a quarter section in Polk county, south of McIntosh. Avle Brandvold was reared on his father’s homestead and on reaching manhood became the owner of a Goodhue county farm which he operated until 1899 when he traded his property for his present farm in section twenty of Knute township, which had been owned by Martin I. Haugen, who lived near Fertile. The tract was partially improved, with forty acres of cleared land and a log barn and Mr. Brandvold erected the house which is the present home. From this start and with a few head of stock he has advanced to his present extensive agricultural interests. Beside the home quarter, he now owns one hundred and sixty acres of improved land one mile north and another quarter section in Rosseau county. Mr. Brandvold has developed one of the model estates of this section and applies the most efficient and progressive methods in his farming enterprises, having equipped his barn with improved facilities for the care of stock. He has put one hundred acres of the home farm under cultivation and is also interested in stock farming, raising Short Horn cattle. He was married in 1894 to Gurine Haugen, a sister of Martin Haugen, of whom previous mention has been made. Of the family born to this union, eight children are now living, Peter, Agnes, Mabel, Helmer, Carl, Ida, Gladys and Arley. Mr. Brandvold and his family are members of the United Lutheran church at Rodness.

HANS H. MELBO.

Hans H. Melbo, of Gully, president of the Melbo Mercantile company and postmaster of that place, was born in Norway, October 2, 1872, and came to the United States as a lad of sixteen, locating at Wilmar, Minnesota, where he was employed as a farm laborer. After two years there, he removed to Lyon county, working on the farms in that county until 1896, when he went to the Red Lake reservation, which had just been opened for settlement, and took a claim in section 11 of Eden township, near the present site of Gully and about sixteen miles northeast of Fosston. He was one of the first settlers of this region and has continued to be notably identified, as an influential and public spirited citizen and progressive business man, with its growth and development. He embarked upon his farming enterprise with a capital of $700, which he had thriftily accumulated, and this enabled him to advance the laborious work of clearing the land for profitable operation, and for some years he spent several months of each year working near Benson, Minnesota. His first home on this farm was a pioneer log cabin built of timber cut from the land, and he later erected a larger log house. He devoted his attention to the management of this farm for seven years, putting fifty acres under cultivation. In 1903 he entered upon his successful career in the commercial field, and in partnership with Nels M. Bolstad, opened a general store at Gully, about four years before the Soo railroad was built to that place. Mr. Bolstad, as a member of the firm of Kronschnabel & Bolstad, had operated the first store established at Gully, in a building which stood on the site now occupied by the Gully flour mills, which were erected in 1899. The firm of Bolstad & Melbo succeeded the first company, which had disposed of the old stock upon dissolving. Two years later, after the death of his partner, Mr. Melbo became the sole owner of the business, and when the railroad reached the town he organized the Melbo Mercantile company, one of the most prosperous and popular stores in this section. This was the third store to open in the new village, the others being operated by Hans Pladsen and Gust Watnebryn. The company was incorporated in December, 1910, with a capital of $10,000. Mr. Melbo is the president, with Oscar Thor, secretary and treasurer, and John F. Thoreen, of Stillwater, vice president. A fine commodious building, constructed to give frontage on two streets, was erected at the cost of $6,000, and is owned by the company. Its rapidly growing trade justified the addition of a department