CLARENCE AND INEZ AMUNDSON

Clarence and Inez Amundson are very active farmers and members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Clarence serves on the board of directors of the First National Bank of East Grand Forks, the township board, and has served on the church board and many others.

Inez is a partner in the farming. She is the homemaker, active in church and 4-H Club leadership. They have two sons: Michael who is married (wife, Julie) and has a son (Michael Cris). Their home is also in the southeast quarter of section 18. Curtis is active in 4-H Club local, county and state and is active in church and is in Senior High School. Both are active with their parents in the farming operations.

The farm consists of 760 acres owned by Clarence and Inez, who also rent 600 acres from Clarence’s brother (John), who has retired and lives in a mobile home on the farm. Certified seed potatoes and grain are grown on the farm today. At one time, cattle, chickens and hogs were raised.

Clarence’s grandfather (Amund Christianson) came to Renville county from Norway in 1878. He later left there and came to Polk county with a team of oxen and wagon and built a dugout on the banks of the Grand Marais in the southeast quarter of section 18, which he homesteaded. His son, Christian Amundson, (Clarence’s father) soon followed to Polk county from Norway. Christian bought the northwest quarter and part of the northeast quarter of section 18 from his father.

Christian Amundson married Sena Hotvedt of Rosholt, Wisconsin. Six children were born to them here on the farm: Eleanor, John, Alice, Harold, Clara, and Clarence. Clarence graduated from East Grand Forks High School and attended Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston.

Many of Clarence’s mother’s family came from Rosholt, Wisconsin to Sullivan township and made their homes. Clarence married Inez McKenzie of Wimbledon, North Dakota. She was born at Kimball, Minnesota of early Minnesota settlers. Her mother’s parents came from Sweden in 1871. On her father’s side, Grandfather McKenzie, came from Kentucky at the end of the Civil War. Grandmother McKenzie’s maiden name was Vadnas. The Vadnas came to the St. Paul area before St. Paul was a city. A Peter Vadnas owned the land where the State Capitol now stands. He traded this land for an oxen team and wagon saying all it was good for was trapping and he wanted to farm. Vadnas Lake was named for another Vadnas whose log house stood by the lake until a few years ago. Many relatives of both Clarence and Inez still live in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

THOMAS DRISCOLL

Although the icy winter winds blow chill, and the chimney smoke curls skyward, and the spring is late and dry, and the summer winds bring heat and drought, and the stubble fields gleam silver in the sunlight, and the autumn leaves crunch underfoot, there’s nothing like my valley home.

The Thomas Driscoll family grew to love their valley home. Thomas Driscoll (1879-1950) and his two daughters have rounded out 100 years on the same valley farm in 1979.

The time is a sunny day in April, 1879 and the place is Fisher’s Landing. A father and mother and five young husky sons reached their new home after a long tiresome trip from Almont, Ontario. Their immediate concern was shelter. After some confusion they loaded their household goods in a wagon, harnessed the horses and tied the cows to the wagon and set out for the Richard Enright home along the Red River, their only road. The mother, Mrs. Johanna Driscoll, and her husband James, bought a quarter of railroad land in section 33, in Sullivan township, for $400. Lumber was hauled from Fisher’s Landing, and a house was built on a hill overlooking the Grand Marais. This was at the insistence of Mrs. Driscoll. The first thing the father did was to buy oxen. The horses could not cope with the heavy grassy soil. Young willow trees, cottonwood and box elder were dug along the river. Potatoes and a garden were planted between the rows of trees. A transcendent crab apple tree which he planted still bears boshels of apples each year, and is at least 85 years old.

There were many problems such as, grasshoppers, blight, army worm and the mosquitoes, which plagued both man and beast. There were miles of walking behind the plows but these people were not dismayed. They had come from Ireland exhausted by scurvy, fever, malnutrition and a potato famine. This is why they left Ireland in 1849. One of the most tedious jobs of the women of 1890 was milking the cows out in the open, then cooling and skimming the cream from the milk. The cream was soured and churned in a tub or dash churn. The Irish had stories about the banshees who would prevent cream from turning to butter. The older women churned and smoked pipes as they churned.

A log barn was built the first fall. Logs were hauled from the banks of the Red River. In the winter a rope was strung from the house to the log barn so the people would find their way during the winter storms.

In 1898, Thomas married Mary Ellen Liston. Her mother, Maria Hogan Liston, came from Limerick. Her brother was a Brother at Notre Dame University. Maria spent two years at St. Mary’s, South Bend, and earned a teaching certificate. Thomas and Mary Ellen Driscoll have five children: Beatrice, a teacher; Vincent and Shanley, who each farmed a quarter in section 34, Shanley also worked at the Grand Forks school system and Vincent managed one of the Reynolds Aluminum Farms, in Portland, Oregon. Angela has been a buyer at Dayton’s for many years. Marie kept the home fires burning. Mrs. Driscoll died in 1919 and Thomas Driscoll passed away in 1950 at age 87. During his lifetime he served for many years on the township and school boards. But the heritage this pioneer left us can be summed up this way: personal integrity, honesty, determination, a love of the land, good stewardship and faith in God and his fellow man.

IVER HOYE

Mr. and Mrs. Iver Hoye moved to section 8, Sullivan township, in 1895. They had previously lived in Northland township, Honeyford, North Dakota, and in Winneshiek county, Iowa. They were both born in Norway, but left there in 1878.
shortly after their marriage.

To buy the farm, Mr. Hoye contracted to deliver 8,000 bushels of wheat over a period of years, which he was able to do because the crops were good. The first house on the Hoye farm was a small frame house with a lean-to. The large frame house which still stands was built in 1912. A large barn was built a few years before that. The Hoyes had a herd of dairy cattle and sold the milk in Grand Forks. They had the first milking machine in the area. Ivor Hoye and Bill Hotvedt together owned the first gasoline powered threshing outfit in the locality. Mrs. Iver Hoye died on May 1, 1918. Iver Hoye died on July 5, 1931.

Morton Hoye was the eldest son. He was born on December 14, 1880. He was the township assessor for four years, served on the local school board, was on the board of directors at the Farmers Elevator Company, and was the president of the local Farmers Club. He donated the land on which the community hall was built.

Morton Hoye and Eleanor Amundson, a neighbor girl, were married on July 1, 1921. They had two daughters, Mary Ann and Eileen. For a number of years, the Hoyes had a number of customers in town to whom they sold eggs, cream, butter and dressed chickens. Every Saturday they took the produce to town for these people. Morton Hoye died on December 14, 1935.

On June 8, 1938, Eleanor Hoye married Herman Kieliszewski, who had been born in Wisconsin on April 16, 1902. They had a son, Leo Kieliszewski, born on August 28, 1939. Herman died on March 29, 1963, and Eleanor then moved to East Grand Forks, where she lived until her death on March 6, 1970.

Mary Ann Hoye was born on October 17, 1928 in Grand Forks. She was graduated from the East Grand Forks high school in 1946 and then attended Concordia college. She was married to Donald Cieklecki on October 8, 1947. He was born in the village of Argyle, Minnesota on December 9, 1923. He served four years in the United States Marine Corps on the islands of Tarawa, Gilbert, Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa, and took part in the occupation of Japan. He was honorably discharged in January 1946. The Ciekleks are the parents of five children: Michael, Thomas, Peter, Daniel and Kari Jo. They reside on the Iver Hoye farm where Donald is engaged in the sale of used trucks and automobiles.

Eileen Evonne Hoye was born on March 28, 1931. She was graduated from the East Grand Forks Central High School and from the University of North Dakota with a degree in foods and nutrition. She took her dietetic internship and received her Master of Science degree at the University of Iowa in 1953. She was married to Robert David Wurden in July 1953. He was born December 2, 1924 and was a graduate of the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston, Minnesota. They have four children — Roberta, Barbara, and Jon. They reside on the former August Wurden farm in Bygland township, where they have their farming interests.

Leo Wayne Kieliszewski and his wife, Sharon, have three children: Scott, Lean, and Mary Ann. He is employed in Minneapolis and they live in the town of Wyoming, Minnesota.

Tabor Village and Township History

The exact date of arrival of first settlers is not known. However, it is thought to have been about 1877.

The first postmaster was John Mikulecky, whose place was about one mile south of where the village is now located. The first Catholic church was also located in that vicinity. It was demolished by a tornado in 1895. Later another structure was built where the present church now stands. John Mikulecky later moved to Thief River Falls, where he spent the rest of his life. He never married. It is said of him that he once hauled a litter of little pigs on a wheelbarrow from Tabor to Thief River Falls. Quite an accomplishment as one of his arms was smaller and shorter than the other one.

Frank J. Chernosek, an individual who was somewhat better educated than some of the other early settlers, served the community as a justice of the peace and legal advisor. Chernosek was second postmaster in Tabor. He was later succeeded by John Stepan, and later by Mr. Baloc, and later by Andrew Palya. Then Joseph Brda served as postmaster until the post office was permanently discontinued.

A bank building was built and started doing business in 1917. Andrew Palya was the cashier. The post office was then in the bank. The bank closed during the Depression, in May 1929. It was demolished in 1973. Bank employees besides the cashier were Miss Dorothy Kerestec and Mike Kocisko.

Frank Kvara operated a harness shop about 1909, together with Joe Chapek. Paul Myerchin had a barbershop in 1915.

Danial Walder had a blacksmith shop from 1919 to 1940, and lived in a large square house a short distance from the shop. He passed away in 1940.

As late as 1883 some of the people living in or near Tabor walked to Angus to get their mail. There was no road between Angus and Tabor.

Somewhat later a post office was started with Mr. Stepan as postmaster and Anton Sirek delivered the mail to the new post office from Angus by foot or horses. There was no junk mail at that time, so the volume was small and no parcel post.

The first store in Tabor was started by Joe Bren about 1886. He arrived here from Hopkins in 1883. Mr. John Stepan managed the store for Bren. A few years later the store was bought by Andrew Palya Sr. and managed by a Mr. Baloc, a relative.

In 1908 Andrew Palya Jr. assumed full control of the business. He also handled International Harvester farm machinery. Previously, Mr. Frank Kluzak managed the machinery business in the village. Andrew Palya Jr. kept the store which was well stocked with all sorts of general merchandise, until 1915 when the store burned. After the fire, Palya kept a smaller stock of groceries in another building. He retired to East Grand Forks in 1940.

The rural mail route from Angus west was started about 1906. Ole Iverson was the first carrier. He was paid a royal salary of $700 per year.

The first telephone line from Angus west for a distance of 12 miles was built in 1908, about the same time a line was built from Warren into the same territory and extended three miles south of Tabor.

The first church built on present site of Tabor was built by the Presbyterians in 1891 on the northwest corner of Section 17.

The village was named after a city in Czechoslovakia, the birthplace of some of the first settlers. Consequently, the township was given the same name.

Tabor township is located within the territory in which every odd numbered section was given to any railroad company on promise that they would build a line. Consequently, the land was sold by the railroad company to the settlers who were then arriving in large numbers from 1878 to 1890.

Another store operated by a Mr. Johnson, circa 1904, also burned about 1909. John Kluzak, from 1898 to 1903, operated a blacksmith shop. His son Arthur took over after the death of his father in 1903 and stayed in the business until about 1920. About the same time a Mr. Hanglik also had a blacksmith shop in Tabor. Other stores in Tabor were later operated by Jacob Sirek. Later Joe Genareau built another store in 1930, which is still in operation. The last blacksmith in Tabor was operated by Danial Waldner, from 1920 to 1940.

Frank J. Zejdlik came here from McLeod County in 1879, and took a tree claim on southeast quarter of section 6. With him came his parents and grandparents who passed away in 1904 at the ripe old age of 103 years. They were Karl and Rose Zejdlik. Frank J. Zejdlik later owned a grocery store in East Grand Forks.