to continue on in North Dakota so they had to cross the river in a boat. In the winter when the river was frozen, it was rather easy to cross. However, in the spring it was a different matter, some remember of crossing on ice floes, jumping from one floe to the other. This was a dangerous thing to do, but luckily no accidents happened.

Lars and Karen were members of the Sand Hill Lutheran church.

INGMAN THORESON, JR.
Ingman, Jr., is the oldest child of Ingman and Emma Thore-

Vineland Township, the largest township in Polk County, was organized July 24, 1876.
A complete list of board members is not on record but the first clerk is listed as Frank Hanson.
The first road was laid out on May 18, 1878. This road began at the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 148, Range 48. It ran south on the range line to Section 18, then angled off in a southeasterly direction towards Climax and then south where Highway 75 is now located.
It was interesting to see in one of the records the proposition of the Rainy Lake, Crookston, and Pacific Railroad Company for municipal aid. They were desirous of securing aid from the town of Vineland in the construction of its road from Crookston to a point in the town of Shelly. They asked for the amount of $3,650 Dollars. This was in the year 1878.
Officers on record who have served more than twenty years are: John Thompson, clerk. 22 years; Olof Rensland, clerk. 14 years and treasurer 18 years; Simon Nelson, treasurer. 31 years; Alton Thune, clerk. 23 years. The schoolhouse for the former School District 6 is now used as a township hall.
The present officers are: Loran Stortroen, supervisor; Howard Hanson, supervisor; Glenn Evenson. supervisor; Oscar P. Vraa, treasurer; Paul Ramsey, clerk.

SAND HILL CHURCH
The early immigrants who settled in this valley along the Red River of the North were to a large extent Scandinavians who had lived for a longer or shorter period of time in Illinois, Iowa, or other parts of Minnesota. Most of them had therefore some acquaintance or affiliation with one or the other of the two existing Norwegian Lutheran Church denominations; the Norwegian Synod and the Norwegian Alanish Evangelical Conference. These churches through their home missions sought to reach out to all the new settlements with the word of God. Wherever men settled there came also the men of God to minister unto their spiritual need. The first one of these to enter this settlement was Reverend Bernt Hagebo. This pioneer pastor came to this settlement from Audubon, Becker County, Minnesota.
While sleeping out on the open prairie one night the pastor had a wonderful dream. He saw a nail-pierced hagp of Christ pointing westward and he heard a voice saying, “Go, and I will be with you. Organize a great vineyard for me in this new country,” Reverend Hagebo became the great organizer of
Lutheran Congregations in the Red River and Goose River Valley.

The Sand Hill Congregation was organized August 12, 1872, at the Tollef Tollefson home. According to the records of the first secretary, Peder O. Satermo, the organizers, who also became charter members were: Peder O. Satermo, A. O. Tronnes, Guilbrand Amundson, Peder O. Estenson, Salve Olson, Gullik Salveson, Johan Bramseth, Elling T. Dokken, H. Heia, Tollef Tollefson, Nils Olson, Ole Estenson, Ole O. Estenson, Ole O. Tronnes, Ole Estenson, Ole Johnson Jevning, Knut Olson Ose, Thore Erickson, and Jorgen Knutson.

Reverend B. Hagebo, working in the interest of the home mission of the Northern Danish Conference, helped organize this congregation and became its first pastor.

From 1872-1883, services were held in the homes and school houses. There was a strong desire among the people to have a house of worship, dedicated to God. At a meeting held the 27th of December, 1873, at the Iver Mjoen home, the subject of a church building was brought up for decision. It may be of interest and value to those of younger generations to know that the ground work for this church was in preparation over a period of 10 years.

If we but let our imagination turn back to those days, we can see that more costly materials than wood and stone, though they were not cheap, have gone into the building of this house of God. Prayers and hopes and tears are a part of the ground work. Thought and discussion and arguments were interjected into the framework. Sacrifices and labor were indelibly inscribed into the very architecture of the building.

The first parsonage was a log house located on the west side of the coulee. (West of the church)

The church building was constructed in 1883, and served its members until the erection of a new edifice in 1959 and 1960. The old church built by the pioneers, which had been a landmark, was torn down.

Various auxiliary organizations have helped build this congregation into a fellowship of believers in the Christian faith. The Ladies Aid had its inception on October 27, 1876 at the Ole Estenson home. Sixteen ladies were present.

The church choirs. Sunday School and the Luther League have all played an important part in the Christian education and inspiration of its members.

Pastors who have served this congregation in the order of their services are: Pastors B. Hagebo, O. Bostad, Chr. Saugstad, H. J. Villevik, Chr. Ytrehus, Lonnie, J. Brono, O. N. Bergh, H. A. B. Winther, Ludvig Pederson, N. Halvorson, C. J. Christianson, Louis Olson, C. J. Carlson, N. C. Anderson, Ralph L. Okland.

HISTORY OF DISTRICT NO. 6 SCHOOL

District No. 6 School is located in the western part of Vineyard Township on Highway 220, 4 miles northwest of the city of Climax, Minnesota.

The first school the pioneer children attended in this Norwegian community was a neat one-room school built of logs in the year of 1873. As the population increased and more funds were available, a larger one-room frame school was built in 1888. There were many of these in the county, but District No. 6 residents dreamed of an even larger and more modern school. In 1919, the room structure was built. There was one teacher for the first four grades, and one for the upper grades, who served as Principal. With basement, rest rooms, the old “out houses” were not needed but stood for many years. This school and the church were centers of the community.

Teachers wages ranged all the way from $16, $26, $56, $62, $95 to $100 a month down through the years. In the earlier years, families would take turns boarding the teacher for which the school District paid from seven to eighteen dollars a month. The teachers walked to school in all kinds of weather carrying many books and her pail or sack of lunch in the morning. There were no hot lunches until District 6 two-room school was built. As late as 1925, families would take turns bringing one large hot dish to add to the sandwich and apple, or what have you?

In the late years of 1800, wood was hauled in and burned for heat, for which people were paid around $2.50 a cord. New stove pipes were often purchased and cost 50¢ each and 3 for 85¢. One thousand shingles cost $26.25. Ten “two by fours” were $2.12. A broom was purchased each school year for 30¢ or 35¢ and much used. In 1880, Idal C. Saugestad taught school. In 1881, Peter O. Satermo was paid $4.75 for 1/4 cords of wood.

In 1886, the total teacher’s wagates were $225 per year. The Clerk’s fee was $6. A large box of chalk cost 25¢, and the blackboards and slates were always used a great deal. The schoolhouse floor became dirty very fast from children’s shoes walking on muddy or dusty roads and paths. Someone was often hired to scrub it for two dollars, using scrub brush and soap.

From 1880 through 1897, prices differed greatly from 1976. One fire shovel cost twenty-five cents. Fifteen coat-hooks cost seventy-five cents; painting the school floor, three dollars; one gallon kerosene cost fifteen cents; P. Vladeland for sand, one dollar; Ole O. Estenson for fire insurance, $3.12; money order and stamps, 10 cents; money order at Neby post office 14¢; Ole Jevning for five days work, $8.25; P.H. Toonquist fixing school house, ten dollars; Hans H. Berg, was paid twenty dollars for building school foundation; the Bank of Fisher for a draft, 25 cents. Teachers wagates were around forty dollars a month in 1882 and all grades were taught by one teacher.

The Norwegian language was used almost entirely in the homes, so at school recess, this is how the pupils conversed. Often a pupil would come in and tattle that “so and so” was swearing in Norwegian. The teachers were too busy to be out policing the play ground and some teachers knew no Norwegian. It was difficult to have kindergarten and first grade children who had to be taught English as well.

The Christmas program was a highlight of the school year and the school was filled to capacity. Weeks were spent rehearsing, making decorations, and finally chopping down a choice tree in the woods and trimming it. Many gifts were brought and each pupil had a gift for the teacher. The District No. 6 school was always a community center and the present two-room school is used and kept up. A Farmers Union Local still meets there, and the township owns it. The desire to preserve it is there, which is good.

John Saugestad of Crookston once taught in the old frame
school. Some Crookston residents who taught there later are Gladys Knutson Erickson, Marian Monson Christopherson, Elnora Erickson Kleven, Alma Vigen Meng, Iona Mossefin Evenson, Inez Boelter and Thelma Ness Strommen. Others in the community are Marie Hage Rutkowski of Climax, Mary McMullen Stortroen, Olga Danielson Birkeland of Fisher, Wilma Strande Tinkham of Fisher, Cora Monson Evenson of Climax, and Penelope VanPelt Evenson, deceased, of Crookston and Climax.

A piano was purchased for $100 in 1927 and most of the money was raised from a school basket social. This added much to a music loving community.

In 1927 through 1929, swings and slides greatly added to the playground enjoyment of the youngsters.

Ole Stortroen, now ninety years of age, is the oldest living pupil who attended District No. 6 school. He now resides at St. Francis residence in Crookston. Olive Jevning Neil, also a pupil, resides at St. Anne’s Guest Home in Grand Forks, North Dakota and is 87 years of age in 1976.

Many District No. 6 pupils have gone on to high school and college and have been brilliant scholars. Edith Rutenberg Englestad now residing in the Nielsville area represented Polk County in the State Declamatory contest in St. Paul. The old readin’ and writin’ ‘rithmetic and spellin’ was really taught in these three schools and was a great foundation for later education.

District No. 6 pupils were finally transported to the Climax High School in 1939 and joined the Climax District after the school fire there.

Memories and interesting happenings in the old log school, frame one-room school, and two-room school would fill several volumes of books. Remember when the teachers got locked in the school? When the teachers had fly papers stuck to their back? When sandwiches were made of lard and molasses? When shoe laces always broke? When the ink spilled? When someone chewed snuff in school? Oh yes, those were the Good Old School Days!!!

ANANIAS AND KARI BRAMSETH

Ananias Bramseth (also known as Andrew and Annas) was one of the early settlers of Polk County, coming to America in 1866 from Trondhjem, Norway with his parents, three brothers and one sister. His oldest brother, Arndt remained in Norway where some of his family still resides. The family came to Vine- land township and homesteaded in 1871 where Mrs. Carl Hanson now resides.

In 1881, Ananias was united in marriage to Kari Niresen from Telemarken, Norway. They had a family of nine children, seven sons: John; Ole, still living; Henry, Julian, and Carl; and two daughters, Bessie and Anna, still living. Two children died in infancy. The Bramseths were charter members of the Sand Hill Lutheran church.

Ole married Guri Aker and they had three daughters. Cora (Mrs. Palmer Johnson), Hazel (Mrs. Herman Sondreal) and Opal (Mrs. Oliver Wright). Bessie married Alfred Simon and they had two daughters. Phyllis (Mrs. Clair Johnson) and Lucille (Mrs. Harold Sydenstricker). Henry married Minnie Vraa. They had no children. John, Julian, Carl and Anna were single. Ananias died at the age of 47 and his wife, Kari, lived to be 84.

OLE BRAMSETH

Ole Bramseth was born September 4, 1886 to Ananias and Kari Bramseth in Vineland Township. He was a farmer all his life till retirement; also worked on the section crew for the railroad at 13 years of age. That was when Ole was 13 years old. Guri Aker was born November 19, 1889 to Knut and Alice Aker in Hubbard Township, Guri attended North Dakota Business College for a short time but became a housewife later on. Ole and Guri were married December 27, 1909 at St. Petri Lutheran Church, Nielsville, Minnesota. It was a double church wedding with her brother Ole getting married the same time to Hilma Vigstal. It was very cold, over 30° below; and 50 years later it rained so we barely made it to church! In the evening it changed to sleet. They also celebrated their 60th Anniversary at their daughter’s place in Climax, Herman Sondreals.

Close relatives and friends attended. Three daughters were born to this union. Mrs. Palmer Johnson, Cora; Mrs. Herman Sondreal, Hazel and Mrs. Oliver Wright, Opal. They have six grandchildren and one great-grandson. My grandparents and folks saw many hardships but also many memorable occasions too. They saw days of depression, drought, floods, grasshopper infestations, etc! Roads were very poor and hard to get any place except to your neighbor which was not always easy either. They used to take a sack of wheat to the mill to exchange for a sack of flour and that was usually in the fall. There always was a supply of meat, eggs, milk, cream, butter, vegetables and fruit. People had to supply themselves as one didn’t get to town for quite some time, especially in the winter.

Ole Bramseths were charter members of the Skatvold Congregation which transferred to the Climax Lutheran Church.

Mother passed away December 7, 1970 and Dad is now residing at the Fair Meadow Nursing Home, Fertile, Minnesota. Guri is buried in the Skatvold Cemetery. Cora married Palmer Johnson August 25, 1942. He was a farmer but retired this year. They have no children. Hazel married Herman Sondreal September 29, 1940. He is a farmer. They have two children: Gail, a teacher; and Wayne, a partner in farming with his dad.

Opal married Oliver Wright April 6, 1946. He was a farmer but went into construction. They have four children: Connie who is stenographer bookkeeper at Fargo; Keith who is in Littleton, Colorado working at a clothing store; Steve who is a manager for Red Owl at Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Janet who is in Tucson, Arizona doing secretarial work. Michael Lunde is

VINELAND-TYNSID BRIDGE

This bridge was known as the Neby Bridge. It was located less than a quarter of a mile east of the Sand Hill Church on the road now known as 220.

The lower bridge was built in 1911. It did not prove satisfactory for winter use so a second bridge constructed of wood was built on top. It served until 1924 when it was removed and a concrete and steel bridge replaced it. This one served until mid-50’s when 220 was graded and paved.

KNUST AKER

Knut S. Aker was born in Norway, September 19, 1853, and came to this country in 1860 with his parents, Sander and Ingebtor Aker. They located in Winneshick County, Iowa.

On June 12, 1878, Knute Aker came to Polk County and bought 160 acres of railroad land which is still part of his home farm.

In the fall of 1910, he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and served in the regular session of 1911 and the special session of 1912. Mr. Aker was married in Bygland Township, Polk County on June 3, 1880 to Miss Alice Thomp- son who was born in Cresco, Iowa, March 4, 1862. Nine children were born to this union. Ingebtor, and Sander who died in infancy; then Ole; Mrs. John Tofslay (Ingebtor or Bella); Mrs. Ole Bramseth (Guri); Sander; Carl; Mrs. Harry Larson (Ann); and Mrs. Emil Vigness (Mabel). All the children were baptized and confirmed in the Norwegian language.

Mrs. Aker had two brothers, Halvor and Ole Thomson, who lived in Montana. Halvor was married and had one daughter, Ella, but Ole never married. She had more in her family but no record of them.
the son of Connie Lunde who is the only great-grandson. Opal lives at Fargo, North Dakota. Ole Bramseth moved to the farm when he first got married; then he moved to Kari Bramseth and farmed with his brother, Henry, but when the World War I broke out, Henry was called to service so the folks moved to the farm Mrs. Sander Aker now resides on. They were there for 12 years then moved to the place he now owns and was there till he retired and moved to town in the early ’60’s. He raised potatoes, grain and also stock.

HELMER AND HANNAH BANGEN

Helmer was the son of Hans and Elina Bangen, early pioneers in the Valley. Hans came to this area in the early 1870’s, and homesteaded in Vineland Township. Hannah is the daughter of the late Hans and Severina Berg, also pioneers in the Climax area.

Hannah and Helmer were married in 1925. They made their home at the Bangen farm for a number of years. In 1931, they purchased the Berg farm. This was Hannah’s home where she lived as a child. The log house where Hannah still lives was built entirely by her father. This house is close to one hundred years old and is located about six miles north west of Climax along highway 220.

Helmer and Hannah farmed, raised mostly small grains. They also kept a number of cattle and horses. Most farmers kept cattle at that time as there was a lot of waste land along the Red River that couldn’t be farmed. Helmer passed away in 1971 after a lingering illness. Helmer had three daughters with his first wife, Mildred, Ruby, and Phyllis. Helmer and Hannah had five children. Harold who married Harriet Herberg of Crookston lives in Missoula, Montana. They have six children.

Orlean married Shirley Hanson of Ada, Minnesota. They are living on the home farm where they built their home. He is farming Hannah’s land raising small grains and sugar beets. They have seven children. Irvin lives in Missoula, Montana and he has four children. Arlone, Mrs. Harold Wokasch, lives in Lake Wood, California. She has four children. Roger married the former Maryls Peterson from Fisher. They have three children and live in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

HANS H. BERG

Hans Berg was born in Toten, Norway, December 7, 1839. He farmed a blacksmith and was a farmer in the same occupation. He remained at home until the age of twenty-five. He married Tidna Thompson and they sailed for America two years later. It took five weeks and four days to reach Quebec from which point he went to Freeborn County, Minnesota. The year of his residence there he hired out to others and then he spent six years at the blacksmith trade.

Mr. and Mrs. Berg came to Vineland Township in August 1873. They took them one month to complete the journey as it was made by oxen and they also herded other stock along the route. They arrived at their destination too late to break up land for farming so he went to work cutting hay for the stock as well as making a shelter for the stock and themselves for the coming winter. He built his own log house with the assistance of his wife. It had no floor, door or window. He later built a large house which was also constructed of logs. He also built a large barn for the stock.

The following summer Mr. Berg went to Oak Lake, Becker County and filed on one hundred thirty-five acres of land in Section 10, Vineland Township where he made his home all his life. He added to his farm and finally owned three hundred acres of land. Mrs. Berg died in 1884.

In 1886, Mr. Berg married Syverine Hanstad. The following children were born to this union: Karine, Mrs. Einer Thune; Hilda, Mrs. Knute Stortroen; Emma, Mrs. Arthur Thompson; Sarah, Mrs. Anton Bangen; Laura, Mrs. Helmer Bangen; Hans, and Hannah, who later married Helmer Bangen after Laura died.

Mr. Berg marketed his first wheat at a flatboat near Frog Point, later called Belmont. This boat was owned by Clark and McClure and the wheat was shipped north to Manitoba, Canada for seed.

The Red River flood of 1897, followed a hard snowy winter, flooded Hans’ land around his barn and forced him to make efforts to save his stock. He put his calves and sheep in the hayloft and kept his large stock outside on the prairie until the water subsided. The woods were infested with mosquitoes and the only relief for the stock was to build a smudge.

Mr. Berg raised small grain as well as a fruit orchard. In his orchard there were various fruit trees: apples, plums, cherries; some berries; currants, gooseberries and others. He also had his own blacksmith shop. He was interested in local affairs and served as chairman of the Town Board for six years and as the School District Treasurer for twenty-five years. Both he and his wife were active in Church affairs.

Mr. Berg died in 1909 and Mrs. Berg died in 1930. The log house is still in excellent condition and is occupied by Mrs. Helmer Bangen, a daughter. Orlean Bangen, a grandson, lives on the farm also in a new house.

MR. AND MRS. AUGUST BUNESS

August Buness was born in Sweden and came to America at an early age. His family settled in the Maple Bay area. Sena Glaserud was born on the home farm in Vineland Township just south of Eldred, Minnesota. She was married to August Buness in 1908. At that time they operated a small store at Maple Lake, near Mentor, Minnesota. In 1911 they opened the Eldred Hotel which they operated for many years, and Mr. Buness also operated the local blacksmith shop. In later years the Buness family lived for a time on the Hans Valer farm south of Eldred, and also on the G. W. Mariner farm, north of Eldred before moving to the Glaserud farm.

August Buness passed away in 1939 and Sena Buness in 1969. They were the parents of eight children, four boys and four girls: Kenneth and Myron of Crookston; Vernon of Eldred; and Alton of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. The four daughters were Mrs. Adeline Lindquist of Crookston; Mrs. Thelma Will of Gladys Buness both of Louisville, Kentucky; and Mrs. Andy (Marlys) Carey of Moorhead, Minnesota.

MRS. CORA ENGBRETSON

Cora Engebretson has spent her entire life in Polk County. Her parents. Mr. and Mrs. John Gordon, were early pioneers, having homesteaded in Vineland Township. Cora married Ingval Engebretson in 1925. They lived only a short distance from the Gordon farm. This was their home until Ingval passed away in 1966. Cora continued living on the farm until she purchased a home in Climax in 1972.

Ingval and Cora had two children: Milfred, the eldest, married Beulah Gjestrum and they have two children, Mark and Linda (Mrs. Al Vouk) of St. Stephen, Minnesota. Chilas, (Mrs. Don Cochrane) lives at Parshall, North Dakota. The Cochrane’s have four sons. Milfred lives in Climax and teaches mechanics and is custodian at Climax Public Schools.

Cora has been a life long member of Sand Hill Lutheran Church.

ESTEN AND KAREN ENSTENSON

Esten Estenson was born at Euclid, Green County, Wisconsin, February 22, 1860 and came to Freeborn County, Minnesota and in 1871 they came to Polk County, Climax, Minnesota.
OLE AND INGRID ESTENSON

Vineland Township in the Climax neighborhood is the oldest Norwegian settlement on the Minnesota side of the Red River of the North. Among the first settlers were found the Estenson family, P. O. Satermo and Ole Jevning. Ole Estenson of Faadal, Norway, left Tynestad in Østerdalen in 1857 with his family and had a difficult overseas journey. They spent nine weeks on the ocean in a small sailing vessel, “Flora”, which left from Langes Undsfjorden with 275 passengers on board.

Enroute they encountered terrific storms and due to the congested quarters, the passengers suffered untold hardships. Two adults and six children died on the way and when they finally reached Quebec, two of the Estenson children were so overcome with fatigue that they had to be hospitalized before the family could continue the hazardous journey inland to Green County, Wisconsin, where they finally decided to locate. The Ole Estensons had three sons, Ole who married Pauline Hanson; Per married Ame Bangen and Esten married Karen Kjolhaug. Their three daughters were Ingeborg who married Ole Jevning; Elizabet married Peter Satermo and Mari married Ole Stortroan.

In Green County, Wisconsin Esten O. Estenson was born on February 22, 1860. Esten’s father, Ole Estenson of Faadal, enlisted in the Civil War. His descendants preserve, as a prized possession, his letter written from Fort Snell, the 22nd of April, 1865, telling of the assassination of President Lincoln and the impression this made on the men awaiting their discharge from the Northern State army. After his discharge, Ole Estenson returned to Freeborn County, Minnesota, where he located in 1862. However, land was becoming scarce in northern Minnesota. The trip out to the new territory, now known as Vineland Township took thirty days and they encountered many difficulties.

At the Wild Rose River, the stream had felled a tree and it was necessary to fell another, which, combined with branches and twigs, made it possible to construct a usable bridge. They continued the march until they found land they liked. There was no surveying done in this territory at that time, and when this later was accomplished, they found they were located in Section 23, Vinland, Polk County, Minnesota. The first log cabin built in the Climax area of the Red River Valley is still standing and has been preserved as a historical home. It is located four miles northwest of Climax on Highway 220. The second family home, wooden frame structure built in 1874, has also been established as a historical home and is presently owned by Roger Estenson. June 10, 1971 marked the 105th anniversary of Ole and Ingrid Estenson’s settlement in the Climax area. Also settling at that time were Ole Jevning and Peter Satermo.

The first farm house built in the central Red River Valley was built in the summer of 1874. It has housed the Estenson families since it was built and is the present home of Roger Estenson and James J. Hill frequently stayed in the house in his pioneering journeys into the Red River Valley. In this dwelling all the Esten children were born: Ester (Johnson) Haakon, George, Ivan, Thomas and Oliver.

PEDER AND JOSIE ESTENSON

Ole O. Estenson was one of the first Norwegian immigrants to settle in the Red River Valley. He homesteaded on section
twenty-three about two and one-half miles northwest of Climax. He married Pauline Hanson, also an emigrant from Norway. They had five children: Emma, Mrs. Martin Strommen; Helmer Peder; Ida, Mrs. Sever Rostvedt; and John. A complete history of Ole and family can be found in the Polk County Biography and History book which was printed in 1916.

Peder, the second son, remained at the homestead helping his father with the farming. He married Josie Ellingson in 1907. She was the daughter of John Ellingson who farmed in Nielsville area.

In 1917, Peder bought the farm from his father. He continued to clear and break up more woodland for crops. The main crops at this time were wheat, oats and potatoes. Horses were the only farm power until the late twenties. He bought his first tractor in 1929 and his first combine in 1938.

He also kept a herd of dairy cattle. The sale of cream and eggs usually kept the household with groceries. Besides his own family and grandparents there was often a homeless relative or friend living with them for a year or two at the time.

Peder and Josie had three children: Selia, Mrs. Wallace Peterson, living in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Ordean in Climax, Minnesota; and Earl at Little Falls, Minnesota. They lived on the home farm until Peder’s death in 1945. Josie then purchased a home in Climax where she lived until her death in 1960.

HELEN LARSON MELING EVENSON

Arnold Baldwin Evenson was born at Climax, Minnesota, March 4, 1908 to Inga (Jevning) and Peter Evenson. He had five brothers named Merdith, Orville, Glenn, Irwin and Vernon and four sisters, Bernice, Inez, Erma and Gladys. He was baptized and confirmed at Sand Hill Church and attended school district number six by his father’s home. He used to work as a farm hand for his Uncle Hans Evenson for many years. He served in World War II from 1941-1945 in the European area.

On December 28, 1945, he was united in marriage to Helen (Larson) Meling. He worked for Ordean Estenson and lived on the farm where Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bjorge now reside. After a couple of years, he worked for L.S. McWilliams at his farm near Eldred until 1948 when they purchased the John J. Meling farm north of Climax so Helen and Lou Ann were back to the farm where they used to live when Lou Ann was born.

On September 17, 1959, Arnold died suddenly at the farm home from a heart attack. In December that year, Mrs. Evenson and the youngsters lived at her brother Joseph Larson’s farm after the Larson’s new home was finished. When spring came, we moved back to our own farm two miles north of Climax and my nephew Vernon Grove rented the farm.

Then by the goodness and kind heartedness of my brother, Joseph and his dear wife, Blanche, they asked if we would be interested in having their old house moved into Climax so it would be more convenient for the youngsters for school. There were a lot of thoughts, decisions, and adjustments to make in a few months. We had heard Mr. and Mrs. Louis Letness in Climax had lots for sale so we purchased a lot from the Letness’s and had the house moved in September, 1960. The street we moved on had five families living here with all their names ending with “son”.

Johnson, Erickson, Monson, Thorsen and Swenson. The Evenson family fit right in place in the middle of the block.

Richard graduated from the Climax High School in 1969. He worked at the Farmers Union in Climax on the bulk tank truck. He married Lynnette Strand, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Strand of Shelly, Minnesota, June 15, 1974 and they lived at the Severson farm of Buxton, North Dakota. On October 1, 1975, they were blessed with little Angela Lynn. Now the family moved to Fairdale, North Dakota to make their home and Richard is manager of the Cenex Service Station.

Merlin Kent graduated from the Climax High School in 1971 and worked for several farmers and later worked at the Farmer’s Union as shop and station attendant. He lost his life in an automobile accident July 29, 1973.

Laurel Kay graduated from the Climax High School in 1974. She married Jan Rude of Shelly, Minnesota, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Rude. They reside in Shelly, Minnesota where Laurel works at the Co-op Creamery and Jan drives the bulk tank truck for the Climax Farmer’s Union.

Michael Dean graduated from the Climax High School in 1975 and was employed at the Farmer’s Union in Climax through the summer. He is now attending the Brown Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

GLENN EVENSON

Glenn and Eunice Evenson and family live on the farm that was formerly occupied by Peder and Inga Evenson, Glenn’s parents. Peder and Inga moved there in 1919. Peder was the son of Johannes and Anne Evenson and Inga was the daughter of Ole and Ingeborg Jevning. All of them were pioneers in this community and had come over from Norway to the new country. They homesteaded in this area and raised families on their farms.


Peder died in 1936 and the farming was done by different sons at different times. Inga passed away in 1954. Grain crops of wheat, barley, and some potatoes were grown. Each farm during those days had a few cows, chickens, turkeys, and in some cases, pigs.

Glenn married Eunice Klemetson from Ulen, Minnesota. Five sons and one daughter were born to them and their names are: Keith, Miles, Charles, Kevin, Todd, and Rachel.

They received their education in the Climax Public School and various technical schools and Junior Colleges in the area.

Their religious training was begun in the Sand Hill Church in the community. Keith and Miles spent time in the military service because of conditions at that time. Glenn was in military service for about five years during World War II and Eunice taught school during that time in Climax, Hawley, and Thief River Falls, all in Minnesota. We have seen the change from rural schools to consolidated schools in the towns. A much larger percentage of young people went on to higher education beyond high school. Many were happy to see rural electrification come in the 1940’s and dial telephones in the 1950’s. Farming changed from horses to tractors and combines and other machinery. Roads became greatly improved. Sugar beets became a crop for many in the area. Dairy cows were an important part of our farming from 1950-1969 but was then discontinued and potatoes and sugar beets became more important.

MR. AND MRS. HANS GLASERUD

Mrs. Carrie Thorson Glaserud was born in Aurland Sogn, Norway. She and her brother, Alf Thorson, arrived by covered wagon in the Eldred community at an early age, coming from Beloit, Wisconsin. Carrie Thorson was married to Hans Glaserud who was born in Toten, Norway. They settled on a farm in section four, Vineland township. They raised a family of three girls: Sena, Tillie and Anna; and five sons: Ole, Theodore, Martin, Chris and Helmer.

Mr. Glaserud passed away in 1918 and Theodore and Tillie died at an early age. The rest of the family continued to farm. In 1927 the oldest daughter, Sena and her husband, August Buness and family joined them in farming the home farm. Mrs. Glaserud passed away in 1938. The farm was sold in 1943.
to Ansel Suldahl, when the Buness boys went into the service and the remaining family moved to Crookston. Helmer Glaserud and Anna Larson, the only survivors of the immediate family still live in Crookston.

Helmer has been very active in community affairs, both in the Eldred vicinity and in Crookston. He served for many years on the board of the Farmers Elevator, serving as President; served on the Vineland Town Board; The Eldred School board; and the board of the Farmers Union Oil Company in Climax. In 1943 he married Marie Johnson and together they operated the Midway Grocery on Washington Avenue, Crookston for seventeen years. Mrs. Glaserud passed away in 1964.

Helmer has been honored twice during the past twelve years for his dedicated work on the board of the Polk County Historical Society and as a tour guide of the Polk County Historical Museum. He is currently serving on the board of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

MR. AND MRS. CARL GULLINGSRUD

Carl Gullingsrud married Mabel Palm December 3, 1924 in Crookston by Rev. Moen. Carl Gullingsrud was born November 20, 1902 at Gary, Minnesota to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gullingsrud. When he was six years old, his parents and family moved to Goodridge, Minnesota and homesteaded. He and his brothers worked hard helping clear the land and care for the livestock. They all attended country school District #68. Carl attended the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston and graduated in 1921.

Mabel Palm was born April 26, 1906 at Cummings, North Dakota to Mr. and Mrs. John Palm. She was the youngest of seven children. Her parents came to Cummings from Nebraska. After their marriage, Carl and Mabel farmed at Cummings in partnership with Edwin Palm. Some of those years were good and some poor. They sold hogs for five cents a pound and cattle for four cents per pound.

In 1932, Carl and Mabel and family moved into Climax and Carl went to work for the Standard Oil Company as a bulk agent. He worked for Standard ten years. 1932-1933 were hard years in the oil business. In those days oil companies would not authorize any credit to small farmers so the agent had to give the credit on his own which made it tough for the agent in the summer until the crops came in. Carl then became manager of the Farmer's Union Oil Company of Climax for ten years. He then was manager of the Farmer's Union Oil Company at Wilmar, Minnesota two years.

On January 1, 1954 he purchased half interest in the Climax Implement Company from H. G. Boyer of Climax. He operated it together with Lloyd Rognlie as a partner for thirteen years.

In 1967 Carl retired and sold out his interest in the company to Lloyd Lind. They moved to Winchester, California, built a new house, and moved in December 24, 1968.

The Gullingsruds have five children. Vernon married Ardis Anderson of Crookston, is a contractor, and lives in Winchester, Gujarat also. Dennis married Joyce Sharpe and works for All-State Insurance. They live in Fargo, North Dakota and have four children: Lori, Mary, Mark, and Tracy. Lyla married William Fiers of Van Nuys, California where they still live. They have four children: Jimmy, Billy, and twins, Marilyn and Carolyn. Arlis married Dick Noer who is a barber. They live in New Brighton, Minnesota and have three children: Terry Sue, Paul, and Julie. Sharon Morse lives in El Cajon, California and has two children, Allyson and Vincent.

KARL J. JEVNING

Karl J. Jevning was born in Bardo, Norway, October 29, 1862. His father passed away in Norway. In 1880 he and his mother, Ragnhild Jevning together with other members of the family came to America. Ragnhild bought one quarter of land in Section 19, Vineland Township from St. Paul and Manitoba Railway Company in January, 1889 for the sum of $1,280 and in 1891 sold it to her son, Karl J. Jevning for $800. Karlotta Markusen born in Bodo, Norway, February 28, 1873, came to America 1893, married Karl Jevning April 7, 1894. His mother continued to live with them until she passed away.

They had nine children: Ragna, John, Marcus, Helmer, Ingeman, Clarence, Arnold, Hazel and Andor, who died in infancy, and a foster son, Arne Larson. Mr. Jevning lived the rest of his life on the same farm, and died in 1939; Mrs. Jevning died in 1955. They were members of the Sand Hill Lutheran Church, and are buried in the Sand Hill Cemetery. Ragna married H. M. McMullen of Orrick, Missouri. He was a potato buyer. Ragna was a telephone operator for many years in Climax. Two sons were born to them: Harvey and James. Harvey served in the Merchant Marines; is a graduate of Mayville College; attended University of Michigan one year and received his Master's and Doctor's Degrees from University of North Dakota; and is a Professor of Education at Mayville College in North Dakota. In 1951, he married Eileen O'Hara of Petersburg, North Dakota. They have five children. James was a jet Fighter Pilot in the United States Air Force, retired with the rank of Major after twenty years in service and recently received his Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Oregon College. He married Charlotte Hensrud of Mekinock, North Dakota, in 1955. They have three children and live in Union, Oregon. H. M. McMullen passed away in 1961.

Mrs. McMullen is a resident at Luther Memorial Home in Mayville, North Dakota. John, a World War I veteran, now deceased, a son John Jevning Brevick lives in Graham, Washington, is married and has six children. Marcus lives in Climax, Minnesota. Helmer passed away in 1966. Ingeman married Inga Braaten, live on their farm in Hubbard Township, have three children: Margaret, Karl and Orley. Clarence married Virginia Hartman, live in Crookston, have a son, Vaughn and a daughter, Jan (Maroney). Arnold married Phyllis Bangen in 1939, lived in Crookston, later moved to Great Falls, Montana, where he owned and operated a shoe repair shop. They have three children: Judy, Sandra (Vanni), and Richard. Arnold passed away in 1972. Hazel married Arnt Brokke, he died in 1975; she lives in Climax, Minnesota.
OLE JEVNING

Mr. Ole Jevning was born near Bardu in northern Norway, April 12, 1845. His parents were Johan and Ingeborg Jevning. His mother died when he was but a few days old. He grew up and was educated in his native land. When he became 21 years old, he left for America with many others from his area. He left May seventh and arrived in Freeborn county August 29, 1866 and worked there two years in carpenter trade after which he went to Ottertail county. In 1869, he joined government supply train leaving St. Cloud for Fort Abercrombie and worked as a cook. He was also transferred to Fort Ripley and to Fort Snelling. He took a homestead claim in Ottertail county in 1869, but after two years he let the land revert to the government. He journeyed to the Red River Valley in the summer of 1871 with the Estenson family. At that time there were no roads or trails and the rivers had high banks and muddy bottoms. Their aim was to reach high land and noticed bits of bark on the prairie which denoted a recent flood. They pushed on until they came to the Sand Hill river where land was more satisfactory. From there they went to Red River where they sighted the steamboat, Selkirk, which was a very welcome sight.

Ole Jevning was an experienced builder and he built the log cabins while the others in the party broke land. The first house was built for Mr. Ole Estenson, 20 by 24 feet. Ole spent the day preparing the logs and others assisted in hauling them to the site and peeling off the bark during the evening hours. Mr. Jevning lived in the prairie schooner until fall when he completed his own log house. It is told that they had poles and long bunches of prairie grass for a roof, no floor or windows. A rainstorm in the night wet their hay bed and in morning found their shoes floating in their house.

Mr. Jevning was married February, 1872 to Miss Ingeborg Estenson, daughter of Ole Estenson. This marriage which occurred in the county was the first among the settlers. Mr. Jevning and Miss Estenson got return tickets over the stage route to Pembina, the nearest point where they could find one who could officiate on such an occasion. The gentleman who married them was General Harrison who was stationed at the fort there in Pembina. After they arrived there, the stage had been sold six times and there were no trips being made. The new company refused to recognize their return tickets. Mr. Jevning and his bride took their seat in the sleigh and defied ejection. When they arrived at Grand Forks the officers there gave them permission to travel to Frog Point without charge due to annoyance to which they had been subjected.

Mr. and Mrs. Jevning are parents of the following children: Ingeborg, married Andrew Stortroen; Johann, married Marie Madson from Baudette, Minnesota; Ole Elmer, married Ida Larson; Inqvard, deceased; Ida, married Christ Monson; Inga Alma, married Peter Evenson; Anna Johanna Rebecca, married Martin Horntvedt from Baudette, Minnesota; and Oliva, married Cecil Neil. At this writing Olivia, the youngest, is the only living member to this family. All the sisters, brothers and "in-laws" are deceased including her husband, Cecil.

Mr. Jevning raised small grains for sale, and feed for cattle and other animals. These pioneers raised almost all their provisions. The Hudson Bay Company was a big help by bringing provisions for settlers in this area to Frog Point, better known as Belmont church now, which is across the Red River in North Dakota.

Mr. Jevning was active in his church and entertained many church pastors and dignitaries in his home. Mr. Jevning died May 1920 at 72 years of age. Mrs. Jevning died May 1939 at the age of 87. Her birthday was September 6th and a granddaughter, Mrs. Bereth (Stortroen) Larson, and two great-grand-daughters, Mrs. Adair (Stortroen) Means and Mrs. Judith ( Larson) Hoffman have the same birthday.

TELLOF AND GURINA KJOLHAUG

Tellof and Gurina Berg-Simonson Kjolhaug came to America from Bardo, Norway in 1881. With his family, he settled in Fosston, Minnesota, Thirteen Towns, Rosebud Township, Polk County. They had three sons: Iver and Oliver settled in Bella Coola, British Columbia and Simon married Anna Anderson. Simon had one son, Martin and one daughter Selma at Gonvick, Minnesota. Four daughters: Caroline, one son Tellof, one daughter Gaa of Fosston. Maria married Ingebrit Fosbakk, no children and they lived in Florence, Oregon.

Karen married Esten Estenson, had ten children. Four died in infancy, Oliver, Thomas, Ivan George, Haakon and Esther lived at Climax, Minnesota. Trena married Anton Evenson and they had five children: Even, Ames, Harry Gunda, Cora and Alma of Climax, Minnesota.

OLE KNUTSON, SR.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Knutson, Senior of Eldred, Minnesota, immigrated to this country from Aal Hallingdal, Norway on July 4, 1880 with their five children; three children were born later here in the United States. After spending some time near Thompson, North Dakota, with his brother, they moved to Section 12, Vineland Township in 1890 where he got a tree claim. He then started farming there with oxen and walking plow.
Their children after their marriage were: Mrs. Andrew (Carrie) Jordahl Berg, Gully and Crookston, Mrs. Gilbert (Carrie) Strommen, Eldred, Minnesota, Mrs. Julius (Julia) Jacobson, Mrs. Chris (Emma) Wilson, Mrs. Albert (Annie) Henry, Miss Sena Knutson, Knute Knutson, all of Crookston, Minnesota, and Ole Knutson, Junior, who remained on this home farm until his death in 1944. All of this immediate family are now passed on and all are buried in the Oakdale Cemetery in Crookston, Minnesota.

There were eleven grandchildren.

**BERNHARD (BENNIE) MELING**

Bernhard was born April 27, 1903 near Climax, Minnesota. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson Meling who came from Norway in 1898.

He had a brother John and two sisters, Anna and Norma. He was baptized and confirmed in the Sand Hill Church, and attended school in district 238, the Dyrud school near their farm home. He was a farmer all his life.

On March 25, 1934, he was united in marriage to Helen Jennette Larson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Larson of rural Climax, Minnesota. This union was blessed with one daughter Lou Ann Bernette born October 13, 1934.

In the spring of 1938, Bennie was accidentally kicked and trampled by a horse at the farm. He died in the Crookston hospital five days later.

His widow and Lou Ann lived at the farm with Lou Ann’s grandparents until 1945 when Helen married Arnold Evenson, December 28, 1945.

**AMUND MOEN**

Marit Romsaas, daughter of John and Marit Pederson Romsaas was born in Gulbransdalen, Norway, February 11, 1833, she married Peder Moen in Norway and came to America in 1871. They lived for a number of years in Freeborn County, Minnesota. In 1878 they located on a farm near Climax, Polk County, Minnesota. They had a family of ten children, two of them located in Canada, and the others remained in Polk County area. Maret Moen died in 1935 at the age of one hundred and two years. Peder died in 1910. The log house stood until a few years ago. Amund, son of Marit and Peder Moen was born November 25, 1859, in Ringebø, Gulbransdalen, Norway, and came to America with his parents in 1871 at the age of twelve.

Thea Thronson, daughter of Hans and Kari Thronson, was born November 16, 1863, in Gulbransdalen, Norway, and came with her parents to America in 1871, when she was five years old. They lived in Freeborn County, Minnesota for several years before moving to a farm near Climax, Polk County, Minnesota. She married Amund Moen February 25, 1883 and they lived on a farm, which they homesteaded, in the same community. To this union eleven children were born: Minnie, Hilda, Peter, Marie, Stella, Peter, Henry, Cora, Alice, Alice and Pearl.

Their nearest town was Fisher, Minnesota, where they had to haul their grain, and buy their groceries. Many of the farmers living near Nielsville and vicinity, on their way to Fisher would make the Moen home an overnight stopping place.

Amund and Thea Moen.

**Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moen.**

Even though the home was small and crowded, they always made room for them. In the summer, their biggest fear was prairie fires which could destroy everything in a short time. In the winter, it was the deep snow and blizzards, as there were no trees for a windbreak.

Thea Moen died March 31, 1933, and Amund married Magda Thompson November 14, 1941. Amund died December 29, 1943. Henry Moen, son of Amund and Thea Moen, married Myrtle Hegge in 1939. In 1940 he purchased the farm from his father, on which the Moens still live. To this union nine children were born: Arnold, Mylon, Janice, Sandra, Richard, Bonnie, Julie, and Karen. Henry farmed till 1958, at the time he was stricken with a heart attack. In 1959 being forced to give up farming he took up clerking at the Hovland Hardware, where he worked for five years. In January of 1964, he suffered a stroke and passed away the sixteenth day of the same month. All of the children are living, except the oldest, Arnold, who passed away in 1974, after being stricken with cancer.

Arnold married the former Phyllis Elkins, they had two children, Debra and Melanie. Arnold was employed at Riverview Hospital as Laborotry Technician at the time of his death. Richard is presently farming the Moen farm. Mylon is living on the Arnold Moen farm and is employed as an electrician and tends a few Arabian horses which his brother, Arnold, had a deep interest in.

Mrs. Arnold Moen (Phyllis) and girls are living in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, where Phyllis is attending the University of Minnesota, where she plans to receive her Ph.D. Degree in teaching in Sociology. Janice Moen married Ervin Fahrenkrug May 9, 1964. They live in Omaha, Nebraska, where he works with Western Electric. They have two children, Lisa, age six, and Daniel age three.

Sandra Moen married Fabian Yanez on March 20, 1965, they have two boys, Paul age eight and Prescott age three. They live at Campbell, Minnesota, where he works as fieldman for Fieldcrest Fertilizer.

Diane Moen married David Morken in September 1972. They live on a farm north of Eldred, Minnesota, which was established in the summer of 1972. They have a daughter, Chathleen. David farms with his father, Stanley Morken. Bonnie Moen married Joe Munn on June 20, 1973. They live in Crookston, Minnesota where Joe is employed by the city. They have one daughter, Christeen, one year old. Julie and Karen Moen are attending Climax High School, where Karen is a junior and Julie is a senior.

All the Moen children graduated from the Climax High School. The Moens were all baptized and confirmed in the Sand Hill Lutheran Church of Climax, Minnesota.

Arnold finished his course in technology at the University of Atlanta, Georgia. He and his family moved back to Crookston in 1966 when he took up his position at Riverview Hospital. Both Arnold and Mylon were in the armed services. Mylon spent eighteen months in Germany and began his studies in electronics and finished two years at Vocational Technical College at Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Richard attended University of Minnesota Technical College at Crookston and has been in the National Guard four years.
The Cecil Neil Family: Marion, Cecil, Olive, Robert.

CECIL NEIL

Cecil Neil was born in Mono Township, Ontario, Canada near a small town named Orangeville. His full name was Robert Thomas Cecil Neil. His parents were Robert and Mary Buchanann Neil, his grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Buchanann and several aunts and an uncle, Jeff Buchanann and his wife all lived together in a large native stone house. Cecil's mother died when he was about three months of age, and soon after, Cecil's father left Canada and left his son to be raised by his grandparents and aunts and uncle. While a young boy, the house burned and he nearly lost his life. His uncle saved him by grabbing him and leaped across the flames to safety. He was confirmed in the Episcopalian faith. During his younger years, his aunt married and moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota. When Cecil reached his mid-teens, he left Canada and came to Grand Forks and made his home with his aunt, Mrs. Martha Freeman, who lived at Walnut Street and he also by that time had other relatives in the area. He worked at the brickyard in Grand Forks and tells of hauling brick to the University of North Dakota area used for building there. He later went to the Lake of the Woods area and worked in the lumbering camps and also took a homestead north of Pitt, Minnesota.

John Jevning and sisters, Anna and Olive, each had homesteads in the area. John and Cecil were close friends. Cecil met Olive Jevning, daughter of Ole and Ingeborg Jevning of Climax, and they were married November 4, 1913 at Crookston, Minnesota. They then lived with her folks who were retiring from active farming. Cecil was hired to farm, later on he rented the land from the estate and finally bought the 240-acres in the home farm. Mrs. Jevning lived with the family and Olive nursed and cared for her as long as she lived.

Cecil and Olive Neil had two children, a girl, Marion Imogene, and a son, Robert Jevning Neil. Marion married Elmer Larson of Climax in the Sand Hill Church area, and Robert married Lou Ann Meling also of Climax.

Cecil Neil died, July 7, 1971 at the age of 89. At present, Olive lives at St. Anne's Guest Home in Grand Forks and is 87 years of age.

She enjoys visiting her friends and especially her grandchildren and is active being able to care for herself. Olive and Cecil have twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

ROBERT NEIL

Robert was born January 23, 1930 in Crookston, Minnesota to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Neil. He was raised on the farm which had been homesteaded by his pioneer grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jevning, in Vineland township. He attended the country school, District #6, through the eighth grade and then attended the Agricultural College in Crookston before enlisting in the army. He spent two years in the service and then returned home and farmed in partnership with his father.

In 1952, Robert married Lou Ann Meling at the Sand Hill Lutheran Church and they are parents of seven children: Cynthia Lou, married Michael Sondrol and lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota where they are both employed; Debra Rene, married to Darrell Larson, resides on a farm near Buxton, North Dakota. They are parents of three children, Nichelle Rene, born March 7, 1973 and twin boys, Jeremy Robert and Jann Nelson, born October 18, 1975; Kathleen Diane, graduated from Moorhead Vocational Technical Institute and is employed as a secretary-receptionist in Grand Forks; Robert Scott, graduated from Climax High School in 1975 and is employed in East Grand Forks at the present time; Jeffrey Wayne, attends Climax High School where he is in the tenth grade; Lisa Lynette, attends Climax High School and is a student in the seventh grade.

Robert continued farming until 1970 when he sold the farm to his nephew. Robert has been employed in East Grand Forks since he quit farming and at the present time is living in the village of Climax. Three generations lived in the original log house his grandparents had built in 1876

ANITA GRAMSTAD SCHWARTZMAN

Life in Norway was a struggle with hard times and little chance for advancement in 1867. An uncle came back from the United States to Gramstad, Holid, Norway and told of the many opportunities for a better life.

Grethe Regina was born 1867. Her parents were Grethe Malena and Rasmus Torgerson. Grethe and Knute L. Gramstad (1865-1947). They were among the group of young emigrants who heard the news from America. Knute's parents were Lars Larson Gramstad and Bertha Karina Forros, farmers and fisherman. They spent a year in Iceland-1886. The group sailed on the White Star Line, beginning a four weeks' trip to Mayville, North Dakota via New York, Buffalo, Duluth, and St. Paul. Grethe Regina and Knute L. Gramstad were married here in their new homeland in 1887. Mr. Gramstad worked for various farmers, including the Grandin Farm and helped dig for the first water pipes at Mayville, North Dakota. Pay was 50¢ a day at the Grandin Farm. One spring the young couple were able to buy a home for $110 and spent the next 12 years raising garden produce for sale in Mayville. They closed their business there in 1902 and moved to Vineland Township, Polk County, Section 21 where they raised a family of ten children: Karine, Roy, Leonard, Mable, Reuben, Knute, Lloyd, Elmer, Jason and Guy. They were successful farmers who found the promised opportunities.

Knute Gramstad and Laura Lunos, daughter of Halvor Lunos and Karen Boukind were married in Crookston and made their home in the Climax community and were active in farm work. Their children and grandchildren are numerous.

Cora Gramstad, married John Schwartzman of Crookston and their home is Climax. His job is an Automatic Instrument Engineer at Crystal Sugar Company of Crookston and she owns and operates the Clay Cellar Ceramic Shop. They have four children: one son Kit; and three daughters: Kim, Dana and Lana. Mrs. David Palm, who makes her home at Cummings, North Dakota.

CORAL KOPPANG STORTROEN

Cora Koppang Stortroen born November 12, 1909 to Olaf Koppang and Mary Lunos who were son and daughter of pioneers Hans Koppang and Halvor Lunos. Hans Koppang was born July 9, 1848, in Norway. He immigrated to Polk County and homesteaded in Tynsid Township. He married Gurine Fossback in Norway and they were married March 12, 1880 and died in April 15, 1923. Hans died in 1924. Their family consisted of Ole who married Minnie Paulson, sister of Halvor; Marie, Mrs. Conrad Anderson; Helmer, who married Lily Foss- backen; Olaf who married Mary Lunos; Emma, Mrs. Oliver Severson; Oline, Mrs. George Johnson; John, who married Tina Hanson; Anne, Mrs. Peder Vingelen. Twenty-five grandchildren followed this beginning, Cora being one of them. Olaf was born in 1882 and began farming with his father and bought land next to his father. He married Mary Lunos at Crookston. She was born in 1891 and died in Climax in 1970.
They lived most of their lives in Polk County except for seven years in Montana where they were farming, after which time they returned to Tynsid Township. Seven children were born to them: Cora married Ernest Stortroen; Georgia married Morris Stortroen; Mabel married Tennis Neste; Bernice married Palmer Bjornrud; Harry Norman married Rose Kirschman; Morris married Theresa Bergland and Lester married Dorothy Larson. Twenty grandchildren and many great-grandchildren survive. Most have been occupied with farming and related activities. Polk County schools and the Lutheran Church have been important to this family. Halvor Lunos (1867-1937) was a carpenter by trade and also farmed. He married Karen Boulind, daughter of Peder and Maria Bouking, Norwegian immigrants who came to Wisconsin. From there they came in a covered wagon to Polk County in 1878. They had eleven children and their home was in the Eldred-Climax area. After Karen died, he went to British Vancouver where he had many relatives. Seven sons grew up there: Helmer married Valborg Stortroen; Idolph married Hilda Gordon; John married Amy Hegre; Carl married Mabel Stortroen; Peder married Martha Floe; Libert married Rosella Larson and Bennie married Elma Sampson. Four daughters were Mary, Alma, Laura and Karen. When the mother died, Karen, as a baby, was adopted by her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Odele Twite. They were related to Karen by marriage. Two of the girls, Cora and Stortroen, are Cora Stortroen’s maternal grandparents. Farming and carpentry were their main means of livelihood. There have many descendants all over the United States.

ERNEST GRANVILLE STORTROEN
Ernest Granville Stortroen was born March 16, 1902, to Erick Stortroen and Maret Bangen on their homestead in Vineland Township. He attended district 6 school and finished his education in the Climax two-room school. He farmed the homestead with his father and later independently. He married Cora Koppang, daughter of Olaf Koppang and Mary Lunos, at Crookston in 1929. They moved to Climax and farmed in and around the area until retirement. They are parents of a daughter, Eleanor, Mrs. Jerry Heggie, who has four children: Chris Ann, Keith, Robert, and JoDell and a son, Odele who had military service and presently is in accounting at Denver, Colorado.

Ernest remembers a huge flood across the whole area which ruined all crops in June in the year 1915. It was a cloud burst! In half a day sixteen inches came and only the railroad track could be seen over the whole land. His cousin remembers the rain came so fast it spilled over the top of the wagon box.

Ernest and Cora were members of Sand Hill Church until they moved to Climax when they transferred to the Climax Lutheran Congregation.

ERICK STORTROEN
Erick Stortroen of Tynsid, Osterdal, Norway and his twin brother, Ole were born September 1, 1855, to Ole J. and Sigrid Stortroen. He grew up on a farm and learned the tailor trade. At age 22, the twins immigrated to America via Trondhjem, Glasgow, Scotland and New York City arriving in Pierce County, Wisconsin, 1877. He worked there until 1878, then went to Polk County and homesteaded in East Vineland. His first projects were a log shanty and ox to break up land. Later use of horses speeded up the farm production of crops on his 200 acres. A snow storm of 1882 made impossible any stock care for two days. Mail came from Fisher’s Landing to the Neby postoffice where Mr. Saugstad was in charge. After rail routes were completed, the Post Office was moved to Climax. His many occupations involved farming, stock, and community affairs. He helped organize Vineland Mutual Fire Insurance Company, served on school boards and the organization of the Sand Hill Church building and many township offices.

He was united in marriage to Maret Bangen, sister of Ole Nelson, an emigrant from Norway, at Sand Hill Church in 1883, one of the first ceremonies performed there by Rev. Christian Saugstad. A small log school house served for church purposes up to this time. Their children were: Serena, Mrs. Thomas Gilbertson; Johanna; Valborg, Mrs. Helmer Lunos; Stella, Mrs. Alf Evenson; Mabel, Mrs. Carl Lunos; Ole; Simon; and Ernest who married Cora Koppang, a daughter of Ola and Mary (Lunos) Koppang. There are twenty grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and some great-great-grandchildren. Many-a-time it was not sold until in

GILBERT STROMMEN
Gilbert Strommen who was born December 26, 1862 in Valdres, Norway, left Oslo, Norway May 2, 1884 by way of Hull and Liverpool, England and then came on the ship “Lusitania” to Boston, Massachusetts, arrived on May 19th. It took eleven days to cross the Atlantic Ocean by boat. From Boston, he went directly to Cannon Falls, Minnesota where he worked for a while as a laborer on a farm. Later he left for Bowdle, South Dakota. He left Bowdle in 1887 by ox team for his next destination—a quarter section of land, seven miles southeast of Minot, North Dakota. In those days there were many Indians around, some who at times, were not too friendly. Often he was in fear of what they might do. He experienced many a hardship while there. In 1890 he decided to come to the Valley and settled in Section 2, Vineland Township, near Eldred, Minnesota. In the spring of 1891, he purchased his farm in section 12, Vineland Township where he built his home. On June 21, 1891 he was united in marriage to Carrie Knutson of Eldred. This was their home until their deaths. Gilbert died December 14, 1937 and Carrie died on June 19, 1949. To this union there were four children born: Otto, who is now the owner of the farm; Mrs. Chris Hansen, Anna, who passed away in 1959; Mrs. Oscar Berge, Olga, of Crookston and Mrs. John Carl, Clara, of Crookston. Mrs. Gilbert Strommen, Carrie, also came to the United States from Norway. She was born in Al Hallingdal, Norway on September 15, 1889 and came with her parents on July 4, 1880. They came by boat to New York City and then by train to Grand Forks, North Dakota and later to Fisher’s Landing by boat. After spending some time with relatives near Thompson, North Dakota, they also moved to section 12, Vineland Township in 1890, where they had a “tree claim”. Her parents lived there until their deaths in 1912 and 1921. Their son, Ole, purchased the farm and continued to farm until his death in 1944. Both of these farms were only prairie lands in those days and prairie fires were a great hazard to their hay stacks. Fire breaks had to be plowed around the building for protection and there were times when fighting the fires was very difficult on account of water shortage. The wells were shallow and had been dug for use for both livestock and home. These wells were curved with planks to prevent cave-ins. Most of the land was plowed by oxen and walking plow. There were no roads to go for supplies, only trails, which at times were almost impassable. Hay was hauled to Crookston, twelve miles away, to sell for groceries and supplies. Many-a-time it was not sold until in

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Strommen
Wedding Day
June 21, 1891.
the late night at a “Bargain Price” in order to get on the road home again, with their supplies for the family. Wood fuel to keep warm in the winter had to be cut down and hauled from the banks of the Red River or Red Lake River. Both rivers were seven or eight miles away.

The winters were long and cold with lots of snow and blizzards. The spring thaw brought flooding, as there were no ditches for drainage. The water would be axle deep as they traveled with their buggy or wagons on the prairie. These were real hardships for all and it took a lot of courage and strength to be a pioneer.

The changes since then have been tremendous — from oxen to horses, to tractors and the changes of way of living too! It’s been a truly interesting life to have experienced!

MARTIN STROMMEN

Martin Strommen was born in 1865. He came to the United States in 1884 and first located at Cannon Falls, Minnesota. From there he went to Aberdeen, South Dakota and lived there until 1887, moving to Minot, North Dakota. In 1890 he came to the Red River Valley and located on a farm in Vineyard Township where he lived and raised a family of eight children who were: Olaf, Pauline, Edwin, George, Peder, Randolph, Harold and Neal. Martin died in 1926. He and his wife and sons Harold and George are buried in Sandhill Cemetery North of Climax. The rest of the children are Polk County residents and involved with farming and its many phases. Nine grandchildren and twenty-one great-grandchildren are descendants of this pioneer family. Edwin Strommen married Rodella Brokke of Trail County, North Dakota. He was a farmer and a carpenter. Rodella was a grocery clerk for twenty-five years at the J. E. Estenson and N. Thune stores in Climax. She also worked eleven years on the school lunch program. They are both now retired. They have one daughter, Janice, Mrs. Duane Dales, of Moorhead and they have four children. Peder and Randolph are engaged in farming. Pauline, Mrs. Art Strubert, lives in Detroit Lakes. Neal Strommen married Lois Lefaire of Crookston and their three children are Larry, Cheryl and Ray Jean. Their home is Climax where his occupation is a city employee and she is librarian.

OTTO STROMMEN

Otto Strommen was born March 13, 1893, to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Strommen at the farm home near Eldred, Minnesota, on Section 12, Vineland Township. He was baptized at the Sandhill Church May 7, 1893. Mr. Strommen has been a farmer all his life, but retired from active farming in 1967. He enjoys the farm and spends a great deal of his time there.

His school days began in 1900 when a new school was built. It was school district 254 and was 1 ¼ miles away from his home. To begin with, it was only a four-month term in the year, then later lengthened to a seven-month term before it closed in the year of 1929. All grades were taught by one teacher from primary to the eighth grade, with as many as 25 pupils enrolled at times. The teacher in 1900 received $150 in wages for the four month term.

Otto’s father, Gilbert Strommen, was the first clerk of this school district and helped to organize the school, which he held for many years. Then, later on in years Otto became treasurer of the district for several terms.

In those early days, there was no church nearby and travel was hard. So religious services were held in another school near by. Visiting pastors would come and hold services there as well as in some of the homes when it was possible. Otto’s father was one of the Sunday school teachers. Otto recalls those “Early Farming” Days with the “walking plow” to turn the sod, etc. He started his farming with horses and the small type of machinery. Then to the “Great Era” of tractors and combines, a big change in those days.

He began to drive his “Brand New Model-T Ford Touring Car” in 1925 which he used for 32 years. Now, he still drives his Oldsmobile car at the age of 83 years. One of his greatest pastimes is to reminisce to his friends of the “Olden Days” and then to the great changes which have taken place during his life time.

EDVARD AND ANE MARIA STROMSMOE

Johan Edvard Stromsmeoe was born at Naalselev, Presteig, Nordland, Norway, on March 19, 1855. He came to southern Minnesota as a young man, where he worked on farms. There he met Ane Maria Fosbakh (or Fosbaken), a native of Ibestad Presteig, Nordland. She was born January 30, 1854, and came to America with her parents when she was sixteen. She had two brothers, Ole and Ingebret Fosbakh and two sisters, Gurine (Koppang) and Elizabeth (Nygard).

Johan Edvard, known as Edvard, and Ane Maria were married at Sand Hill on October 30, 1877. The same year they took out a homestead along the Red River just south of the Sand Hill church. There he farmed and operated a small blacksmith shop. Six children were born to them: Emma, Olaf, John, Ole, Edwin and Olga. In 1907, part of the family moved to McKenzie, North Dakota.

Edward Johan and Maria Stromsmeoe.

Olaf married Laura Bangen and stayed on the farm for several years. Their children are: Allan, Ethel, Orlue, Waldo, Jerome, Verna who died at age eight; Phyllis and Wendell. In 1909, Olaf and John Stubson went to southeastern Alberta to homestead prairie land in the Pendant d’ Orille area. They left their families in Minnesota until they could get a start. After several moves back and forth, they finally decided to stay in Canada permanently in 1917. Ethel and Allan went to school at District #6 for three years, living with their Grandmother Bangen. Olaf died in March of 1963, and Laura still lives on their farm near Etiokom.

In 1910, Edvard and Ane Maria, Edwin and Olga joined Olaf in Canada, where they lived until 1921. Edwin stayed, but
Olga and her parents went to Portland, Oregon, where Edvard died three months later. Ane Maria lived until 1928. They were both buried in Florence, Oregon, where some members of the Fosbak family lived.

Olga married Joe Zitek while living in Portland, and they moved back to McKenzie County, North Dakota, where Joe was sheriff for many years. They had no children. Olga died in 1963 and Joe the following year. Emma married Helge Helgeson and lived near Alexander, North Dakota. She died in 1919, leaving two young children, Helmer and Mabel. John never married, but worked at ranches in the Williston area. He was killed in Grenora in 1917 and buried in Sand Hill Cemetery. Ole married Gina Brekke of Nielsville in 1909. They lived in the Nielsville area except for a couple years in North Dakota and Montana, until they moved back to Ole’s old home in the Sand Hill area in 1923. Their children are: Schuyler, Garlin, Doris, Beulah, Mervin and Wallace. In 1934, Ole was killed in an auto accident and is buried in Sand Hill Cemetery. The family moved to Roseau County in 1938 and later all except Schuyler and Garlin went to California to make their homes.

Edwin married Pearl Lundgren in Medicine Hat, Alberta, in 1915 in a triple wedding ceremony with her mother and her mother’s sister. All three couples had homesteads in the Pendants d’Orielle region. Edwin farmed and drilled oil and water wells. Their ten children are: Mylo, Arnold, Demoine, Gerald, Hester, Marie, Lois, Lavon, Ramona and Olga. When the children needed better schools, both Edwin and Olaf moved near the town of Etzikom. Edwin died in 1941.

Of all the young men that went into service in World War II, the only three to lose their lives were the Stromsmoe boys: Mylo and Gerald from Edwin’s family and Waldo from Olaf’s family.

Mervin and Kathleen Stromsmoe: Son Kent, Daughter Karen.

MERVIN AND KATHLEEN STROMSMOE
Mervin Stromsmoe and Kathleen Ulseth were married in Crookston August 17, 1947. He is the son of Gena (Brekke) and Ole Stromsmoe of Climax, Minnesota. Kathleen is the daughter of Esther Estenson Ulseth Johnson of Crookston and Laurie Ulseth deceased.

Mervin and Kathleen live in Martinez, California. They have two children, Kent and Karen. Both are graduates of Stanford University of California.

OLE STROMSMOE
Ole Stromsmoe and Gina Brekke were married at the Olaf Stromsmoe home at Sand Hill on November 2, 1909. They lived with her parents near Nielsville about two years and then they went to McKenzie County, North Dakota, to help his father. After an unsuccessful year of farming the dry hills of western Dakota, they homesteaded near Bynum, Montana. Their homestead shack was unfit for cold weather so they borrowed a neighbor’s house for the winter. Garlin, who was born in October, had a severe case of whooping cough that lasted all winter. Schuyler was born in Minnesota six months before they moved West.

In 1913, they moved back to the Brekke farm where Ole had been born and raised. The farm was for rent in 1925 so another move was made. Ole was killed in an auto accident in 1934, and he is buried in Sand Hill Cemetery. When the farm was sold to Ivar Engen in 1938, the family moved to Roseau County. In 1941, all except Garlin and Schuyler went to California to make their homes. Schuyler worked at the W. S. Brekke farm for many years, then he took over the farm for his mother after his father’s death. After his return from the Army, he bought a farm near Roseau where he still lives.

Garlin married Hazel Elgin of Badger in 1937. They operated a cafe and hotel in Williams for several years. When he went to work for the Department of Agriculture, they moved to East Grand Forks and later to Thief River Falls. Garlin died in 1973. Hazel lives in Thief River Falls and so does her daughter, Diane. Mrs. Terry Nelson; their other daughter, Gail, Mrs. Murray Dow, lives in Denver, Colorado.

Doris married Ordean Skalet of Nielsville in 1938. They live in Yuma, Arizona. They lived near Roseau for three years, then moved to Pomona and Upland, California. Gina Stromsmoe went to California with them. Ordean worked as a fire-fighter for the United States Navy and Air Force for thirty years until his death in 1973. Their son, Gary, lives in Issaquah, Washington, and Richard lives in Upland, California.

Beulah married Roy Bridges of Williams in 1940. The next year they and Wallace Stromsmoe moved to Los Angeles where Roy attended plastics school and worked in that industry until he went into the Army. After his release from a prison camp in Germany in 1945, he returned to Los Angeles to start his own plastic molding company, which he still operates. They have two children: Linda lives in New York and is assistant managing editor of National Review magazine; Donald is studying court reporting after having taught karate for several years. The Bridges family lives in La Puente, California. Gina Stromsmoe lives with them. She celebrated her 89th birthday in October.

Mervin married Kathleen Ulseth in Crookston in 1947. They live in Martinez, California, where he is a chemical engineer for Shell Oil. Their children are Kent and Karen. Kent is starting his own business in Martinez and Karen is a student at Stanford University.

Wallace married Sara (Sally) Rudy Averv of Riverside, California, in 1949. After twenty-three years in the United States Air Force, he now lives in Marin County, California, and works for Xerox Corporation in San Francisco. He has a step daughter, Barbara Avery Ortega.

OLE O. SUNDET
Ole O. Sundet, born in Houston County, November 18, 1868, to Mr. and Mrs. Ole S. Sundet, was the only child of the family born in the United States. The oldest child coming to the United States first and rest of family to follow. When at the age of four years, around 1872, the family came to Climax by oxcart which took three months. There were times when the mosquitoes were so thick it was necessary to build smoke fires to keep the mosquitoes from the cattle and themselves. They took homesteading near Climax near the river. The mother would make butter and sell to the steam boats for five cents a pound. At that time there was a teacher that came to the farm and taught school as there was no school house at that time. Later Dad moved to Crookston as a young man and bought out a saloon, which is now the Everson Auto Parts. Later he married Beata (Bertha) Morgan. Mom was born around Larimore, North Dakota, January 18, 1883 to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Morgan. She was one of three children born to them. It was a severe winter and dad was out looking for work when a severe snow storm came up. The house and barn were completely covered and there was not food or wood for burning. Much later Grandmother’s brother came looking for them by snow shoes. He passed over their house several times not realization it. He then dug them out and took them back to Hatton with him. Grandfather was killed when mom was still an infant. Later her mother remarried and there were three other children born to them. grandmother educated the children to read and write both English and Norwegian as there was no school around there. Ole and Bertha’s wedding was one of the most grand and biggest weddings around the northwest at that time. While in the saloon business, beer was sold for five cents a glass with free beef sandwiches. There were four children born to them: Mrs. Earl Smith, Alice, of Worthington, Wallace of Breckenridge, Russell, owner of the Sundet Toy and Hobby Shop, Crookston, and Maxine at home.

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ARTHUR AND EMMA THOMPSON

Arthur Thompson was born on May 15, 1881 in Vineland Township, the son of Peter A. Thompson, one of the early pioneers. He spent his entire life time in the area except for a short time when he had a claim near the Canadian border. He was educated in a country school and baptized and confirmed in the Sand Hill Lutheran Church, where he was an active member. When the Sand Hill Lutheran League first organized in 1913, he was the first elected president. He served as Sunday School Superintendent, as well as other church offices. Mr. Thompson was married to Emma Berg on May 9, 1914 in Crookston. Emma was the daughter of Hans H. Berg, also an early pioneer, both sets of parents having come to Vineland in 1873. They had four children, Herbert and Morris of Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Oriss (Alice) Hegge of Climax, Minnesota and Mrs. Bennie (Ardelle) Orvik of Silver Bay, Minnesota.

Mr. Thompson was a carpenter and painter by trade and had a small farm with some cattle and chickens. He had the habit of constantly whistling while he was working, sometimes to the irritation of his fellow workers as it would often be the same tune over and over again. He was an excellent violinist and he and his brother-in-law would often play duets for the Luther League. He would often entertain the family in the winter evening, accompanied by the family dog vocalizing outside the window.

He kept an accurate diary and anytime there was an argument about the weather, deaths (which he would mark + by), births, weddings, etc., he could look in his diary and settle it. He often built little tables, and rockers, dish cupboards, sleds and cross bows and arrows for his grandchildren. Many of these items are still treasured by his grandchildren today.

In summer the family would sometimes go by boat to the Belmond Store for groceries. The old store owner would often slip in a bag of candy for the children.

Their first car was a Model T Ford. When it was cold in winter, he would jack up the hind wheel and it would start easier.

Mrs. Thompson would churn butter, make lefse and sell them to stores to supplement their income in the lean years. Mr. Thompson died in 1954 and Mrs. Thompson died in 1968.

Dennis married Kathleen Eia of Beltrami and are living in Chandler, Arizona. He is a member of the Air Guard Reserve; they have two children.

Janet was married to Dale Sorenson of Fisher, where they farm; they have a family of two.

Una Rae was united in marriage to Stewart Smith of Nielsville. They live in Anoka, Minnesota where Stewart is a machinist; they also have two children. Barry, the youngest, is single and the fourth generation to till the soil on the farm that Nils Thune bought from the St. Paul Railway in 1883 for $3 an acre.

They are members of the Sand Hill Lutheran Church, the Minnesota Farmer's Union, Farmers Union Oil Company, the Climax Credit Union, Township clerk for 24 years and member of the board of directors for Farmers Union Oil Company. Main crops grown are small grains and sugar beets.

NORMAN O. AND RUBY G. THUNE

Norman's grandparents were among a group of Norwegian immigrants who settled in the area in the late 1870's. Nils Thune and his wife settled in Vineland Township about five miles north of Climax. They had six children. Helmer Thune, the youngest son, remained on the farm. He married Anna Loge and to this union there were four children: Alton, Norman, Telbert and Anna. Mrs. Thune died a month after Anna was born. She was raised by an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Einar Thune who lived just a short ways from the home farm. Norman, the second son grew up on the farm and attended country school. He married Ruby Larson in 1938 and they farmed for six years.

Ruby Larson was born on a farm in the Bygdal area and later moved to Climax where she was raised and attended school.

In 1946, Norman and Ruby purchased the General Store from John Estenson, Ruby's stepfather, which they still operate. At that time the Store was stocked with clothing for the entire family besides groceries. In 1959, the Store was remodeled, and also an addition was built on the east side for use as a Post Office and is still occupied as such. In 1972, the Store was damaged by fire which started in the warehouse. The smoke and intense heat made all the merchandise unsalable and was disposed of by the Insurance Company. Business was halted for one month for cleaning and redecoring; except for that interval, Norman and Ruby have been in business continually for thirty years.

Norman has served the City as Clerk for five years and Clerk-Treasurer for eleven years. He drove the school bus for eleven years. He has as his hobbies building cabinets, refinishing and repairing furniture and restoring old farm wagon wheels. Norman and Ruby are members of the Climax Lutheran Church, where Norman has been on the Church Council for twenty-eight years and Ruby has served as Sunday School teacher and has been an officer in the Ladies organizations. She is a member of the Evergreen Garden Club and has served as an officer of that organization.

They have four children, who are all married and located elsewhere. Ray, the oldest, married Bonita St. Michel of Crookston and lives in Ontario, Oregon. They have four children: Deanne, Todd, Theresa and Cynthia. Nina is married to John Rausch and lives in Fargo, North Dakota. They have one daughter, Janel. Corinne is married to Terry Cline and lives in Sylmar, California. She has worked as a nurse in a hospital and is presently working in a Doctor's Office. Rita is married to James Mauritson of Shelly, Minnesota, and lives in Moorhead, Minnesota. They have one son, Jeremy.

MILKK G. VRAA

This farm, located one and a half miles south of Climax, is the original homestead of Mikkel G. Vraa, who with his father Gjermund Vraa and three brothers and one sister drove here by horse and wagon from Delavan, Minnesota, where they had stayed a few years on their arrival from Norway. Mikkel
lived on this quarter section until he was of age so he could "prove up". He married Aslaufgolkestad shortly thereafter. They had one son, Sander; and three daughters. Louise, the oldest, died at the age of 18. Mikkel was much interested in horticulture and especially in growing apples. He had a small orchard and many of the trees he planted in the 90's and early 1900's still survive. Later when he built a new house near the old one, he started another little orchard, in which he worked until his death at the age of 94. Grandma Aslaug died at the age of 91 years. One daughter, Mary, was married to Herman Halvorsen and moved to Canada. She died at 86 years. Gina, the youngest, is the present co-owner of the farm, and lives with her son in the newer house. She was married to James Kolstad in Montana in 1914 but they moved back here after a few months. James died in 1916 and Gina stayed with her parents, caring for him and her son. She is presently 89 years old and still doing housework, though not in the best of health. Mikkel and Aslaufg also raised a foster son, Anton Lindem who died in 1922. He was the son of a cousin of Aslaufg's, Eric Lindem.

Since I came here as a newlywed in 1917, there have been a number of changes from horse-drawn machines to tractors, electricity, and many other improvements. Several new outbuildings, among them. My husband, Sander and I started farming on shares in 1918. In 1919 we had a severe hailstorm which took almost one hundred percent of the crop. We saved enough to feed the stock over winter, and had some insurance, which carried us over until another crop. There have been ups and downs, cropwise; but even in the depression years, the land provided a living.

Sander and I had eight children, four of them died in infancy or early childhood. Oscar Peter, the oldest son, unmarried, has taken over the farming since Sander's death in 1957. Belva, the only girl lives in La Mesa, California, is married to a retired navy chief and her two sons. Arthur lives on the former John Vraa farm just across the section from us. He is presently the principal in Fisher High School. He and his wife, Lue have one daughter and four sons.

Ivan, the youngest son lives in Glendale Heights, Illinois. He is an Immigration Inspector. He and his wife, Gina, have one son, and he has two sons and one daughter by a former marriage.

Besides the transition from horses to mechanized farming, there is the change over of milk-cows to beef-stock, no more butter to churn! Poultry also is a thing of the past, here. However, the farm continues to provide a living, for which we thank God.