LeRoy was born September 8, 1930. Magus Larson, Alfred's brother, lived with them a few years until he bought "The Ranch", section 10, Scandia Township. In September 1946, the Alfred Larsons sold their land, Section 2 and moved to "The Ranch". Alfred died in July 1967 and Ella passed away in May 1970.

Evelyn Will married Gunnard M. Hermodson, September 23, 1951. They lived in the Beltrami area, where three daughters were born: Deloryce Elaine was born June 21, 1932 and married Vernon Bertils. They made their home in Crookston, Minnesota. They are parents of six children: Ruth, Philip, Daniel, Lois, Ann and John. Gloria Mae was born June 6, 1933 and married Reverend James Thvedt of Crosby, North Dakota. They are parents of James Junior, Kristin, Jonathan, Karen, Joel and Joseph. Janet Diane was born November 23, 1946 and married Dale Hoiberg of Devils Lake, North Dakota. They are currently living in Tappai, Taiwan. James Larson married Phylis Melvin of Grand Forks, North Dakota in October 1960. They lived for a short time in Beltrami, Minnesota; later moved to "The Ranch". They have four sons: David, Allen, Gary and Craig. They have two adopted daughters, Wendy and Beth. Orlin Will married Julie Lall and lives in Jamestown, North Dakota where he is teaching.

Rhinehart Township History

Rhinehart Township was originally organized in 1874. Officers in 1891 were Oscar Wick, clerk; Joseph Kirk, chairman of the board; Hans J. Roholt and Knut Woldal as supervisors; B. Denny, assessor. The main road was graded up by J. O'Leary.

In April of 1905 residents of Rhinehart Township started to build a board sidewalk from the city limits of East Grand Forks to section 13. The city of East Grand Forks contributed $40 and the remainder was contributed by the citizens involved. The township gave $125. Citizens also contributed free labor of building the sidewalk.

On November 2, 1920, 48 ballots were cast, of which 17 were women votes. This was the largest poll of votes yet cast in this township, probably being partly accounted for by the fact of its being the first year of women voting at a Presidential election. Polls were opened from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thirty cents an hour was paid during elections.

On March 22, 1932, the township named the main road of Rhinehart Township Rhinehart Drive. Mr. Frank Gorman headed the section. 11 and 12 went into the City of East Grand Forks in August, 1974. Rhinehart now has sections 13, 24, and 25, with 35 residential or dwellings in agricultural land.

JOHN A. CROY

John A. Croy was born on September 5, 1897, in a two room log house in what is now Rhinehart Township, Polk County, Minnesota.

He was the second child of a family of five children born to Joseph and Anna (Steevens) Croy, born in Iowa and later of near Chamberlin, South Dakota, where they had filed on a pre-emption claim. However, because of drought conditions there at that time they came to this Red River Valley location.

John attended the county school for two years, and then the family moved to near the city of East Grand Forks, Minnesota where he attended elementary and high school. In the country school there was an enrollment as high as fifty-three at one time, in all grades, with one teacher, who in one instance, rode out from town on horseback.

John missed registering for World War I by four days, as his birthday was September 5, and he was not of eligible age until September 5 and the war ended the next year.

John was married to Mollie N. Johnson on May 4, 1918. She was one of eight children born to John H. and Maren (Morton) Johnson of Winger, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were both in Norway, the former having served in the Norwegian Navy. Mrs. Croy's father came to America and Minnesota in 1876; her mother came in 1881. They married and filed on a homestead at what is now Winger, Polk County, Minnesota. They farmed there until retirement some time in the 1920's. At that time they started farming there were no roads, schoo, church, or village of Winger. Children were taught at home and religious services were held in the homes.

The John A. Croys became the parents of three children: Joseph Clayton, who farmed with his father until John A. retired. He died in July, 1975; Donald John, who served three years in the Army, mostly overseas; was graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in accounting and now resides in Hood River, Oregon; Carolee Jean Lovcik, a resident of East Grand Forks, Minnesota attended the University of Minnesota at Duluth, the University of North Dakota and the University Commercial College of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Joseph Clayton took post-graduate courses in agriculture at Crookston, Minnesota.

The John Croy's started farming in a partnership with Joseph Croy in 1917 and did so until Joseph's death in 1928. John continued to farm his father's land, and at times bought land in the area. Progress was steady through the 1920's and a new home was built in East Grand Forks, Minnesota in 1928.

The 1930's and 1940's period was different, as there were depression, drought, poor prices, and a serious sickness and surgery at Rochester, Minnesota for John. During that time there was no progress and it was just a question of hanging on and trying to keep from losing what you had. John comments, "I think I saved my farming future by going into debt and seeing a portable irrigation system in 1934. With this, one of the driest years, I was able, by running it twenty-four hours a day, to grow a good crop of vegetables on about twenty-five acres of land and marketing them in Grand Forks and selling to truckers who came in from all over North Dakota for supplies that were non-existent, also operating a vegetable market of my own for five years.

When the drought was over and World War I started, demand and prices became better and the Croy farm grew in size and trivial gardening was taken over by larger acreages and carlot shipments of potatoes, onions and grain. Croy further comments, "Some of the prices received in the early thirties were as follows: Potatoes, 20¢ per bushel, onions 50¢ per 50-lb. bag; cabbage, 65¢ per 100-lb. bag and as cobs and hogs were a part of the farm then, I can remember when the market on hogs was 2½¢ per pound at the local Armour Plant; and at one time I received 97¢ for a five-gallon can of rich cream, much better than the shipping cream we now buy."

"The going wages for labor were 15¢ per hour in the early 1930 period. Many young men employed by Croy at that time were between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and had never before had employment. They were eager to find a job where they could earn one dollar and fifty cents for ten hours work. Of course, it was correspondingly as difficult to pay these wages from the profits of products sold at the prices obtained at that time.

Approximately thirty-five acres of land farmed by the Croys during that time has now been platted and sold as residential sites, and twenty-eight acres rented from others is now taken over by the Crestwood Elementary School and a large supermarket. A church and residences also occupy some of this land.

Approximately two hundred acres of Polk County land remain in the Croy name. John comments: "As I look back over the period of the last sixty years or more, I think I can see where during the Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the legislation of that time did more to raise the standard of living for more of the people of this country than at any time before or since that time. I am referring to such acts as the Bank Guarantee of deposits, the Rural Electric Act, the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Wagoner Labor Act. The former
of those above was a guarantee of deposits by the government to prevent mis-managed banks from closing and absconding with their depositor's money. The Rural Electric Act made loans available to thousands of farms and small towns to build lines and give electric power to millions and other millions to manufacture appliances they needed and bought. The Commodity Credit Corporation offered low-interest rates to farmers, thereby making it possible for them to borrow money at low interest and hold grain when markets were below cost of production. The Wagoner Labor Act gave the wage earner, the laborer, the right to bargain with the management for wages based on company profits. I have lived through this period and know what it was before this legislation and also what the standard of living is today."

"In closing, I will say this, I am thankful for the courage my ancestors had to migrate to this great country, and again for the decision made by my parents to turn the horses to their own land and again for the presence of the Red River Valley, where I have had the privilege of living my life."

The Croys are and have been members of Wesley United Methodist Church of Grand Forks, North Dakota and have had various offices in the operation of the church. John A. Croy was a member of the Board of Education of School District #595 for sixteen years (1944-1960). He also served on the East Grand Forks, Minnesota Planning and Advisory Commission until his resignation to assume chairmanship of the Polk County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Croy has been a member of the Red River Lodge #292, Masons, and is also a thirty-year member of Kem Temple of the Shrine. He also holds a membership in the Order of the Elks, Lodge #255.

JOSEPH CROY

Joseph Croy, is one of the progressive and enterprising citizens of East Grand Forks, Minnesota and has been, in his time, one of the ablest and energetic farmers in the Red River Valley, with his own labor and direction as the principal factors in his industries. But lately, he has put most of his land in the care of tenants. He was born in Jasper County, Iowa, January 26, 1860, the son of John and Hannah (Hale) Croy, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania, but both reared in Indiana and married in that state. They moved to Iowa soon after their marriage, and the mother died there when Joseph was but six years old. He passed the next four years with his uncle, Jacob Croy, whom he reared from the age of eight years of age.

When the father married again at the end of this four years, Joseph returned to the family and remained with it until he reached the age of twenty-one. He then worked a year on a railroad, grading and hauling, and the next year rented a farm. After he sold his crop on this farm he went to Buffalo County, South Dakota, and took up a pre-emption claim on the Missouri River, 75 miles west of Mitchell. He lived on this claim three years and then rented it three years, while he visited the Black Hills and other parts of the land.

On June 14, 1893, Mr. Croy came to Crookston, Minnesota and in the fall of 1894 he bought twenty acres of stump land with all the timber cut off except about sixty cords of wood. He paid $575 for this purchase and went in debt $200 to make it. The land had a little log house on it and he moved into this. He had four horses and an old wagon for his farm work, and just enough furniture to start housekeeping in a very primitive way. Then he had a setback through a spell of sickness, the only one he has ever had in Minnesota. But he cut and sold his wood and got a few acres of his land cleared. He planted corn, tomatoes and other vegetables, and from that time on time has been easier and more prosperous for him. He bought additional land at different times at prices ranging from $30 to $101 an acre, and devoted his energies mainly to raising potatoes, onions and cabbage, which he sold to families at their homes, running a peddling rig seven or eight years.

In the course of time Mr. Croy owned eighty-two and a half acres and devoted nearly the whole tract to garden products, with some grain to vary his crops and keep his land in order, and one year he cleared $3,700 on this land, which he occupied and farmed for five years and a-half. He then bought a part of his present home place and 34 acres of the old Murphy farm, paying $4,500 for the latter, and taking up his residence on it. He also bought the Murphy out-lots, on two of which he now lives, the lots numbering eight, so that he now owns 68 acres and these eight lots inside the city limits of East Grand Forks. This is in addition to his other land. All of this is rented except the few acres which he cultivates himself.

Mr. Croy has raised 1,000 bushels of onions per acre and enough other crops to sell. He is an intensive farmer and will be satisfied with nothing but the best possible results from his work. In 1911 he bought 60 acres of the Rinn-franz farm just outside of the city limits, and this is also rented, but the place is farmed in the same way as his other land. In 1914 he raised 6,000 bushels of potatoes and in 1915 his average yield was 100 bushels to the acre. He had a good local market but had also shipped his products in carload lots to Duluth and realized $700 a car for them. His son John is emulating his bright example to advantage. This young man was eighteen years old in 1916, and he had made a record as a corn grower that was almost phenomenal, producing on a measured acre 117.58 bushels in the production of which he did all the work himself.

While Mr. Croy was living in Rhinehart Township he served as a member of the school board, but he has refused all persuasions to become a member of the city council in East Grand Forks. He was married in Buffalo County, South Dakota, to Miss Anna Belle Swiders, a native of Wright County, Iowa, but living in a claim with her parents in South Dakota at the time of her marriage. They have five children: Maud Esther, John Arthur, Hannah May, Grace and Dorothy. Maud Esther obtained a high school education and followed a course of special instruction in Union Commercial College. John Arthur is in his third year in the Central High School and the others are attending schools of lower grades, the intention of their parents being to give them all good educations. All the members of the family belong to the family bursar, the Episcopal church in Grand Forks, and Mr. Croy is a member of the Order of Modern Brotherhood. He has assisted an uncle and an aunt to become citizens of this country, and has been a liberal contributor to many worthy undertakings for the improvement of the various communities in which he has lived.

JAMES E. SULLIVAN

Following the mid 19th century potato famine in Ireland, great numbers of Irish families immigrated to the Province of Ontario, in Canada. Among these was Andrew Sullivan and his wife Ellen (Enright) Sullivan, who at that time purchased a farm site in Renfrew County. While living on this farm they raised a son, James E. Sullivan, born in 1845, and three younger daughters, Mary (Mrs. Louis Racine), Anna (Mrs. John Harvey), and Katherine (Mrs. Michael McGuire).

The Sullivans found the Ontario soil to be somewhat marginal, and were determined to relocate on more fertile and desirable lands, so in 1875 the family made plans to move to Western Canada, where the future held greater promise. With this in mind, the thirty-year old Jim, who was now in charge of the family's affairs, set out to find a new farm. At that time people from Eastern Canada were reportedly able to reach the Western Provinces more directly by traveling to St. Paul, Minnesota, thence to Fargo, North Dakota, or to Fisher's Landing (Fisher, Minnesota), and continue north by boat. Jim Sullivan chose to go via Fargo, North Dakota, and enroute to Manito-oba, was able to make a stop near Grand Forks, North Dakota. From there he made a short trip up the Red Lake River. Near the city of East Grand Forks, Minnesota he noted a parcel of land along the river which was very much to his liking. He completed the trip north, however, but found no land which appealed more to him, nor seemed more suitable than the site near East Grand Forks. Thus it was that on his trip back to Fargo, Jim arranged for the purchase from the owner of the land in Section One of Rhinehart Township, Polk County, Minnesota.

Returning to Canada, Jim Sullivan arranged the sale of their land holdings, and the family immigrated to Polk County. Mr. Sullivan's accounts of the fertility and availibility of the land
in this new area so interested other relatives and friends that many of them made the decision to follow the Sullivans, so besides Sullivans, there came the Driscolls, Enrights, Murphys, etc., so many relatives came into the section from Canada that there were at one time eight first cousins whose names were Jim Sullivan, and who, for the sake of identity, came to be known as "Timber Jim", "Prairie Jim", "Inker Jim", "Marvel Jim", etc.

The Andrew Sullivans had made the first move, however, and in 1876 began the trip to their new home, having chosen the route through Fisher, Minnesota. They arrived in the early summer of '76, following which they constructed a log house and a barn before winter set in. James Sullivan and his sister Mary were both eligible to file land claims under the Homestead Act. Jim did not, however, choose to leave his farm, which he had by this time built on, to stake another claim. Thus his sister proved out the claim by living on the land alone for the required fourteen months period, and in turn sold the property to her brother. It was about that time that Mr. Sullivan was able to make the purchase of three additional quarter sections of land, which had been put up for sale by the Northern Pacific Railway.

On February 22, 1881, James Sullivan was married to Bridget Hogan, the daughter of Patrick and Mary Ann Hogan, who had moved to the Grand Forks locality from the Clayton, Ontario, area. The courtship appeared to have revolved around family gatherings and square dances at neighboring homes and farms, and for which Jim Sullivan often entertained the groups with his violin. The wedding took place in Grand Forks, and the couple set up housekeeping in Sullivan's log cabin.

The Sullivans were still living in the log cabin when their first son Leslie was born, December 2, 1882. However, a new house built of local brick and lumber was ready when daughter Josephine was born in 1884. This son and daughter were followed in turn by daughters Clara (Mrs. A. G. Schultz), Laura (Mrs. James E. O'Leary), and Mary, followed by sons Emmett and John.

Besides operating and improving his farm, Mr. Sullivan played an active role in the local community, having served as alderman and city council president. He is said to have introduced horse racing into the area, where in the winters harness races were held on the river near his farm home. At other times the races were on a graded quarter-mile track which he and his sons had prepared just north of East Grand Forks, in the proximity of the present senior high school. Mr. Sullivan died in 1909.

The above draft is as factual as can now be described. It transcends a period during which this section of Polk County developed from a fur trading outpost, experienced an element of the lumbering industry, developed into an outstanding agricultural and dairying area, and then more recently has seen commercial and manufacturing operations develop. It is intended to show briefly how an area was brought to its potential by a people whose potentials were boundless — settlers who came to stay, and who contributed immeasurably to the many facets of the good life which the area and its people have come to know.

**JOHN SWENSON**

John Swenson was born in a farming community in Mariestad, Vesteragotland Sweden, March 22, 1869. He came to the United States on a cattle boat, "Lake Ontario," from Liverpool, England in 1890.

He worked in mines at Irontown. Michigan and laid streetcar tracks and dug trenches for sewers in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also worked at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago on the construction assembly of the gigantic Ferris Wheel, which was described as the most spectacular engineering attraction on the Fair Midway.

Hearing about free railway transportation to obtain homestead claims, he set out to acquire a farm — his own. That had been his dream when he left Sweden. As the train came into the Red River Valley and he saw the black soil — blacker than any he had ever seen, he decided to go no farther than East Grand Forks, Minnesota. "This land was surely richer than any homestead land he could get free in North Dakota."

He met a nurse man, Oscar Wick, for whom he worked, planting trees at the University of North Dakota when Merrifield Hall was the only building on the Campus. The large elm tree at South Fifth Street and Minnesota Avenue, which was featured in the Grand Forks Herald a few years ago, was one tree he was proud to have planted.

He and a friend, Ludvig Olson, bought four acres in Rhinehart Township on Rhinehart Road next to the Wick Nusery and became "gardener," providing vegetables to grocery stores, restaurants and to railroad dining cars.

In 1895, he sold his half-interest in the small acreage to Mr. Olson and returned to Sweden for a visit. He came back to the United States in 1896, bought seven acres near his friend Olson and again started gardening. He raised asparagus, celery, head lettuce and all the other vegetables which would grow. Tomatoes and cabbage and cauliflower were seeded in "hot bed" flats constructed with storm windows, which were put on and removed according to outside temperature. The plants were thinned and transplanted to another "frame" bed and later set out in the field by hand. A one-horse plow and cultivator was used to till the soil and the ground smoothed by going over it with a roller, which was a heavy cylinder about five feet wide, and pushed by hand. Vegetables such as onions were weeded by hand and hoed, and cultivation between the rows was by a hand cultivator. Apple, plum and cherry trees were for beauty as well as providing fruit for home use.

John received his citizenship papers in 1897, and that same year he with 35 other persons designated their intent to support the organization of a Lutheran church and he became a charter member of the Gustavus Adolphus Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, now Augustana, of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Emma Swenson arrived in the United States from Smoland, Sweden in 1898, with her sister Augusta. They lived with their sister and brother-in-law, Martina and Swan Johnson, in Northland Township for a while, helping the neighbor farmers in the Scandinavian community. Emma wished to learn the English language, so she secured employment as a maid with non-Swedish people and also worked in the woolen mill, which was located on North 3rd Street, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

She met John Swenson at Church meetings and they were married at John's home in an outdoor flower garden setting which he had prepared. June 22, 1901.

Together they worked and made a beauty spot of their seven acres, with spacious lawn, shade trees, lilac hedges and a formal flower garden of peonies, irises and sweet peas. Mrs. Swen-
son received prizes at the fair and peony shows several times. Mr. Swenson exhibited farm produce at the Grand Forks fairs, and "Minnesota Day" at the fair was a big all-day event for the family.

They had one son who died in infancy, and two daughters, Esther and Alice.

Mr. Swenson served as trustee on the Church council for many years, and also on the township board. Mrs. Swenson was active in the Church Ladies Aid, serving as president two terms.

They lived all their married life on the seven-acre home place, and bought an additional forty acres in Rhinehart Township, and a tractor. They celebrated their forty-ninth wedding anniversary in the Augustana Lutheran Church. This event was attended by a host of relatives and friends. Mr. Swenson died the next April, 1951, after a short illness. Mrs. Swenson passed away in January 1953.

They were a modest, quiet couple whose way of life was: "A man's word is as good as a bond; Give good measure and good quality of produce: Extend a helping hand!"

Roome Township

Roome Township was organized in 1879 and was named in honor of J. B. Roome, who was one of Polk County's pioneers. Mr. Roome was born in New Jersey in 1829. In 1854 he came to Wisconsin and later to Wabasha County, Minnesota. In 1877 he contracted with the Manitoba Railroad Company for a half-section of land in Polk County, Minnesota. In March of the following year he "squatted" on the land which is located in the west half of section 13. His wife died in Wabasha County in June of 1878 and Mr. Roome then moved the family of four children — William, Frank, Mary, and Orilla — to Polk County. He was a carpenter by trade and built his own house on the farm, as well as the other buildings. Roads were so bad it was almost impossible to haul a load of supplies out from Crookston most of the time, so he constructed a corduroy road west of Burnham Creek for a distance of 25 rods. He had charge of much of the road work and grading done in his township. Mr. Roome was a leader in township matters and was instrumental in organizing this township.

A petition to organize township was brought before the county commissioners and was granted in March of 1879. The meeting was held in the home of J. B. Roome, W. C. Roome and Andrew Fenseth were appointed judges and Peter Larson and Peter Karstad were appointed clerks. The new township was to be named Elm Creek, but later the name was changed to Roome.

The first officials who took office in 1880 were: J. B. Roome, Ole Knudson, and Peter Boukind — supervisors; W. C. Roome — town clerk; Peter Berg — constable; J. B. Roome — justice of the peace; Ole Knudson — assessor; Frank Roome — treasurer.

The original papers, which were found in the original home of J. B. Roome when the house was remodeled in 1965, state that the supervisors and their successors were to be paid the sum of $50. These papers have the official seal and are dated March 31, 1880. They were in an envelope with a one-cent stamp on it and it was postmarked Crookston, March 18, 1880.

The following were people who lived on the farm J. B. Roome homesteaded: Sid Lytle (Mary Lytle was a daughter of J. B. Roome), Rowe Morford, Ernest Roloch, and Anton Peterson. Peterson moved there in March, 1916. Clarence and Albert, sons of Anton, now reside there.

The present officers of the town board are: Alton Arness, John Brower, Vernon Ostgaard — supervisors; Mrs. Irwin Beiswinger — clerk; Roger Odegard — treasurer; George Irwin and Vernon Buness — justice of the peace; Dale Chasais and Loren Wollin — constables; Ingeman Thoreson — assessor.

THE ROOME RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

In the spring of 1908 a group of men met at the Andrew Malmberg home to organize a rural telephone company. The following men were present: Wendel Stucky, Christ Wallerbeck, Andrew Malmberg, Halvar Brevik, Pat Murphy, L. H. Locken, Axel Erickson, Jules Boucher, Ole Knudson, Charles Matson, Erick Samuelson, Nels Malmberg, P. M. Aune, and Ole O. Knudsen. On April 6, 1908 they voted to form the Roome Rural Telephone Company. The first officers elected were: President — William Malmberg; Vice President — L. H. Locken; Secretary — Peter Aune; Treasurer — Wendel Stucky; Directors — Halvor Brevik, Erick Samuelson, and Christ Wallerbeck.

The manager of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company was present at the meeting and said his company would allow the use of their poles at a fee of five cents per pole and the cost of connections at $2.50 per phone.

The main line was to go west from Crookston along the county road, then branch off north and south. Wendel Stucky was construction manager and the phone patrons were to help build the line, salary of construction work being $1.50 per hour or a share in the company for six days of work. The company voted to expand on March 1, 1912 and build a line from Kathmans' corner two miles south, then three miles west to Kroengen's corner, then one mile south to Mariners' place.

The first linemen for the company were Youngve Samuelson and Peter Aune. Their salary was set at 20 cents an hour. Other linemen through the years were Henry Helgeson, C. J. Rodal, George Helgeson, Clifford Brevik, Hans Aune, Wilbur Ryan, Charles Pester, Andy Dragseth, and Clarence Peterson. Arthur Arness was secretary of the company from 1934 through 1938.

Roome Rural Telephone Company continued until the early 1950's, when it was taken over by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. The last officers were: President — Youngve Samuelson; Vice President — Wilfred Boucher; Sec.-Treas. — Clarence Peterson.

BARDO NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Bardo Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was named for a community in northern Norway. On July 17, 1877 a meeting conducted by Pastor Hagboe initiated the organization of the congregation. On December 1, 1878, at the district 18 schoolhouse in Fisher Township, organization was completed by Pastor C. Saugstad. Services led by various laymen were held at the school until a church was built. The charter members were Mathias Christianson, O. K. Quamme, Ole Olson, John J. Bonnes, Jens F. Aspaas, Aners B. Anderson, Martin Finseth, John P. Olson, Samson G. Hilde, Christian M.