home for about 15 years, when she sold it and bought a duplex with her daughter Bernice, in which they now live.

Bernice was married and has two sons, Paul and Steven.

Audrey married Bill Letness, originally from the Red River Valley area. They have four children: Jerry, David, Larry, and a daughter, Carol.

Palmer and Thea's oldest daughter Carol is married but has no children.

**SOREN C. SMITH**

Soren C. Smith, son of Peder and Maren Serena Jacobson Smith, was born April 17, 1889 near Nielsville, Minnesota. On December 23, 1920, he married Anna Amundson of Erskine, Minnesota. She was daughter of Iver and Syverina Amundson and was born March 31, 1899. They farmed four miles east of Nielsville in Hubbard township. This farm was purchased in 1945 from George Montrose of Sloan, Iowa. They resided on this farm until their death in 1956 and 1959. They and their children were all members of St. Petri Lutheran Church. They raised seven children, all presently residing in Minnesota. Sidney is married to Lillian Kjersten and they have three children, Lee, Sandy and Kellie. Norris married Marion Gunvaldsen. Their children are Stewart, Mark and Timothy. Dagmar married Arnold Larson and they have six children Anita, Vickie, Jeffrey, Rosalyn, James and Donald. Arlene is married to Rolland Hamre and their six children are Steven, Valerie, Nancy, Rory, Marcia and Marla. Shirley married Hubert Anderson. Their four daughters are Barbara, Bonnie, Becky and Brenda.

Curtis' wife is the former Bonnie Gilbertson and their three sons are Michael, Mitchell and Christopher. Rose Marie is married to Richard Backen. They have five children, Debra, Jeannie, Julie, Tammie and Danny.
MR. AND MRS. ELLING VILLAND

Elling Villand was born February 8, 1862, in Hal, Hallingdal, Norway. He married Guro Jarmsgaard, born September 22, 1859, at Hal, Hallingdal, Norway. After their marriage they immigrated to the United States where they homesteaded at Buxton, North Dakota. They sold their farm and moved to Reynolds, North Dakota. In 1900, they purchased a farm in Hubbard township where they lived until 1937, when they moved to Bottineau, North Dakota. Christ and Doris Braaten purchased their farm and still own it.

Borre Vigness 78 years old 1942. Last time he used his team of horses.

Elling and Guro had two daughters, Gena and Clara. Gena, who was born at Reynolds, North Dakota married Louis Vignes of Climax in 1922. Louis was a veteran of World War I. They have seven children: Ethel, Clarice, Gladys, Lloyd, Agnes, Bernice and Emery. Clara, who was born at Reynolds, North Dakota in 1895, married Leonard Stave of Lees, North Dakota, and they farmed there. They have four children: Goldie, Lyda, Sidney and Ernest. Clara is remembered with deep affection for the many times she helped the neighbors. She was truly an angel of mercy walking for miles to help where there was illness and when babies were born.

BORRE VIGNESS

Borre I. Olson Vigness was born October 25, 1863, in Norway. His parents, Ole Hanson Vigness and Bertha Olsdatter Vigness, were born, raised and married in Stavanger. Their family of five children were all born in Norway: Johannes, Berget, Olaus, Borre and Gabriel. Johannes died in Norway at the age of 26 years. While in Norway the family lived in the territory called "Viness" and therefore took the name Vigness. Borre, at the age of 22 years, came to America in 1886 with his sister Berget. Her husband Jacob Viness had already come to Norman County and settled on a farm. He worked two winters around Nielsville before he started to farm. In August, 1888, he bought a quarter section of land from the railroad company for $4 an acre, three miles east, a half-mile north from Nielsville, in Hubbard township. In 1888, Miss Bronla Skigelsstrand Pederson came from Stavanger with her brother, Ole Pederson. She left her parents, a sister Marie, and brother Berent, in Norway. That summer Borre and Bronla were united in marriage. They drove to his sister's home seven or eight miles south with oxen. Jacob and Berget drove the rest of the way to Ada, Minnesota with a team of horses; with them also were their attendants. They had three sons, Emil, Oscar and Peder, all born at rural Nielsville, baptized and confirmed in the Norwegian language at the St. Petri Lutheran Church in Nielsville.

Borre farmed with three oxen for six years before he bought a team of horses. Borre walked across the swamp to Crookston, which is 25 miles northeast by road, to pay his taxes. On one trip he lost the envelope which contained the $9 for his taxes. He walked many times to Beltrami (ten miles east) for a gallon of kerosene. Their main shopping was in Nielsville at the Bye Store to sell their eggs, cream and butter to buy groceries and clothes. A record book shows some prices from 1901 to 1904: boys' overshoes, $1, child's overshoes, 75c, shoes $1.75, boys' overalls 75c, shoe laces 5c, three pairs of suspenders 50c; butter sold for 12¢ to 15¢ a lb., eggs 9¢ to 12¢ a dozen.

On July 15, 1902, a tornado destroyed the barn and a new granary. The house was tipped over on the roof. The family was safe in the cellar. The house was put back on the cellar. Six years later a new house was built and is still in use.

Bronla died November 17, 1940, at 78 years of age. Borre died May 15, 1948, at 84 years of age. Olaus Vigness came to America after his brother Borre. He married Carena Olson. They had a little tract of land southwest of Climax. They had three children: Betsy, Clara and Louise. Carena died December 28, 1939, at 79 years of age. Olaus died June 2, 1941, at 81 years of age. Gabriel O. Vigness came to America with his parents and settled in Climax. He learned the meat cutting and butcher's trade. He worked in the Nielsville Butcher Shop sometime before moving to Thief River Falls. He married Tina Efteland of Shelly. They had five daughters; Bella, Gladys, Clara, Frances and Bernice. Gabriel died December 16, 1951, at 83 years of age. Tina died April 23, 1957, at 71 years of age.

PETER VINESS

Peder was born April 5, 1894, at the farm home of his parents in Hubbard township. He was baptized by Reverend J. Villevik. He attended the Prairie Queen School in district No. 23, two and one-half miles southwest of his home until 1905, when a little schoolhouse was moved into district No. 19, one mile east of home. In February, 1918, he was called into the army. World War I ended November 11, 1918, but Pvt. Viness was not discharged until January 14, 1919. He was a member of the Nielsville American Legion Post 336. In 1942, Peter and Margaret Richards of Moorhead were married by Reverend Hans Finstad. They had two children, Donna and Ervin. He lived all his life on the home farm, except for a couple of summers he worked out and the year in the Service.

The highlight of farming was at threshing time, when five or six neighbors got together. They always had time to rest and visit after dinner and at coffee time in the afternoon; quitting time was 7 o'clock. Threshing days were over in 1948, when the combine took over. Peter retired in 1959 and rented out his land until 1962 when Ervin took over the farming for the third generation. In October, 1971, Peter had a stroke and lost his speech. He was in the Ada hospital five weeks before he was transferred to Eventide Nursing Home in Moorhead on November 20. On March 12, 1973, he died of pneumonia at 78 years of age. His wife Margaret was a member of the Nielsville School Board for 14 years until district No. 685 joined the Climax Independent School District No. 592. She was a member of the St. Petri A.L.C.W. In November, 1971, she joined the American Legion Auxiliary; in November, 1973, she joined the Nielsville Garden Club and has been a Sunday School
teacher at St. Petri.

Donna May was born at Dr. Erickson Hospital in Halstad. She attended the Nielsville school, Halstad High School and took a six-month course at the Dakota Business College in Fargo, North Dakota before working at the P.C.A. Office in Moorhead and the North Dakota State University in Fargo until December 30, 1966. She was married August 20, 1966, to Clayton Grimley of Moorhead at St. Petri Church by Reverend Alex Stoffel of Moorhead. They now live at Glyndon, Minnesota, with their three children, Mary, Pamela and Sandra. Ervin Ray was born in Crookston. He attended the Nielsville school, Climax High School and has attended five quarters at the University of Minnesota Technical College in Crookston. He also plans to take the 1975 winter quarter at U.M.C. He started farming in 1972.

SIGURD WEGGE

Sigurd, born in Traill county, North Dakota, was the oldest son of Thermod and Marie Wegge. Other children were John, Leonard, Ovey, Thorwald, Edwin, Theresa (Mrs. Harry Silver), Ruth (Mrs. Henry Ranten), Olaf, and Roy.

Thermod immigrated to America in the 1890's and worked as a farm laborer until 1899, when he went back to Norway. Then he married Marie Johanneson and returned to America the following year. They homesteaded on a farm in Bingham township where they resided until their deaths.

Minnie was the daughter of Martin Rude and Tilda Tron-

nes. Besides Minnie, there were Myrtle (Mrs. Arne Paulsrud), Earl, Ervin, Marion (Mrs. Allen Caylor), Gilmer, Lillian (Mrs. Warren Benolken), Glenn, Ray, Doris (Mrs. George Anderson) and Lyleth (Mrs. Clayton Grosfield). The Rude family spent their entire lives around Nielsville with the exception of six years at Saco, Montana, where he was in the sheep shearing business.

Sigurd attended Fargo Barber School. Besides being a barber, he was engaged in carpentry. Sigurd and Minnie were married in 1933. After living in several places, they bought a farm in Hubbard township in 1943, which has been their home since. They raised a family of eight children.

Donavan moved home after his father's death to tend the farm, raising grain and livestock. In 1975, within a year, fire destroyed a barn in which three head of cattle perished, there was a spring flood, another flood in July which destroyed most of the crop, and a tornado in August which did only minor damage.

Sigurd Wegge Family.

SIGURD WEGGE

Sheldon is a plasterer at Renton, Washington and also raises livestock. Robert attended Barber School in California, but after long hair became fashionable, he had to seek other means of livelihood. He is now a city employee and also deals in Anway products.

Lavonna Mae, Mrs. Larry Caouette, Shelly, Minnesota, is employed at Halstad Drug Store. Larry works in construction. They have four daughters. Lyndon lives in Minneapolis and is employed at Pantell Pontiac Auto Parts. Judy, Mrs. Richard Blake, West Fargo, works at Northern Improvement. Richard is employed at Dakota Electric and they have two boys. Donna, Mrs. Dave Skusa, and her husband are caretakers of three apartment houses at Rochester, Minnesota. Rodney is employed by Farmer's Union, Beltrami, Minnesota.

Huntsville Township

Huntsville Township was formally organized at a meeting at the A. P. Sullivan home on March 19, 1878. Officers elected were: Arne Higdam, chairman; Arch McRae and Thomas Patterson, supervisors; Robert Anderson, clerk; James Sullivan, treasurer; James McRae, assessor; Joseph Robertson, justice of the peace; and Thomas McVety, constable. Town meetings were held in the homes in those early days. Meetings in the following homes are recorded: A. P. Sullivan, W. C. Nash, Robert Anderson, Arne Higdam, Leon Surprise, William Sproat, John Ryan. By 1882, the Mallory school was completed and they met there. In 1892, the town hall was purchased from Thomas Nisbet for $200.00 and meetings were held there until in the 1940's when the hall was sold to John Roberts for a dwelling place, and the township purchased the

Woodman Hall where meetings still are held.

Establishment of township roads was the big item of business in those early days. To help out on expenses for roads, a poll tax was standard to use. That tax meant each man in the township between the ages of 21 and 50 must donate one day's labor a year on road work or pay $1.50. Other means of revenue was $5.00 on each $100 worth of real and personal property owned. Work was paid for by the day back in those days with the usual wage being $2.00 until the 1920's when it became $3. In 1930, wages started to be set by the hour and the going wage was 25¢ for a man and 45¢ for a man and team. In the 1940's, we find wages at $7.00 for a man; $1.00 for a man and team; and $1.50 for man and tractor. Increases are seen from then on until in the 1970's we find $3 for a man; $8 for a man and tractor.

Peter Vigness Family.