

The Petersons are C400 members of Concordia College and the Valley Memorial Club of Grand Forks. Grace is a member in long standing of the American Lutheran Church at Fisher and their American Lutheran Church Women's group. She is

also a member of the Town and Country Garden Club of Fisher.

Mrs. Peterson states that she is especially thankful for the teachings of thrift and Christian purpose in life which they received from their forefathers.

Kertsonville Township

OTTO AND ALMA HOPPE

Our parents, Otto and Alma Hoppe, ventured to the wide open spaces of Northern Minnesota in 1918, first settling in Kertsonville Township and moving to Fairfax in 1936. Father felt the densely populated, rolling countryside of Southern Minnesota was too crowded for him and decided to go north. Grandmother thought that certainly her only daughter would be overtaken by the Indians.

Otto's parents and older brothers emigrated from Germany and settled in Southern Minnesota where grandfather farmed. Alma's father was born in Wisconsin later moving to Minnesota where he was a teacher and farmer. Her mother came to America at the age of six and in later years opened a Millinery Shop. She also gave piano lessons. Mother's maternal grandfather fought and died in the Civil War and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Father took an early active interest in organizing the Farm Bureau and in securing the first County Agent for Polk County. In 1921-22 he took a try at raising sugar beets. He also



Otto and Alma Hoppe Family.
Parents 50th Wedding Anniversary.

took an active role in the Red River Valley Winter Shows which we have tried to continue. In 1940 he won the Master Crop Grower Award which 30 years later was won by Herb and Laurence.

Members of the family include: Mrs. Alice Jurchen, Herb, Irma, Laurence and Ray all who reside in Fairfax, Mrs. R. M. (Edna) Dennistoun of Apple Valley, Minnesota, Vernon of Minneapolis and Millie of Fargo, North Dakota.

Keystone Township

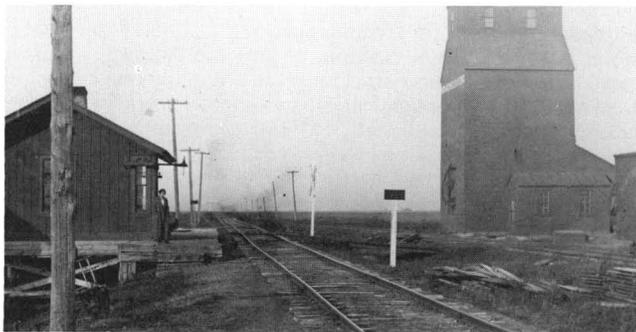
A meeting was held at the home of W. W. Graves to organize a township. W. W. Wood and H. Currie were appointed judges and C. B. Rockwood and W. G. Walker were appointed clerks of election. The voters approved of organizing a town. Keystone Township, 152 Range 48, Polk County, became a township on December 3, 1881. It got its name from the large Bonanza farms known as the Keystone Farms in the area.

Some of the early town board members who held office from 1881 to 1910 were: William Gunnis, Theodore Chalmers, David Geddes, Hugh McDonald, George Rutherford, George Horn, Charles Teal, C. Stuhr, B. Tiedman, and H. Osterloh. The more recent ones were: Lois Giese, who was supervisor from 1924 until 1947; James Love; Walter Pulkrabek; Theo. Pulkrabek; Geo. Ovsak; Wm. Stengl; and Orville Dahlin. Dan McDonald was assessor from 1923 to 1958. R. O. Larson was assessor from 1958 to 1975. The present town board members are: Dale Giese; James Pulkrabek; Richard Bubendorf; Jacob Kotrba; and Mrs. Orville Dahlin. At first they held their town meetings in the school house of District 98. In 1899, one acre of land for thirty dwellers was bought from the School District 98. This acre of land is in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section of 22, where our present Town Hall now stands. The Town Hall was built in 1899 by August Kelly, a building contractor, for \$356. This also included a paint job inside and out, and a coat of oil on the floor. In 1924 the Kluzak brothers made repairs on the Hall and built a foot bridge across the ditch in front of the hall. They were paid seventy-five cents an hour for their work. It is very interesting to read in the old township book about some of the laws that were enforced. If you were a non-resident of the township, you were not allowed to hunt prairie chickens on Sunday. They quarantined for diseases, such as typhoid fever, diphtheria, and smallpox.

There was a road tax on all real estate and personal property to the amount of one-half cent on a dollar. In 1904 they raised it to five mills. They also had a poll tax of \$1.50 or two days

work for every able-bodied man between the age of twenty-one and fifty. Town board members received two dollars a day for their meetings. They often counted votes until two a.m. Now we count all the votes at our annual town meetings in fifteen minutes and at general elections for about one hour.

The first culverts or bridges were all made of lumber. In 1901 they changed to sewer pipe which was not to be more than twenty inches in size. In 1903, County Surveyor Ralph Letter suggested steel culverts and they were bought from Clinton and Bridge Iron Works. They were to be eighteen feet long. James McDonald put in thirty-three culverts and received \$9.99 for each culvert. In 1914, the road labor for one man and four horses was \$7 per day. These prices were raised to \$10 a day in 1924. For dragging roads it was seventy-five cents a round mile. The present town board meets about six times a year not including elections. We belong to the Polk County Township Association. We keep our roads maintained



Depot and elevators at Key West, Mr. in the '20s.