



Paul Pribula Family: *Top row:* Leon, Raymond, Emil and Robert. *Center:* Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pribula. *Front row:* Dorothy, Martha and Bernice.

came from Prague, Czechoslovakia to New Prague, Minnesota, and then to Tabor, where my dad and mother met and married and farmed in Farley township. They raised a family of five girls and one son, Joseph Junior, who passed away at 65. My grandma's brothers; Joe, John and Albert Schmisek, were all musicians. My dad bought the farm home in 1895, and they had a grocery store and post office in the little village of Tabor. Then Dad bought our country home two miles north of Tabor. We all worked hard and had a nice life. The girls shocked grain and helped with the hay, as my brother was too young. There were many disappointments when our crops were all hailed out, and many windows broken. My dad took a team of horses and went to work in North Dakota to earn some money for a living. There were few roads. I also remember we had a nice bay horse, and when we went to church in Tabor, he went in water up to his belly in many places, and we kids were frightened. I also remember we always stopped at Grandma Travnicek's, as they lived in a little house close to church and it started to rain, many lizards fell with the rain. I asked Grandma, how come?

In January, 1936, the coldest day that winter, my parents lost their home by fire and most of their belongings. This was a sad deal, as it was a cold winter.

I, Eleanore Travnicek, was married to Paul Pribula, now deceased, and we lived on a farm in Northland township. We have four sons; Leon, Emil, Ray, and Robert and three daughters; Martha, Bernice and Dorothy.

## Tilden Township

### JOHN AND ANNA KOTSCHER

His name was John Stephen Kotschevar, born on the tenth of January, 1862, in a small town in Austria. He was the son of Mathias and Anna Kotschevar.

He came to the United States with his mother and brother in 1869. After landing at Castle Garden, New York, they moved to Stearns County, Minnesota, where they lived for one year at St. Martin. Then they moved to Elizabethtown, in Otter Tail county, where they remained for two years.

John S. Kotschevar received his early education principally in Douglas County, but finished his schooling with a course at St. John's College, in Stearns County, leaving that institution in 1886.

On the second of November, 1887, he and his father established a general store at Brandon, where he lived for several years. The store was called the General Merchants of Brandon. It was one of the leading businesses of the place. Later he became engaged in the agricultural implement business and bought wheat for O. N. Ostrom, of Minneapolis.

His father, Mathias Kotschevar, also had a general store at Millerville, and dealt extensively in stock.

The Kotschevars (the word means "from Kothe") came to this country in 1869 with many other of their Austrian countrymen with the famous Father Frederick Baraga, who later became Bishop Baraga, the first bishop of Marquette, Michigan. The Krainers, as they were called, started some of the older towns in the St. Cloud diocese. Their culture went back to the time of the Caesars, when their country was known as Illyrium, in the Roman Empire.

John S. Kotschevar was married on October 18, 1887, to Anna Movern. She was born at Cold Springs in Stearns county, Minnesota, but was reared and educated at Millerville, Douglas county. They lived in Brandon for twenty years. They moved to a farm in Polk county, in the Spring of 1904. The farm is located fifteen miles southeast of Crookston, on Highway 2 near Marcoux Corner. They lived there for thirty-three years.

Life on a farm in the early 1900's wasn't one of leisure. They milked the cows by hand, plowed the fields, planted and harvested the crops by horsepower. By working hard, John and Anna Kotschevar were able to keep themselves and their family clothed, fed, and comfortable. Besides a grain crop, John Kotschevar raised a garden, sheep, cattle, and chickens on the 160 acres granted to him by the government to homestead.

Later on, he was unable to rely solely on the farm for the family living, so he drove a school bus. It was a hard way of life back in the early 1900's, but with self discipline and a lot of hard work, John and Anna Kotschevar raised a family they were proud of.

During the time they lived in Brandon and Polk county, their nine children were born. Seven grew to adulthood in Polk county. Their family included Mary Anne, who married Francis Henry Morrissey; John Jr., who died in infancy; Matthew Joseph, who married Edna Westland; Conrad Jacob, who lived in Crookston until his death in March of 1974; Clara, who died in infancy; Adeline Margaret, who married Bernard Duffy; Martha Ann who married Alvin Palmer; Lenore Barbara, who married Emery Palmer; Julia Agnes whose first husband, Ernest Raymond, died in 1933. She later married Bernard Kuiper, who survives her.

Three members of the Kotschevar family, Mrs. Martha Kotschevar Palmer; Mrs. Bernard (Adeline) Kotschevar Duffy; and Mrs. Emery (Lenore) Kotschevar Palmer live in Crookston.

Eight of the twenty-eight Kotschevar grandchildren and twenty-four of the fifty-two great-grandchildren are also living in Polk county.

## Tynsid Township History

The history of Tynsid township is very vague; but after scanning old records and histories of various settlers and also referring to an old History and Biographical Book of Polk County, 1916, I managed to find the following facts.

This township was in the making sometime before 1877. At that time the land had not been surveyed, so those who came had wide open spaces in which to stretch their arms; therefore, these "squatters" as they were called agreed among themselves as to boundaries and sought to secure a large portion of timber along the river bends. This made ideal building places.

The settlers came from Telemarken, Osterdalen and Tynset

in Norway and from Ireland. Many of these migrated from Houston, Freeborn and Ottertail counties. The names of these families at that time (taken from the biography and township books) were Patrick Quigley, Matthew Martin, Thomas Logan, John Logan, Peter Gannaw, Barney Haggerty, Mike Quirk from Ireland. Ole Johnson, Erick Jordahl, Hans Kop-pang, Helge Thoreson, Esten, Leet, Ole and Ingebret Fosback, Ole Bruun, August Aas, Iver Lund, Peter Boukind, Kornelius Hanson (Valor), Halvor Lunos, Ingebret Vingelin, Elling Dok-ken, Arne Ness, Hans Olson, Ole, Lars, John and Louis Lar-son, K. D. and Lars Gulseth.