older towns of the region but had just been reached by a railroad and he operated the only exclusive hardware business in the town for three years. When the Soo road was built to Gully, in 1910, he established his present hardware and furniture business, being the first merchant to sell goods on the new townsite. He was also the first to bring lumber to the site and in September of that year began the erection of a warehouse in a wheat field on one of the streets of the future village. All the previous building at Gully had been about a half mile distant near the location of the Ohm mills. His first business operations were with a small stock and meager equipment, it being late in November before he could occupy his store building. The J. O. Manger Lumber company had brought lumber to the place and several other merchants were engaged in building. Mr. Nelson has built up a prosperous and steadily growing trade and also conducts an undertaking business. In his hardware department he employs a competent tinner and handles contracts for roofing and cornice work, beside general repair work. As a successful business man and respected citizen Mr. Nelson is and has always been associated with the promotion of the best interests of the county and is well known as one of the younger and able members in business circles. He is a member of the school board and secretary of the Commercial club of Gully. Mr. Nelson was married January 30, 1907, to Margaret Brogan, who was born at Elroy, Wisconsin. Her parents died in her infancy and she was reared by a sister, receiving her education in the high school at Ontonagon, Michigan. She entered the teaching profession and pursued a successful career as a teacher for some time and was employed in the schools of Clearwater county, Minnesota.

TOM O. SOLBERG.

Tom O. Solberg, a prominent farmer of Rosebud township, has been a resident of Polk county since 1885. In 1884 he filed on a homestead claim and on July 4th of the following year he moved on this land. Since then he has added to the original tract, buying the adjoining uncultivated land at a maximum price of six dollars and a half an acre, and eighty acres of which he has sold for twenty dollars an acre. His present valuable farm property of three hundred and eighty-five acres attests to the thrifty management and unfailing industry of Mr. Solberg, who possesses all the sturdy characteristics of the men who wrestle with the wilderness and claim it for civilization. His has been the laborious task of clearing this tract of land and developing it into productive fields. He has engaged principally in the raising of grain and cattle, breeding blooded stock. He keeps a number of dairy cows and finds this a lucrative enterprise. Some low land has been reclaimed by ditching and the farm is equipped with good buildings, the pleasant home being rendered the more attractive by its well chosen situation. Mr. Solberg was married at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, to Julia Nelson, and they have eight children: Fred and Arthur, who are farmers near Max, North Dakota; Tillie, the wife of Martin Hanson of Stanley, North Dakota; Bertha A., who is a teacher in the Polk county schools, and Elmer, Clifford, Mabel and Walter, who remain in the home.

OSCAR THOR.

Oscar Thor, of Gully, secretary and treasurer of the Melbo Mercantile company, was born in Sweden, May 4, 1882. He was reared in his native land and apprenticed himself to the trade of butter-making and was employed in that work in Sweden until 1900, when he came to Stillwater, Minnesota, where an uncle, J. F. Thoreen, a railroad contractor, resided. He resided at that place for six months and then