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.

Kertonville 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 Kertonville 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 paternal 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 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) Denniston 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 Goddard, 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. Osvak; Wm. Steng; 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 Kotra; and Mrs. Orville Dahlin. At first they held their town meetings in the school house on 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 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.

Deport and elevators at Key West, Mr. in the '20s.
in summer and snow plowed in the winter. We have each farmer mow the roadsides adjacent to their land and they are paid for doing this work. According to the last census, we have a population of 122 people.

**ORVILLE AND MARJORIE CARIVEAU DAHLIN**

My parental grandparents, Joseph and Josephine Cariveau, were of French descent. My grandfather came from Bayfield, Canada, and my grandmother from Port Huron, Michigan. After their marriage, they lived in Duluth and then came to a farm thirteen miles northeast of Crookston and lived there until 1886. Then they moved to the Minnesota Point (known as Frog's Point) and lived there for the remainder of their lives.

My father, Joseph Cariveau, Jr., was born in Caseville, Michigan, and my mother, Alletta Hutchins, was born in Brows County, Nebraska. They were married in East Grand Forks in 1906. They lived in Grand Forks until 1912. My dad worked for the Ralph Lynch Coal and Ice Company. In 1913, they moved to Pembina, North Dakota, where they raised cattle, sheep and small grain. In 1929, they moved back to East Grand Forks where the present Lagoon is now. In 1937, they moved into East Grand Forks and lived there until their death.

I was born in Pembina, North Dakota, and attended rural schools. I was graduated from the Sacred Heart High School in East Grand Forks and attended Normal Teacher's Training in East Grand Forks. I taught school in Polk County rural schools for fifteen years. In 1950, I married the late Orville Dahlin at East Grand Forks. We moved to Keystone Township, Euclid. Our first home was a trailer house and home-made. It was 8 x 30 feet and not too big, but comfortable. In November, we moved to the homestead farm which was owned by his father, the late Carl Dahlin.

My husband, Orville, was born at Radium, Minnesota, and came to Polk County when a small boy. His father came from Sweden and his mother, Dorothy Greenly came from Norway. My husband was engaged in farming and the construction business with his brother, Arthur Dahlin, and known as Dahlin Brothers. They are farming Section 22, 23 and 26 in Keystone Township. These Sections of land are the original farmstead of the Keystone Farms that was originally owned by the Lockhart and Harbough Farming Company from Pennsylvania. On Section 23 still stands a granary and one lonely tree. There are also many small wells. We farm small grains, wheat, barley, beans and sugar beets. We also do snow-plowing and blading for five townships and do conservation ditching for farmers. My husband, Orville, passed away October 3, 1974, and our two sons, Keith and Dennis are now engaged in farming and the construction work with their uncle, Arthur Dahlin. Keith and Dennis are both graduates of the Fisher High School, and took courses in Vocational schools at Moorhead and East Grand Forks. Keith married the former Diane Stroot of Euclid on June 1, 1974, and they live in a mobile home on the Kluzak farm. Dennis is living at home. We are members of the St. Mary's Catholic Church at Euclid.

I am presently secretary of the St. Mary's Altar Society and a charter member of 22 years of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 539 at Euclid: I am a member of the Keywest Home-makers Club and the Plant and Green Club of East Grand Forks and presently serving as Clerk of the Keystone Township Board.

**THEODORE AND LOIS PULKRAKEK**

I, Theodore Pulkrahek, son of Edward Pulkrahek, grandson of Anton, great-grandson of John, and great-great-grandson of Vaclav Pulkrahek was born April 16, 1915, near Tabor, Minnesota. I was graduated from the East Grand Forks High School and the University of North Dakota. I taught Industrial Arts and Science at Maynard and Red Lake Falls. I also taught Propeller Specialist Mechanics at Chantute Falls, Rantoul, Illinois, and a Veteran On The Farm Training program at the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston.

I began farming in Keystone Township near East Grand Forks in 1948. I raise small grains and sugar beets. Because of a mild attack of polio in 1924, my wife and I spend the winters in Arizona. I don't like the cold winters here, but love the warm sunshine and dry air in Arizona. I work as an inhalation therapy technician at Parkview Hospital at Yuma, Arizona, in the winter.

I was married to Lois Ann Berniece Howes on June 21, 1936, at Hampden, North Dakota. My wife, Lois, was a graduate of the Aisen High School and Aakers Business College of Grand Forks. She is on the Advisory Board of the Good Samaritan Nursing Center. We are both members of the Elk's Lodge of Grand Forks and the Presbyterian Church in East Grand Forks. We have four children: Erral Jay, who is married and has three children and lives at Sequim, Washington; Gayle Renee, married Rodney Stordahl of East Grand Forks and lives on a farm. They have four children; Denise Faye, married Curt Horning, and is presently teaching at the Sacred Heart High School; Bradley Ray, married Melanie Price and living on the home farm in a mobile Home and is co-owner of the farm.

My father's ancestors were born and lived in Czechoslovakia. My grandfather Anton came to America in 1865 and settled at Racine, Wisconsin. In 1866 he moved to McLeod county near Glencoe, Minnesota. My grandmother Anna Kohoulek was also from Czechoslovakia. My father, Edward Pulkrahek, born at Glencoe, Minnesota, married Josie Nemic of Glencoe at Crookston on February 22, 1898. My parents told me they lived in a one-room home and had apple boxes for chairs. Once when mother sat on Dad's lap, the combination of their weight caused the box to break and they had only one chair until they got the next box of apples. My dad and his brother Amil were chopping wood and Dad tried to remove some nails from the chopping block, when the ax came down and chopped off three fingers on his left hand. He also received a severe bruise on his face from a windlass that was being used to dig a well. This left a permanent scar.

My wife, Lois's great-grandfather Thomas, and grandmother Phoebe Harrington were born in England and he was a boiler maker. Her grandmother was a Lady in Waiting to Queen Victoria. They came to America in the early 1830's and lived in New York State, later moving to Iowa. Her grandfather, Edward Howes, was born in Iowa and he owned land at Hampden, North Dakota. He was a baseball player and because of his very strong voice, he was a great square dance caller. He spent a lot of time buying and selling horses. Her father, Martin Howes, was born in Iowa in 1888. He moved to North Dakota in 1900 and in 1911, he and his two brothers went to Montana, but came back in 1919. He married Clara Johnson at Langdon, North Dakota, in 1911. He died on November 19, 1942. Lois's mother resides at Long Prairie, Minnesota.
Liberty Township History

Liberty Township reveals the attitude of the pioneers who named it. The name remains as a reminder of this feeling of gratitude and faith in the new country exhibited strikingly in this way by the township organizers. In 1878 there were only six settlers in the town of Liberty. They were Patrick Conney and sons, Tim and John. P. H. Connery, Mike Connery and John Scott. In 1879, the Hayer Brothers, Rufus Mayo, Albert Boddy, Albert Middleton, Tom Dinsmore, Miles and William Henry Standish, K. S. Green and Even Eneberg settled in Liberty. The Hayer Brothers came from Pennsylvania, the Standish brothers from New York state, Green and Eneberg from Rice County, Minnesota.

In the early days of the century Liberty Township had four school districts: No. 66 Golden Beam; No. 91 Golden Star; No. 109 Sunnybrook, and No. 67 Sunny Brook. Today the Sand Hill River wanders through Liberty Township. The land is mostly in large farms. Records at the Polk County Courthouse in Crookston show Liberty Township was organized September 13, 1880. The first meeting was held at the home of Jacob Stambaugh, Miles Standish and Samuel Hayes. Clerks for the election were Patrick H. Connery and Isla Johnson. There is no record of the officers elected at that meeting.

The first birth on record was of a boy, Edan, born March 11, 1900, to Peder H. and Mary A. Tallerud. Eight births were listed that year.

Present township officials are: Carl Todahl, Robert Berhow and Norman Nolte, Supervisors; Roland Gulkekson, clerk; Marvin Scott, treasurer.

NELS CLEMENTSON

The late Nels Clementson, a farmer in Liberty township, was a pioneer of Polk county, having become a resident about 1887. He was born in Goodhue County, Minnesota, June 30, 1859. His farm is located in section 15, Liberty township, five and a half miles northeast of the village of Fertile. He purchased a hundred acres, which cost him $3.00 an acre. More land joining this 160 acres was purchased later. His land then consisted of 580 acres.

Mr. Clementson’s first dwelling on his farm was a one-room shack fourteen feet by sixteen feet. He owned four horses, a wagon, a plow and some other farm implements. Mr. Clementson married in 1896 to Miss Joran Landsverk, a native of Norway. To this union seven children were born.

In 1903 Nels built a fine modern house. In 1908, he built a large T-shaped barn, stabling all his livestock. Mr. Clementson had the satisfaction of knowing that all he had, he had acquired by his own persistent hard work, his careful thrift and his good judgment in the management of his affairs.

His interest was not only his farm. He was a stock holder in the Co-operative Creamery of Fertile, and helped organize the Farmers Elevator Company in 1894, which he served as president for eight years.

When he saw that the hour was ripe for this enterprise, Nels helped to organize the Farmers State Bank of Fertile and of this he became president and held that position until his death in 1928. The farm of the Clementsons, which consists of 500 acres, belongs to the heirs. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Clementson are as follows: Norman Clementson, deceased; Josie Clementson, deceased; Mrs. Stanley Simpson (Millie), teacher, retired, Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Clarence Olson (Mabel), teacher, retired, Enderlin, North Dakota; Nellie Clementson, teacher, retired, Fertile, Minnesota; Willie Clementson, farmer, retired, Fertile, Minnesota. Nellie and Willie are still living on the farm. The fields are rented out to Clayton Engelstad. The Clementson family belong to the Lutheran church.

CHRISTOPHER AND CAROLINE ENGELSTAD

Christopher and Caroline Engelstad immigrated to America from Norway in 1870. With them were their sons Christ and Martin and a daughter Mary, who became Mrs. Olavus Ring.

Those were the days of the sailing vessels, so they spent six long weeks across the Atlantic. Beside the usual huge emigrant chest for clothing and perishable food was another trunk which is still in the family. It shows the painstaking effort of the workmen of that day. It is all hand crafted with a rounded cover, reinforced with heavy iron straps and iron handles on each end of the trunk. The lock is hand made with a very large key. The year is printed on it together with the initials of the builder. It is as sturdy as the day it was built, almost 200 years ago, by some distant ancestor.

The family came to the Fertile area and settled in Woodside township on the farm now owned by Ingram Severson near Rodnes church.

The following children were born there: Hilda (Mrs. Bernt Johnson), Dora (Mrs. Martin Walters), Emma (Mrs. Charles Patterson), Oscar, Hannah (Mrs. Lewis Hanson), Charlotte, Alfred, Millie, Alma (Mrs. Lewis Gardener) now of Chicago. She is the only living member of that generation of Engelstads at this time (1975).

Martin and Dora (Mrs. Martin Walters) were the only two who remained in Polk County until their deaths and many of their descendants still make their homes in Polk County. Christopher and Caroline Engelstad are buried in Maple Lake cemetery east of Fertile.

Martin Engelstad immigrated to America with his parents, Christopher and Caroline Engelstad, when he was four years old. He grew up in Woodside township and married Marie Nesseth, formerly of Ellsworth, Wisconsin. They lived in the village of Fertile for a while, where Martin and his brother Christ owned a small hotel and livery stable. This hotel building was later moved east of the village and used for a “pest house”, which was a place to isolate people who had contagious diseases, such as smallpox, diphtheria, etc., which were common before immunization was known or practiced.

Later Martin farmed in Russia township near Beltrami for several years. Their family consisted of: three children who died in infancy; Mabel (Mrs. Herman Holen), Clarence, Hazel, who died at the age of 16 during the influenza epidemic of 1918; Ella (Mrs. Page Blum), Eldou, who became an anesthetic and died at the age of 47, and Geneva (Mrs. Kenneth Olson).

During the years they lived in Russia township, the times were hard and the money was scarce, so butter and meat were taken to Crookston and “peddled” around to the saw mill workers living in Carmen Addition. Surprisingly, Crookston then had a saw mill, sawing the logs that were floated down the Red Lake River from the woods to the east.

After a few years of farming, Swamp fever killed many