ily is active in many of the church activities and organizations. Clayton is presently treasurer of Little Norway as well as of the parish. The youngsters are active in Fertile 4-H club, Luther League, FFA, Ski Club, boys wrestling, girls volleyball and cheerleading, band and choir, as well as the Fertile Saddle Club.

John Scott Family. Girls: Etta and Grace, Margaret and Ella. Rudy with Mary and John.

JOHN SCOTT

John Scott was one of the first six settlers of Liberty township. He emigrated from Scotland. He and his wife, Mary Connery, first lived in Grant county, just four miles North of Elbow Lake, Minnesota. In 1878, the John Scott-family homesteaded his farm six miles west of Fertile along the south banks of the Sand Hill River. Their children then were Ella, Rutherford (Rudy) and Etta. The twins, Grace and Margaret, were born later. This was truly one of the pioneer families of the Fertile-Beltrami area. It was the time when they were frequently visited by Indians who walked right in and took the food right off the table. Overcoming all hardships of pioneer life, including floods and droughts, John developed his place to be one of the outstanding farms of the community. He had dairy cattle and grew record crops of grain.

One Scott or another of the family has always owned this farm. After John’s death in 1907, his son Rudy kept the farm going until 1947, when he retired and moved to Salem, Oregon. Rudy died in 1951. The farm was then taken over by his son, Marvin. To keep it in the family, Marvin’s son Michael now owns the Scott Homestead which has been in the Scott name for 97 years.

OLE O. SORTE AND SON, PEDER O. MOEN

Ole Olsen Sorte was born in Norway, July 19, 1807. He was a carpenter and kept on with this occupation until his marriage to Jonetta, John’s daughter Eideem, in 1839. They bought a place called Lillemoen, from which they got their name. In the spring of 1865, he sold this place and immigrated to America. There had been an agent in Norway who talked people into leaving Norway to work in the copper mines in Michigan near Superior.

Ole Lillemoen or Moen had twelve children, of whom one, named Sara, was married to Haagen Larson Sorte Plods, stayed in Norway until her death and left no family. Ole with his wife and eleven children and a neighbor named Oluf Reppe, seven, who later married one of his daughters, left for America.

There were fourteen members that crossed the Atlantic Ocean. They came to their journey’s end in August, 1865. They went to the town of Hancock, Michigan where the copper mines were. There were woods all around a small log cabin for them to live in. They could choose to work in copper mines or cut wood, which Ole Moen did.

After some time, their youngest child, three year old Haftor, died. Later Ole sustained a broken arm when a tree fell. The family got very discouraged with life in America, and spoke to a worker, Bjorn Geving, who had his father in Iowa. They decided to get someone who could speak English and help them to Iowa. Hans Smeydi did help them move to Lansing, Iowa and later to Point Creek, Iowa. It had been ten months since they arrived. Ole’s wife passed away, as well as their newborn child; all are buried in Hancock, Michigan. The younger children stayed with some of the older ones. Peder stayed with his father. After working for some years at whatever work he could get in Iowa, Ole bought sixty acres of land and married a widow who passed away after eight years.

Peder O. Moen stayed there until he was united in marriage to Caroline Haugrud on December 4, 1880. She also had immigrated from Norway at eighteen years of age and worked for German families in Iowa.

After one and a half years there, they decided to move to Minnesota, as Peder had a brother at Fertile, Minnesota named Ole Johan Moen.

Peder and Caroline and infant daughter, Julia, born February 1882, travelled by riverboat up the Mississippi River with belongings, which consisted of a covered wagon, two yoke of oxen and some cows. After landing in St. Paul, they traveled by covered wagon to Fertile, Minnesota. They lived in a small log cabin that belonged to Ludwig Hammer (this is the farm home of Ivan Wilkenson in Liberty Township). Their five month old daughter passed away in June of 1882.

Peder got a homestead by Melvin Station (in Onstad Township; this was located southwest of the John Van Raden farm). The 150 acres was light and sandy soil, which made it difficult for them to grow crops.

Ole Moen came by train to Fertile and helped his son, Peder, build a sod house which was their home for seven years. They also built a sod shelter for the livestock. Their three oldest sons were born here: John Oscar Moen, born 1883, passed away January 1975; Melvin A. Moen, born May 8, 1886, died January 1957; Oberling Moen, born September 2, 1888, passed away August 1963. Ole Moen had made his home with them for nine years, passing away November 9, 1889. He is buried at Varnes Cemetery.

The Moens then built a lumber house. Clara P. Moen was born March 22, 1893 and still lives near Fertile. The family moved to Liberty Township and resided there the rest of their lives. Two daughters and a son were born in Liberty Township: Anna R. Moen, born July 29, 1895, passed away October 1920; Hulda H. Moen, born November 28, 1898, lives in Fertile; Otto Moen, born March 13, 1904, passed away in February 1974.

Peder Moen bought 120 acres west of Varnes Church about one-half mile west. This became their home until their death. He was the first farmer to cultivate this acreage; he used oxen and walking plow, and later used horses to farm with, as well as for transportation. Peder passed away in January 1939, at 81 years. His wife Caroline lived until 83 years of age and passed away in January, 1944.

Their family lived more or less in the Fertile-Melvin area all their lives.

Lowell Township

Lowell Township was originally a part of the town of Crookston which was organized March 28, 1876 and at that time consisted of an area now divided into four townships. At a special meeting of the Polk County commissioners held April 4, 1877 a petition of legal voters residing in the present township limits to have Township 150 Range 47 detached from the town
of Crookston and organized as a separate town to be known as Richland was granted. The first town meeting under this reorganization was ordered to be held at the B. Sampson home April 21, 1877. Less than one year later, on March 19, 1878 the township name was officially changed from Richland to Lowell.

WALTER BEISWENGER

Walter and Harriet Beiswenger were married on June 4, 1938 and have lived on the Beiswenger Farm in Section 17, Lowell Township, Polk County, until August 1973, when Walter retired from farming and moved to Crookston. Their son, Roger, third generation, is now living on and farming the home farm.

Walter’s father, William Beiswenger, was native of Esslingen, Germany. He came over from Germany with a loan of $50 from a brother-in-law. He was very lonesome in America and wished to return to Germany. He had vowed that as soon as he earned enough to pay back his loan and saved enough for return passage, he was going back to his homeland. As time went on, he began to enjoy life in America and never did return to Germany. He had a brother and sister who remained in Germany. They never married so there are no family relatives in Germany.

William Beiswenger had a brother, Carl, who lived and farmed at Thief River Falls. A sister, Mrs. H. P. Wieland lived at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Pauline Radi of Racine, Wisconsin was the wife of William Beiswenger. He was an excellent farmer and was especially proud of his fine horses. He was one of the first farmers to grow sugar beets in the Red River Valley. Other crops grown on the farm were corn, potatoes, wheat, barley and oats. All early farmers raised hogs, chickens and had a dairy herd.

Walter’s family consisted of Lydia (Mrs. August Ross), Henry, William, Meta, Albert and Emma, all of whom are deceased. Living are his brother Emil, who lives and has farmed in Fisher Township; Walter’s sister, Anna; Mrs. Palmer Kjensrud lives at Hillsboro, North Dakota. Walter had attended the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. This was a very popular school for the farm boys. Harriet’s father, Alfred Christianson, was born in Lowell Township. His father, Ole Christianson, homesteaded this farm. Harriet’s mother was a native of Thisted, Denmark and came to Minnesota as a young girl working as a seamstress. They were married in Denmark and lived on the farm. Alfred passed away in 1930 and Harriet’s mother later married Wilhelm Johnson and moved to Crookston. Harriet’s family consisted of Randolph Christianson, a farmer in Lowell Township; Wallace Christianson, an engineer with General Motors at La Grange, Illinois and Rev. Lyle Christianson, a Methodist minister at Roseville, Minnesota. Harriet was a rural school teacher and taught for four years in District 82 in Lowell Township and one year at District 246 in Andover Township. Since that time these districts have closed and joined Fisher and Crookston districts.

Walter and Harriet were active in community affairs while on the farm. Walter was a member of the Fisher school board, clerk of Lowell Township for over 20 years and a member of the North Lowell Farm Bureau Unit. Harriet was active in Fisher Parent-Teacher Association, Music Boosters, and in Homemaker’s Club and women’s group of West Polk Farm Bureau.

Their family consists of five children: a daughter, Arleen Boyd, who is a physical education director and teacher at Inver Grove Heights Junior College. She has a son and daughter, Elaine Witt, who lives at Eden Prairie, Minnesota. She has a son and daughter. Both are graduates of Bemidji State College and spent four years in the United States Air Force, having been stationed in Hawaii. He is married to the former Carol Hegge of the Climax area. They are the parents of two daughters. Allan graduated from the University of Minnesota as an aeronautical engineer, served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia, Africa. At the present time he is completing his third year as a law student at the University of Minnesota. James has attended the University of North Dakota and at the present time is a member of the musical group “Mainstream,” which is playing in Canada. All the five children have a great admiration and respect for the pioneering influence their grandfather and father had in establishing a productive farm. In the past forty years many changes have taken place in methods of farming. The biggest advances have been made in machinery, fertilizers, and chemicals. We will expect many more changes in the next forty years.

WILFRED A. BOUCHER

Wilfred’s father, Jules Boucher, was born in 1849, and Denise Farley Boucher was born in 1846 and moved northeast of Huot State Park about 1885 from three Rivers, Province of Quebec, Canada. They lived there about one year, then moved west of Crookston on section 31 in Lowell Township. Eighteen children were born; fifteen survived (now all deceased). Jules died in 1926 at the age of 77 and Denise died in 1935 at the age of 89. Wilfred was born on this farm on May 2, 1886 and lived there until 1946. Mrs. Wilfred Boucher’s parents Delphis Riopelle, born 1860, and Eugenie Beaudoin, born 1851, came from L’Assomption, Quebec, Canada.

Seven children were born to Delphis and Eugenie: Parmelia A. Riopelle was born September 24, 1894 in Crookston Township, where she lived until her marriage to Wilfred Boucher. Delphis Riopelle died October 17, 1902, at the age of 42 and Eugenie died July 9, 1935, at the age of 84. Parmelia attended grade school at the Northwest Experiment Station, now the University of Minnesota Technical College. She was a member of the first eighth grade class to graduate at this School. Her son, Robert, graduated from this school in 1941, then the Northwest School of Agriculture and her grandson Tim Boucher, is now attending college there.

Rosaire and Alyce Boucher purchased the farm homestead in 1938 and raised their five children on this farm and are still residing there.

Wilfred and Parmelia were united in marriage July 23, 1912, at St. Anne’s Church in Crookston. They made their home in Lowell township where Wilfred was born and raised and continued to live until 1946 when they moved to 503 North Main in Crookston.

Donald and Irene moved to the farm in 1946. Donald and Valarian purchased the homestead. Donald passed away in July, 1975 and Irene still lives on the farm and will continue to farm this land with the help of her son-in-law, Jack Soltis. Valarian and family also have their home on the homestead and farm in partnership with Irene.

The Bouchers have been farming this homestead for 89 years. Wilfred and Parmelia, better known as Molly, had eight children. Roland died at the age of 1½ years; Rosaire and Wilfred died at birth; Donald died in July of 1975; Robert, Lorraine, Yvonne and Valarian. They have all been life-long residents of Crookston except Yvonne, who lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The Bouchers also took care of two nieces and one nephew after their parents died. There was never a dull moment on the Boucher farm.

Wilfred was a diversified farmer and a dairy farmer. He had
Wilfred A. Boucher Family 1941: Back row: Lorraine, Rosaire, Robert, Donald and Yvonne. Front row: Wilfred, Valerian and Mrs. Wilfred Boucher.

the Burnham Creek Dairy and delivered milk to many Crookston customers, hotels and stores until 1941. He then sold milk in bulk to the Bridgeman Creamery. In 1925 he started to raise sugar beets and continued until his retirement in 1946. Although he retired, he spent many happy hours helping his sons. Even at the age of 80 he was always picking weeds. They were life-long members of St. Anne’s Church. Wilfred served on the school board for 25 years. He was a third and fourth degree Knight of Columbus and a member of the Holy Name Society. Molly was a charter member of South Lowell Homemakers and a member of St. Anne’s Sodality and Foresters. They enjoyed playing cards with their many friends, children and grandchildren. They had 23 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren at the time of their death.

On June 23, 1962, they celebrated their 50th Anniversary and renewed their wedding vows in the same church in which they were married.

A family picnic was held in their honor on their 55th Anniversary in July, 1967. Wilfred passed away July 27, 1969, at the age of 83, and Molly on October 9, 1969, at the age of 75.

MR. AND MRS. ALBANY (BEN) CAPISTRAN

Albany (Ben) Capistran and Annie Conneran were married at old St. Mary’s Church in Crookston, Minnesota on April 27, 1908 by the Reverend Father John Smier.

Ben Capistran was born January 8, 1874 in Sorel, Quebec, Canada. He came to the Crookston area in 1883 at the age of nine years. His parents bought a farm four miles west of Crookston on the north side of the Red Lake River. He lived there with his parents until his marriage.

Annie Conneran was born July 4, 1882 to Mr. and Mrs. John Conneran at Fisher, Minnesota. She lived in this area all her life, attending school in Fisher and Sather’s Business College in Crookston. Her parents had come to the Fisher area in 1879 and homesteaded. Like so many early settlers, they lived in a log cabin at first.

Mr. and Mrs. Capistran lived on a farm in Section 13, Lowell Township at first. Three children were born there. Later they bought a farm in Section 22 and lived out their lives on this farm. Two more children were born there.

Mr. Capistran carried on diversified farming. His main crops were wheat, barley, oats, speltz, potatoes, corn, and sugar beets and many years up to five acres of navy beans. His great interest lay in fine horses and he worked constantly to raise better horses, both draft and racing breeds. He owned registered Percheron stallions which eventually resulted in better horses on many farms in the area. His stallions were also used by the North West School of Agriculture for breeding stock. He worked to breed up a better Chester White pig and his stock was used for breeding purposes in the area. They raised cattle, chickens, and geese and like most of the farmers then, had a large garden.

Their children are: Ella, who was born February 16, 1909. She married Francis Derouin and they made their home in California and had five children.

Albany was born February 28, 1911. He married Rana Gulingrud of Nielsville, Minnesota and farmed all his life. They have three children. Alice was born April 2, 1913. She married Rosaire Boucher; they farmed all their lives and have five children. Aurora was born August 22, 1919 and married Laurence Derouin. They made their home in California and had three children. Virgil was born August 20, 1922 and farmed all his life.

Mr. Albany (Ben) Capistran with registered stallion, Bolter Grant 1928.

Ben Capistran died December 8, 1936 and Annie Capistran died November 23, 1949. They are buried in Calvary Cemetery in Crookston, Minnesota.

ONISEME CAPISTRAN, SR.

Mr. Onisene Capistran, Sr. was born in Sorel, Quebec, Canada April 18, 1837. When he was a young man he was a captain of a vessel on the St. Lawrence River in Canada, an occupation his father had followed also. He was captain on the boat from 1853 to 1857. In 1857 he married Philomine Paul and settled down to farm near Sorel, Quebec. They had ten children all of whom came with them to Crookston in 1883 with the exception of their oldest daughter, Exilda, who was married to D. Demerais. Mr. Capistran and his family came to the Red River Valley in 1883 at the same time many other French settlers came from Quebec. They settled on a farm four miles west of Crookston on the north side of the Red Lake River. Mr. Capistran had purchased his farm from a land agent who wasn’t honest, so he ended up paying for his farm a second time in order to keep it. This happened to other settlers in those days.

The Capistrans made a living by selling cordwood in town for fuel. They also contracted with S. W. Vance to furnish cordwood for the kilns in the brick factory in the 1880’s. During the “drying time” the kilns were run twenty-four hours a day.
day and could consume up to eight cords of wood in that time. After the trees had been cut the stumps had to be grubbed out by hand to clear the land. They raised mostly wheat on their cleared land. They also kept beef cattle and raised big gardens. Mr. Capistran and his sons loved horses. They raised both draft horses, harness and race horses. One of their recreational pastimes was racing their horses.

Their ten children were: Exilda, Alcide, Octavine, Parmelia, Arthur, Zotoique, Oniseme Jr., Albany, Joseph, and Leodore. Of these Albany, Joseph, and Leodore each bought farms near Crookston, raised their families, and lived out their lives on these farms.

The Capistrans were members of St. Anne’s Catholic Church. Oniseme Capistran died January 7, 1913 at 76 years of age. His wife, Philomene, died October 15, 1908. They are both buried in Calvary Cemetery in Crookston, Minnesota.

CHRISTIANSON

Grandfather — Ole Christianson — was born 1852 in Sjælland, Denmark. He left Denmark as a young man with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Hansen. It was the custom in those days that the child’s surname be after their father’s first name — thus, the Ole Christianson. When Ole was seventeen, the family settled in Ottertail County, but Ole lived in St. Paul for a time and acquired some knowledge of the English language. In the fall of 1870, he went to his father’s farm in Ottertail County and was there until spring of 1875, at which time his brother-in-law, Hans C. Johnson, convinced him to take a homestead in Lowell Township. He took a yoke of oxen and two or three cows to stock his farm, and made this homestead of 80 acres, located in NE ¼ of Section 32, where he built his first log house. This later became School District 28’s first school house. Ole Christianson was married to Anne Nelson, a Norwegian girl, on the 27th of April, 1879 in this first house he had built.

Later Ole sold this homestead to N. E. Pedersen and he moved his family nearer to the woods and river. This farm house was to be the farm home for the next four generations and is at the present time the Randolph Christianson home. Among Ole’s neighbors were three sisters, Mrs. Hans Johnson (Marne), Mrs. Tyge Thygeson (Trena), and Mrs. N. E. Pedersen (Johanna), and a brother, A. P. Hanson. They also had relatives in Ottertail County. Ole C. died in 1907 and his wife shortly after, and the children all worked together to keep the farm intact.

My father, Alfred Christianson, was born in 1883 on the farm home, son of Ole and Anna Christianson, one of five children — namely, Carl, Alfred, Christena, Lorena, and Alice. After the death of Ole, Carl and Alfred started farming on their own and they divided the farm land, Alfred staying on the original farmstead and Carl building a new homestead on his adjoining land, where Harry, Carl’s son, now lives and farms.

In 1914, Alfred sold a team of horses for $400 to pay for a trip to Denmark, to bring back his wife, Marie Kristensen. He had met Marie in Crookston, when she was here working as a seamstress and staying with her sister, Mrs. John Frost. Through a correspondence courtship they decided to marry. Back to the farm, Section 29, Lowell Township they came and rented the land from the rest of the family till about 1915. Then Alfred paid $78 per acre for the farm, which was a high price at that time, but he felt it was worth it to hold on to these acres of land he loved so much. Alfred died in 1930, before the farm was paid for, and so his wife, Marie, and the children worked hard to hold the family and farm home together. It was during the Depression years and things were extremely difficult. In 1940, Marie married Wilhelm Johnson and later moved into Crookston, renting out the farm to tenants, as the one son who was interested in farming had to leave for service in World War II.

Lunch time at Sawmill at Alfred Christianson farm 1920. One of small boys is Randolph Christianson.
This brings to date the “happenings” on this farm, Section 29 of Lowell Township, from 1875, when it was first homesteaded, to the present time, 1975 — one hundred years and four generations!

During my lifetime, I have been involved in farming with horses for field work and steam engine powered threshing and silo filling. Then gasoline powered tractors for field work and threshing progressed to Diesel power for field work, and combines for grain harvest. It has been a very interesting period of change.

As a young boy I looked forward to the threshing getting under way before school started in September. My dad would let me miss school for a few days so I could be along for the start of all of the excitement of threshing. Some of the things they would let a young boy do were to drive a team of horses to haul water for steam, and to haul straw for fuel for the steam engine. I guess one of the greatest thrills was when the engineer would let me arouse the country side with a few shrill blasts from the steam whistle. After threshing was finished my dad and uncle were kept busy with the steam engine powered fee-grinding mill and the saw mill.

There was no cafe, of course, so any man who happened to be around at dinner time or “coffee time” was fed by my mother; I guess that was the way the pioneer women always did, and they were a great lot.

I am thankful that I was able to live through these years of so much change, and it will be of interest to know what the next period of time will bring. But that is not for us — that is for the next generation to discover.

**RIENTS AND MARIE EPEMA**

It was the advertisements of the R. E. Workman Land Agency that first attracted the Epema family to the Red River Valley in 1919. Rients and Marie (Woudstra) Epema emigrated from Holland to the United States in February of 1910 with two small children, Sam, two, and Flora, one. They boarded the vessel “Baltic” destined for Ireton, Iowa. After spending two years in Iowa and seven years in Platte, South Dakota as a farmer and part time carpenter, Dad purchased a 440 acre farm in Lowell Township (three and a half miles northwest of Crookston) at $100 per acre.

The family, including five more children, Seitze, Agnes, Ann, Gerty and Bertha, arrived in Crookston in December, 1919 only to find their farm still occupied by the former tenant. The family membered in the upstairs portion of the house until the following spring. Three more children were added to the family during the next six years, Jessie, Ted, and Tillie. Tillie Epema was Polk county’s 1926 New Year’s Baby and awarded many prizes.

It took a large family to work the farm in those days. We children spent the summer hoeing beets, corn and potatoes and pulling mustard from grain fields and herding cattle.

Dad was one of the first to begin raising sugar beets in the area. East Grand Forks agriculture reports show that in 1924 R. Epema harvested 27.13 acres of beets averaging 7.35 ton per acre for a total of 199,536 tons delivered to Hixon station, located between Fisher and Crookston. If my memory is correct, he told of purchasing their used beet machinery and seed from Michigan. The following 11 years to 1935 the tonnage varied from 5.55 to 8.31 tons per acre. Yields seem low this day and age, but back in the 20’s and 30’s farmers were not summer fallowing and wild oats was a terrible problem in the beet fields. A 10-ton average then was a big crop.

Dad had a large herd of cattle and had a milk route and he also sold cord wood (oak, ash, or elm) delivered by sleigh and team of horses for $3 to $4 a cord.

We attended the Lincoln grade school in Crookston, which stood east of the high school at that time. Our bus was the only country bus besides the A. C. bus. In the winter time Mr. Ben Capler would pick up the children on the River road with horses and covered sleigh and take us to and from school until spring. We had foot warmers with heated briquets inside the metal box to keep our feet warm.

I remember as a child mother reading a letter from her mother in Holland and tears coming to her eyes. She never did have the opportunity to return to her ancestral homeland as she passed away in November of 1931.

Dad married again in 1934 to Mrs. Hattie Vander Veen. She had five children; George, Fanny, Ann, Hyfred and Thelma. During the Depression years Dad lost the River farm and purchased another 302 acres in Fairfax township one and a half miles south of Crookston. He still had 160 acres he had purchased earlier in Fanny township at $4 an acre.


As for the rest of the family: my sister Gerty (Mrs. Joe Tysma) died in 1945 and brothers Sitze in 1963 and Sam in 1972. My sisters Agnes (Mrs. Evert Blokzy) and Tillie (Mrs. Marvin Walker) live in California. Bertha (Mrs. Robert Newell) lives in Pengilly, Minnesota, while my brother Ted resides at Milbank, South Dakota. Flora (Mrs. Al Hostvet), Ann (Mrs. Kay Pederson) and I live in Crookston.

**OSCAR W. HANSON**

Oscar’s parents were Olaf and Annie Hanson. They lived on this farm before we came here. Olaf came from a farm near Oslo, Norway, in 1898, to Crookston, Minnesota. He married Annie Hoven in 1907. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hoven. Our farm is part of the Ole Hoven Estate. They lived a few years in East Grand Forks, Minnesota and moved to this farm in 1922. Their son, Oscar, was then 12 years old. The buildings were in rough shape, Oscar tells me, and they had lots of repair jobs and building to do. In 1930 they built this house in which we live. Olaf farmed entirely with horses until he retired in the spring of 1944, when Oscar and Beatrice took over the farmstead. Olaf and Annie moved into Crookston, but Olaf was a great helper for Oscar those first years. Olaf died in January, 1968. Annie died in October, 1967. Oscar and Beatrice have two daughters. Their first daughter, Jean Ann, is married to Reverend Philip Olson. He is presently chaplain of United Hospitals in Grand Forks. They have three sons: Peter, Andrew and Thomas. Their other daughter, Nancy, is married to Orville Freeman. They live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Nancy has two sons, Gregory and Nathan Marsten. They thoroughly enjoy their five grandchildren.

Oscar was born in Crookston, and has lived his entire life in this area, with the exception of three years, during which time he was employed in Defense work during World War II.

Beatrice was born in Bygdal Township west of Fisher. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Bjorn Benson. They also were farmers. The Bjorn Bensons farmed the first years of their married life in Birch Hills, Saskatchewan, Canada, where Bjorn homesteaded. They returned to Fisher, Minnesota in 1917, and farmed in that area until 1931, when they rented a farm six miles east of Crookston. In 1935, they purchased a farm two miles north of Euclid, and farmed there until Bjorn retired. They moved to Fisher in 1961. Bjorn was the son of the Tom Bensons of Fisher and his wife, Ellen, was the daughter of the Osmund Isaacsons, who lived on a farm a short distance west of the Bygdal Lutheran church. Ellen died in 1966.
Bjorn died in 1967.

Beatrice also lived in Polk county all her life except for the few years in Canada with her parents. Oscar and Beatrice were married in September of 1934.

Oscar was a very busy man during the first 20 years of farming, especially since he had a fairly large herd of Holstein dairy cows. He took great pride in his herd, and built a large barn and milk house in 1950, when he became a producer of grade A milk for Bridgeman Creameries. He disposed of the herd in 1964, since milking cows and harvesting sugar beets, both were too hard in the fall.

Oscar served on the school board for Polk County Number 36 for eight years, and later he was on the Crookston school board for three years. Beatrice and Oscar have both been very active in work at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston. Both have served on the board of deacons. Beatrice served as president of the A.L.C.W. for two years.

They (Oscar and Beatrice) decided to rent out the farm in the fall of 1973. They still live on the farm, and keep busy; besides that, they make some enjoyable trips to visit their children.

GEORGE HELGESON

George Helgeson and Edna Breddlie were married in Eldred in 1936 by Reverend E. A. Schuett. George is the son of Hans P. Helgeson and Annie Marie Nelson Helgeson. He was born in 1910 in Bygdland Township on the farm now known as the Adolph Skyberg farm. In 1916 they moved to the farm south of Fisher where Sheldon Jorgenson now lives. His education was from the Fisher School.

Edna is the daughter of Bernt E. Breddlie and Martha Gimse Breddlie and was born in Eldred in 1913. She attended the Eldred Consolidated School for eleven years — yes, they had high school there then! Two years were spent at Moorhead State Teachers College, where she received a two-year elementary teaching certificate. She taught one year in the old Tiernan school for $60 a month. Two years were spent at the Morgan school where the wages were $70 a month. One year was spent clerking at the Eldred store for $1 a day. That was better than teaching for the $35 to $45 a month that many schools were paying! The last year of teaching was at Williams school for $70 a month. Walking to school, tending the fires, cleaning out ashes, and cleaning the building and out-houses were also part of the teacher’s job.

In March 1937, we moved to a farm west of Eldred known as the Neby place. Neby was the community center in pioneer days, as mail and supplies were brought down the Red River by boat and distributed at Neby. The old store with living quarters above it had been converted into a granary and the leanto on the building which had housed the post office was our chicken coop and hog house. The old livery stable building that had served as a dance hall had been moved off the property.

There was no electricity, so we pumped water for all the stock by hand. Two years later the R.E.A. brought electricity to that area. What a blessing! No more kerosene lanterns and lamps, no more water to pump; and to have a refrigerator, what joy! Many more things to come — washing machines, dryer, welders, appliances, milking machines, heat lamps, electric brooders — best hired hand we ever had!

In 1943, we bought a farm in Lowell Township known as the McKenzie farm. They once had it stocked with purebred Holsteins and sold bottled milk in Crookston. It was, however, very run-down at the time we purchased it and much hard work went into it.

In 1944 Gerald was born. He married Linda Crane and they have two children — Stephanie and Brent. He lived in Churhers Ferry, North Dakota where he operated a fertilizer plant. Maurice was born in 1946. He married Beverly Stromberg and has one son. Chad. Maurice drives semi for Fert-L-Flow of Crookston. In 1950 Linda joined the family. She is a graduate of Bemidji State College. She worked at a Veterinary Clinic and later at North Dakota State University in the physics department. She married Larry Sell and lives on a farm near Amenis, North Dakota. Bethel, born in 1952, married Marvin Christianson and has a son, Eric and a daughter Andrea. They live in Grand Forks, where Marvin is completing his education at the University of North Dakota and she works as an L.P.N. at St. Michael’s Hospital. James, born in 1953, married Karlene Wentzel and has two sons, Curtis and Ryan. Jim took over the home place and is doing the farming while Pa and Ma are trying to take things a little easier. Edward, born in 1956, is attending the University of Minnesota, Crookston, and is helping on the farm between times.

We have had our good times and some not so good, especially times like when Gerald had polio and Maurice was in the Times Building accident and the truck accident where the person with him was killed and he was spared.

God has been good to us! It is a far cry from our first little home to our all-electric one now!

HANS P. HELGESON

The Helgeson families had their roots in Norway. Hans P. Helgeson was born in Larvik, Norway in 1863. He moved with his parents to Oslo as a young child. At the age of 14 years he went to sea to work on a whaling ship. He came to the United States at the age of 18. He came to his uncle, Theodore Helgeson, at Fisher. He spent his first year at the Hamery home in Crookston and attended school to learn the English language.

Hans married Annie Nelson who was born in Wisconsin in 1875, but moved to Fisher with her parents. To this union 14 children were born: Ida (1892) — Mrs. Hugh Pauls of Grand Forks; Tilda (1894) — Mrs. Andy Norland of Grand Forks; Julius (1896-1956); Theodore (1897-1965); Hannah (1899) — Mrs. Joseph Heg of Crookston; Oscar (1901-49); Albert (1902); Olga (1904-64) — Mrs. Joseph Kleven; Lewis (1906-13); Infant (1908-08); George (1910) of Crookston; Lewis (1914) of Crookston and twin sister Lulu — Mrs. Kenneth Peterson of Gully; and Joseph (1918-63).

Previous to their marriages, Hans Helgeson and Bernt Breddlie farmed together. They liked to tell of the time they were going to have a party. Many came but so did a snow storm and nobody could leave. The storm lasted three days and their food supplies ran low. They served pancakes three times a day and by the time the storm subsided the flour supply was just


George Helgeson Family.
about gone too.

In 1918, when the daughters moved home with their children while their husbands were in the service, there were 18 seated at the Helgeson table for every meal. The years were not easy. For three consecutive years the entire crop was destroyed by hail.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Helgeson passed away thirteen days apart in 1929.

ANDREAS NIELSEN

My own ancestry, as far as I know, seem to have been purely farmers. I was born October 24, 1904, in La Platte, Sarpy County, Nebraska. I came with my parents to Euclid, Minnesota. We arrived in Euclid, February 14, 1908 and settled in Parnell Township Polk County.

I went to a one-room country school, through eighth grade, but never did get a diploma. I started to school at the age of seven years, and for some reason or other there were years we had only a term of five or seven months of school. As I grew older, I was kept home in the spring and fall, so I did not get the best education. I always seemed to be needed at home. I stayed home until I was married on November 4, 1925 to Thomas J. Owens.

My father, Andreas Nielsen, was born October 7, 1875 in Schleswig. He was born to Conrad Nielsen and his wife Sophia Fredickson; born and died in Holstien, Germany. He was brought up by an uncle and aunt. His mother died when he was four weeks old; his older sister was not old enough to care for him. They lived in Lort, Germany. He went to school there, and was always a good scholar. He wanted to join his brothers and sisters in America. His father did not want him to go because he felt he didn't have the money to send him. Andreas told his father that he had saved enough money out of what his uncle had given him to pay his own way over.

He left on May 22, 1889. He arrived in Sarpy County, Nebraska. He went to school the first year to learn the American language. He then secured a job on a farm and worked out until the age of twenty, and paid his brothers what they had loaned him to help pay his way over to America.

At Waterloo, Douglas County, Nebraska, Andreas started to farm for himself. After two years farming in Waterloo, he moved to Omaha, Nebraska, 51 Spring Street and married Mary Armbrust on March 10, 1897. They farmed for five years, later they moved to La Platte in Sarpy County. From there they moved to Euclid, Minnesota, Parnell Township, Polk County where they bought a farm. There they lived for 34 years. Father died August 12, 1941 at the age of 68 years and 10 months. Schleswig-Holstien was a small Province in Denmark taken by Germany in 1864.

My mother, Mary Armbrust, was born December 23, 1876. She was born in Nebraska. She was born to Anna Hertwick and Paul Armbrust, and lived there until they moved to Euclid, Minnesota February 14, 1908. Grandfather Paul Armbrust was from Schleswig also. Grandfather worked for a weaver in Germany. They had three children born to them before they got across. They sailed in 1873. It took nineteen days to cross the ocean as they hit a sand bar and had to stop for a day. The ship needed to be repaired. They worked on a farm and later started farming for themselves. They lived near Omaha, Nebraska. Grandfather Paul only lived until the age of 49 years. Mother's oldest brother was then 21 and the child was a brother 6 years old. There were eight children in Mother's family, three boys and five girls. Grandfather Armbrust died November 13, 1889.

My grandparents bought a farm at 91 Center Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Grandmother continued to live on the farm, and rented it to a Mr. Drake, until she died on December 23, 1910. My great grandparents came from Schleswig also, to America. They lived in Omaha, Nebraska where he worked in the Union Pacific shop. One of his sons also worked at the shop. Another brother was a barber. He lived in Montana.

To the family of Andreas and Mary Nielsen, 10 children were born.

Dorethia, married Paul Salentine, Euclid, Minnesota; Elise, married Julius Herbold, Fargo, North Dakota; Sophia, married Oscar Nelson, East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Clarence, married Ethel Slager, Anna, married Thomas J. Owens, Marie, married Rudolph Erdmann, all of Crookston, Minnesota; Lena, married Walter C. Schulz, East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Andrew, married Inez Scholtz, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota; Emma, married Paul Magsum, Euclid, Minnesota; and Adolph, who died at three months.

THOMAS J. OWENS

Thomas J. Owens was born December 9, 1891 in Blue Earth County, Garden City, Minnesota. He came with his parents to Polk County, Euclid, Minnesota at the age of seven years. He had very little education; he says he never made the fifth grade. He had to walk two and one-half miles across country to school district #240 Brandt Township, Angus, Minnesota. At the age of 11 years, he began helping his father with the farming. At the age of 19 years, he began farming on his own. He rented a hundred acres, and from then on he kept increasing his acreage. He farmed with his father and brother, Edward, until 1925. His father retired, and his brother and he farmed in partnership until 1929, when he moved and bought a farm in Lowell Township, three miles west of Crookston.

His father, Thomas W. Owens, was born February 2, 1861, in Doka, Wales England. His father worked in the lead mines. There were six boys and three girls in the family. Thomas was the youngest in the family. He was 21 years younger than his oldest brother. He came to the United States at the age of 18 years. He arrived in New York. Later he went to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he worked as a farm hand at $16 per month during the summer; just working for room and board in the winter months.

At La Crosse he met and married Mary Genstiksi. They both were working on the same farm. There they both worked as farm hands for a while. Then later they rented a farm at Portage, Wisconsin. Two children were born to them at Portage, Harriet and Jessie. Then from there they moved to Garden City, Minnesota, Blue Earth County. Here there were four children born, William, Thomas J., Mayme, and Esther. Later they moved to Lake Crystal, Minnesota, where they farmed until 1899. They moved to Euclid, Minnesota, Polk County in the spring, April 15, 1899. There Thomas farmed until 1925, when he retired, and went to live in Crookston a year before moving and building a small home in Brandt Township, a half a mile from his home place. There they lived until he later sold the farm and lived in town. He died at the age of 83 years, 7 months. Another son, Edward, was born at Euclid, Minnesota, June 10, 1901, died at the age of 53 years. Thomas J. and Anna (Nielsen) Owens came to Lowell Township, Crookston, Minnesota, Polk County, October 5, 1929. Here they bought a 200-acre farm, later buying an additional 80 acres. They raised turkeys, chickens, geese, hogs and a herd of 10 to 15 milk cows and 20 head of young stock. Later they changed over to Hereford cattle, raising beef until 1959, when he sold all of his cattle.

Thomas and Anna lived four years in Brandt Township farming in partnership with his brother Edward, but living on
his father's farm and renting other land. To this union five daughters and a son were born, Ella, Verna, Donna Jean, Carole, Bonnie and son Jerry (Thomas Jeriel).

Ella, Verna and Donna Jean went to a country grade school district 28 on the River Road, Lowell Township. Carole, Bonnie and Jerry went to elementary school in Crookston, Minnesota, since the District 28 school closed and consolidated with the Crookston school. The children all graduated from Central High in Crookston. After graduating from high school, the children all went on to college. Ella chose nurses' training at Abbot Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Verna, Moorhead State, elementary; Donna Jean, one year at Concordia and a year at Moorhead State for elementary teachers; Carole, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota for home economics; Bonnie chose to be a LPN and took her training in the Bethsaida Hospital, Crookston. So Jerry must go on too. He chose University of Minnesota at Minneapolis and graduated as a bachelor of science in economics and business. Jerry also took part of his credits in Mexico and in Columbia, South America. He then volunteered in the Peace Corps for three years as an assistant in county extension work. After working for three years, he felt there was a challenge there to start farming on his own over in Brazil. So that's what he is doing. The children are all married and have families of their own now, and are living in far away places. We are retired, renting out the land. We are living out here on the farm taking care of the lawn and yard, raising a garden and having lots of flowers.

Thus ends my ancestry, they will be remembered for generations — even when this closing chapter should be destroyed. Mrs. Owens passed away shortly after writing this.

WILLARD REITMEIER

Willard, the oldest living son of the late Ed and Ida Reitmeier, was born in Crookston, and moved to a farm in Lowell Township at the age of five. It is at this farmstead that he is presently living with his wife, Grace. They have two children. John is the proprietor of Jonathan's Music Shoppe and Jane, is living and working in Grand Forks.

When Willard was a teenager, he spent some winters working at a lumber camp near Big Falls. During the summers, he did farm work with his dad and brothers. In 1941, he married Grace Myklejord of Fosston, who was the "school marm" in their school district. One year later, he entered the Air Force and was later sent in a seventy-ship convoy to England. World War II was at its worst then, with many bombs being dropped on London and other cities. Several times he felt he would never return home. Many times he had to hurry to an air raid shelter. He achieved the rank of technical sergeant and was a Crew Chief with the Eighth Air Force. After the European conflict, he went to Germany for a few months with the occupation forces. In November, 1945, he was honorably discharged and returned home to his wife and family.

In 1946, he resumed farming and has to this day lived on section 10, Lowell Township. Sugar beets and grain are the main products on the 880 acres he farms. The family is a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church. Willard has been on the church board, town board, Farmers Union Oil board and Credit board. The Willard Reitmeiers have a mobile home on Rocky Point, Lake of the Woods, Minnesota, where they enjoy fishing both in winter and summer.

The former Grace Myklejord was born in Brandsvold Township near Fosston. She was the youngest child of Ole and Anna Myklejord, immigrants from Norway in 1883 and 1888. Her dad homesteaded in Brandsvold Township and built his own log house where they lived until 1917, at which time they built their new home.

Grace attended a rural school for four years, then her folks moved to Fosston, where she graduated from high school. She attended one year at Concordia College, Moorhead and finished a two-year teaching course in upper elementary education at Bemidji State. Town schools were not easy to come by without experience so she accepted the teaching position at a one room rural school not far from her farm home. The salary was $45 a month (this was really Depression days). In the win-

ter months she had to board at a neighbors for $15 a month. The next three years she taught in Lowell Township, a rural school, too, but the pay was $60 to $70 a month with board at $18. The last year before her marriage she taught at Fosston again, hoping to save enough for at least a "trousseau"! She never had more than a coal or wood space heater — oil burners weren't in as yet. In severe weather the children would sit close to the stove to keep warm. Of course, no indoor toilets, except for two years in Lowell Township, when she was the first teacher in a W.P.A. school complete with "chemicals."

Grace and Willard Reitmeier were married one year when Willard was called into the service. She then went home to her folks and worked at the Gamble Store in Fosston until his return. Before he was sent overseas, however, she spent time with him in Nebraska, Indiana and Washington.

Grace has two brothers living, Salmer, a retired missionary, living in Ephrata, Pennsylvania and Oscar on a farm near Fosston. Her dad died at the age of ninety-three, her mother at the age of seventy-four. Two brothers and one sister are also deceased.

CAROLINE PEDERSEN

On March 30, 1897, Nels Edward Pedersen, his wife Johanna Cathrin, their two sons, Jens Christian and Carl Emil, left Denmark for Crookston, Minnesota, U.S.A., where Mrs. Pedersen's parents had located; also several brothers and sisters.

They arrived in Crookston on April 26, 1897, and located in Lowell Township, section 32, on their homestead near a brother Ole Christiansen, who was married to Anna Nelson that day after the Pedersens arrived. A nephew was also baptized the same day. The nephew was William Thygesen whose parents had taken out their homestead in Andover Township.

The Pedersens lived in Hans Johnsen's grainery while they cut logs for a house and barn. Mrs. Johnson was Mrs. Pedersen's sister.

When people come to a new country there are many problems. They had heard before they came that the Indians would attack the settlers with flaming arrows. When night came they were badly frightened. They managed to sneak over to the Johnsons and told them the Indians were shooting at them with arrows on fire. The fire came out of the woods. The Johnsons told them it was fireflies, something the Pedersens had not seen before. The Johnsons had been here several years. When one is frightened, a mouse may look as large as a wolf!

There was nothing to catch snow, no trees nor brush, only near the river. The snow blocked their doors shut as they opened outward. Emil had to get up in the loft, take out a window and jump out in the snowdrift to shovel the door open — anything else to be altered before the next winter.

Mikkal Andersen and his wife, Caroline, left Denmark in 1884, with their children, Edward, Anna, Bert and Charles. They came to work for the Johnsons on their farm, until they moved to the Baltrami area where two more were born, Caroline and Peter. Mrs. Andersen died in January, 1894.

Before the Andersens left Denmark they were assured by the land agents that there was plenty of good feed in America for dairy cows; they could even milk them three times a day. Mr. Andersen worked for a big dairy farmer, where three men would crank a chopper to chop up oats, straw and all for cow feed. They were told they could seed oats once in America and it would come up every year.

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In 1900, Emil Pedersen and Anna Andersen were married. They worked with his father on the farm. More land was bought; also barn and grainery and other buildings went up. They took care of Johanna, who became ill and passed away in 1905.

There were five children in the Andersen and Pedersen union: Caroline, Ella, Carl, Clara and Edvin. Emil served on the school board for 22 years and also on the town board. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Emil, as a young lad, helped to dig the basement for the church. Emil passed away August 20, 1921. His father, Nels Edward, passed away on June 8, 1922, at the age of 79. Anna and the children kept the home fires burning.

Clara was married in December, 1925; Ella in February 1926; Carl in August, 1928; Edvin in November, 1936. That left Anna and Caroline alone with the hired help. Anna died on May 4, 1963. The hired helper died May 21, 1971. Caroline rented out the farm and took care of some cattle for some time. Edvin passed away June 14, 1973. Caroline sold the farm land April 1, 1975; but she kept the buildings where she still lives.


FERDINAND H. ROSS
Ferdinand H. Ross was a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross; and his wife, Minnie, nee Wentzel, was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Wentzel, Sr. Both of their parents were pioneers and homesteaders of the Red River Valley, Fisher and Crookston area. They were married June 2, 1898, had fourteen children, named as follows: Clara, drowned in 1910; Arthur, Martha, Laura, Ida, Walter, Olga (deceased 1952); Erma, Edna, Ella, Minna, Elmer (deceased); Doris and Ferdinand H. Jr.

Ferdinand H. Ross was active in farming his entire life. He was very progressive. In 1930, he was honored as a "Master Farmer." He served as County Commissioner of the Second District of Polk County, from 1924 until his death in 1932.

He was one of the first sugar beet growers (1920) in the Red River Valley, and was a fieldman for American Crystal Sugar Co., from 1923 until his death. He was instrumental in acquiring the first sugar beet processing plant in the Valley, at East Grand Forks in 1926.

It was through his efforts that the sugar beet industry progressed and survived those early years of the industry here in the Red River Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand H. Ross are survived by many descendents in this area.

EARL K. WAGNER
Earl K. Wagner, the sixth child in the family, has lived in Polk County near Fisher all his life except for about a year in the Army in 1951. He was a sergeant in the National Guard when the 136th Infantry, Company G, at Crookston was called out in January, 1951. His service was spent at Camp Rucker, Alabama and Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 1950 he purchased the Cooper farm in Lowell Township Section 8 and has lived there since 1952. He married Elizabeth Fladeland, daughter of Andrew and Pauline Guenther Flade-
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wagner and Family.

half miles north of Fisher, Minnesota. Martin was married to Miss Ida Heydt, daughter of Peter and Karoline (Seibel) Heydt, who had come from Germany and had become citizens of the United States of America in 1879, and were parents of seven children: Evelyn (Wentzel), Lloyd, Irene (Ross), Delbert, Florence (Wentzel), Earl and Eugene and also adopted two nieces, Betty (Rady) and Rosemary (Morken).

MICHAEL WENTZEL

Michael Wentzel was born in West Prussia, Germany, November 11, 1836, one of seven children born to John and Rosalia (Trojan) Wentzel. Three brothers were Charles, August and Julius, who came with their parents to America in 1863.

Michael Wentzel had learned the brickmaker's trade and at age of 25 came to Canada and followed his trade there until November, 1864. Arriving in Canada, he was near death having had smallpox infection all through the long ocean trip. The first food he had any appetite for was raspberries, which he was told had great sustaining power. He then came to the States, remaining in Detroit, Michigan, one year, after which he moved to Reedssville, Wisconsin. He bought a 41-acre tract of woodland and the work toward a home was begun with an ax. He cleared 35 acres of this land and built a house and barn of hewn logs. His first crop was 20 bushels of wheat. These were small beginnings, indeed, but it was his determination and energetic work, supplemented by his honest dealings, that brought him unbounded success. He had no horses or oxen, and his first young calves he broke to farm work, and with these, and ox, and handspike he made his first home in the West. He farmed eight years and added 35 acres to his possessions. It was hard to make a living and he spent a portion of his time in lumbering. He did not succeed in Wisconsin to the degree which he desired and came to Crookston, Minnesota. Here he lived the first winter in a tarpaper hut.

In April, 1879, Michael and his wife walked seven miles along the Red Lake River and found a place where they wished to make their home. October 12, 1875 he moved his family to section 30 in Lowell Township, having purchased 250 acres of land of Fletcher and Loring of Minnesota for which he paid $800. He built his first shanty of split logs, making it warm by elm bark and sod. His stock on the farm consisted of four oxen and two cows, which he bought in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Mr. Wentzel met with a share of good fortune and became owner of about 1300 acres of land aside from tracts he purchased and gave to his sons. In 1885 work was begun on a large square brick structure and furnished with the comforts and many luxuries of life. He built barns and engaged more extensively in stock raising.

Indians would camp near the river on their way to Winnipeeg, traveling by canoe. They would come to the house and Mrs. Wentzel would give them a loaf of bread and they would leave. They would yell but always seemed harmless. Indian yells and tomahawks were all a part of growing up for the children.

In 1867, Mr. Wentzel was married to Henrietta Klinger, a native of Germany, who had come to America at the age of seven with her parents, Welhelm and Anne (Dallei) Klinger. She was fourth in line of twelve children. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wentzel: Adolph, Emily (Kas. Agers), Minnie (Hiust), Louis, August, Anna (Klema), William, Bertha (Dans), Augusta (Reitmeier), Clara (Aune), Emil, and Michael.

The locality in which Mr. Wentzel made his home was composed of German Lutherans and for the purpose of a church building he donated a tract of land. The Church was erected and dedicated in 1887. Before the church was built, worship services were held in homes.

Mrs. Marvin Hanson, a granddaughter and the daughter of the youngest son, Michael Jr., inherited the farm from her father. Michael, the youngest son. William Wentzel, the seventh child in line of Mr. and Mrs. Wentzel was married in 1917 to Selma Widenhoefer, whose parents were Christian and Wilhelmine (Rady) Widenhoefer. They were the parents of three sons: Noel, Warner and Walton. Noel, a grandson of Michael Wentzel, lives on the farm and home built in 1885 and has been farming the land since 1960. He is married to Evelyn Wagner, the daughter of Martin and Ida (Heydt) Wagner.

CHARLES WOODSTROM

Many families once numerous in our communities sometimes almost disappear from these communities. So it was with the Woodstrom families. Carl and Nels Woodstrom came to Crookston from Sweden in the late 1800’s. Nels must have come first because his oldest son, Charles, was born in Crookston in an apartment over what is now Erickson’s Meat Market in 1879. Charles was the second white child to be born in Crookston. At that time his father operated a saloon in Crookston.

Later he farmed in Lowell Township, northwest of Crookston. He had four other children: Andrew, Clara, Hilma and William. Only Andrew and Charles remained in the Crookston area.

Charles married Clara Lanterman, daughter of Simian Lanterman, in Crookston, November 8, 1911. They lived on the Lanterman Farm about four miles northwest of Crookston. The Lantermans were charter members of the Methodist Church. Charles lived here until his death in 1969. His wife preceded him in death. Charles and Clara had two sons, Alton and Donald. Alton married Ruth Jennings of Crookston. They now live in Minneapolis. Alton and Ruth had three children, Harry, Gerald, and Clara. Donald married Jacqueline Ronz of Crookston. He now lives in Huntsville Township, north of East Grand Forks. He installs and services furnaces and related equipment. He has four children living with him; James, Lloyd, Paul and Patricia. Another daughter, Barbara Valinski, lives on the same homestead. Barbara and Dan Valinski have two children: Jason and Angela.

Andrew Woodstrom operated the Sunset Garage on the corner where Highway 75 makes a right-hand turn going north out of Crookston. A beautiful flower garden is now there. His son, Kenneth, lives in Ada. He works for Schraeder’s Auto
Supply. Kenneth met and fell in love with a German girl during World War II. All Crookston sympathized with Kenny during the many months it took Anna Lee to gain entry into the United States. Helen married Raymond Schaubcker and now lives in Rochelle, Illinois. Andrew lives with his daughter, Helen. Another daughter, Agnes, married Reverend Felger, pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. They live at Worthington, Minnesota. Irene Woodstrom Berg lives in San Fernando Valley, California. She operated a book store there. Nel’s son, William, lives in Fargo; his daughter, Hilma Sheets, lives in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. When Nels Woodstrom died, his wife went to Calgary to live with Hilma. She lived to be 101 years of age. Another daughter of Nels, Clara Monson, is dead.

Carl Woodstrom came to Crookston in 1884. He too farmed in Lowell Township. Later on he moved into Crookston. Carl Woodstrom had five children, but only one of them, Victor, remained in Crookston. Victor was a railroad man. He was two years old when his family came to America. The little house in which Carl raised his five children is still standing on Nelson Street. His children went to a little wooden school that was on the exact site on which the Eugene Field School now is. There weren’t many houses in Sampson’s Addition then. Victor remembered following a path to school and building the fire for the teacher when he got old enough.

Victor had nine children. Only two of them, Viola, Mrs. Milton Lyngholm, and Dolly, Mrs. William Miller, are still in Crookston. Milton was at one time teller and finally vice-president of the First National Bank. Bill owns and operates an appliance store. The Lyngholms had three children: Suzan, Mrs. Lynn Kopecky, lives in Iowa. David lives in Redding, California and Larry lives in Arizona. The Bill Millers had three children also: Cheryl, Mrs. Lynn Andressen, lives in Missoula, Montana. Cynthia, Mrs. David Kessler, lives in Fargo. Catherine is a senior at the University of Arizona at Tucson. She is majoring in languages. Her major is Chinese and one of her minors is French.

Nisbet Township

MR. AND MRS. HARRY J. ANDERSON

Mr. Harry Anderson was the son of John and Maude Anderson, formerly of Remington, Indiana. Harry was an only child, born in Remington on April 22, 1902. They moved to Key west, Minnesota in 1910. Harry attended grade school in Nisbet Township, the so-called Lee School. After finishing grade school, he attended Central High School in Grand Forks for two years and then went to Aakers Business College, where he graduated.

Because of the death of his father, Harry returned to the farm. On October 16, 1929, he married Viola Allen of Angus, Minnesota, daughter of William and Sophia Allen. They were blessed with seven children: Mrs. Mervin (Doris) Knutson of Moorhead, Minnesota; Mrs. Rodney (Jean) Webster of St. Vincent, Minnesota; Mrs. Kirk (Marilyn) Mote of Columbia, Missouri; Mrs. Peter (Glenda) Strom of Staten Island, New York; Howard J. and Ronald D. of Moorhead, Minnesota and Ray W. of Key west, Minnesota; also nineteen grandchildren.

Harry passed away on November 23, 1965, after open heart surgery.

This is the third generation to own and operate the farm at Key west, Minnesota. Ray owns the farm. Mr. Anderson still lives on the farm, and in the house that was built in 1898.

ERWIN BAUER

Erwin Bauer, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Bauer, came from McCreary, Manitoba, Canada, in the spring of 1926, and settled on a farm near Crookston. Erma (Ross) Bauer, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ferinand Ross of Fisher, lived with her parents on a farm near Fisher until her marriage to Erwin Bauer, February 8, 1931. A daughter, Lois, was born March 5, 1932. They farmed in Nisbet Township for 38 years, after which Mr. Bauer retired in 1970. They will be moving into a new home in Crookston in the near future.

Daughter Lois’s family consists of Lois, husband Wes Knutson, and children Randy, Todd, and Mary Jo, all of Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Mr. Bauer’s family consisted of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Bauer, Edwin Bauer, Karl Bauer, George Bauer, Lula (Bauer) Mahlke, Alma (Bauer) Ross and Paul Bauer.

Others still living are Erwin Bauer, Fisher, Minnesota and Mrs. Glenn (Enid) Wiese, Halstad, Minnesota.

BERNARD YOUNGQUIST

Dr. Bernard and Mrs. (Bernice) Youngquist moved on September 8, 1971 to their new home which they built in Lowell Township. They had previously lived in the superintendent’s residence (“White House”) on the campus of the North West School of Agriculture. Dr. Youngquist was superintendent of this institution until it was phased out in 1968. He was also director of the University of Minnesota Experiment Station, a position which he now holds.

Mrs. Youngquist was born in Ottertail County in Minnesota and Dr. Youngquist in Pine County in Minnesota. They came from families of five children and nine children respectively. Mrs. Youngquist’s parents were farmers in Ottertail County until their retirement. They are now residents of an Elders home in New York Mills. Dr. Youngquist’s parents farmed in Pine County. Both parents are deceased.

Mrs. Youngquist was educated in what was then known as Moorhead State Teachers College and taught in the rural schools of Ottertail County, in Starbuck, Minnesota and in Deer Creek, Minnesota. Dr. Youngquist was educated at the University of Minnesota through a Ph.D. degree. Professionally he has taught Vocational Agriculture and has served with the University of Minnesota Schools of Agriculture at Morris, Waseca and Crookston. His doctoral thesis pointed out the need of a change from the secondary level school of agriculture system to post high school institutions. He served as a line officer in the United States Navy in World War II.

Their oldest son David lives in Apple Valley, Minnesota and works as Products Development Coordinator for American Guidance Services. David is a graduate of West Point. He is married to the former Sheryl Tellefsen and they have two children, David Matthew and Erik Joseph. Paul is a medical doctor, presently taking his second year of residency in Internal Medicine at General Hospital in Minneapolis. Paul is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical School. He is married to the former Mary Anderson of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Their daughter Mary Elizabeth is a graduate of Concordia College. She is presently working toward a Specialist’s Degree in Child Development at Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee.