Dedication

To the numberless men and women whose steps have echoed down the streets of Enderlin; who ran its stores, taught its children, who plowed the fields around it and manned the trains that served it, we dedicate this book. Rich or poor, renown or unheralded, tragic or comic; each one was a thread in the distinctively patterned tapestry that tells our community story.
Foreward

"MEMORIES ARE EVERYONE'S SECOND CHANCE FOR HAPPINESS"

—Queen Mother Elizabeth

The following pages attempt to tell the story of ENDERLIN and the community surrounding it. This is not a history, for the word "history" implies a depth of research beyond our time and means. We hope that we have caught some of the feeling of what life was like, recaptured memories, and preserved some of the things our children and grandchildren may want to know.

Ransom County and the lands along the Sheyenne and Maple rivers are rich in history. The pre-settlement history is well documented and available for those who care to go deeper into the subject. Some day, archeologists and scholars will tap the rich resources of Indian Mounds and relics still known to exist and write a fuller story.

When we reach the time of first settlement, the accurate retracing of events is more difficult. Few of the pioneers committed to paper what they saw and did, and few of their children listened carefully; adding to our difficulty is the fact that newspaper files are available of the Enderlin papers only since 1910. We have pieced together the story from memories, early atlases, township and county records when available. Memories are fallible and sometimes written histories differ. If not every statement can be documented or a date is incorrect we ask forgiveness. There was simply not enough time to search every source.

We express our gratitude to the many people who helped gather information; to the Senior Citizens committee and the American Legion Auxiliary members who helped gather family histories; to those who delved into family history to those who furnished pictures; and to those who helped in any way to put our book together.

We particularly wish to thank Mr. Frank Vyzralek, Jr., who made available information about the Soo Line railroad from material he is gathering for a doctoral thesis on North Dakota railroads.

The map in the front of the book shows the location of many of the historic spots of the area—Indian villages and battle grounds, early settlements, townsites and post offices now vanished. Time and progress have obliterated all traces of some, and where they stood are only fields of grain, but the map may serve as an aid to your imagination as you try to visualize the past.

The Anniversary Committee
These pictures of Enderlin's business district around the turn of the century show two scenes along Railway Street. Above is a view of the corner of Railway Street and Third Avenue. In the foreground is Billy Fowler's Livery Barn. Just beyond was Luker's Grocery, Callahan's Hotel and Rustad's Hardware. Below is a view looking down Railway Street from the corner of Third Avenue. A very modern brick building housed the bank on the corner. Harper's Store was located next to the bank, and the tall frame building down the street is the Sunness Store.
Fourth Avenue looked like this when the above picture was taken about 1899. The Engles operated a hardware and drug store, pictured in the foreground. Just behind the Engle business establishments was a business owned by Walt Loomis. Below is a scene showing the Burgess Hotel on the site now occupied by the Lindemann building. To the left is the home of Halvor "Skedool" Olson, so called because he hauled passengers to the Northern Pacific depot at Sheldon and waited for no one. "Skedool" was his rendition of "schedule." Farther to the left are Potter's Print Shop and Pieh's Butcher Shop.
Replacing horse power, this Case 110, manufactured about 1907, was the largest steamer they built. Seated on it are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oehlke and daughter Anita.
The map on the preceding page notes locations whose place in history deserves documentation, lest they be lost to the memory of man in North Dakota. Asterisks are used to indicate the relative importance of these historical points in Ransom County: five asterisks designating places of greatest interest to a wider public, while one asterisk signifies that the place possesses only a limited, specific association to the whole history, or is perhaps only of interest locally.

To indicate to the casual tourist how relatively accessible each place may be in this year of the Jubilee, 1966, and how much he may expect to view upon arrival there, they have been graded A, B, C, and D. At a spot marked D he might expect to find sparse camera subject, and perhaps after considerable difficulty in getting there.

The parallel big bends of the Maple and Sheyenne rivers constitute the basic monuments of this Cheyenne Country which is Ransom County. That part north of the Sheyenne was ceded to the United States government Oct. 2, 1863 by the Chippewa Indians, the treaty being ratified May 5, 1864. South of the Sheyenne, including e.g., Fargo, Abercrombie, Milnor, Oakes, being Sioux territory at the moment of transfer (Cfr. Journal of Robert Campbell, 1832-1833; North Dakota Historical Quarterly, Vol 1, No. 1, p. 45) was cleared of Indian title at a later date.

1. Old “Chienne” (Cheyenne, Shian, Shayon, Shien) VILLAGE SITE. ***** (A), is also called Biesterfield site, NW¼ Sec. 28, Scoville Township 134 N, 54W. Two ditches flanking a village site or saucer-like depressions in the present day pasture land mark the spot where a whole people was displaced by other Indians. The Cheyennes, after a disastrous battle against attackers who had guns, fled westward. It seems the battle was fought five miles southeast of this site, perhaps within sight of Horseshoe Hill. To be safe from their enemies, the Cheyennes fled clear across the Missouri rive in what is now South Dakota, though small groups of the remnants of the nation lingered several years in the area of Long Lake, not far from Napoleon, North Dakota.

Fifty years later, Old Menard and other fur traders among the Mandans on the Missouri, noted that the Cheyennes they contacted sometimes wore leather clothes of Spanish design, and had horses with Spanish bridles. No one has demonstrated that the indirect trade with the Spaniards, and possession of horses before the Sioux mastered riding, offset the advantage the latter had gained by acquiring fire-arms from the French and English. But this people of Algonquin stock did survive near extinction, to fight again, as allies however of the Sioux, against General Custer a century later after the Sioux themselves crossed the Missouri.

It was 1740, according to the Journal of Alexander Henry Jr. (Coues Edition, 1897, p. 144) when the Cheyenne nation was massacred and driven from their main village, located here. See also No. 6.

2. INYAN BOSENDATA ***** (A) or a “standing rock,” set up as a monument in the practice of Indian religion. The expedition under J. N. Niclotet, accompanied by young Lieut. J. C. Freemont of California fame, viewed and recorded this rock when the Indians they met in the area still regarded this hill-top mound, with this stone set upright on it, as a place for
religion meeting and ceremony, in 1839. Their War Department Map of the Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River, 1843 notes two such natural obelisks, the other being shown upstream from Red Wing, Minnesota, on the Cannon River. Standing Rock monument is not to be confused with post office Standing Rock, Ransom County, nor Standing Rock Reservation, North Dakota.

The stone is the original. Col. Dana Wright, researching accounts by an N. P. railroad construction crew, and verbal information from local land owners, linked up a firm, continuous account for the rock from the day of Nicollet until it was cemented down as it is today. The North Dakota Historical Society's marker there characterizes it as "one of the most sightly and historic spots in North Dakota." The National Guard recently constructed an access road from N. D. Highway 46.

As a mound, it falls into the small mound category archeologically, in a mound region extending at least fifty miles both up and down stream. Some were reported by Prof. E. Todd, Catalogue of Prehistoric Works East of the Rocky Mountains, by Cyrus Thomas. See North Dakota Historical Society. Recently local newspaper carried accounts of occasional incidents when skeletons have been unearthed on surrounding hilltops.

A mile west, the "LITTLE YELLOWSTONE" valley of the Sheyenne sports a tourist park, spring, highway cut that yielded mosasaur fingers in 1963 and the beginning of a pleasant river road.

3. FORT RANSOM site: **** (A) seat of a fortified military reserve in the post Civil War days. The Fort existed to protect workers on railroads yet to be projected, and also to transact Indian payments within a fifty mile radius. One can see distinctly the dry moat or ditch, a line of (root?) cellars or dugouts once under buildings, a parade ground centered on a reconstructed flagpole authentically located; and a reconstructed log munitions house which adjoins the moated square.

The Fort was garrisoned by one Company, official strength being set at 83, plus 15 Indian scouts, with an allowance of fifty horses, and one civilian post trader. Commanders could permit civilians in and near the Fort the use of timber, wood, hay and grazing, after the needs of the military had been assured. Bvt. Major Grossman kept a cow for his family's use. A child was born to the Grossman's 1868, seemingly the first baby of European stock in the County. Lisbon had been founded when 100 square miles of military reserve was opened to homesteading.

General Terry, one of the principals of the later Custer affair, and a great soldier, had picked the site, though it had been noted by preceding expeditions.

Across the ravine one can see the Fort's RIFLE PIT, with its stone-masonry in good condition, and iron and wood parts of the original apparatus for raising and lowering the target.

Man-made borings, more than an inch in diameter and eleven inches deep, in several granite boulders on the hither side of the ravine, are subject to various interpretations. See also No's. 4 and 5.

4. WRITING ROCK: *** (B) a page of stone writing six feet wide, which no one has been able to read. It can be found in the vicinity of the rifle pit on the east side of Bear Den Hilllock. Other rocks between Matoti and Fort Ransom show only glacial striations.
5. MATOTI: *(C), or Bear Den Hillock, mentioned on Nicollet's map of 1843, noted by many expeditions, is the height of land culminating in an Indian mound, that constitutes one flank of the ravine below Fort Ransom site, and is a continental divide. The creek in the ravine flows to Hudson Bay via the Sheyenne and Red rivers; while Bear (Den Hillock) Creek draining west from it, flows to the Gulf of Mexico via the James, Missouri, Mississippi rivers.

Frank Myrick claimed to have traded here as early as 1857. Sully followed up Bear Creek to cross into the Sheyenne watershed near here, 1865. Indians and Metis are known to have hunted and camped with reference to this landmark, as late even as the 1880's.

C. ANCIENT site: ***(B). A refuse heap, an artificial ditch enclosing several acres on top of a drift-soil bluff facing bends in the Maple river, on land farmed by Mathew and Roger Shea, is under study; its location SE¼ Sec. 11, Township Highland 137 N, 54 W. Cass County.

7. WATSON CROSSING ***(A) of the Maple River. SE¼, Sec. 26 Township Walburg 138 N 53 W, Cass County. May have been used by migrating Selkirkers, 1823. Probably sometimes the fur brigades of Joe Rolette and Norman Kittson used it in the 1840's. Well known figures like Governor Ramsey, 1851, Governor I. Stevens in 1853, Fisk and Expeditions in 1862 and 1863, and Sibley on return in 1863 threw in bundles of brush to cross over the river at this spot; as well as general traffic on the way from Fort Abercrombie to Fort Totten in the early seventies. Completion of the railroad to Jamestown ended the usefulness of Watson Crossing. As a way station it folded, while the post office continued longer. The historical marker is located near the Lutheran Church.

8. CAMP HAYES on SIBLEY TRAIL, JULY 4, 1863 ***(C) Somewhat following an old Indian trail from Brown's Valley, Minnesota, to Tewaukon Lake (N.D.) to the Sheyenne River, sometimes called the Assinniboine Trail, the famous Sibley Expedition sent out by General Pope at Milwaukee to chastise and check the Sioux because of the Minnesota Massacre, was composed of 3,300 men, 225 vehicles, 2,200 horses and mules, and several hundred beef cattle, made quite a trail and needed considerable space to encamp. After crossing the Sheyenne on July 4th, General Henry H. Sibley spread out such a camp on the SE½ Sec. 36, Township Big Ben 134 N, 55 W. The first celebration of the Fourth of July occurred there. The army raised a flag pole and saluted the States and Territories with 39 shots of their artillery. It remained encamped here for a week. People still locate evidences of the trench-works.

Many soldiers visited Okiedan Buttes, a group of artificial earth works or mounds, on the bluffs forming the south bank of the Sheyenne nearly opposite Camp Hayes, speculating as to their origin, as is done today. Indian tradition speaks of one of the incidental fights between Indians, a clash of some Arikara against some Sisseton Sioux, as having occurred near these elaborate mounds some time previously. Soldiers and officers also visited the Cheyenne Village site downstream (Cfr. No. 1)

9. CAMP WHARTON on SIBLEY TRAIL ** (D) July 11-12, 1963; E½'s of Sec's. 18 and 19, plus corner of Sec. 20, Twp. 135 N, 56 W. (Tuller).

10. CAMP WEISNER on SIBLEY TRAIL; July 13-14, 1963 ** (D) about Sec. 28, Twp. 137 N, 57 W, (Thordenskjold, Barnes County).
11. PIGEON POINT *** (D), a way-station. David Faribault, a young man of the Metis, serving as one of the fifteen Indian scouts attached to Fort Ransom, was sent out in 1867 to establish a way-station at the lowest crossing point on the big bend of the Sheyenne. He settled on a spot in Section 19, Township 135 N. 53 W. (Owego). It remained until Fort Ransom itself was abandoned in 1872.

12. OWEGO SETTLEMENT **** (A) had meanwhile been founded—1870. It shortly came to be a collection of 12 log cabins constituting a settlement in North Dakota quite a distance beyond the end of the rails, though in hopes of anticipating their advent. But the rails selected Fargo instead of Fort Abercrombie as the place to cross the Red River; and a branch line founded Sheldon in 1879, and business moved to it. The frontier town of Owego disappeared gradually; its place is marked by a park, and early frame schoolhouse, and vestiges: Section 16, Township 135 N. 53 W. (Owego). The virile spirit of its settlers and their descendants influenced the history of entire northeast Ransom County.

13. SHENFORD (SHINFORD) * (C) Water was only shin deep at this ford on the Fort Abercrombie-Fort Ransom wagon trail.

14. VENLO * (A) developed later on this trail, and died later; the last building burned 1964.

15. BONNERSVILLE * (D) another place of business, or town-hopeful that became a memory. Indian campsite along river, between it and Pigeon Point, is well known locally.

16. JENKSVILLE * (D)

17. BINGHAMPTON—KIBBEY (LUCCA) * (B) Binghampton plotted in 1884 because Dinah Kibbey would not sell her part of townsite to railroad.

18. PETERSON POST OFFICE * (D) Post office for the area before the town of Alice was established.

19. PLYMOUTH * (B) Section 11, Township 135 North 57 West (Springer) a townsite platted and built upon, on the strength of Griswold’s flour mill. The ditch of the flume or mill race scraped out by horsedrawn scrapers, can still be located in the underbrush. The rated 14 feet of waterfall developed 40 horsepower in twin turbines at 300 revolutions per minute; it represented a capital investment of perhaps $25,000.00. By comparison, corresponding figures for the Walker Mill upstream across the line in Barnes County were listed as: 10 feet, 30 hp. one turbine engine, 160 revolutions; $8,000.00 capital investment in Census of 1885.

Griswold’s mine-site, in the widely publicized Ransom County gold rush of 1883, was located in SW¼, Section 10 of the same township.

20. MONUMENT TO PROJECT RAILROADS ** (A) Many railroads were planned, right of way obtained, and grading started, but never finished in the boom days of North Dakota, such as the Dakota & Great Southern (Cfr. Soo Line Story in History of Enderlin, 1966). The railroad grade near Elliott can be seen only as far as the juncture with the Northern Pacific line. Originally it extended only into the next field north.
MANY THOUSANDS of years ago, the great Mid-continent of America was covered with a deep sheet of glacial ice. As the glacial period came to an end, basins in the land, ground out by the ice mass, were filled with its melting waters. One such basin formed the ancient Lake Agassiz, which today is known as the Red River Valley. Its successive levels are visible as we drive eastward along Highway 46.

The overflow from this lake formed the stream known as the Sheyenne. Draining into it were other ancient waterways as far north as the Turtle Mountains. It was a rushing torrent five miles wide, and it carried silt and debris which finally built up what is known as the Sheyenne Delta... the area we familiarly call the Sandhills.

As the level of the lake dropped, the Sheyenne, which had flowed south, gradually changed course, and, at the edge of the delta, made what is known as the Big Bend, as it turned, dropping north and east to drain into Lake Agassiz and the channel that became the Red River.

It has been recorded that when the Spaniards came to the interior of the Continent, they were told by the Indians that it was possible to travel by canoe from the Gulf of Mexico to Hudsons Bay, with only a short portage. This was something that they felt might be important, for they envisioned a line of forts to keep the English from encroaching on the gold of their southern empire.

It seems possible that here, where the divide occurs between the rivers draining into the northward flowing Red River and the southward bound Missouri River, is the portage to which they referred. In Northland Township, Bear Den Creek running into the James River and thence to the Missouri River, is only four miles from the northbound Sheyenne.

The beautiful valley of the Sheyenne got its name from the Indian tribe who made it their home and whose largest village was located near its Big Bend, in Scoville Township. Through it passed military expeditions, trains of teamsters supplying the military posts of the eastern Dakotas, surveying and prospecting expeditions. Their course can still be traced by maps, records and a few remains of camp fortifications. They welcomed its cool beauty and noted the evidences of former Indian life along the stream. Its many springs furnished good water and the sloping banks and firm gravel bottom made it easy to ford.

The Maple River, winding through southern Cass County and dipping briefly into Ransom County at Enderlin, was also known to these travelers, for its water was fresh and sweet, in contrast to the brackish water of lakes and streams further west.

The story of these expeditions must wait for a time, for a word about the people whose story antedates the white man's coming. Contrary to popular conception, the history of the Indian on these plains is not a continuous one, but goes back only a relatively short two hundred years before the coming of the white man.

Scholars do not agree entirely on the subject of earlier Indian civilizations. There are evidences in Ohio, Tennessee and other eastern states of an early people known as the Mound Builders, who had a civilization of relative sophistication. They ranged north, up the Mississippi and Missouri and there are scholars who believe that sometime in the past an agricultural civilization existed in eastern North Dakota, before the American Indian tribes became nomadic.
In 1885, a Minneapolis man came to Ransom County and in company with W. F. George and E. C. Lucas of Lisbon, North Dakota, dug into the center of an Indian Mound near Standing Rock. Three layers of skeletons were found. The upper two were Indian skeletons, buried with the usual trinkets and utensils, but the lowest layer contained skeletons of a people with thicker, shorter bones and well developed skulls usually associated with a fairly high degree of civilization.

A skeleton was assembled and loaned to the Lisbon School, but its value was not recognized and it was gradually picked to pieces and lost, leaving only the story as a clue for future investigation.

Generally speaking, all the tribes of the interior of the country were of the Siouian family, who were generally fine physical specimens. Though customs varied with their environment, the building of mounds for burial and ceremonial purposes was common among them. They made utensils of wood and bone, and many tribes cultivated vegetables and made pottery. Cannibalism was practiced by some as part of ceremonial rites.

An interesting story in this connection is told by Mr. Paul Roe of Enderlin. In 1917, he built a house on land next highest in elevation to Standing Rock. In excavating the basement, he found thirty-four skeletons, among them was one whose bones had been evenly broken and then assembled and laid out as a body normally would be. Dr. Labbitt examined the bones and said that they were the bones of an Indian woman. They were of the opinion from the way the bones had been broken, and reassembled, that the body had been eaten as part of a ceremonial rite of some kind. Mr. Roe reports, incidentally, that he carefully reburied all of the disinterred skeletons.

As the white man came to the Southern and Eastern coasts of America, the Indians were gradually pushed ahead of the wave of settlements. Tribes encroached on lands that had been traditionally claimed by others. Old Indian legend tells that the Mandans came from the sea. We know that they came to North Dakota up the Missouri River, for remains of earlier villages have been found below their home at the mouth of the Heart River where the first explorers found them.

The Hidotsas are believed to have lived near Graham's Island at Devils Lake and joined the Mandan Indians when driven west by the Sioux. The Arikaras also came up the Missouri and were allies of the Mandans.

At the time that Verendrye, the first white man known to have visited North Dakota, came to these plains in 1738, Northern Minnesota and North Dakota were peopled by the Chippewa's. They were of Algonquin stock and had separated from the main body of Algonquins when they reached Mackinaw on their migration from the east. They were at peace with the Sioux, but when they obtained arms from the French fur traders they were able to drive the Sioux and the Fox from the wild rice fields of eastern Wisconsin and Minnesota and push them across the Mississippi into southern Minnesota.

The Red River Valley and the eastern part of North Dakota were not favorite territory for the Indians. They considered it poor hunting and fishing ground, except for the Turtle Mountains, the south side of Devils Lake and the "bend" areas of the Maple and Sheyenne Rivers. At the time of settlement, only 5000 Indians inhabited the entire area of eastern Minnesota and North Dakota.

As the Sioux or Dakotas, as they were also known, were driven out toward the prairies, their life came to center on the buffalo for food, clothing and utensils. The buffalo entered into their mythology. A demand for buffalo
robes and coats developed and they found them more profitable and available than the smaller animals. The various Sioux tribes used to make hunting expeditions to the Missouri to trade or extort goods from the fur traders, who ranged up its muddy waters.

The Sheyennes, Shay-en-no-jo or Sha-e-ye-no, as they were variously called by the early explorers were also of Algonquin stock. They had migrated westward earlier than the Sioux and Chippewas and led a relatively settled existence along the river to which they gave their name.

Near the Big Bend in Scoville Township, is the remains of their chief village. Time and farming operations have obliterated much of it, but early explorers and settlers found extensive earthen fortifications. Within them were the saucer shaped sites of homes, which were built of earth over wooden frames in the manner of the Mandan Indians.

On the Roger Shea farm in Section II, Highland Township, there are remains of another Indian village. Archeologists say that there is no evidence that the Sheyenne ever lived farther north than the village on the Sheyenne, but this village site has a rectangular ditch akin with that on the old Sheyenne site and refuse heaps have produced fragments of pottery, which would indicate that it preceded the invasion of the Sioux, who were not known to be pottery makers. Since the two rivers are so close in this area, it would not be surprising if at one time the Sheyennes had a settlement on the Maple.

The Sheyennes had had little contact with the White man and in the early 1700's; the Sioux, with their superior weapons, started to push into their territory. The last battle between the Sioux and the Sheyennes was fought at Horseshoe Hill, a small windblown sandhill on the western boundary of Sandoun and Rosemade Townships. Defeated, the Sheyennes moved westward where for a time their path was blocked by the Sutaio tribe. They eventually became allies and the tribes merged, drifting into South Dakota and on westward.

Long before there was any thought of settlement, the voyageurs, employees, and agents of fur companies, ranged through all of the Dakotas except the Blackhills, trading with the various tribes. In 1823, a company known as the Columbia Fur Traders operated along the Wild Rice River from Lake Traverse and we can assume that they also traded along the Sheyenne River.

In 1812, the Hudson Bay Company established its first post at Grand Forks. The Red River Carts, hauling supplies and furs from Pembina to St. Paul was established in 1842 and regular posts established along the Red River including one at Georgetown, whose traders ranged along the tributaries of the Red River.

The first man to map the area which became Ransom County was Jean Nicollet, a French educated geographer, employed by the United States Bureau of Topographical Engineers. He mapped more accurately than anyone previous much of Minnesota and Wisconsin and was the first to relay to the East a favorable impression of the Red River Valley.

In 1839, coming up the Missouri on a steamboat of the American Fur Company, his party marched eastward to a trading post known as Oakwood on the James River, then northeastward to the Sheyenne near where Valley City is located, north to Devils Lake and into western Grand Forks County. Nicollet did not intend to map on this expedition lands already charted so he swung southward, intending to map Coteau de Prairie, or “Hills of the Prairies,” where the Indians were believed to obtain the red pipestone used in their peace pipes.
He reached Ransom County and camped near the site of Fort Ransom, noting on his map the Standing Rock, Okiedou Buttes, and other landmarks, reaching the Big Bend of the Sheyenne about the middle of August.

The next recorded visitor was Captain V. E. Sumner, who in 1845 marched north to Devils Lake to parley with the Indian tribes and impress them with the power of the government. His troops crossed Ransom County, camping at Big Bend of the Sheyenne.

By 1853, after discovery of gold in California, Americans were becoming empire-minded. The period of railroad expansion had arrived and proponents of a Northern and Southern route to the Pacific Coast were seeking federal help for the high cost of such a tremendous project. Because the question had become a heated political issue it was decided to have each of several possible routes surveyed by competent engineers.

In 1853, Isaac Stevens, a former army engineer who had been appointed Governor of Washington, started from St. Paul to survey a northern route. Traveling in covered wagons, his party included engineers, a geologist, and an artist. The party crossed Minnesota and North Dakota fairly fast, for he was anxious to locate passes in the mountains. He spent several days in the Big Bend area of Ransom County and expressed concern about the “tremendous” cost of bridging the Sheyenne.

He was apparently scared to death of our North Dakota rivers since his proposed route would cross the state without crossing any major waterway. Roughly, his plan proposed to cross the Red River a little south of Wahpeton, skirt the Big Bend of the Sheyenne, run north between the James and the Sheyenne Rivers and swing west into Montana.

This somewhat ridiculous route may be better understood if you remember that he was to be the Governor of Washington and that he had no experience in building railroads. What he was interested in was spending a bare minimum to cross the plains, leaving adequate money for crossing the Rockies and building a first class line in the state of Washington.

Apparently his recommendations were widely accepted, for when Fort Ransom was built, it was located in such a position that it would protect future crews on the Northern Pacific Railroad. When construction began, it was abandoned and moved to Fort Seward at Jamestown, where the troops were in better position to protect the crews.

Fort Ransom was one of a series of military posts built for the protection of the frontier from the Indians and for protection of emigrant trains to the West. It was established June 18, 1867, by Companies G and H, 18th Infantry, under Captain George Crossman and named for General Thomas Ransom.

Its Post Office was at Fort Abercrombie, established in 1858, and the nearest town was McCauleyville 65 miles to the east. There were quarters for 200 men, built of logs, accommodations for seven officers, three store houses, two hospitals, quarters for six laundresses, a blacksmith shop, two root cellars, and an ice house.

Regular supply trains for this and other forts made their way from Fort Snelling at St. Paul. Pulled by teams of two to eight oxen, their drivers were known as “Bullwhackers,” from the long rawhide whips with which they urged onward the slow moving beasts.

A day’s journey apart were found storm shelters or camps. One of these, known as Pigeon Point, was in the southwest quarter of Section 19, Owego Township and was kept by Dave Faribault, son of John Baptiste Faribault, one
of the early Frenchmen in Minnesota, and his beautiful and educated half-breed wife, Nancy.

Another camp was at Brunton's Ford in Bale Township and is said to have covered twenty acres, with stockades for the protection of livestock. This was presided over by a half-breed Indian known as "Black Tiger." This route was the dry season trail, used in winter and when the water was low. In the Spring it was necessary to detour around the Big Bend, rejoining the trail near Pigeon Point. Another such station on the Fort Totten trail was located in Watson Township on the Maple River and was known as the Walburg Station.

With the discovery of gold in Montana and Idaho more emigrants were venturing west and in 1862 Captain James Fisk was authorized to get up an expedition and conduct an escort for an emigrant train from Saint Paul as an experiment in overland travel by the Northern Route. The weather was good and most of the members of the party were used to frontier life. In 1863 Congress appropriated $10,000 for protection of an overland train from Fort Abercrombie. This expedition also made the trip successfully, but a third expedition in 1864 ran into Indian trouble after leaving Fort Rice on the Missouri River. Near Marmarth, North Dakota, on the Little Missouri, after several days of siege, the troops from Fort Rice arrived with orders to send them back. While it is romantic to think that the Northern Route of the Oregon Trail traversed Ransom County and some trains did pass through, it was never a major route of overland travel.

In the year 1862, the Sioux Indians, angered because the government had not made payments and fulfilled promises made in the Treaty of Traverse deSioux, arose in a massacre that brought terror to the frontier. Bands of rebellious Sioux struck various Minnesota communities. The few settlers along the Red River fled to Fort Abercrombie, which was under siege for a month until relieved by troops from Fort Snelling.

In consequence, in 1863 General Sibley was sent with an expedition of 3400 men to secure the frontier. Bands of Sioux had gathered around Devils Lake and they were given to understand that unless they surrendered and returned to the reservation they would be shown no mercy.

Whatever the military achievements of Sibley's expedition (and there is evidence that they were negligible) it adds an interesting note to the history of our area.

Colonel Sibley started from Fort Snelling with a party of troops, supply wagons and teamsters whose number is said to have been 3400. Reporters with the expedition recorded that when the head of the expedition had traveled six miles, the rear guard had not started. They entered North Dakota at the upper end of Big Stone Lake in June. By July 4th they had entered Ransom County. They made camp near the Scoville Ford, naming the spot Camp Hayes. Here was held, one hundred and three years ago, the first July 4th celebration in North Dakota. A tall Liberty Pole of white ash was erected, and toasts and patriotic addresses were made.

On July 5th they moved to Camp Whorton, near Brunton's Ford in Section 30, Fuller Township where they spent eight days waiting for supply trains to arrive. They swung northwestward, camping one night near Storhoff's slough and crossing the Sheyenne River just below Valley City.

Eighteen Sixty-three was a dry year . . . great cracks crossed the dry prairie. Grasshoppers were so numerous that soldiers would have to guard their tents to keep them from being eaten. The south wind burned and blistered as if it came from a stove. In a typical Dakota weather change, on the 11th of July there was frost on the ground. Neither Sibley nor the newspaper men, who
accompanied the expedition, had anything good to say about North Dakota. "Dakota is good for nothing, is nothing, means nothing . . . at least to the white man," wrote one newsman.

Weather improved during the latter part of the summer—rain fell and the prairie became more hospitable. On the return trip they marched from Lake Jessie, crossing the Maple River at the Watson Crossing near St. John's Lutheran Church. Private Henry Hogadorn, who kept a diary of the trip, wrote that from the Maple River to Fort Abercrombie was the most beautiful country he had ever seen, with abundant grass and large groves of timber every three or four miles.

Another group of soldiers, under Captain Wadsworth, was sent to meet General Sulley in 1864. The weather was much better and they crossed this area in June. Among them was a young soldier named Henry Ihme, who returned later to homestead in Watson Township, telling his children that the huge flocks of ducks, geese and other birds, the abundance of grass and the sweet smelling prairie flowers made it seem like a paradise. Other men, too, who first marched across the prairies with these troops returned to claim land in Raritan and Pontiac Townships.

The 1862 rebellion was the last stand of the Sioux Indians in Minnesota and the eastern Dakotas. After the Northern Pacific Railroad pushed across the state to Mandan in 1872, only an occasional band of Indians, wandering between reservations, disturbed the settlers. While they sometimes were bold and insolent, frightening the lonely families into giving them food and feed for their horses, or taking it without a by-your-leave, for practical purposes, this was the WHITE MAN'S COUNTRY.

In 1861 a territorial government was established for the Dakotas with the capital at Yankton. Though there were only a handful of people in the territory, that first legislature passed one hundred and sixteen laws and twenty memorials to Congress.

A long struggle began for the creation of a new territory or state from the Northern half, which many wanted to call Pembina. The legislature formed four large counties along the eastern border of the state, with most of Ransom County in what was known as Sheyenne. These county lines were juggled several times before they took their present day boundaries.

Little interest was shown in the area until the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad, which played a major role in the settlement of the state, and contributed to the growth of the northern part of the Territory so that by the time statehood was achieved, North Dakota had outstripped South Dakota in population and development.

At the time that Fargo was only a few shanties along the Red River, Ransom County had its first settlement. This was also the first North Dakota townsite scheme, conceived by a free-wheeling promoter named Lafayette Hadley.

Presumably relying on the Stevens survey for the coming railroad, he persuaded a group of neighbors from southern Minnesota to come with him to the spot where he expected the railroad to cross the Sheyenne. The company included Orange Hadley, Kelly Bowden, S. R. Day, Samuel Horton, Louis Thiergart and Helmuth Schultz and they settled at what proved to be Section 16 of Owego Township when it was officially surveyed. It was named the Owego Colony for Hadley's former home in New York.

Although this was land open for homesteading, Mr. Hadley plotted the land for five miles around and set a price of $15 to be paid to him for the privilege of settling in his townsite. Twelve buildings were erected; hauling the lumber from McCauleyville, 65 miles to the east, by ox team. A cottage and office were erected for Mr. Hadley, and he was able to persuade the settlers
to donate the hauling of lumber for his home. Mr. Hadley had himself named postmaster of the third post office in the state and mail was delivered by freighters on the Fort Abercrombie to Fort Ransom Trail. Pete Bonner, the F. W. Baguhn family and John McCusker joined the Colony in 1871.

During the summer of 1872, the men worked on the railroad being built from St. Cloud, Minn., and many started breaking claims along the river. An Indian scare drove them away at one time, but most of them returned.

In 1873, as soon as warm weather returned, the settlers scattered; some to work on claims, some taking their families to where they found work on the railroad. Then word came that Fort Abercrombie was to be moved and the post office discontinued. The hoped-for railroad had passed them by, and tired of living alone on the townsite, the Hadleys moved to McCauleyville and started a restaurant. By fall the colony was deserted and the buildings were later burned by Indians, but some of the colonists remained to claim land when the official survey of the county was made.

The survey began in 1870, and various parties under contract to the U. S. Surveyor General sub-divided the county in successive years. They noted on their surveys the settlers they found. Joseph Knutson on the S.W. ¼ of Section 21, Scoville Township and Phidlem Letonneau in the N.E. ¼ of Section 20, Shenford Township, had arrived in 1870 and built good houses and barns. Letonneau raised the first grain in the county.

In September of 1872, the surveyors found E. Whitcomb, Peter Bonner, Philo Kendall and Emma Bowden with claims in the area. When the official survey was approved, Ludwig Theirgart was the first to receive a patent in Fargo Land District, September 30, 1875.

After the departure of the Hadleys, the settlers petitioned for a direct mail route from Fargo. F. W. Baguhn was carrier, making the trip once a week with two Indian ponies.

During the summer, he carried a shotgun and so abundant was the game that he made more selling it to a Moorhead hotel than his $400 carrier’s salary. The other stations were Barrie, Power, Kindred and Horace.

In 1875 the Baguhns moved to Fargo and another carrier took the route. Three new post offices were established above Owego: Bonnersville, Shenford and Scoville. In 1879, the Baguhns came back to Owego and bought their long-time home farm from the Northern Pacific Railroad.

The coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad to North Dakota was the key that unlocked the door for extensive settlement and in order to understand how our area was settled, a little of its history must be included.

The Northern Pacific was granted a charter in 1864 to build a road from Lake Superior to Puget Sound. By way of federal assistance in so costly an enterprise, they were granted all of the odd numbered sections for forty miles on either side of the right-of-way . . . 25,600 acres for every mile constructed.

Construction costs were in excess of what had been anticipated. Mr. James Fiske, the New York banker who undertook to sell their bonds, labored mightily, but the directors built so far and fast and recklessly that he was unable to sell bonds fast enough to cover the bills. As a result, the road went into receivership in 1873 and the resulting panic shook the economy of the country.

Mr. James Power, Land-agent for the Northern Pacific, and later president of North Dakota State University, was convinced of the possibilities of North Dakota and played a leading role in efforts to rescue the railroad from its difficulties. Reports on North Dakota by military expeditions and early travelers had done little to interest people in the area and a selling job had to be done.

The newly broken lands of the Red River Valley had produced some
remarkable yields of wheat. Mr. Power induced George Cass and Benjamin Cheney, directors of the road to start the first of the large scale operations that became know as the "bonanza" farms.

As word of the spectacular crops reached the East, speculators were able to buy the nearly worthless bonds, exchange them for land and start their own operations. The Northern Pacific Railroad sold land on a cash, time or bond exchange basis, and to make the exchange attractive, offered to exchange bonds for land at $1.10 on the dollar. Some bond holders, anxious to recoup losses, took advantage of this to start similar farms.

Bonanza farms alone would not provide traffic enough for the railroad to operate successfully and the alternate sections of free land were in competition to sale of railroad lands. Mr. Power was wise enough to see that settlers meant revenue, regardless, and was a prime mover in the gigantic advertising campaign carried on by the Northern Pacific Railroad to bring settlers to the area.

In 1880, the Northern Pacific Railroad sent an exhibition train to the East, laden with North Dakota products. By 1883 there were 124 general land agents in Norway, Sweden, Germany, etc., and 831 local land agents in the British Isles.

At the same time, Jim Hill was using every effort to induce settlers to follow his Great Northern line. Steamship companies promoted the profitable traffic from Europe. The stage was set for the Great Dakota Boom.

From 1879-1886, people poured into the area. By the time statehood
came, in 1889, all of the free land in Cass County had been claimed and only 7500 acres remained in Barnes County and 16,000 in Ransom County.

They were a venturesome crew on the early prairies...teachers, merchants, mechanics, sailors, etc. Many of the first were the restless or adventurous from the settled East, or Scots, Irish, and English, who had emigrated earlier to Canada.

Some were men who had first seen the country with Sibley or Civil War Veterans coming to claim their government land. They even included a fur-trader, Peter Goodman, who had been associated with Probstfield at the Hudson's Bay Post at Georgetown. Reputedly the first settler in Cass County, when the Fargo area was settled, he and his brothers took land in the Sheldon area and played a role in that town's history. Another associate of Probstfield, Adam Stein, was an early settler in Pontiac Township.

Many were ill-equipped by experience or inclination for farming. Joe Bayliss, the first settler in Clifton Township, used to recall that he and his neighbor, each with a horse, wanted to use them as a team to go to Tower City for supplies. They had no double harness and no idea of how to hitch the two together so they hitched them to the wagon and, seated side by side, each drove his own half of the team.

William Fraedrich standing in front of the sod house which was his first home in North Dakota. Elderly gentleman is his uncle.

Not all of these first settlers remained. Many found life too difficult, bad weather in the eighties discouraged many, and they returned home or drifted west looking for greener pastures, but they made their mark on the state, for they brought with them the pattern of government they had known in the East. They organized local and county governments and for a time
monopolized them, for the Scandinavians, Austrians, and Germans had to overcome the language barrier.

This they did rapidly, for most had a good basic education in their native countries. Far from home, they had no choice but to stay and struggle through and today their descendants make up the largest ethnic groups in the community.

Norwegian settlement in the United States came in three great waves. The first settled in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Southern Minnesota. The second in the region of Minnesota and the Red River Valley, the third stopped briefly at earlier settlements and then, with the sons and daughters of these earlier immigrants, moved into North Dakota. “Preston” township and “Fillmore” church are names brought from earlier settlements along the Minnesota-Iowa border.

Most of the German settlers in this community came directly from Germany, in the wake of depressed conditions following the Franco-Prussian War. An early German settlement in the Casselton-Chaffee area was a magnet that drew many relatives and friends to Cass County. From there they gradually filled the townships to the West.

Like the early timber settlers, they first claimed lands along the rivers, for fuel, shelter, and water; then ventured to the open prairie. Some bought railroad land or “relinquishments” of earlier settlers, but most were looking for tree claims or homesteads and the pattern of early settlement was a checkerboard with the settlers’ shanties on the even-numbered sections and the odd numbered railroad sections unbroken.

There were no bonanza farms in the immediate area with the exception of the Watson farms in Watson and Highland Townships and Major Buttz’ operations at Buttзвlle, but the proximity of these and the Dalrymple, Amenia-Sharon and other Cass County farms provided work as a source of cash for many of the early settlers to make their own start.

The area around Enderlin was all settled at approximately the same time; starting in about 1878 in Walburg, 1879 in Highland and in the northwestern edge of Pontiac, about 1880 in Liberty, Moore and Clifton.

The greatest problem of the pioneers was transportation. Supplies had to be hauled many miles from the railroad. Grain to be sold, lumber with which to build, meant several day trips to Fargo, Casselton or Tower City, often with slow moving oxen. To solve this problem, small country stores, flour mills and post offices were set up and freight lines established that have vanished today, but which recall the problems of pioneer life.

A tiny cemetery near Harold Reynold’s farm recalls the early day settlement known as “Jenksville.” Set up by a railroad promoter named Wilcox, who apparently guessed wrong about where Sheldon would be established, he had a store, post office, and a stage route running twice a week to Tower City for mail and supplies.

Northeast of the Glennis Hamre farm, an old log cabin still stands that was the Maple post office and store operated by Anton Mostel. Several locations near the Watson-Walburg boundary mark the sites of the much traveled Watson post office. The Dennis Mueller farm just west of Alice was the location of the Peterson post office, then operated by the Wadesons, which received mail carried from Lucca by John Conlon.

One of the interesting stories of the early settlements is that of the vanished town of Binghamton. It owed its original name, Kibby, and its existence to George Ellsbury, father of Tower City, who envisioned a railroad running from Tower City to the south. The story of the Milbank, Kibby and Tower City Railroad is a long and sad one. The nearest it came to reality was
the grading of several miles of roadbed by the farmers along its proposed route through Barnes, Cass and Ransom Counties.

However, in anticipation of its coming, the townsite of Kibby was established by Eli Northrup, an associate, and Mrs. Dinah Kibby, Ellsbury's sister. He set her up with a small way station for the freighters hauling freight from Tower City to Lisbon and secured her an appointment as postmaster of Kibby.

In 1884 the Milbank, Kibby and Tower City was absorbed by the Dakota and Great Southern and Mrs. Kibby apparently not being willing to share the townsite, the company plotted a townsite across the road and named it Binghamton. The traces of its existence are still in evidence across the road and slightly to the north of the Wadeson farm about seven miles north of Highway 46 on the Cass-Barnes County line.

A thriving settlement sprang up. The Rev. James Vance and his family had taken claims in the area and he operated a store. A lumber yard, a blacksmith shop owned by Fremont Ellsbury, Mrs. Beale's Warehouse, where teams hauling from Tower City now stopped, the Jennings general store, and several homes were built. The town boasted wooden sidewalks, a creamery owned by Mr. Northrup, and an imposing school, also promoted by the persuasive gentleman. It was reported that he even sold cemetery lots to Eastern investors.

A large hotel was erected, but before it was finished the Soo Line came through in 1891. The Minnesota Land and Trust Company which operated as a townsite company for the Soo Line, plotted the town of Lucca about a mile south of its present location. Despairing of the Dakota and Great Southern's future, the townspeople moved their buildings to Lucca.

Once again the community flourished. A report in the Sheldon Progress in October, 1891, said that there were 117 inhabitants before the railroad reached the new town. However, in 1900, the Marian branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad located its crossing a mile north and once again the townspeople picked up and moved en masse to the present location, making Lucca probably the only town in the state with three names and four locations.

Some of the buildings of old Binghamton still exist in other locations. The hotel kitchen was moved to Lucca where it became a restaurant, then to a farm and finally to Enderlin, where it is now the home of Fred Johnson.

In Ransom County another townsite of the Milbank, Kibby and Tower City Railroad was platted, known as Wisner. It was promoted by a New York banker of that name, who built a small water-powered flour mill about five miles east of Fort Ransom. A general store and post office known as Plymouth existed there, but the mill was sold when the railroad did not materialize, and and moved to Enderlin where it was operated by the Munt family, parents of Mrs. Bodo Lindemann, until it burned down. Mr. Munt built a mill near his home just below the hill on Cleveland street.

It is time now to look away from the railroads that did not arrive and toward those that did. The coming of the Northern Pacific branch line to Sheldon and Lisbon in 1882 did much to ease the difficulties of transportation, and changed the focus of the area from North to the South. Technically, the line was built by a separate company, the Fargo and Southwestern. Nothing had been said about feeder lines in the original charter. The Northern Pacific Railroad and many other railroads took to the practice of organizing subsidiary companies for this purpose.

The story of Sheldon is typical of frontier development. The line was surveyed in 1880, passing about five miles north of the present location. When construction began the plans were changed to take advantage of the Sheyenne River traffic. Goodman and Greene moved out from Fargo in 1881 and started
a store about three or four miles east, where they anticipated the line would go. D. B. Wilcox, one of the promoters of the line, secured the location of the townsite and bought the section where the town is now located for $3200. He had more hope than money, and since he could not pay for it, he let it go to E. E. Sheldon for $3,840 ... a profit of $680 for three weeks' ownership.

Sheldon platted the town; deeded half to the railroad for locating there, sold a few lots and in 1882, sold what was left for $8,000.

The first train reached Sheldon, November 4, 1882. The Northern Pacific Elevator Company had a place ready to take grain before the tracks reached Sheldon and nearly 300,000 bushels of grain were sold that fall and winter. “Get in line before breakfast and get unloaded after supper,” was the saying.

The great need of the country was capital and Eastern capital immediately moved into Sheldon. The risks of a new country prompted high interest rates and those willing to take the risks could profit handsomely. A number of the early settlers of the Sheldon area came from Michigan including Jim Banks, N. B. Hannum, Fred Underwood, who figured later in the development of Enderlin, the Greenes and Ed Pierce, who was a leading figure in the growth of Sheldon. An early resident relates that “it was the Jim Banks and N. B. Hannum relatives from Michigan who had the money. Ed Pierce invested it to their advantage.”

Within three years the town had elevators, stores, a school, two churches, and the Sheldon Opera House. Mrs. C. G. Bangert, whose husband started his career in Sheldon says, “It was odd that you could come to a town of 300, no lights, and not much of a street; but with no feeling of settling on an isolated place on the prairie. Sheldon was the greatest little town in the west ... more sterling silver and oriental rugs, even a grand piano in the Hoff home.”

Typical first prairie home. The above photo, taken about 1905, shows the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Foss and son Edwin. The farmstead was located about four and a half miles west of Enderlin.
They were able to draw on the trade of the rapidly filling community, grateful for a closer market. The first settlers to come into Maple River Township, later re-named Liberty because of a similar township in Cass County, were Ever Gullickson, Peter Shelver and Erik Gunderson. Gullickson filed on Section 4, overlooking the present site of Enderlin. The following Spring his mother filed on the remaining land in Section 4. Meis Olson, whose daughter Eleanor also filed on land which became part of the Enderlin townsite, the John Dagman family, the Christianson, Solem, Kranz and Austad families all took claims in 1881, to be followed in 1882 by Faucetts, Martin Kaspari, the Wolds, Hansons and Stevensons.

To the west, Moore Township was being opened up as well. Torre Syverson filed the first claim in 1880, followed the same year by Peder Solheim. In 1881 Ed Storli, R. Wallin, the Moore family, C. Henderson, John Peterson, P. Henderson, Brent Hoover, P. O. Vie, E. Rognalson and the Galbreaths arrived, to be followed shortly by Kabers, Kelleys, Christophersons, Groths, Nords, Husemoens, Lunds, Thompsons, and many others.

To the north, in Raritan Township, in addition to the Binghamton settlement, early pioneers included: Galbreaths, Charles Hackett, Peter Liddle, the Stowells, Baarstads, Jensons, Skramstads, Gillunds, Millers, Strands, Conlons, Obitzes, Manns, Robertsons, Nordlands, Walters and Dragers, among others.

The first settler in Highland Township was Shea Healy in 1878. In 1879 and the early 80's, the people who made up the Jenksville settlement arrived: Patrick Pierce, Robert Anderson, the Casgroves, Pattersons, Morrices, Cowans, McIntoshes, Bricks, Bauerschmidts, Boyles, Fraedrichs, Boehms, Westphals, Ihmes, and the Oehlkes.

Over in Pontiac Township, as nearly as can be determined from available records, the first settlement was on the north and west of the township, James Scott came about 1879 as did J. G. Dale and Eli Vertrees. In 1880-1881 the McKays, Lundahls, the Vance family, Peter Smith, Aaron Phillip, Herb Root and Mike Matschenbocker arrived. The years 1882-1887 saw the bulk of the settlement with the coming of the Bleeses, Petrichs, Lindemans, Krafts, Ukces, Trapps, Millers, Andersons, Marschkes, Martins, Oeders, Pollocks, Fraedrichs, Golzs, and Conlons. Much of the Northern Pacific land was owned by the Smith family, New York state bankers and Northern Pacific stockholders. C. A. Malette came out as their agent, homesteaded a quarter and acquired considerable land in the township for himself.

The years following early settlement were difficult ones. There were a series of severe winters, the most notable being the winter of 1887-88. The winter came early and unusually heavy snow accumulated. Late in the spring, on a fine warm day, a sudden blizzard filled the sky with powdery snow. The thermometer fell from 74 above to 25 below zero, in 24 hours. Farmers died in the fields and children on the way home from school. The toll of this one storm in Dakota was 235 people.

The summers were hot and dry. Farm records kept by Henry Trapp show a yield of 8 bushels of wheat per acre in 1889, 10 bushels of oats, 8 bushels of barley. For 1890, the crop was even poorer; wheat ran 4 bushels; oats, 5; barley, 5; and flax ½ bushel an acre. Depressed prices added to their difficulties. Rex Lindemann recalls that one winter their entire cash assets, seven pennies, laid on the window sill all winter. They got along as best they could on what they had in the way of home grown produce.

Committees were formed about the state to get seed for North Dakota farmers. The columns of the Fargo Argus were filled with charges that the Minneapolis bankers and grain dealers were trying to profiteer on the distress
of the farmers, with high prices for seed and excessive interest on seed loans. Township boards used the credit of the township to secure seed. The records of the Trinity church show that the pastor obtained a carload of seed for the relief of the people of his parish, from contacts in the East.

Those who were able to borrow money paid a high price for credit. Twelve per cent was the common interest rate. Mrs. Carl Lindemann used to tell that when you borrowed $100 from the Sheldon bank, twenty dollars was taken out as a discount, or service charge, though you paid interest of 12% on the entire sum. Then you went across the street to Grange's Furniture Store and the banker picked out a chair or other item which you bought him to show your gratitude for the loan.

Attempts of the legislature to improve the rules of the game met with much protest from financial interests. When a bill was introduced to extend the time of redemption after foreclosure to two years, agents of eastern mortgage companies predicted a "tornado" of foreclosures and threatened that no one would loan money in North Dakota if the bill passed.

The long awaited and bitterly contested day of statehood in 1889 produced little excitement, Hiram Drache notes in his book, "Bonanza." The people of North Dakota were too preoccupied with drought, foreclosures and depressed farm prices to care.

The years which saw the coming of the Soo Line Railroad and the birth of Enderlin marked a turning point and once again eastern papers proclaimed the riches to be made on North Dakota farms. "A North Dakota farm may be compared to a gold mine," wrote a New York Times correspondent who visited the area.

Real estate companies holding large amounts of North Dakota land began an advertising campaign in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and southern Minnesota where land prices were higher. The Soo Line Railroad ran immigrant trains with those who bought land having their fare refunded. Special rates were available for immigrant cars for shipping machinery and livestock. The result was the final wave of immigration to the state, this time from the earlier settled areas of the Midwest. The Ransom County Immigration Association headed by Edward Pierce boasted of bringing 200 farmers to the area in a single year.

Perhaps the most notable feature of pioneer days in North Dakota was that they were so brief. A combination of circumstances; the invention of the reaper, and other improved farm machinery coming at the time that large amounts of free or relatively cheap land were available meant that North Dakota farms would be larger and mechanized earlier than previously settled areas. Settlers who broke sod with oxen were in a few short years threshing with traction steam engines. By 1900, those who had survived the rigors of the early years were well enough established to start building the ten and fifteen room houses; which, while often necessary for their substantial families, were also their equivalent of the sports car and color television as a status symbol.

Early in 1890, the Sheldon Progress was reporting rumors of a new railroad. In August, 1890, surveying crews arrived. They were tight-lipped about the location of the road, but it was apparent that it would be west of Sheldon and the editor wondered that they should by-pass so important a town.

In March, 1891, the Progress reported that Edward Pierce was starting a new town 13 miles north on the new railroad and was offering the company big inducements to build a depot and sidetracks on the town site . . . the editor predicted much success for the new venture.

June, 1891, saw construction started on the Anselm bridge and Sheldon
William Fraedrich’s birthday party. The Sheyenne River furnished both fun and food! Left to right: unknown, unknown, Albert Fraedrich, Julius Fraedrich, August Fraedrich, John Albert Fraedrich, unknown, unknown, William Fraedrich, unknown and, holding the spear, the traveling photographer.
business places were doing a booming business with the throngs of strangers coming to work on the railroad.

An interesting sidelight on the practice of the grain trade is found in the files of the Sheldon Progress for that Fall of 1891. An active partnership between the railroads and the grain trade existed and most railroads had a complimentary elevator company. One of the chief grievances of the farmers was the grading and pricing of the “line” elevators.

The September 8th issue tells of efforts of the Northern Pacific Elevator Company to freeze out the locally owned Southwestern Company by jumping the price of wheat considerably over the market.

The September 15th issue tells of the efforts of the Southwestern Company to establish an elevator on the new railroad. After failing to get any answer from company officials they set up a scale and platform on the siding near Anselm and started buying grain. As soon as the elevator company following the railroad completed its elevator, section crews were ordered to tear out the scales, which were a few inches onto the railroad property. The Southwestern moved the scales back onto their own land, but the crews then tore out the portion of the siding leading to them. The editor reports that as soon as this was done the price of wheat at the line elevators dropped three cents.

By mid-September, cars of new lumber were arriving daily at the new townsite. Farmers with teams found a source of revenue in helping grade the road bed. The going wage was a dollar a day for a man and a dollar and a quarter for a team. Crews predicted that passenger trains would be running in two weeks and Sheldon merchants were making plans to open branches on the new railroad.

Enderlin owes its location, in a spot where few of the pioneers ever expected to see anything but ducks and geese, to two things; the sheltered location in the Maple River valley and the abundance of water in even the driest years.

The rapid growth and size it attained it owes to the fact that it was, from the first, designated as a division point, for few other towns established when the road passed through already settled territory ever grew beyond an elevator, post office, and a few stores and houses. The townsite was purchased by Edward Pierce, acting as attorney for the Minnesota Land and Trust Company from Eleanor Olson, Ranei Gullickson, and Johanna Pierce, and the official plot of the town filed October 7, 1891.

It might be well to note here that while for brevity we have always referred to the Soo Line, its official title was the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault St. Marie. Only in 1961, after the merger and reorganization, did it bow to the inevitable and became officially known as the Soo Line Railroad.

The source of the town name has been a matter of much debate. The myth that it derived from “end of the line” has been exploded, for Valley City was the end of the line in 1891. Official Soo Line word is that it was named by Mr. F. D. Underwood, then General Manager, for a name he had seen in an English book.

Considerable building started in the Fall of 1891. Patrick Pierce erected the first house and moved his family to the townsite, that house is now occupied by the Lewis Anderson family. Some years later, when Railway Street was extended, records of the city show that money was appropriated to pay him for moving his barn which was blocking the path of progress. Several houses and a small depot were put up by the railroad. Nels Akre put up a small shack to house the post office. The first elevator, managed by C. D. Hodges, was in operation as was the Arnold and Sawyer Lumber Yard.

The real rush of settlement started in the Spring of 1892. By
mid summer the Sheldon editor, on an expedition to view the new town, reported that fifty buildings had been completed. Golberg & Benson Meat Market, Goodman & Sanness General Store, Rustad's Hardware, Ole Vie's Soo Line Clothing Store, a restaurant operated by Nels Peterson and his sister, Mrs. Erick Johnson, Larson and Suter Farm Machinery were in operation. The Hilton Hotel, two more elevators, a four stall round house and several more homes were being built. Haney and Madden were building a barbershop, Thompson's Hardware and Gus Dahm's Meat Market were almost completed. C. C. Chamberlain had taken over the management of the Arnold and Sawyer Lumber Yard, and W. J. Fowler had started the first livery stable on the corner where the Red Owl now stands.

The first drug store was operated by B. Egeberg, a native of Denmark, whose avocation was politics and whose party was Socialist. He published a small Danish language paper and was so outspoken in his views that he was in frequent difficulties. Before too long he gave up and went back to Denmark, but he is credited with bringing the town its first doctor, Dr. Richardson.

The new Enderlin State Bank had a building completed on the corner of Third and Railway. This building was moved when the brick structure which now houses the Gamble Store was built. It was later a post office, a photography studio, and now houses the Pierce Implement Company. The bank was organized by Edward Pierce of Sheldon, its president. The cashier was S. T. Wolfe and the board of directors were John Smith, A. O. Runice, James Banks and Patrick Pierce. Capital was $5,000.00.

The John Hanson home was nearly completed, on the corner where the Pure Oil Station now stands. Back of it Mr. Hanson was building the town's first feed mill. It's heavy millstones were operated at first by a horse, blinded and hitched to a pole, which he pulled around and around. This was also the means of operating the first elevator.

That summer saw Enderlin's first Fourth of July celebration. The Lundahl family, two miles west of town on the farm now owned by Arthur Ritter, had taken a tree claim and in the decade since planting, the trees had grown to where they seemed, to eyes accustomed to the bare prairie, like a veritable forest. They invited the entire community to a picnic in their grove.

Led by the band under "Professor" Mathieson (the title was apparently honorary, since Mr. Mathieson operated a lunch counter) a train of wagons and buggies, each decorated with bunting, made its way across the prairie to the farm where from a large pole the Stars and Stripes was flying. A bountiful picnic lunch, speeches, music and games was the program of the day.

When the Sheldon Progress reported this affair, they also took occasion to boast of the superiority of the celebration Sheldon had enjoyed, as compared to that of Lisbon.

It is difficult to chart accurately the growth of the town in those early years. Businesses failed or changed hands frequently, for they were often started with more hope than capital. Buildings were moved from place to place very casually and the frame buildings heated by stoves were frequent fire casualties. Among the businesses established in the first few years of Enderlin's history were the first harness shop, owned by Walt Loomis, Burtness General Store, Hoff and Shirley Drug Store, Blish Fruit and Candy Store, Emal Forguet's Pool Hall, Ratchje's Hardware, Austad General Store, Callahan's Hotel, and Crockett's boarding house. The Engle brothers, sons of a pioneer doctor in the Binghamton area, had all taken claims west of Enderlin. Soon after the town was established they sold their farms and opened businesses in Enderlin. C. M. Engle's Hardware, W. G. Engle's Furniture and Mortuary,
One of the first offices of the The Enderlin Independent in Enderlin. Editor Charles Potter is pictured in the foreground. The woman, left, and the Linotype operator, in the background, are unknown. Potter was associated with The Independent in various capacities from 1897 until 1922.
and C. E. Engle Drug Store. Their sisters taught school and Miss Arabella had an early hat shop.

J. C. Harper, long time Enderlin merchant, established his store here in 1897 and James Walsh opened his first meat market in that year as well.

Dr. Olaf Sherping built the first hospital, which was combined with his residence on the site of the present Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot. Other early doctors were Dr. Kennedy and Dr. Kron. Dentists were apparently not deemed as necessary by our forebearers, for the first dentist, Dr. E. F. Peterson, did not arrive until 1903. Dr. G. H. Nelson arrived in 1906 and served the town until his death in 1947.

The rush of building required carpenters and while many people turned their hand to the work, the early professional builders included a man named Crandall, Julius Klingbeil, and a gentleman known as "Lord 'arry" Mattson, for his highly imaginative description of his early life and antecedants. The last of his construction in Enderlin was the Lobbitt building.

Volume 1 of the Enderlin Journal appeared December 30, 1892. Published by Charles Allen, a brother-in-law of Walter Loomis, he published the paper until 1896, when he moved to Hope, North Dakota. C. H. Potter, had in the meantime, established the Ransom County Independent. For a few years in the early 1900's, Mr. Potter operated a laundry and the paper was published by T. H. Longley.

A third paper, the Enderlin Headlight, was established about 1907 by Knight and Kvello. Mr. Kvello acted as editor until 1910, when the Headlight and the Ransom County Independent merged to become The Enderlin Independent, Mr. Kvello continuing as editor for a time and later being replaced by Mr. Potter.

Less publicized establishments of the early days were the "blind pigs." Strong efforts of Temperance groups had resulted in North Dakota coming into the Union as a dry state and many were the stratagems used to supply the thirsty. An early Enderlin watering spot was presided over by one Albert Hendrickson, who had made some money in the gold fields. He put up a building on the location of the Kraemer Implement lot, but apparently sin was not too profitable, for he moved on; the building was taken for debts he owed and moved to the site of the Citizens State Bank, where it became a barber shop.

Enderlin was in its early days something of a wide-open town. As a division point, large crews of men headquartered here. There were many "boomers," itinerant railroad men who worked when they needed money and then moved on to another town or another line. Many of the first crews did not bring their families or were young, unmarried and looking for excitement.

One of the more notorious entertainment centers was the Stabler Brothers Bowling Alley and Pool Hall, located where the City Bakery now stands. The basement housed the bowling alley, the first floor the pool hall and lunch room . . . in the rear, a game was usually available with various professionals now and again in residence to take the measure of the unwary. On the second floor, according to report, accommodating ladies were sometimes available when they were able to evade the sharp eyes of the law.

Its railroad heritage has always made Enderlin a little different from most small towns. The frequent moves required of railroad families has meant a greater turnover of population, with less of a tendency to become ingrown and tradition bound. The population of the town has always been more varied and cosmopolitan than that of most small towns.

Perhaps the most colorful figures of the early years were the Greek
workers employed in the yards and on the road crews. Mostly young men, they differed from other immigrants in that few brought their families with them and apparently they planned to make a stake and go back home. Unable to speak English, they relied on the foreman to handle their business affairs, which sometimes led to bloodshed, if they suspected him of misappropriation.

Many of them lived in shacks near the roundhouse and in the spring, at the time of the Greek Orthodox Easter, a couple of cars were shunted into the siding, the traditional Greek foods and wines were prepared and a several-day feast and celebration took place.

By 1897 Enderlin was too big a town to remain under the tutelage of the Liberty township board and a village government was set up. The

A view of Railway Street in 1902 showing the Burgess Hotel on the present site of the Lindemann building. The structure pictured here housed a barber shop and Gruye's Cafe in addition to the hotel. From left to right, the persons standing along the walk are Bill Burgess, Sam Golberg, Bill Reed, Al Kaber, two unknown boys, and Carl Darelius.

first board of trustees consisted of P. L. Hodges, Henry Rustad and Dr. Olaf Sherping. C. H. Potter was clerk; P. P. Burtness, the treasurer; P. H. Callahan, assessor; W. J. Loomis, marshall; and Frank Blish, justice of the peace.

The village government had all manner of affairs to consider during that first year . . . fire hazards, the care of the sick and indigent, licensing of pool halls and bowling alleys ($2.50 per table each month and $5.00 per alley each month). License for "non-intoxicating" malt beverages (beer?) was set at $60 a year.

The city funds were spent with great caution. A plat of the city, which the clerk had been told to obtain, arrived in a tin case for which a separate bill of 25 cents was submitted. When bills were presented, that for the case was laid over until the next meeting. At the next meeting it was tabled indefinitely. About six months later it was finally allowed, the clerk apparently having paid it out of his own pocket to avoid further correspondence. He was reimbursed with a warrant for 25 cents drawn on the contingency fund.

June 27, 1898, 64 electors petitioned for the organization of a separate school board. At the election July 12, Fred Underwood, C. C. Chamberlain,
W. G. Engle, Mrs. O. Sherping and Mrs. J. D. Thomas were elected to the first board.

Apparently it was felt that a village organization was not fitting for such a thriving community; Fred Underwood, a man of many ideas, and with a passion for doing things the way they should be done, is credited with circulating petitions for a city government. August 30, 1898, the village trustees met and turned over their authority to the new city council.

Dr. Olaf Sherping was the first mayor. Councilmen were W. J. Fowler, C. C. Chamberlain, W. J. Engle, P. P. Burtness, P. L. Hodge and Isaac Luker. C. H. Potter was appointed clerk and P. H. Callahan, chief of police.

One of their first matters of business was the building of the new jail at a cost of $289.00 for the building and $50 for the lot. It was located on the rear of the present Kraemer Motors storage lot, facing Third Ave.

A prime concern of the first city council was fire protection and at a meeting on July 3, 1899, a motion was made that all available tanks be placed on principal streets and filled with water for fire protection during the July 4th celebration. Later that year bonds for $4,000 were issued to buy a hand engine, a chemical engine, 800 feet of hose, hooks and ladders at a cost of $1,380. The balance would be used for wells and hydrants, and an artesian well near where the city hall now stands with three water tanks provided. The equipment was horse drawn and was at first stored in a livery stable and later in an old empty frame bank building on Third Avenue.

Apparently an organization was started in 1903, for a fire chief, assistant, a secretary and treasurer of the Fire Department which were made appointive offices. In 1904 a committee was named to reorganize the fire department. The present fire department was organized in 1905, with C. A. Kvello as chief. C. M. Engle assistant, T. J. Meisenberg secretary. Tom Pierce was treasurer and Herman Shirley fifth member of the board. A fire hall was built in 1906 at the site of the present city hall and in 1907 a hook and ladder truck was purchased.

In addition to its duties as protector of property, the Fire Department was in those days a Men's Club and social center. Membership was a cherished activity. Equipment was primitive and the most that could be done was to save adjoining structures a good deal of the time. The most frequently used piece of equipment was an axe with which to chop holes into the walls or roofs to get water to the location of the fire. There was a tendency on the part of some zealous souls to get carried away in the excitement of the moment. At one time when a building burned next to the telephone office, Dr. Strong is reported to have decided to "save" the telephone switchboard and chopped through all the cables, throwing the city out of telephone service for some weeks.

The cart carrying hoses was drawn by hand and at one time races between fire companies were much in vogue. Periodically, "new blood" was brought into the department ... young men who were supposed to have the speed and endurance to make time with the fire hose cart. Enthusiasm dwindled for this type of competition when the Department appropriated $100 to send a hose team to the State Convention at Carrington. The group started celebrating pre-maturely and never got farther than Valley City.

Other matters considered by the first city council included raising the salary of the Chief of Police to $10 a month and instructing him to see that all slot machine playing for money was stopped at once. Approval of $56 to finish paying for instruments for the Enderlin Cornet Band. a motion to purchase four gasoline vapor lamps and a report that for $700, 10 acres of
A BUNCH OF THE BOYS—When Andy Faucett was married, he left his trunk to be shipped. His friends decorated it with rope, wild sunflowers and old shoes. Left to right, unknown, Fremont Hanson, Herman Shirley, Bill Shaw, Drayman Wiper, "Dutch" Nerwiek and Editor Kvello.

A BUNCH OF THE GIRLS—(One was a milliner!) Back row, left to right, unknown, Edith Bayliss Kaechler. Front row, Mary Card Wold and Mamie Helsing.

land could be obtained for a cemetery and 1½ acres across the Maple River for a city dump.

Enderlin was now officially a city. Still, each morning the crowing roosters aroused each other from one end of town to the other. Cows were led to pasture each day and returned at night for milking. In the dusk, children played Run, Sheep Run in the many open areas of the town. The creek below the hill still ran freely and ponds of water dotted the open spaces between houses on the outskirts (Sixth Avenue!) making a happy home for the numberless frogs whose music filled the evening air.

The rhythmic “whoosh” of the roundhouse exhaust was an ever present sound to the town, and the wail of the numerous trains “whistling in.” Hal
Boyle says, “The raucous hoot of the diesel horn holds none of the magic of the old steam engine’s cry, wailing across the prairies, echoing in the hills, sending little shivers up the spine of all who heard it.” To numerous Enderlin families, the various whistles meant even more. They told when Daddy would be home and when the housewife should start getting supper on the table. They knew what train it was and if it was late or not—Enderlin ran on railroad time.

Enderlin still kept growing. New names were added to the businesses of the town: Luker’s Store, Gruye’s Cafe and Candy Store, Sather’s Harness Shop, The Idle Hour Theater, Hoffman’s Meat Market. A second bank known as the First National Bank was organized in 1902. In 1907 it was to be absorbed by the Enderlin State Bank. The Soo Line Railroad was adding facilities with a stockyard and additions to the roundhouse. A new brick school house was built in 1905. The time for urban improvement was at hand, and a few dates and figures may be interesting.

1902 ... a franchise was granted the Noxem Brothers to establish the first telephone exchange.
1905 ... bids were accepted for a waterworks system to replace the surface and artesian wells about the town.
1906 ... a franchise was granted to M. A. Abbott to construct and maintain a light plant in the city. The first plant was near the stockyards and utilized the boiler of the flour mill which had burned down shortly before.
1907 ... property owners were required to replace wooden sidewalks with cement construction.
1907 ... a new bank was organized by Harold Thorson of St. Paul and known as the Citizens State Bank. Harold Thorson was president; John
Thorson, cashier; W. W. Shaw, Wallace Galbreath, John Gruye, Emil Bruhn, Eberhart Faucett, and Frank Foster, members of the board.

1909 . . . Edward Pierce donated five blocks of land for Enderlin's first park.

1911 . . . the Soo Line constructed the "Beanery." With Gene Reed as manager, it became known up and down the line for excellence of its food and was for many years the town's favorite eating spot.

1911 . . . The Clio Club, organized in 1909, decided to forego a spring banquet and use the money to buy books—this was the beginning of the City Library, which they ran for 50 years until it became a Municipal Library in 1963.

1912 . . . construction was begun on a city sewer system.

1912 . . . Enderlin was chosen as the first small town in North Dakota to have city mail delivery, a pilot project.

The automobile began to make its appearance and a few brave souls were trying them out, on what the Sheldon Progress boasted were "the best dirt roads in the country." The Wright Brothers Squadron put on an airplane show at Wahpeton and many citizens attended it.

The 20th Century Dance Club entertained at a pink and white dance with all the women gowned in pink and white, and with the men wearing "Helen" pink ties.

May 4, 1911, the first bridge party was held in Enderlin at the Eli Powers home. The day of the pioneer was over.

The late '90's and the first decades of the Twentieth Century were a time of frustration among the farmers, who felt that they were being exploited by the moneyed interests. This discontent was to culminate in North Dakota in the Non-Partisan League, the only successful farmer's political movement, and in a fascinating, if stormy, era of state politics. The League's forerunner was the Farmer's Alliance, which had a wide membership in the Enderlin area. The first indication of their political power was in the election of 1906, when thousands deserted the traditional Republican ticket to elect John Burke, North Dakota's first Democratic governor.

Many believed that the farmers' salvation was in owning their own business institutions and here as elsewhere there were several such ventures. While they had not yet accepted the cooperative concept, these businesses were owned by farmer stockholders. The Farmer's Elevator was organized in 1905; by 1907 they were out of debt and paying stockholders a dividend of 100 per cent. The Farmer's Elevator was to be the only such local venture to survive the years. Reorganized in 1949 as a cooperative, it still does business at the same stand.

The Moore and Liberty Telephone Company was reputedly organized because Eberhart Faucett became annoyed at the poor service on his line and, jumping into his buggy, started organizing among his neighbors. In 1906, they bought out the local telephone company and operated as a farmer-owned company for many years, until controlling interest was purchased by Gordon Brown in the late '30's.

The Farmers Store operated from 1917 until 1925, when it was purchased by Chris and M. J. Pederson, and through all the years they operated it, it was still the "Farmers Store" to many people. Even The Enderlin Independent was affected by this movement, being purchased by the Non-Partisan League in 1919, to complete a line of farmer papers in every county of the state. Edited by a gentleman named McGillvery, the waning fortunes of the League
at that time forced its sale to the late J. M. "Inky" Hanson, longtime Enderlin newspaper man, after about two years of operation.

At the same time, and perhaps because they hoped to assuage the farmers discontent, there were other voices raised in advice and assistance . . . some good and some bad, some self-seeking, and some disinterested. The North Dakota Bankers Association formed a "$100 an Acre Club," to tout the benefits of diversion. Railroads hired agricultural agents to promote farm improvements and Saun Sanders, a local teacher, was to become the Soo Line's first agricultural agent. "The cow, the sow, and the hen will bring us back again," said a slogan used by those who sought to convince farmers that their problems could be solved by ceasing their dependence on wheat as a chief crop. The first corn contest was held in Ransom County in 1906 at the instigation of County Superintendent Hutchinson, and two local boys, Phillip and Al Larson, captured first and second places.

Mechanization of farms was proceeding rapidly, even at this early date. Many of the improved machines were the result of tinkering by inventive farmers and small town blacksmiths, some of whom sold their rights for a pittance to machinery companies.

The first bundle carrier for a binder was invented and used on a farm near Enderlin by H. S. Chapman, step-father of Fred Underwood, in 1883. The McCormack Harvester dealer in Sheldon reported the device to the company and several of their machinists inspected it. The next year the company brought out a carrier embodying the same principles. Whether Mr. Chapman was paid for this we do not know, but Ed Storli, an early Moore resident is said to have sold his rights to the roller twine tension device used on all twine binders for a quart of whiskey.

The crude forerunners of modern machines were often devised years ahead of acceptance. In 1909, the Marschke Brothers built a mounted plow, called the Marschke Auto Plow. This later became the Hackney Auto Plow, and while the idea was sound, its application was not entirely successful; since the plow was mounted underneath the machine and it tended to bury the entire device when it hit a wet spot. Not too many were sold.

Conceived before its time, also, was a combine for harvesting standing grain, built and tested locally by C. M. Engle. Powered by a gasoline engine on the machine and pulled by a Bull tractor, it was too small for practical use and the combine as we know it had to await the day for more powerful engines.

Some machines successfully marketed included the Holland Wild Oat Separator, invented by a Nome area man. He also devised a radiator cap used by Hudson and Cadillac. Henry Wilberg of Nome devised a trailing packer and a packer drill still manufactured.

A most successful local operation was the Lowe Manufacturing Company which produced small tools, the chief of which was a superior nipper, widely used in shoeing horses, but which had innumerable other uses. For some years they did a nation-wide business and many farmers still cherish a locally made nipper as an indispensable tool.

Local merchants were not standing still during this time of rural ferment and a Commercial Club was an early organization. It is enough to bring tears to the eyes of any Chamber of Commerce member to find that one of the first problems of their predecessors was to get a uniform closing hour for all retail establishments, with Mr. Harper, a man who usually went his own way, refusing to close before 10 p. m. every night. Then, as now, the
theme was "Trade in Enderlin," and the mail order catalogue was viewed as the chief threat to local prosperity.

The automotive age was bringing changes in the business scene. The livery barn was on the way out and the garage and filling station were appearing. The first automobile, a Knox air cooled, was owned by Dr. Garrish and the first auto sold locally was an E.M.F., sold by Rex Lindemann, dean of Enderlin business men, in 1909. The bewildering variety of cars made in the early years is illustrated by the makes of cars he has sold: Overland, Pullman, Stephans, Roosevelt, Cutting, Mitchell, Oldsmobile, Buick, Studebaker, Willys Knight, Plymouth and Dodge.

H. F. Larson sold the first Ford in Enderlin. Fjoslien and Burtness had the first gas pumps, while Youngkin's Standard Oil was the first to deliver fuel in bulk.

In these busy years prior to World War I, the people of the Mid-west considered themselves far removed from the problems of Europe, particularly those who had come to America to escape those same problems. They tried to ignore the ominous developments abroad, but both British and German propaganda mills were laboring mightily to influence American opinion. Oddly enough, the Germans found a surprising amount of support, for Americans had still an emotional distrust of England. When Germany's persistent refusal to respect the neutrality of our shipping finally brought us into the war, however, we went to war with a patriotic fervor never seen before or since.

Communities like Enderlin with large groups of foreign-born citizens, particularly those of German or Austrian descent, were particularly vulnerable to the type of irrational ardor which saw sauerkraut become "Liberty Cabbage,"
and rumors persisted that Enderlin harbored disloyal citizens. A report published in the Fargo News Courier that a Loyalty meeting had been disrupted by pro-German elements was indignantly denied by the local editor, who published in the next issue the retraction by the Fargo editor along with the results of his investigation.

1. The reason the band did not appear was that there had not been a local band for some time and they could not find enough instruments... besides this, the leader had car trouble in the country and could not get back in time.

2. The mix-up in songbooks was not the work of pro-Germans, but the result of sending a small boy to the school and his mistake in getting the wrong ones.

3. The scheduled soloist was not disloyal; she had only lost her voice rooting for the home team in an afternoon ball game.

4. Secretary Grey of the Commercial Club denied that he had made any remarks which could be construed to mean that he thought this was an organized effort.

An Enderlin Loyal Legion was formed; “Four Minute Men” gave patriotic speeches between theater acts. A huge Loyalty meeting in January 1918 was attended by 500 people who heard an assortment of local speakers, including Paul Hanson, who declared, “We should not allow any community that is not Americanized to exist. We do not want to have in our midst communities where the people’s diet is lutefisk or sauerkraut. Let’s Americanize them!”

War bonds were purchased, sweaters knit, bandages rolled and no disloyal saboteur blew up the round house, but there was a loss in the warm and easy acceptance of each other which took some years to dispel.

The year 1918 found the entire country in the grip of the influenza epidemic. With typical vigor, an emergency hospital was set up in the hotel, through the cooperation of Mr. Lasley and Superintendent Baxter. Dr. Labbitt donated his services to the Red Cross and with local nurses tended the sick. Enderlin had 400 cases and 10 deaths, a rate far lower than in many areas.

A problem that caused considerable excitement during these war years was the Independent Workers of the World, one of the first radical labor groups, made up of some of the transient workers on whom the farmers depended during shocking and threshing time. Their slogan was “A full day’s pay for a full day’s work,” and to gain their demands they would sometimes strike in the middle of the day when the farmers were desperately trying to get the crop off the fields. Though they were never more than a minor problem here, Henry Boileau recalls a memorable trip from Glenwood, Minnesota, to Enderlin.

The freight train of 35 cars stopped at the water tank at Hankinson and he crawled back on the tank. When he got back on the engine a man was holding a gun on Joe Hinton, the engineer, while another man with a gun checked the cars. Any transient found without his I.W.W. card had to buy one or be put off the train. Their mission completed, they jumped off and sent the train on its way.

The Roaring Twenties were marked, on a smaller scale, by the same absurdities that illuminated the national scene... the short skirt and shorter “bob,” the Charleston, the bootlegger, bell bottomed pants, the miniature golf craze and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan.

Enderlin had its own local Klan, the motivation apparently being a fear that the Pope was about to take over the country. Like most such
anonymous groups, they also felt competent to guard the community morals as well, and one or two crosses were burned to warn local sinners to repent. When none of their fears were realized, the organization dwindled and eventually disbanded. It is reported that with great practicality the leftover robes were used to make pillow cases.

The Twenties saw continued growth and improvement in the community. The Kiwanis Club was organized in June, 1924, with Dr. G. H. Nelson as the first president and that fall they inaugurated the first Corn Show, which

![Enthusiastic crowds lined Enderlin's streets and happily participated in the first annual Corn Show, held in Enderlin in 1924. Ardath Schneider and her trained ponies, shown above, were a featured act of the show. Men in the center of the picture are Art Ford and Henry Kraft.](image)

continues to this day with wider sponsorship and a new name—Enderlin's Harvest Holidays.

At the urging of C. G. Bangert, the businessmen of Enderlin petitioned for resurfacing of five blocks of downtown area. A new City Hall was built and a new Masonic Temple added to the appearance of Railway Street.

The Otter Tail Power Company purchased the local light plant from the Midwest Power Company, at the same time they purchased the plants at Casselton, Oakes and Lisbon, and built a high line from Oakes to Jamestown, tying Enderlin into their distribution system. In 1928 they built the new brick building which houses the local offices.

In spite of the appearance of prosperity, clouds were gathering on the North Dakota horizon, and even before the market crash of 1929, the state was seeing signs of economic trouble. The deflationary policies of the government, following the war, had hit hard at farm income. Many farmers had purchased land and machinery on credit during the flush war years and falling prices made these loans insecure. As the central banks called for more collateral, country banks began to find themselves in trouble.
The impact of these conditions was felt on the Soo Line Railroad in reduced traffic and revenue. The last train men to be hired for several years started work in 1927. In 1931 they were cut off the board and not reinstated until 1937, while the first general hiring of new men did not begin again until 1941.

These were the conditions that ushered in the "Dirty Thirties," when dust storms turned day to night and a day's threshing was all the crop on a section of land. The light soil areas of Ransom County were hard hit. Red Cross and County funds were used to help the most indigent. In 1932, a Red Cross worker estimated that for $2.47 a family of four could be fed for a month if no luxuries like canned peaches were included in the diet. The county paid 75 per cent of the costs of relief and by December, 1932, its financial situation was critical.

As has always been true, Enderlin rolled up its collective sleeves and pitched in. Local efforts provided 50 Christmas baskets for the needy. Community benefits were held to raise funds for local relief.

All that remained of the Enderlin school after a fire gutted the interior late Saturday night, March 4, 1933, was the somber shell pictured above. School was conducted in various buildings about town while a new structure was being erected.

March 4, 1933, was a memorable day in Enderlin. Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated, the banks closed and the school house burned down. Enderlin was more fortunate than many towns for in a few days the banks were opened, making this one of the rare towns that never had a bank failure. What factors have produced this happy state of affairs it is difficult to say. Probably a combination of factors—adequate capital, the railroad pay roll and conservative banking practices—are responsible for the fact that, in the most difficult days, neither the Peoples and Enderlin State Bank nor the Citizens State Bank had a run on deposits.

School was held about town in every available place and the board
immediately started to rebuild. C.W.A. assistance was used and it furnished employment for many men who sorely needed it, for by this time men with 25 years of rights on the railroad were out of work.

A C.W.A. project to provide jobs for unemployed women, or whose husbands were unable to work, was begun. They repaired clothing for the needy at a wage of 30 cents an hour for a 30-hour week. The supervisor, Mrs. Susan Vance, received $11 a week.

By May of 1934 the lack of feed was so acute that, despite feed loans, the government had purchased every fifth cow in the county. Those of the best breeding were given to farmers on relief to maintain foundation herds, the usable ones were canned for use in relief programs and the balance made into fertilizer. Seed loans helped to get a crop in, only to see it blow out in another notably poor year.

In 1935, a flush of hope was felt, for the crops looked better. Hopes were dashed when Ceres wheat, the predominant variety, proved vulnerable to stem rust and what promised to be a bountiful crop was light and shriveled.

With 1936, Nature wound up for the final blow when the thermometer

Parade Marshall of Enderlin's Golden Jubilee in 1941 was Fred Underwood. He led the parade both days of the two-day celebration. The parade, which took 45 minutes to pass a given point, was said to have been one of the most pretentious ever presented in the state at that time, other than one in one of North Dakota's larger cities.
hit 117 degrees on July 4th. People slept on lawns and porches, robins and meadow larks dropped from the heat and farmers suffered heavy losses of young turkeys and chickens. "Bake" Arndt, the local baker and cafe owner tried out the old cliche about frying eggs on the sidewalk and found it only too true.

The rest of the Thirties could offer no surprises. We had survived the worst and the following years were marked by improved crops and slow but perceptible economic recovery.

In 1941 Enderlin celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary with a festive two-day celebration . . . parades, a pageant, ball games, carnival. Of the approximately 200 people who worked on that celebration's committees, 42 are still in the community and 15 are working actively on committees for the Diamond Jubilee.

The coming of World War II found the country in a very different mood than in World War I. Someone has called the soldiers of World War I "the dead panned and disillusioned defenders of Democracy," who, without the patriotic fervor that marked the last war, did the job that had to be done as bravely as any generation before them.

The impact on Enderlin was immediate, for Conway Christianson and Howard Carey were at Pearl Harbor, Allen Sly on Bataan and a number of local boys were called up immediately with the National Guard Company stationed at Lisbon—a part of the notable 164th Infantry, who relieved the Marines on Guadalcanal and held the thin line in the Pacific while the country assembled reinforcements.

Jobs were no longer a problem; the need was now for more workers. Townspeople were recruited to assist in the harvest after their working day ended in town. Torolf Johansen's Soo Line roundhouse crew of 32 men shocked 2600 acres for 30 farmers during the 1943 harvest, for the all-time record in the county.

Life on the home front went on as usual, except for the nuisance of stamps for shoes, stamps for sugar, meat, butter and other short-of-supply items. People learned to roll their own cigarettes from Bull Durham or bought cigarette-making machines to produce more professional products. Before the war was over, however, the draft calls had extended to where scarcely a family in the community was without personal involvement in the war.

It was during this time that Enderlin inaugurated another "first" by electing Agnes Geelan as mayor—the first women to hold such an office in North Dakota. Elected with her was the first women police magistrate, Ethel Monroe, who was followed by other women, Minnie Maley and Helen Schmidt.

With the full backing of the all-male City Council, a series of improvements were begun. A street improvement program resurfaced most of the city streets, and a street maintainer, a sweeper, and a tarvia spreader purchased to maintain them. With another woman—Joyce Lang of The Independent—furnishing good press coverage, a municipal softening and rust removal plant was installed and paid for out of revenue and a new and better franchise worked out with the Otter Tail Power Company, which resulted in a standby plant for the town and improved street lighting. Approval of feminine efforts was evident when, after eight years, Mrs. Geelan was not a candidate, and the men chose Doris Smith, another woman as candidate for the job, while Ransom County sent Agnes Geelan to Bismarck as the first woman member of the State Senate.

The story of Enderlin since the end of World War II is the story of efforts to adjust to a new kind of world. The impact of the Agricultural revolution has been great on most small towns of the Middle West. Larger
and more efficient machinery demanded larger acreages to purchase and use it efficiently. The cost-price squeeze has slowly but surely eliminated the small farm. In Pontiac Township alone, 12 farms have disappeared since 1950. If this is average for the Enderlin trade area, it means that more than 50 farm families are no longer purchasing food, clothing, and the even more costly items of farm production such as machinery, seed and fertilizer from local businesses.

Enderlin has had to adjust as well to the revolution in transportation. Diesel engines, larger and longer trains, meant elimination of the large roundhouse crew. A gradual reduction in passenger service culminated, despite all local efforts, in the removal of the last passenger train in 1964.

Aware that only those towns that are willing to fight for it deserve survival, the Enderlin community has written an excellent record of effort and cooperation in community development. It is difficult to mark an exact date but the organization of the Chamber of Commerce in 1954 was begun with this need in mind. Cooperation of the Chamber, the Kiwanis Club, local business men, citizens, and city government resulted in a number of major improvements: a swimming pool, a golf course, a lagoon sewer system, further improvement in street lighting, an eight-lane bowling alley built by a group of local business men, and a successful drive to secure a new Post Office.

In 1960 the city and the Kiwanis Club sponsored Enderlin's entry into the Community Betterment Program. Dr. A. M. Olson headed the committee for the first entry and Enderlin placed third in communities of its size, winning a cash award. Succeeding chairmen have been Mrs. A. L. Tschida and Wayne Wilson, current chairman.

This opened the door to many new developments. The strength of the program in Enderlin has been the total involvement of the community, and it is impossible to attempt to name all of the people who have given time and effort to Community Improvement.

An important development that resulted from this program was the formation of the Enderlin Industrial Development Corporation to promote industry, business and agriculture. First officers were V. F. Hegeholz, president; C. G. Bjerke, vice president; Wayne Wilson, secretary; and Darryl Geeslin, treasurer. First directors were George Miller, Carl Bjerke, Matt Kraemer, Francis Archbold, Virgil Hegeholz, Adolph Tschida and Allan Olson.

As a result of their efforts, land was purchased for a possible new residential development. This was annexed by the city, sewer and water installed, three new homes have been built and a corporation of local people have put up the Hillcrest Manor Retirement Home.

The Development Corporation purchased sunflower seed for use by local farmers for a new cash crop. Through considerable effort a birdseed plant was established at Anselm, to furnish a better market for sunflowers and millet. A by-product of the sunflower project has been the development of Bill's Sunflower Seed Candies, now sold widely by the local bakery.

Booster Enterprises, started by two local women, Bunny Tschida and Pearl Bjerke, developed a North Dakota Prairie Rose Badge.

A Welcome Club established as part of the Community Betterment program by local women, now welcomes newcomers to the town. The drive to establish a Municipal Library was also a part of the community improvement story.

A Junior Chamber of Commerce, established in 1963, now adds the efforts of the young people of the community to these various activities. First officers were Norman Anderson, president; Clarence Anderson, first vice
president; John Brackin, second vice president; John Thorson, secretary; and Duane Geske, treasurer.

The past year has seen the addition of two new businesses—B Plastics, which manufactures a number of plastic items, and the Enderlin Timber Company which processes local timber for sale in a number of states. Both brought additional payrolls to the town.

The concerted effort put forth by the people of Enderlin and the cooperation of civic groups, city government and Soo Line personnel has had the desired result. The town has gained, rather than lost, population in the last decade.

The Enderlin story now pauses; it does not end. The next chapters will be written by others. In skimming briefly through the years we are aware of how many stories are untold, how many names unrecalled. No book within our means could recount all the tales, comic and tragic, or bring to memory in their unique personalities, all the characters who have played a role in this community's growth. We trust that the reader will fill the gaps with his own memories.

Two early day views of Enderlin and the Maple River valley, north of Enderlin. The photo above shows an unknown couple lounging along the Maple River while youngsters enjoy a swim on the far side. The picture below shows the Maple River valley immediately north of Highway 46.
From yellowed records, faded photographs and keen minded "old-timers" comes the fascinating story of the "iron horse" and its impact upon, and contribution to, Enderlin and the surrounding territory.

The Soo Line was born at a time when the growing city of Minneapolis was locked in bitter rivalry with St. Paul. All of the rail outlets to the east were controlled from Chicago or farther east, all to the west from St. Paul. The newly modernized milling industry was over-expanded and needed access to the wheat fields of the rapidly settling west.

A group of Minneapolis millers, bankers and merchants met in Minneapolis in 1883 and decided to build an independent outlet to eastern Canada by way of Sault Ste. Marie, with a feeder line into Dakota. Construction was begun in 1884, by nominally separate companies, as was common practice at that time. The Minneapolis and Pacific was the name chosen for the subsidiary which built the line into Dakota and in April of 1886 construction westward was started, reaching Boynton in Dickey County that year, while the other companies completed construction to the Sault.

As was the usual case, construction costs exceeded estimates and they were forced to float a bond issue of fourteen million dollars. When this still proved inadequate, they appealed to the Canadian Pacific for help. In 1888 the Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie and Atlantic, the Minneapolis and Pacific and the Aberdeen, Bismarck and Northwestern formed a single corporation known as the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie. A new bond issue was floated for twenty-one million to pay off the old loan and complete the line to Portal, N. D., where it connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway, with the CPR guaranteeing the interest.

The Canadian Pacific was delighted to help, for they needed a short route from Puget Sound to Minneapolis to meet the fierce competition from Jim Hill's Great Northern and the Northern Pacific. In return for their help, they got controlling interest in the new road, which they retain to this day, and an iron-clad traffic agreement, routing all eastbound traffic through the Sault. Enderlin became a division point on the new road and grew rapidly, keeping pace with business on this lusty brawling iron highway.

Old timers who recall the construction of the road tell of pitched battles between crews of opposing railroads where tracks crossed. Because the first road to reach the crossing had right-of-way and the second was then forced to maintain the crossing, building crews were augmented with all available manpower, and pioneer railroad men recall the battle of "Fort Hankinson," between the Soo and the Northern Pacific at that town, and the even more violent conflict at Minot.

The line reached Enderlin in the fall of 1891 and the first roundhouse facilities constructed consisted of a four-stall engine house, sand house, fueling station for wood and coal and the "cinder pit," where fires were cleaned out as the engines came in. In 1897 four stalls were added, four more in 1903 and twelve in 1907. Eventually, facilities included a locomotive overhaul shop and car repair shop where entire engines were torn down and overhauled from boiler to whistle. By World War I, more than 200 men were employed in the Enderlin shops and 30 or more crews worked on the freights and three regular passenger runs out of Enderlin.

Enderlin water was so hard that the road built a water tank at Anselm into which water was pumped from the river and engines filled there arriving and leaving Enderlin until a large treating plant was built in 1913. The Soo Line would recommend to all enginemen coming to work out of Enderlin that they take a "student trip" or ride with another engineer to learn how to handle Enderlin water which foamed so badly in the engines that boiler
One of the last steam locomotives to be retired from Soo Line service was Engine No. 2425, a switch engine used in the Enderlin yards. Engine 2425 now leads a leisurely existence on display in Baxter park in Enderlin. The locomotive was given to the city for display purposes.

Among the first Soo Line locomotives to be used in this area was Engine No. 2, piloted by Engineer Dan Willard, pictured in the window. Willard later became president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Others on the picture are unidentified.
The above photo shows a group of Enderlin enginemen who worked out of Enderlin in 1905. In the front is T. (Tasswell) Smith; second row, left to right, Mort Hutchinson, E. W. Kyle, Bill Cole; back row, Andy Sundall, Clyde Huntzicker, John Bolstad and Andy Crawford.
compound had to be added with the water to keep it under control. It was said that you weren't an engineer until you had worked out of Enderlin.

Tom Baribeau, who started his Soo Line career as callboy in 1902, recalls the roundhouse crew of that time: Charley Robarge and a helper in the boilerhouse, Foreman Jack Taylor, Pete Sundby and a helper as machinists: Ed Welsh and Andy Anderson, boilermakers; Charley Robarge (in addition to his other duties) Bill Lindemann and a man named Kane, boilerwashers; and two engine wipers. At the peak of activity in later years, the facilities could handle four or five engines at a time. After the coming of the diesel, the roundhouse crew dwindled, the water tank, coal shed and treating plant all disappeared.

Those who watched the steam locomotive go—men, management and the public—did so with regret. Breathing fire, belching smoke, and hissing steam, it was a picture that thrilled young and old. The diesel electric, though more efficient, will never possess the appeal of the old steam locomotive.

At first, locomotives were small and so were the cars they hauled, but the creed of the men who operated the railroad was power—to move tonnage faster, better and cheaper. This creed created progress, from the little diamond-stacked “Rhode Island” woodburners on the first trains to the huge “4000’s,” on to the highly-efficient power unit of today, the Diesel-electric. The first diesel locomotive which came through Enderlin consisted of two units of 1500 horsepower each. Present Soo fast freights are powered by the latest units, of 2500 horsepower each.

Up to the time that the 16-hour-of-service law went into effect in 1916, for engine service and train service employees, they could be held on duty for any length of time, between any terminals, and were frequently away from home for weeks, especially during the winters. “Old timers” recall the
1910 wages for a month’s work on the way freight between Harvey or Glenwood was $60 for conductors or engineers, and they would put in 16 hours going between these points. Passenger crews going to Portal were required to make 10 trips per month, for which the pay was about $58 per month and they paid their own expenses. Regular engineers were assigned their own engines and took great pride in keeping them looking their best. Cabooses were “home away from home” for the train crews.

The era of the “Boomers” or drifting railroad workers of all crafts, especially brakemen, switchmen, operators and dispatchers was from 1906 to 1915, with the heaviest turnover coming in 1906-07-08-09. These men were frequently “artists” in their trade; would work long enough to get enough money together to move one, when they would leave for another railroad or part of the country, or until they were fired and had to leave for a rule’s violation.

In the early 1900’s, during the severe winters, it was not uncommon for trains to become snowbound and be out of reach for two or three days. Many times, they would have to help themselves by getting provisions from farmhouses along the line until help could get to them. Snowplow trains carried 40 to 50 shovellers, usually sectionmen or local employees who could be hired and would open the line after the shovellers had dug out the engine and plow for another run at the drifts after they had tried to “buck through” it. This resulted in a song sung to the tune of “Wait ’till the Sun Shines Nelly,” by traveling salesmen, or sample peddlers, during the especially severe winter of 1905-1906.

“Wait ’till the Soo Line’s open, and the trains go rushing by,
“We will be happy, chappy, you and I. Up and down the line we’ll wander,
“Peddlers, you and I. Wait ’till the Soo Line’s open, bye and bye.”

In the present, powerful, radio-equipped plows and engines keep the lines clear of snow so there will be no interruption of service.

The original depot at Enderlin, located very near the present one, was destroyed by fire in early 1905. Construction of the present depot was completed in July of that same year. The need for a good eating house, close to the depot, to handle the increasing volume of passengers, saw the “Beanery” come into being in August 1911. The Lasley Company took over the running of it for the Soo Line and Gene Reed, who was then working at the hotel, became its first manager. The establishment was later to sold to Mr. Reed who in turn ran a high class cafe for the railroad trade and townspeople alike for many years until his retirement. At that time, the beanery reverted back to the Soo Line and Addison Miller Company handled it for them until declining passenger business made it impractical to keep it in operation and the building was put to other uses. The Lasley Company issued books of scrip, or coupons, in $5 size, which could be obtained by signing up for them to be deducted from your next check. A favorite practice of “Boomers” or those who needed cash was to sell their “Bean Books" to tide them over until the next pay day.

Railroading was an exciting way of life, but also a dangerous one. There were few safety rules or devices and the early papers record frequent injuries to men working on the division. The most notable wreck which occurred on the division took place just outside of Enderlin on a stormy, foggy night, December 23, 1906. Engineer Ginther and Fireman Collier failed to see the flagman in the gloom and the passenger train plowed into the switch engine just outside of the yards. Eight people were killed and 35 injured. The hotel and bank were turned into emergency wards to care for the injured.
Among its other facilities, Enderlin had a large stock yard and in the peak years used to unload 150 cars of cattle here on Saturday for feed and rest. In 1936, when there was no water in the Sheyenne river except for potholes, the Soo Line ran solid trains of stock and was often unable to get feed and water for them. Government inspectors gave stock away to anyone who would take them so they would not have to be shot because they were too weak to ship further.

The railroad unions played a large role in the life of the community, with eight organizations active at one period. The first to be organized in Enderlin was Division 671 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, organized in February, 1905. Other groups were the Order of Railway Conductors, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen (later merged with the engineers) the Machinists, Boilermakers, Carmen, Maintenance of Way, and it may be possible that in the early days there were other craft unions. With the removal of the shops, many of these are no longer active locally.

In spite of the large number of labor organizations, Enderlin has had only one strike of any great duration. This occurred in 1922, when all of the roundhouse crews went out for higher wages. Since the strikers could not touch men on railroad property, the men hired to replace the strikers were safe as long as they were in the shops or on the right of way. Some stayed in the roundhouse and had their families bring food to them. One man had his wife escort him to the tracks and he walked to work down the tracks. At night she met him again and escorted him home. Rocks were thrown through windows of homes and some families kept loaded guns at hand at night. The strike lasted for four months and none of the leaders were ever re-hired. An aftermath of bitterness took several years to dispell.

In addition to their role as representatives of the workers, the Brotherhoods played a social role in the early days. Their annual balls were complete in every detail of decoration and formal wear was required. For the most important affairs Malchow’s orchestra was imported from Minneapolis.

The division superintendent was a man of great importance in the early days of railroading, and the greatest visible evidence locally was Car 51. Originally built for the president of the road, it was used by the superintendent for his travels, for entertaining visiting officials and dignitaries, and for his personal entertaining. Complete with fine linen, china and glassware, and a private chef, the cuisine was exceptional. George Yoshi, a Japanese chef, who worked for Superintendent Baxter, was often hired by local women when he was in town, to cater parties for them. After Mr. Baxter’s death, George Jankowski acted as chef for the next five men who held the position: Corbett, Mann, Sparks, Branley and Cross. The coming of the motor rail car, with greater mobility, spelled the end of the plush era and Car 51 was retired in April, 1939.

During the years following World War I, a great number of passenger trains, including extras, or tourist trains, ran through Enderlin. The passengers got off to eat during the crew change and a good share of the local populace made it a practice to meet the specials and get a glimpse of the great and near-great who passed through, including the King of Siam, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and Bing Crosby.

Among the long time Soo Line employees still living in Enderlin are Tom Baribeau, “Smiley” Congdon, Fred Deike, “Frenchy” Baribeau, Otto Reick, Earl Olmstead, Fred Maley, Al Fuller, Henry Boileau, Louis Larson and Billy Metro.
The present official personnel includes Superintendent J. A. Welton, Trainmaster Walt Knutson, Chief Dispatcher C. D. Brazel, Chief Clerk C. C. Rust, Agent Wayne Wilson, Division Engineer G. A. Nilsen, Mechanical Foreman F. F. Conklin, Locomotive and Car Foreman W. I. Pearthree.

In April of 1946, construction was completed on the brick office building which now houses the Superintendent's general office, the dispatcher's office, and telegraph office. Up to this time they had been quartered upstairs in the depot building. The space released was used to bring Division offices for the engineering department of the railroad to Enderlin, and add to the convenience and efficiency of handling the division.

With the perfection of the modern motor car and truck, many changes have come to the Soo Line. Passenger service has been discontinued on the Western Division, as well as in many other places throughout the nation, because of lack of patronage and loss of revenue to the particular railroad, brought about by the flexibility of the family car. The last run of the Minneapolis to Enderlin locals, Numbers 5 and 6, was made May 2, 1959. Trains 13 and 14, through passenger trains at that time, took over the local work, until these trains were also discontinued December 8 and 9, 1963.

Over the years, the Soo Line has proven a faithful transportation agency in the country it opened for settlement and the towns that were established along its lines of railroad. When the territory was new, the railroad was the major developer of the areas it served, running special emigrant trains with low rates and doing everything possible to encourage people to settle and build up the country. In addition, it added immeasurably to the general

This Soo Line crew, pictured in 1905, shows one of the early steam locomotives used in this area. Pictured are Brakeman Clark, Conductor "Ham" Smith, Brakeman "Ollie" Croonquist, Fireman "Jumbo" Griffin and Engineer John Sanvold.
growth and prosperity of the entire Northwest. Second and third generation Soo Liners will set the pace with the most modern equipment and methods, including train-to-train, and train-to-station radio for faster and more efficient operation, and better service to the shipping public.

It is impossible, due to lack of space in this book, to pay homage to the hundreds of men and women of the Soo Line in Enderlin who have, over the years, added to the betterment of the city and the railroad. They will be enshrined in the hearts and minds of all of us and will be remembered, as each generation makes its contribution, then steps aside for the next to take over.

George Jankowski, one of the last Soo Line chefs to retire, is pictured at right with Car 51 in the background. The car was used by the local superintendent for entertaining visiting officials and dignitaries. Jankowski, a long-time Enderlin resident, was chef for five superintendents—Corbett, Mann, Branley, Sparks and Cross.

Nearly unnoticed, railroad men in the performance of their routine work render support essentially necessary to important vital functions. Thus, cooperation in World War II between Canada and the United States was promoted by having the Dionne quintts christen five freighters in Duluth in May 1943. The cook on this car, and chief chef for the special quint train and entourage travelling by Soo Line Railway, was George Jankowski.

This round house crew held a record for shocking grain during World War II. In the front row, left to right, are Dick Fortiss, Gene Dehn, Walt Fritz, Otto Reick, Billy Metro. Back, Herschel Dillon, Pete Nygaard, Ed Jerdee, Red Neros, Ed Bearman, John Johanneson, Robert Janz, Torolf Johansen.
A view of Baxter Park when it was used as a skating rink about 1920.

This view of Baxter Park, taken about 1930, shows how the idle area was beautified.
Among the more pleasant features of modern Enderlin are the tree-lined streets and beautiful parks. This was not always true, for the Maple River valley at Enderlin was not naturally forested. The first trees were native trees, dug along the Sheyenne River, with which the early residents tried to beautify their streets and yards.

Early newspapers mention a Park Board, but the first records of the board have been lost or mislaid. In 1908 mention is made in city records of the need for land for a park. In 1909, Ed Pierce donated the land for the present Patrick Pierce Park. About 1911, the city fathers purchased trees, which were available to anyone who would plant them, in an Arbor Day campaign to beautify the city.

The real genesis of the Enderlin park system came in 1925, when George Flynn, a Soo Line dispatcher by vocation and a gardener and landscaper by avocation, was elected to the Park Board. He planned the planting, gave of his time and effort for many years, and furnished many of the flowers and shrubs now growing there, out of his own funds. Through the cooperation of Superintendent Baxter, the city obtained a lease on the property now known as Baxter Park and this, too, became a beauty spot.

Over the years, many people have given generously of time and effort to the park system, but one more individual should be mentioned for the contribution he has made. He is Earl Sanness, who has served for 27 years on the Park Board and donated uncounted hours of labor to maintaining the park system.

The city has also an undeveloped tract on the water tower hill, which was donated to the city by Albert Kaber and is used largely for sports and recreational purposes.
Patrick Pierce Park, located on the northeast edge of Enderlin, along Highway 46, offers ample picnic space in a serene atmosphere. Many family, church and social functions are staged here during the summer months.

A special feature of Patrick Pierce Park is the monument seen at the left in the photograph above. The monument contains a list of Enderlin servicemen who served during World War I.
The success of its Junior Legion and Independent baseball teams has made Enderlin widely known throughout the state as a baseball town, but the national pastime was Enderlin's favorite sport long before these teams appeared on the scene. The main requisite for a ball team is that the town must have at least one genuine baseball "nut" and over the years they have appeared on the scene periodically.

Apparently the first on record was Walter Loomis, player-manager for many early day teams. The first recorded baseball tournament in Enderlin was played on the lots where Helena Westphal's house and the Buckthorn apartments now stand, June 18 and 19, 1897, with Enderlin defeating Valley City 13 to 8. An early picture, probably about 1902, shows a local crowd proudly displaying a banner proclaiming "We haven't lost a game this year."

One early ball player destined to prove an inspiration to local youngsters was Johnny "Cy" Pieh, son of a local butcher. At one time, when Enderlin had a celebration scheduled, Cy pitched three games in one day. After leaving Enderlin, he pitched with a minor league in Canada, and in the Illinois-Ohio league for the Dayton "Vets," before being signed in 1912 by the New York Yankees. Playing for four and a half years with the Yankees, he holds a rather nerve-shattering world record. In a game played at Detroit, he passed seventeen men and still won the game 5 to 2.

Depending on their generation, at least some of these names will sound familiar to baseball fans: Shaw, Strand, Gullickson, Harper, Olmstead, Keene, Brazel, Tripp, Nygaard, Swap, Oeder, Wilkins—there are many more that can be added by the old timers.

The real success story started with the Junior Legion program and "Doc" Hendrickson, long-time local doctor, whose dedication, time and money all helped to build the program in Enderlin. Perry Sandell, former Junior Legion and school coach recalls those days and the good doctor thus:

"I believe the first year of any kind of organized team was in 1928. Doc picked up a few lopsided baseballs, some cracked bats and we actually played a few games. Dungarees were the uniforms of the day.

"The following year, money was raised to buy some uniforms. I can recall the day the uniforms arrived—was it from Sears Roebuck, or some other such reputable sporting goods outfit? All the boys came up to the waiting room adjoining Doc's office and the suspense was horrifying. There were only twelve suits. Who wouldn't be getting one? Believe it or not, I think the uniforms improved the skills of quite a number of those players.

"I can also recall quite vividly the washing instructions the boys got for the uniforms. Even though most of the suits were on the large side, we couldn't have them shrink because they had to be worn next year too.

"Well, as you know, as support for the team grew, better equipment came too. The kids got bigger, better and tougher. When someone broke a bat, we could afford a whole roll of friction tape for the handle. Doc became quite proficient at driving small nails and putting screws in the handle without cracking the wood, which was quite a trick.

"As the teams grew better, it also became more expedient for young married females to plan their families so that no birth would occur on a Sunday afternoon from May 20th to Sept 1. I suspect if the "pill" had been available, every budding female would have been prescribed in advance.

"One of the most difficult decisions Doc had to make a couple of times each week during the summer was whether managing a ball team or practicing medicine was more important. He had to see about getting change, ticket sellers, putting up posters, dragging the ball diamond, putting in the baselines and a hundred other things. He didn't have to do those things but, by gosh, he
knew it wouldn't be done unless it had his personal attention. Too bad there was no television back then—"I'd rather do it myself."

"I will never know where Doc got this almost maniacal interest in baseball. He got a lot of satisfaction out of seeing kids perform well. Perhaps it was because he was never much of an athlete himself; I suppose one can get satisfaction vicariously. Also, I think it took his mind off of the worries over his patients. When Doc was sitting in the dugout, nothing could get his mind off of the game—Oh, yes, just one thing—a foul ball hit over the weeds.

"I do know that literally hundreds of kids from Enderlin and the vicinity owe a great deal to the opportunities Doc made available to them. At the same time, I think that he would have been the first to admit that baseball and the boys playing it made it possible for him to go on year after year in what would otherwise have been a pretty drab life."

The first fruit of the program came in 1930 when Enderlin defeated McClusky 18-8 in a game called after five innings to win the state Junior Legion title. They went on to take the regional title at Sioux Falls, defeating Neenah, Wis. and Minneapolis. Elroy Hendrickson, Enderlin's "iron man" pitcher, Fritz Petrich and Hollis Johanneson were named to the All-Tournament team. At Colorado Springs, in the western Divisional tournament, they defeated favored Denver, 5-3 before finally bowing to Long Beach, California, when the strain of the long campaign and lack of bench strength finally caught up with them.

In 1931 they were defeated by Cooperstown in the state finals. 1932
In 1924 these men represented Enderlin on the baseball diamond. From left to right they are, back row, C. D. Brazel, coach and pitcher, Richard Portiss, Kenneth Leidall, Peter Nygaard, Don Siegel; second row, Howard Swapp, Eddie Siegel, Willis Wiper, Bert Tripp, Manager Ole Nygaard, and Glen Siegel. Mascots seated in front are Harold Siv, left, and Pete Moeller.
saw them defeat Cooperstown in a spectacular fourteen-inning game, with a slight scared, thirteen-year old pitcher called in to hold the opposition off in the last of the inning, when the other pitchers were exhausted. His name was Ray Henkel and he managed to do it. It was something of anti-climax to lose the title they had won on a protest concerning the eligibility of an Enderlin player.

Throughout the entire decade, Enderlin was to be in the thick of the fight for the state crown. In 1940, Enderlin won the second of its state titles by defeating Grand Forks, who had held the title for four years, 5-4. The regional meet was at York, Nebraska and Enderlin was very much the under-dog to the highly favored Lincoln, Nebraska entry; so much so, that the committee in charge had ordered the trophy engraved for Lincoln. To their embarrassment Enderlin defeated the Nebraska team in a brilliantly played game, winning 4-3. They went on to the Western Division tournament at Trenton, Missouri, where they were defeated by San Diego. The trophy they had won at York was not forthcoming.

Some years later, A. L. Tschida happened to meet a representative of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce at a meeting. In the course of the conversation, the gentleman mentioned that he had been active in Legion Baseball when Enderlin played at York. When he heard the story of the lost trophy, he went into action and the result was the final presentation to members of that 1940 team still in Enderlin about 15 years late.

1941 saw Enderlin win its third state title, defeating Fargo in the finals 4-3. Once again they went to York, Nebraska, only to lose to Pierre, S. D., in a twelve inning, 2-1 game.

The Junior Legion program was firmly established, with summer play for the different age groups providing a pool of playing talent. When the North Dakota High School League was established in 1950, Enderlin became the first team to win the state High School title, when a one-hit pitching job was turned in by Harley Kaspari to defeat Arthur in the finals 12-3.

Dr. Hendrickson died in 1948 but another baseball enthusiast was waiting in the wings, ready to utilize the reserves of local talent available. He was the late Pete Redmond, first manager of the Enderlin Indies, who were destined to become the first team to win three state titles. With the support of local fans and businessmen, the grandstands were rebuilt, lighting installed and the newly renovated field dedicated to the memory of Dr. Hendrickson on August 4th, 1949.

Though the Indies won the League title in their first season, they had to wait until 1952 for their first state championship. That year they defeated Abercrombie, 10-0, playing errorless ball behind the pitching of Ralph Graalum. John Janz was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

They repeated in 1953, defeating Gilby 5-1 in the finals. Jonnard Utke received the Most Valuable Player award that year.

In 1954, dissention arose in the ranks of the NDAABL and two separate tournaments were held, Enderlin losing in the state finals of their tournament to Mandan. The breach was healed in 1955 and the Indies swept the tournament for a precedent-breaking third title. The final game with McVille, won by a score of 5-2, with Owen Wallace pitching, was almost anti-climactic, for in an earlier game against Tuttle, John Janz had turned in a perfect no-hit game, with not a single opposing runner reaching first base. Jonnard Utke was named Most Valuable Player for the second year and when, for the first time, an all-
A tournament team was named, three Enderlin players were chosen: John Janz, Jonnard Utke and Dan Kittelson.

Baseball has not been the only sport played in Enderlin—it just seems that way. Back in 1906, the first football team took the field garbed in makeshift uniforms and home made helmets. Three years later the group had attained enough skill to reach the state championship game against Minot, losing, it is true, but making a creditable performance. Local teams are still turning in good records with Enderlin claiming the title, or a piece of it.

Enderlin's first football team is pictured above, following a game at Lisbon. In the front row are Tom Dole, Phillip Akre, Herb Nohr, Earl Samness, Merlin Engle, Knute Gulbeksson and Homer Sandberg. Backfield men were Ed Harper, Fred Harper, Red Longley and John Luker. The boys in the background are Ralph Munt and Henry Arneson. Note hand-sewn helmets worn by the squad.

Though the town has never had a state basketball title, Enderlin has had several entries in the state tournament. The Enderlin “Red Devils,” however, under the management of Carl Newgard, were runners-up to Cando for the 1929 state independent title, and champions in 1930. Players of that era were: Eddie Siegel, Burt Hutchinson, Ray Siegel, Lloyd O'Neill, Eddy Jerdee, Roy Oeder and Bernard Skow.

Enderlin has even had a state championship bowling team, with the City Bakery team of Norma Golkowski, Mertice Johanneson, Edna Keene, Jerry Sorenson and Mae Berglund winning the state women's crown in 1959 while Norma Golkowski was the BPA Women's Singles winner in 1964.

No chronicle of Enderlin sports would be complete without mention of J. C. Harper, local merchant, who made his mark in his youth as a track star. Never content to rest on his laurels, he kept up his walking and sprinting over the years and in 1924 set a world record time for the 100-yard dash for men over 50. His time was 12.1 at the age of 69 years, which feat was to draw national publicity, including mention in Bob Ripley's "Believe It or Not."

The course was laid out on Highway 46, then a dirt road, with Thomas Pierce, Clifford Danielson and Mayor Harper, his son, as official judges. Frank Pierce was starter, A. B. Overstreet and P. M. Peterson, timekeepers, Lauritson the official photographer and McGilvery, press representative.

A long-time tradition in the town is the Mother's Day Smorgasbord, by which The American Legion and Auxiliary partially finance the baseball program in Enderlin. Another baseball enthusiast has appeared on the scene, in the person of V. F. Hegeholz, current manager and booster of the Indies.
Enderlin Church Histories

A potent force in the growth of any community is its churches. It is fitting that we recognize that their history is an important part of the community story.

It was perhaps prophetic that the first group to hold religious services in the city was called the Enderlin Christian Association, for to a marked degree, Enderlin has been free of any bitter denominational rivalries and the ministry of its churches has been marked by tolerance and cordiality.

The following are the histories of the various local congregations as submitted.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Trinity congregation was the first church to be established by mission pastors of the Iowa Synod in what is now North Dakota. Pastor Fredrich Holter organized the congregation in 1884, with eighteen families as charter members: Albert Fraedrich, Wm. Fraedrich Sr., Wm. Fraedrich Jr., Theodore Petrich, August Schroeder, August Westphal, Adolph Walter, Herman Bohm, Ferdinand Lindemann, August Neuman, Wm. Froemke, Herman Froemke, Michael Schmidtke, Carl Kaatz, August Buss, Jacob Schmidtke, Carl Krueger and Ferdinand Oehlke.

The Congregation was organized in two sections, North and South, each with its own officers. A parsonage was purchased in Sheldon and both sections of the church used rural schools and other meeting places for worship in the early years. Pastor Holter rode or walked from farm to farm, holding services in various places to build the membership. He also rode horseback to Watson to serve that parish from time to time until ill health forced him to resign after six years in North Dakota.

For almost two years there was no regular pastor although Pastor Andreas Biemueller came from Davenport to hold services when possible. Pastor E. Melchert was called in 1891 and served until 1894, when ill health caused his resignation also.

In 1895, Pastor H. Dieter took over the leadership of the congregation. With the coming of the new town of Enderlin, Trinity North was rapidly growing in membership and began to feel capable of building and maintaining a church. Land was purchased from Carl Lindemann for a cemetery and church site and the building was dedicated in 1895. At this time the two groups became separate congregations, selling the parsonage in Sheldon and dividing the money. Trinity South built a two story parish building with space on the first floor for worship and the second floor providing quarters for the pastor. In 1900, Trinity North built a parsonage beside the church. The south congregation then sold their building and in 1905 built the present Anselm church.

Pastor Dieter resigned in 1901, but not before he had laid the foundation for another congregation at Lucca. He was replaced by Pastor Henry Elster, who organized the Immanuel Lutheran church at Lucca in the same year. In 1905 they built their own church in Lucca. He later organized the St. Luke's congregation in Enderlin, which purchased the old Presbyterian church for its use.

For a few years during the time Pastor Elster served as district president the load of work became too heavy and the Lucca and Anselm churches formed a separate parish and called a pastor of their own. Pastors C. Haferman, Donald
Meyer and Walter Hummel served them until 1938, when the four churches once again became the Trinity parish.

There are a number of interesting features in the history of Trinity. In the 82 years since its founding, only five pastors have served the main congregation and it has had an influence, out of proportion to its size, in the American Lutheran Church in the Dakotas. In a sense, the history of the congregation is the history of two men, Pastor Elster who headed it for 37 years and Pastor Schaible, now in his 28th year. Both able men, though of very different personality, they provided strong leadership at home and service outside of the parish at a conference and district level.

Pastor Elster served as president of the old Dakota District, comprising North and South Dakota and eastern Montana, for several years. During his tenure, the Red River Valley conference of the Luther League was organized under the sponsorship of the Trinity and Arthur congregations.

Pastor Schaible served as vice-president of both the old Dakota District of the ALC, and of the Eastern Dakota district of the new American Lutheran Church. His particular interest has been working with youth. He served as District Youth Chairman of the former ALC, managed its Leadership Training program for five years, served on the Concordia College board, the Home Mission Board, and did survey work toward establishing mission congregations in the Rapid City airbase area.

His interest and influence in turn helped produce leadership among the young people of his parish. Together with the Leonard church, the Trinity Luther League organized the Red River Bible Camp which operated from 1939 until after the merger. Pastor Schaible served on the board for several years and Elmer Utke managed the camp for three years, while Arlen Bunn managed it for four. Four young people of the parish have served as Dakota District Luther League presidents: Elmer Utke, Arlen Bunn, Jean Hill and Emilie Trapp. Five have acted as Red River Conference president: Elmer Utke, Arlen Bunn, Emilie Trapp, John Trapp and Helen Geske. Mrs. Martin Utke also served as Conference president for the WMF, and the congregation takes pride in two sons of the parish in the ministry of the American Lutheran Church; Rev. August Geske and Rev. Wayne Bunn.

Also interesting is the fact that the Trinity parish was one of the first to sense the changing nature of the agricultural scene. In 1946, Trinity North, or the Pontiac congregation, as it was known, St. Luke's and Lucca voted to merge into a single congregation and build a new church on the property owned by St. Luke's in Enderlin. The merger and building was accomplished smoothly and successfully and the new church dedicated in 1949. First officers of the merged congregation were: Pres., Fred Oehlke, Vice- Pres., Otto Trapp, Sec., Herbert Lindemann, Treas., Edwin Fernow, and board members, August Geske, Martin Utke and Walter Janz. The entire indebtedness of about $175,000 for church and furnishings was retired in 1960.

The steady growth of the congregation soon strained the parish education facilities of the church and in 1964 work was started on an education unit. The new addition was dedicated in 1965, adding 16 new class rooms, council room, office space, lounge and kitchenette.

The old partnership between Trinity North and South still continues. Trinity at Anselm, with a baptized membership of 128 and a confirmed membership of 102 maintains it's own church, served by Pastor Schaible, while activities such as confirmation are carried on jointly.

With a present membership of 886 baptized and 603 confirmed members, and modern and complete facilities, the present congregation seems far removed from the days when the struggling congregation asked its few members to pay
$2 a family, or two sacks of oats and a half ton of hay, to meet the deficit in the pastor's salary. Yet, the prospering modern congregation will be hard put to equal the faith and devotion of those pioneers who nursed it through its infant days in the newly settled state of North Dakota.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN PARISH

Some Norwegian families settled along the Maple River near what is Enderlin in the year 1878. The Rev. Forde of the Norwegian Synod came out from Moorhead and gave them as much service as his time would permit. Later Rev. Bale of Kindred took up this work.

The Maple River Congregation was organized on the 8th of October, 1879 with a membership of 28 souls. This name was changed to the St. Olaf Lutheran Church in 1882. Rev. Bale evidently organized this congregation, and served until 1882, when a resident pastor was applied for, and Rev. G. A. Larson accepted the Call in 1883.

In this early period of the settlement, the services were conducted in the homes of the homesteaders. Before long, school houses were built and offered better facilities for worship services. The people were glad to have the Word of God proclaimed and the Sacraments administered by a servant of God. Rev. Larson served the parish until 1887.

The congregation decided in 1899 to join the newly formed Synod known as the United Lutheran Church. During the year of 1895 the congregation took first steps toward the building of a church. Two locations were proposed—one in the town of Enderlin and the other in the country. After a number of meetings, it was finally decided to build two churches. The congregation was divided November 30, 1898. During this year both churches were built, and were known as East St. Olaf Lutheran Church and West St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

The St. Olaf Lutheran Ladies Aid was organized in 1885, with five members; they paid 50¢ dues at the beginning of each year, and 10¢ at each meeting. In 1898 the Aid was made into two groups, the Eastern and the Western districts.

The organization meeting of East St. Olaf Lutheran congregation was held January 12, 1899. The church building was occupied in 1899. A parochial school was established for the summer months, and the Ladies Aid and the Girls Aid gave much financial help to the congregation. A Church bell was acquired in 1903, and the Young People's League gave the chandelier to the church the same year. This is the church now known as First Lutheran. The Rev. J. H. Jahren served from 1887 to 1906, when the Rev. T. K. Gaustad accepted the Call. Soon after his arrival, the church was dedicated. At the annual meeting it was decided to take an offering at each service. In 1907 electric lights were installed in the church and in 1909 the Board of Deacons was established. Pastor Gaustad left in 1908.

When the Rev. C. B. Runsvold (1918-1924) came, First Lutheran and West St. Olaf congregations took action to provide a parsonage. This was accomplished in 1919, and the present parsonage was built. The services were now conducted in English, and Sunday School attendance increased. The congregation and the auxiliaries, particularly the Young Peoples Luther League, joined in financing a new basement for the church.

The Rev. O. J. Lutness accepted the Call in 1924. Fillmore Church which had been independent, joined the parish in 1927. In 1931 E. St. Olaf congregation changed its name to First Lutheran, and in 1938 the constitution was changed to provide that women could become voting members. A building
committee was formed which began a drive for funds along with auxiliaries. Pastor Lutness served until 1949, having served 25 years. Upon retirement, he continued to live in Enderlin until his death.

Pastor A. L. Selid came in 1949, serving until 1956. In 1951, it was decided to remodel and enlarge the church building, adding Sunday School rooms, etc. This was completed in 1952 and dedicated in 1953. The new building has enlarged seating capacity, good kitchen and dining room space, adequate Sunday School rooms, and is a beautiful House of Worship.

Pastor Joel Pederson served the parish from 1956 to the summer of 1958, then the present pastor, C. A. Tollefson, was installed. In the winter of 1958, a new Moller Pipe Organ was installed and used for the first time for the Christmas service.

The W. St. Olaf congregation used their church building for the first time on Christmas Day in 1898. A bell was secured in 1902, and altar and pulpit in 1904. The cemetery across the road from the church is still in use. There no longer is an active Sunday School nor Luther League. The Ladies Aid, now known as the American Lutheran Church Women, is very active, and the men participate in the Parish Brotherhood, now American Lutheran Church Men, along with First and Fillmore men.

Looking back over the church histories, we find the names of many pioneers whose descendants are still members of the parish. Earliest names mentioned were Thor Mostul, G. Nystul, and Ellef Nordhagen. When Pastor Larson came in 1883, he and his wife were given living quarters in the home of Peter Austad at what is now known as the “Center Farm” since there was neither church nor parsonage.

One of the first children baptized was Edward Gullickson, son of Ever and Agnes; other early baptisms were Severt Bennie Gullickson, Lars Oscar Frohling, and John Oscar Austad, son of Peter Austad. The first child to be baptized in the second year, 1884, was Bernhard Trangstrom. Henry Julius Shelver, (Dr. Shelver of Ortonville) was christened the same year. Henry Hanson gave a parcel of ground to be used for the church, and his brother, Sten, gave a plot of land nearby for a cemetery.

The Bible says a little child shall lead them. By a coincidence the first funerals mentioned were of children, Henrietta Ogidia Doeley, and the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Arneson. Later we hear the names of Erik Gunderson, Eberhard Fauett, Ole Christianson, Ole Smedstad, Hans Olson, John Strand, Lars Lokken, Ole Pederson, Nils Anderson, Ole Moo and Jens Wold. Some early congregation records were lost, so not too much authentic information was available from this time. Martha Arneson, now Mrs. Bjork, and Clara Nord, (Mrs. Edgar Henderson) were christened about the same time. Jacob Shelver and Nels Shelver and Andrew Austad were on early committees. James Wold, N. H. Johnson, S. E. Loney, Martin Austad, P. P. Burtness, Steen Hanson and Ole Wold were present when E. St. Olaf was organized along with others. H. Rustad and Ever Gullickson and Nils Fosse were on the building fund committee. O. O. Golberg (a relative of the present pastor, C. A. Tollefson) was on an early call committee. Alfred Aasheim, Chris Wold and John Austad were on an early committee to plan a special festival. Hans Halvorson and Charles Urrhammer were on an early call committee, besides others already mentioned.

Later officers of the church which is now First, are listed as W. T. Johnson, Oscar Sundby, George Newgard, Nels Erie, Fred Maley, Peter Sundby, T. S. Bjork, A. N. Hoffland, M. J. Danielson, E. R. Gullickson, Roy Rasmussen, C. A. Pederson, Arthur Graalum, Henry Severson.

At the time of the dedication of the newly remodeled building in 1953, officers and committee members were, besides the above named, O. A. Onstad,
E. N. Kittelson, I. N. Jones, Hjalmer Nygaard, A. F. Fir, Henry Erickson, Sig Hagen, Norris Jordheim, Frank Helmer, Norman Narum, J. T. Swenson. These men and in many cases, their good wives, and also their family members were instrumental in the successful building program and financing of it. M. C. Olufson as choir director and Mrs. Frank Helmer and Mrs. Ralph Graalum are mentioned as organists. Mrs. LeClaire was a faithful organist at an earlier time.

This doesn't begin to list all those who have been faithful workers in the First Lutheran, West St. Olaf Lutheran, and Fillmore Lutheran Congregations; there have been many more, whose names are known to God if not appearing here in these pages, who have worshipped and served God in and through these churches.

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

In the early days, Scandanavian immigrants who were interested in the work of the Lord gathered in various homes or a school house to have services in their native language. Itinerant preachers visited them from time to time. In the fall of 1940, the Rev. George Anderson, then of Alexandria, Minnesota, visited this group of believers. He is counted the first of this particular church group.

Feeling the need of establishing a church home where the Word of God would be presented to their families, as well as a means of reaching the community for Christ, three individuals, S. P. Benson, John Dagman, and Rheinhold Wallin purchased the original church building of the Methodist Church, in 1905.

The method of moving this structure was interesting. It was done with the church on planks, moved by a windlass drawn by one horse. The distance was about five blocks, from the site of the present Methodist Church to the site of the Evangelical Church on Cleveland St. The move took two weeks and the first services were held while the church was sitting in the street, enroute to its present site.

Soon after the church building was completed, the group organized as the “Scandinavian Sallskapet of the United States.” Rev. John Thompson, father of Mrs. Paul Dagman, came regularly once a month. Other early visiting pastors were Rev. John A. Johnson, Rev. Louis Olson, Rev. P. Berglov, Rev. John Moline and Rev. Wm. Milon.

As the third generation grew up, the change to the English language was needed. For a time, Rev. L. S. Eberley of Valley City visited us once a month and occasionally the Rev. Carl Lindberg of Buffalo, Minn. Regular Sunday School was begun about this time.

In 1938-1949 the pastors of the Moorhead Free Church brought a service two afternoons a month. In the summer of 1949, Rev. and Mrs. Leroy Christianson spent three months here in the interest of the Free Church work. The present parsonage was purchased at this time.

Rev. John Goodrich and family came in April of 1949 as our first full time pastor, remaining until 1951. During this time the Young Peoples group was formed as well as the Women's Missionary Society.

Rev. Glen Jensen pastored the church from 1951 until June, 1953. He was followed by Rev. Paul Nelson, who took up the work in May, 1954 and remained until 1959. It was during his ministry that the group affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and the name was changed to the Evangelical Free Church.

Rev. and Mrs. Earl Miller, who now are missionaries in the Phillipines,
were here for a year, and in 1960, the present pastor, Rev. Clarence Johnson came to take over the work of the parish.

Mrs. Roger Defenbough, the former Alice Mae Bergman, is a daughter of this congregation who has gone out to serve the church at large. She is a graduate of the Free Church Bible Institute and has spent five years as a missionary in Venezuela, South America.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The first church in Enderlin dates back to 1891, the year Enderlin was founded. A small group organized as The Enderlin Christian Association with Rev. Wood and the Rev. Bell holding services in the Soo Line depot, the only place available.

Arrangements were made with Methodist pastor of Sheldon, Rev. J. A. Strachan, to hold Sunday afternoon services starting in May 1892. At the same time a Sunday School was formed with C. C. Chamberlain as its first superintendent. The next fall the hotel dining room was used as a place of worship. Following this a bank building was erected and this was used until the public hall was erected, where services were held until the first church building was made possible in the spring of 1895.

In the fall of 1894 the group decided to incorporate as a Methodist church and on December 24, 1894 the First Methodist Church of Enderlin was incorporated. The incorporators were John W. Crandall, Milton C. Engle and C. C. Chamberlain. The charter members were John W. Crandall, Milton C. Engle, C. C. Chamberlain, Julius Klingbeil, Mrs. Belle Crandall, Mrs. C. C. Chamberlain, Mrs. Amelia Klingbeil, Hattie Klingbeil, Mrs. M. C. Engle, Mrs. Kate Horton and Mrs. K. Harell.

In the spring of 1895 under the leadership of Rev. L. E. Resseger a new parsonage was built and later in the same year a small church was built on the present site, which adjoined the parsonage, at a cost of $2600. The town kept growing and the people attending church also increased in numbers and the church was no longer able to hold the people attending the services. So a new building was planned for, under the leadership of Rev. F. H. Harron. The old church was sold to the Swedish Mission—now the Evangelical Free Church of Enderlin—and a new building, which is the present church building, was erected on the same site in the year 1905 at a cost of $10,000.

The present parsonage was purchased in 1919 when Rev. R. H. Craig was pastor. The Rev. Craig is remembered as a powerful preacher and evangelist and was most interesting. The church was always filled to overflowing at both the morning and evening Sunday services. He was a large man, six feet six inches tall, and broad, and when the church windows were open as they usually were in warm weather he could be heard a block away. He had been a missionary to India and his experiences were many. He passed away suddenly in June of 1919 following a heart attack.

At the General Conference in 1938 the three Methodist churches—the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church, came under the name of the Methodist Church. So the Enderlin Methodist has since been known as the First Methodist Church.

In 1939, the year Rev. Lewis E. Dickinson came here as pastor, the Enderlin, Sheldon and Leonard churches were joined as one charge.

In all these years the Ladies Aid has been a very faithful group and has helped the church through many difficult problems and needs. While Mrs. Hattie LaGrone was pastor this society was reorganized into three divisions, thus working in smaller groups and with new zeal and fervor. In the year 1940 the
name of the women's work all over Methodism was changed to the Women's Society of Christian Service. This group now has a membership of 65. As before it has three divisions known as Circles 1, 2 and 3 which carry on the work in smaller groups. The 25th anniversary of the WSCS was observed with a program and tea and honoring of charter members at the church October 8, 1965. Mrs. Jerry Schons is the present president of this society.

Many children and young people have been influenced to make the start into the Christian life by the faithful and devoted work of the Sunday School, now called the Church School. The school is carrying on with an enrollment of 95 with Mrs. Wayne Wilson as its present superintendent.

The MYF—Methodist Youth Fellowship—which until the year 1940 was known as the Epworth League—brings out leadership abilities and social contacts that are very worth while to the group of high school age. There are thirty young people that are being served by this society. Mark Wilson is the present president. Mrs. Allan Olson and Mrs. Vernon Johnson are the advisors for the Jr. high MYF. Rev. Dwight Meier is Sr. advisor.

The choir has been a very active organization in the church through the years contributing its part in the music of the services. Many of the young people, and we depend on the older members too, find a real place of service to their church this way. Mrs. A. L. Tschida is the able and dependable director and has been faithfully serving for the past number of years. Mrs. Elwood Anderson is the present organist.

The congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary October 26, 1944 with Bishop Ralph S. Cushman of St. Paul, Minn., the guest speaker. The 60th anniversary was observed on December 5, 1954 with Bishop Voight of Aberdeen, South Dakota the guest speaker. At that time a new church organ, presented by Dr. Allan M. Olson, was dedicated.

Recent major improvements include a new entrance to the church in 1959, a complete remodeling of the church basement in 1963 and remodeling of the parsonage in 1965. Annual bazaars in the fall of the year have been a big help financially and all the congregation takes interest in it.

The Men's club meets once a month and church fellowship suppers are held monthly.

In the 72 years since the founding of this church there have been and are many who have given long and faithful service but space does not permit a detailed account.


The church has a membership of 210. Its present officers are: chairman of the Official Board, Dr. Allan M. Olson; secretary, Torulf Johansen, treasurer, John Kunz; lay leader, A. P. Ziegenhagen.
ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Catholicism came to Ransom County from the east. Informally it was represented here by the Catholic layman. The Goodman brothers who worked for Randolph M. Probstfield, managing the Hudson Bay Company establishment at Georgetown, Minnesota, were also brothers of his wife. One of the brothers, probably Peter, is said to have been a student at Notre Dame University, Indiana, before coming to Dakota Territory on trips to the Sheyenne River in Ransom County to trade for furs with the Indians as early as 1866. The Goodmans constitute a link with the formal organization of the Catholic Church in the County. For having taken up land in later settlement days, they are listed in 1884 as members of the Catholic mission at Sheldon, North Dakota. It was this congregation that flowered into a parish, i.e., having a resident pastor, after another score of years, and fostered Enderlin as its mission through four more years. Then in the year 1908, the priest came to reside at Enderlin; and Saint Patrick's has continued as a full-fledged parish up to this date of writing. A more colorful sequence of organizational events proceeding with the development of the country raised aloft this cross on the green-roofed spire in its placid existence of today.

Formally the Catholic Church does not arise in a new territory except by legal mission, or, one might say, by an authorized “sending” that emanates from the very See of Peter at Rome. Historically this mission proceeded from Rome through France, the mouth of the St. Lawrence River on the Atlantic by way of the great Voyageurs canoe route. The first Christian missionary in Ransom County was still one of those who traveled by canoe habitually, though one of the lesser individuals in that great company.

The era of fur traders and Indians in Dakota Territory was fast fading into the day of military expeditions and wagon trails when Father J. B. M. Genin, O.M.I., dated a letter: “Sheyenne River, Jan. 1st, 1868.” In it he stated that he had arrived at David Fairbault’s who had established himself on this River because of the enormous quantity of cartage that finds its way through here, and because of the Government, and because of deserters. (Cfr. Pidgeon Point, in general history of this Jubilee Book.) In a letter dated October 6, the following year, from “Headquarters Fort Ransom D. T.”, Captain O. H. Crossman also writing to Bishop Tache at St. Boniface (Winnipeg) says in part: “During a recent visit to this post of the Rev. Father Genin………..” Therefore sometime between January 1, 1868 and October 6, 1869, Father Genin made one or more visits, proceeding from Fort Abercrombie via the Sheyenne River to Fort Ransom, which lay within the legitimate sphere of his mission.

Father Genin is an interesting frontier personality, and he played a minor part in spurring on several key developments in North Dakota. Thus Captain Crossman wrote Bishop Tache that Father Genin had assured him that the Oblate Fathers might be instrumental in inducing Standing Buffalo, Chief of the Sisseton band of Sioux to come from the Turtle Mountain region to Fort Ransom to give his allegiance to the United States government. Father Andre had been especially recommended; Father Andre indeed eventually helped obtain the signing of the treaty terms under which the Cut Head Sioux accepted the newly established Fort Totten reservation as their place of residence. Father Genin himself extended one of his visits to Fort Ransom on up the Sheyenne to the Devils Lake Area, where he was clearly out of bounds as to mission, since this was within the sphere of pastoral concern of his confreres at Walhalla (St. Joe’s and Pembina. Actions of this sort eventually made him a controversial figure; Linda B. Slaughter and Bishop Shanley came
to disagree publicly on his merits. He died as pastor of Bathgate, North Dakota several years after Enderlin had already been founded.

How had he come to Fort Abercrombie in the first place? Briefly, after the suppression of the Jesuits in the eighteenth century, another religious Order, The Oblates of Mary Immaculate took over the Manitoba end of their missions. Coming by the ancient canoe route from eastern Canada to St. Boniface, newly ordained Father Genin, an Oblete in 1865, served a few months in internship there; and in 1866 accompanied Bishop Grandin and canoes to Lake Athabaska mission. Coming back to St. Boniface in 1867, he proceeded alone up the Red River apparently with approval of his Superiors, to Pembina, to Georgetown, and then to center his mission work at a spot on Whiskey Creek near McCauleyville, Minnesota. This was near Fort Abercrombie, where he probably first met the Commandant of Fort Ransom. Easily inspired by inauthentic information furnished by men like Fisk, Father Genin was convinced in 1867 that the next spring a stage line would be routed from Fort Abercrombie to Pembina, and at the same time a stage line would be routed from Abercrombie to Montana “ . . . by way of Fort Ransom on the Sheyenne River.” And he hoped to collect enough money from the soldiers and Metis at the three forts, and the Metis and Indians in the Coteaux, to build a chapel at Fort Abercrombie.

Aside from his shortcomings, he was a young priest with good intentions. He said Mass and administered the Sacraments for Indian, Metis, and Soldier. Early in spring of 1868 a child was born to the Crossmans at Fort Ransom; it was Father Genin’s duty to see to the Baptism of this child. A monument today that ties in with Father Genin and his work may be seen in a field cross west of highway 81 and about six miles south of highway 94 interchange. This is the third such cross, the first having been erected by Father Jean Baptiste Marie Genin, though he was not the first missionary to Wild Rice parish.

A diocesan, or secular, priest became the next one to do mission work in what is now the trading area of Enderlin. Not so controversial a figure as his French-born predecessor, the life record of this native Bavarian in many parishes he successively served indicates he pushed activities and projects to the point of controversy. The extensive scope of his work, like that of Father Genin’s, required courageous zeal and great physical endurance. The Frenchman came west to convert Indians, and after his arrival entrenched to serve mainly the Metis, soldiers and pioneers; the Bavarian came with the purpose of mission work in the Wild West, but settled for a type of circuit riding a-la-carte just beyond the end of railroad spurs. Both accepted a field of work where a greater need had arisen by their time, than existed in their first purposes. By comparison only, Father Lorenz Spitzelberger as any other clergymen who pressed forward with the extension of the railways from the Twin Cities, belongs to the “featherbed stage” of mission work. It was not really soft.

He had been born before Father Genin, and outlived him, dying in Kingston, Wisconsin. Our famous Bishop Baraga ordained him in 1858. By the time the Frenchman dated a letter from Sheyenne River Country, Father S. had been a pastor of parishes in Camp Springs, Kentucky; Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; New Orleans, Louisiana, and Galveston, Texas. Through the next ten years he served four different towns in Wisconsin, a state by 30 years. Then, coming to Perham, Minnesota he broke out into Dakota Territory.

With Perham as home base for a while, then Moorhead, on Sundays, he set out by train on week-days, continuing from station or siding by means of horse and buggy, borrowed or hired, to outlying settlements and farm neighbors. His field of missions apostolate measured a 100-mile radius. From his notes he later counted up 114 trips. “In many places I said the first Mass
where no priest ever was before. I made thousands of miles in Dakota and Minnesota . . . baptisms, marriages, and places which may not be in existence anymore, but they had been once."

Under the heading of Watson Post Office, with his characteristically German sentence construction, he writes: "Hoffman — Healey — Watson — O'Leary — Curran had been all neighbors and lived S. W. of Casselton and I seen them all at once, and went to New Buffalo and Tower City home." Between May 19, 1881 and January 25 of the following year, he records eight visits to this neighborhood, including additional names. Mass was said in the house of J. M. Keenan for Watson P. O. "On Oct. 12 Mass and baptism of Mary, daughter of Mathew Shea and Catherine Scanan, born Aug. 26, 1881, sponsor Julia Healy. Baptism of Edward, son of Cornel Healy and Margaret Scanan, born Aug. 13, 1881; sponsors Mathew and Catherine Shea."

Had the town of Enderlin been in existence those years, some of these families of the Maple River District as it was called, or Watson P. O., would have become members of St. Patrick parish. A Mathew, son of the elder Mathew Shea mentioned above, with his son Roger lives on the same farm today (See also, Ancient Site in general history), but belong to the Sheldon parish, though members of Enderlin school district. Father Tierney's list of 33 donors at Sheldon in 1884, includes Math Shea, John Curran and Pat Pierce.

Verbal testimony has been recorded which would have Father Joseph Andreas Stephan visiting the Pierce home in the Maple River District one year before that well known personality came to Fargo. Whether that prominent Indian missioner, in his sixties when pastor of Fargo, had time to venture beyond Sheldon town on his visits there, remains to be proven. Since his name became involved in the politics of a national election, while Spitzelberger is a difficult name to recall, it is possible that memory over the years attributed to Stephan what had really been Spitzelberger's work.

When priest and people got together, the Catholic Church was in action. From the predominance of Irish names among those recorded by the buckboard pastors 1880-1884, the observation can be drawn, that the Irish settling in groups, made it a point to have a priest come to say Mass and administer their Sacraments from the earliest years in Ransom County. Thus church organization was hastened by several years.

After the branch line of the Northern Pacific railroad had caused the founding of Sheldon and Lisbon in 1879, the next directional impetus in Catholic church organization emanated from Lisbon. Father M. M. Tierney became the first resident priest at Lisbon in 1884. A native of Ireland, ordained ten years earlier, he had been loaned to Dakota Territory by the Bishop of Dubuque. He served Lisbon, LaMoure, Englevale, Oakes, Verona, Plymouth, Sheldon, Leonard, and visited Casselton, Tower City, Buffalo, Fort Ransom, and Kibbey. In Binghampton (Kibbey) he records baptizing Elizabeth, daughter of George Gangel and Catherine Webber, and Joseph, son of John Wercer and Clara Puhr, on two successive monthly visits in 1887. P. H. Callaghan and James L. Coleman are mentioned as contributors to the church at Sheldon in Father Tierney's account book for the year 1887. Returning to Iowa before the Soo Line penetrated Dakota, Father Tierney's records make no mention of Enderlin. His was the great work of building a house for the Lord in the Mass and the Sacraments.

Father J. O. Barette, residing at Lisbon, was the first priest to visit the new village of Enderlin, in 1892 according to a statement by a successor twelve years later.

The first baptism recorded as having been administered "At Enderlin" is that of Helen May Sullivan, daughter of John Sullivan and Julia . . . , by
Father Aloysius Godfrey sponsors being Thomas and Charlotte Pierce, May 3, 1894. Two weeks later Helen, daughter of Nicolas Schwartz and Margaret Ganken was christened by Father Godfrey of Lisbon, Dionysius Cullen and Mary Callaghan being sponsors. Evidently Catholics in Enderlin were having a regular schedule of services by this time.

The first entry by Father J. B. McDonald, pastor of Lisbon, records the baptism of Joseph Sherman, son of Charles Aubert and Malvina Babavn, on July 12, 1898. The second is that of Rosann, daughter of Patrick Gardner and Teresa Carey, sponsors being Mr. and Mrs. Walsh. The only child still living in Enderlin, baptized by Father J. B. McDonald before 1904, is Melvin Walsh, born to James Walsh and Margaret Cooney, August 20, 1899.

In 1904 Father J. B. McDonald moved from Lisbon to Sheldon and its missions, inserting this interesting comment on the flyleaves of a Record Book:

"Sheldon, N. D.
Jan. 1, 1904

"Sheldon, Enderlin and Leonard had been attached to Lisbon till the beginning of this year 1904 — when they were organized into a separate mission with the priest's residence at Sheldon.

"There are just 36 families attending Sheldon church, 22 at Enderlin and 15 at Leonard.

"The trustees of Sheldon church are Frank Mougey Jr., John Balizeh and Henry Boyle. The missions are in a fair and prosperous condition, the parishioners are faithful in attending their duties, all are considered respectable people, and drunkenness is unknown.

"J. B. McDonald
"1st Resident Pastor."

This insert is followed by a list of 23 names for the 22 Catholic families of the parish: Thomas Pierce, James Walsh, Mrs. McKay, Mrs. John Gruye, Jerry O'Sullivan, William Martin, William Walsh, John Munt, James Faresce, P. Pierce, Jacob Leist, George Weisbrod, Mrs. Robarge, Dan Murphy, Tom Corcoran, Mrs. Guilder, Wm. Rigger, Daniel Hackenberg, Mrs. Kuesler, Jack O'Sullivan, Mrs. Opitz, Charles Conlon, who with the Manns, Silks and Hollanitseh families, sometimes attended Mass at Alice and sometimes here.

These are the people who built the basic unit of St. Patrick's church structure, in a style probably imported from Prince Edward's Island. It is evident that Father McDonald's list did not include all and the number was increasing. His brother and once assistant, Father Alexander McDonald, wrote that the parish grew from 30 families in 1906 to 57 in 1908.

The thinking of Father Alexander McDonald under whom the present rectory was built in Enderlin in 1908, is reflected in an observation he penned that year: "The parish (Sheldon) had a good growth in early days and prospered in accordance with the good prosperity of the town, until Enderlin began to grow and draw the commerce of the surrounding country. The parish had about 40 families in 1903 but has dwindled down to about 23 families." Father Alex "Mac" McDonald had been born on Prince Edward Island, where his father was a carpenter; he had been ordained in St. Paul Seminary. After serving two months as assistant at Langdon, and one month at the Cathedral, he had become pastor of Sheldon with Leonard and Enderlin as missions in July 1906.

That Enderlin was becoming more conscious of itself as one community affected the parish. Once upon a time Catholics here feared the Lutherans would not allow them to buy lots to build a church; and Edmund Pierce pleaded this as a reason why the Soo Line should grant them lots, as was done. The Catholic church was constructed on the corner where now stands the Episcopal church,
but their rectory now was built where it is. This location had been land once
given to East St. Olaf's church of Enderlin.

Other roots of ecumenism have survived the acids of antagonisms, aided
especially by acts of personal charity. The Walshes, for example, were happy
to learn from Rev. Elster that he had forbidden members of his congregation to
join the Klu Klux Klan when it was striving to organize in this area. Mrs.
Charles Best was one of the first organists in Saint Patrick's church and was not
a Catholic. A succeeding organist, Clara McDonald, cousin to pleasant Father
Mac used mainly just hymns in the choir, and on the side gave lessons to
Isabelle Walsh now Mrs. Alfred Nord Sr. Isabelle and church music became
synonymous over a span of the next fifty years as choir member, organist and
director. She recalls the strategy of a guest of Father Mac's who took over
the organ himself after preaching the sermon, and played a glorified version
of the "Irish Washerwoman" while the collection was taken up. Another favorite
recollection of the music graduate of St. John's Academy (Jamestown), goes
back to the time when Dr. Zettle, chiropractor, took a turn as choir director. To
beef up the Midnight Mass at Christmas, always a packed occasion until the
recent revival of ancient and more authentic liturgies, Dr. Zettle brought over
one of the Lutheran choirs which he also directed. So they celebrated that
Christmas Eve in Saint Patrick's with more Lutherans in the choir than Catholics.

This last incident runs ahead of our chronology. Father Patrick Long,
in physique more broad than long, a priest whose sermons were salty and
replete with Irish saints, became pastor of Enderlin in 1915. Three years later
Bishop O'Reilly saw fit to have him exchange places with Father Charles Fay
at Page. Father Long came up to Page on the morning train from Fargo with
his suitcase full of his worldly belongings, looked around, and took the next
train back out. He finished his priestly career in good standing in another
Diocese, in South Dakota.

It was in the cards probably that rectory and church should be located
on the same side of the street. Father Fay undertook to move the church
building to its present place. While no fight arose over incorporation papers
as was the case in many parishes in the Diocese during these several years,
rhubarbs were occasioned by the moving of the church; and the event is too recent
to venture placing this into historical perspective. In earlier years Father
McDonald had stabled his horses in a livery barn across from the church, but
now a garage was needed and was built. For Father Fay and Father Mat Hart,
boisterous buddies, traveled many a dusty trail in their Ford roadster in North
Dakota, Hart buying the breakfast and Fay being stuck with dinner usually,
while at least once a day they found a friend to visit. A talented man in several
departments, one who played tennis before breakfast, who put on plays that
people still remember, he had his mother as housekeeper.

Father Henry William Corcoran, pastor during six years of creeping
depression and four years of deep depression, remembered especially for his
sociability and humor, was succeeded in 1934 by Father Bernard Higgins.
After all these Irishmen, as was the case in the majority of parishes of Fargo
Diocese and south of Highway 10 (94), a Frenchman came into Sheyenne Country
again; Father J. Pacaud became pastor of Enderlin. 1938-42. Father George
Ernest LaFramboise, former professor in eastern Canada, and piano player
succeeded Pacaud. He was himself something of an ecumenical movement in
the community, but he died in 1943, and lies buried in the Catholic cemetery.
A Benedictine monk from the Richardton monastery, today pastor of Selfridge,
N. D., filled in the interim months until Father P. McGee could be sent to
Enderlin. Father McGee, with his accommodating temper, remained until 1948.
His successor, Father Albert LaFreniere recorded the longest pastorate, over
ten years, also a period of greatest consolidation in Saint Patrick parish. Father Cleophas Jaillet came in 1958, and elected to leave in 1960 in favor of Edgeley, N. D.

His successor and present pastor, is the second non-French and non-Irish priest, being of German and Bohemian extraction, though born in Wisconsin; and his name will probably go down in anonymity with Spitzelberger's.

**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The congregation was unable to furnish information for a church history to be included in this book.

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**Enderlin School System**

One of the first concerns of the pioneer residents of the Enderlin community was the education of their children; thus the first schools were established on the initiative of small groups of families to serve their immediate neighborhoods. The first school in Liberty Township, or Maple River, as it was then known, was in the S. E. ¼ of Sec. 16. Johannes Fosse was the first teacher but the exact date is uncertain. Similarly, the first school in Pontiac Township was established on what is now the Dehn farm just north of town, but we are unsure of the date—probably about 1880 or 1881.

Formal organization of the area schools in Cass County began in January, 1881 when District 47 was organized to include all of Highland and Pontiac Townships. In July of 1881, smaller districts were set up: District 69 in Highland; District 70, which included land in both townships. District 115 in Pontiac was organized in 1882 and District 100 in 1884. After a few years the school in this district was moved from the Dehn farm location to Section 28.

Ransom County school districts were established formally in 1883, when the Legislature passed a law requiring uniform districts. Four districts were established in Maple River Township and for the next ten years, all pupils attended these rural schools. Early teachers included Anna Dersheimer, Jennie Brooks, Clara Danford, Helen Ringheim, Miss E. H. Littel, O. O. Golberg and Fred Underwood.

These rural schools had two terms of two or three months—a spring and fall term. Salaries were $35 to $40 a month and few formal educational requirements were demanded. Anyone who could pass the teacher's examination could be certified. Many found that knowing was easier than doing under difficult and primitive conditions, and the teacher turnover was great.

At first, the children living in the new town of Enderlin attended the rural school near the town but in 1893, District 5 was organized, under the supervision of the township board. The first term ran from January 2 to March 31 with Hannah Jarland as teacher. Shortly after the school opened, in a building known as Oeder Hall, the building burned. Mr. W. A. Thompson, the round house foreman, offered his basement for quarters. He made no charge for its use, even though at one time he was forced to board and room fifteen students during a severe blizzard. Parents made free will offerings to replace the burned equipment.

For the next few years, school was held about town wherever space could be found—in Powers Hall above the Burtness store, over the Rustad
Hardware on Third Avenue and other nooks and crannies. In 1897 the first local board was elected for Enderlin District 22 and a four room school completed that fall. Three teachers were employed: F. H. Loucks, Principal; Elvina Rae and Olive Golberg.

Funds were scarce to supply necessary equipment but a fortunate inspiration of Fred Underwood, one of the board members was to provide a most adequate library. He composed a form letter, telling of the frontier town of Enderlin, without adequate funds to equip a school for its rapidly growing school population. He asked that any books they might have which were suitable and might otherwise be discarded should be autographed by the donor and forwarded to the school.

He mailed the letter to members of Congress, the Supreme Court, the President, Vice-President and to persons prominent in the business world. So persuasive was his appeal that an avalanche of books followed, including autographed volumes from Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison, finally totaling 5500 books. This collection, some of which would be most valuable today, were lost when the school burned in 1933.

In a matter of only a year or two the new school was full to overflowing and buildings about town had to be utilized again. In 1904, two more years of high school were added to the curriculum, bringing it to a four year high school course. In 1906 a new brick school was built and in 1906 the first class graduated from the Enderlin High School: Rena Austad, still living in the state of Washington, Anna Austad Robinson, Ida Fretland Larson and Lillian Pieh, all deceased.

Superintendent Hutchinson was the county school superintendent at this time and was a man with far-seeing ideas about education. He urged
the consolidation of small rural schools and in 1904 Liberty Township moved
the two rural schools it now operated to the location of the Liberty School,
now unused, and became the first consolidated school in the county. A new
modern school was built in 1917 which was used for 40 years. Moore township,
too, decided that consolidation was necessary and built a large school which
was used for many years until it burned in 1931. Rebuilt, it continued to offer
two years of high school until 1948, and at times during the years offered three
years when the number of pupils warranted.

The people of this area have always given strong support to their
schools and over the years, the Enderlin school has developed and improved,
adding departments to meet changing educational demands and standards.
The first vocational department, then known as Manual Training, was started
by a woman, Mary Byrne, now Mrs. Tom Baribeau. Complete laboratory facilities
for Home Economics were installed in 1938 and the school serves as a student
teacher training school for the NDSU Home Economics department.

The music program of the school as we now know it had its inception
in 1921, when the first band was organized. The first orchestra was started
in 1923. The a cappella choir which came to be the school’s trademark was
first organized by Mr. M. C. Olufson in 1931.

In 1918 the Enderlin High School was accredited by the North Central
Association of Colleges and Universities and has been accredited continuously
since that time.
Increasing costs and demand for improved schools led to a general agreement that reorganization of the many small districts into larger units was inevitable. As early as 1952, exploratory meetings were held, but the Enderlin board and the boards of the rural schools involved, wisely declined to rush into any hasty reorganization plan. As a result, when the newly reorganized district came into being in 1957 it was accomplished with little of the friction and bitterness that has marked reorganization in some communities.

The size of the school district changed from 12 sections in 1956 to more than 180 sections in 1966 extending into the three counties of Barnes, Cass and Ransom. Most of this growth occurred in 1957 when the district was reorganized, with additional territory being added through annexation during the past few years. Former school districts, familiar to early Enderlin community residents,
coming into the enlarged Enderlin district include Moore No. 4, Liberty No. 3, Pontiac 100, Highland-Pontiac 70, Highland 115, Highland 69, and parts of Casey, Clifton, Raritan, Watson, Preston, and Eldred 83.

The change in district size brought with it another change—pupil transportation. Enderlin Public School District No. 22 now operates eight bus routes which transport more than one-third of the district's total enrollment of 625 pupils.

Enrollment in the elementary school has almost doubled in the period from the early forties to the mid-sixties. Half of this increase occurred in 1957 when the district was reorganized. The high school enrollment increased from 135 in the early forties to the all time high of 228 in 1965-66. The 1966 graduating class of more than 60 is the largest class of graduates in the school's history. The school faculty has increased from a staff of 14 or 15 in the early forties to the present staff of 29.

The basic part of the school plant was constructed in 1933, following the fire which destroyed the old school. A gymnasium and shower rooms were added in 1939. In 1959 two classrooms, a science laboratory, a vocational agriculture department, and a music wing were added to the building.

The Enderlin school was one of the first in North Dakota to offer behind-the-wheel driver education to its students. This program has been in operation since 1948. In 1951 our school was one of the first in the state to inaugurate the Parent-Teacher Conference method of reporting pupil progress in the elementary school. Both the driver education and parent-teacher conference programs have operated continuously to the present time. The lunch program has grown from an operation involving but a few pupils bringing sandwiches, which were supplemented by a hot dish or soup skillfully prepared by Mrs. Susan Vance, to the present program which feeds up to 400 daily with
Type A meals. Lydia Geske has been the head cook and manager of the Enderlin school lunch program for the past 16 years.

In 1960 vocational agriculture was added to the program of studies, offering four years of agriculture to high school boys. Welding and other farm courses have been offered to adults and young farmers in the Enderlin community. More recently a course in agriculture mechanics has been made available to Enderlin high school students.

Now, in 1965-66 we find our teachers talking about flexible scheduling to better meet the needs of individual students, team teaching, programmed learning, and educational TV. As we look into the next few years we see Enderlin school district faced with the necessity of building a new elementary building as recommended by the Bureau of Field Studies of the University of Minnesota, which proposes enlargement of districts and corresponding larger tax bases to meet changing population patterns and changing educational demands. The entire present plant will be required to house the expanded junior-senior high school program of the seventies.

Greater changes will occur in education in the next decade than have taken place in the past century.

Two names, long associated with the Enderlin schools, left the school scene during the fifties. M. C. Olufson, high school principal for thirty years, retired from teaching in 1953. To thousands of students who passed through Enderlin High School, Ole will never be forgotten. His wise counsel and his outstanding work with the Enderlin High School choir from 1931 to 1953 will long be remembered. Effie Selvig retired in 1954 after more than thirty years of service to the Enderlin Junior and Senior High School. Her dedication to young people, her unmatched teaching skill, and her kindly interest in her students will ever be gratefully remembered by thousands of students who were privileged to have had her as their teacher.

Enderlin won the first North Dakota state high school baseball tournament title, defeating Arthur 12-3 in the final tournament game. The Enderlin team, left to right, front, are Jerry Wavra, Morry Wavra, Kenny Jacobs, Buddy Fritz, batboy, Vernon Kuhn, Dennis Larson, Dan Kittelson; back row, Harley Kaspari, Darrell Redmond, Ronnie Oliphant, Bruce Johnson, John Foss, Myron Simonson, Coach Lutgen.
The Political Scene

In the days when North Dakota and Enderlin were first being settled, Washington and Bismarck were far removed from the daily concern of the average citizen. Only a few families received the metropolitan papers. News traveled more slowly and, on the sparsely settled prairies, it often took days for the results of national elections to become known. Thus, local politics were of much more interest and concern than today, when communications reach into every world capital and news reaches the most isolated community even as it is happening. School board, city and township meetings and elections were hotly contested. During the formative years it was not difficult to secure candidates for any local office, for such offices conferred more distinction then than now.

Like every small town, Enderlin had its leaders; men who made an avocation of politics at the local level. They loved the game and if there were no red hot issues, they invented some. Practical jokes were part of the game and friendship did not interfere. Shirley's Drug Store was the local political headquarters, where everyone stopped to see what the word was for the day.

Legal technicalities did not always bother men who were building a new town. They did what they thought should be done. James Walsh, in later years, told the story of the building of the new brick school in 1905. With him on the board were C. C. Chamberlain, Col. McIlvain, Fred Underwood and James Cruff.

An election was held for a bond issue to finance the new school. In a familiar gesture, voters rejected the bond issue. Completely unperturbed, the board went ahead and built it anyway, issuing warrants for $18,000 to finance it. Apparently pleased with the school, the voters relented the following year and approved bonds to cover the cost.

There was only one brand of politics for the most part—Republican. For many years, Mr. Chamberlain and Ole Culbertson were reputed to be the only Democrats in town. When the Non-Partisan League entered the picture, the battles were fought in the primary, between the League and the Independent Voters Alliance, or IVA, rather than leave the Republican column. Except for the brief defection to John Burke, the strong Democratic vote in Enderlin did not evince itself at all until the late twenties, when a few “Al Smith” Democrats appeared. The real switch came with Franklin Roosevelt and their ranks were finally augmented by the merger with the NPL in recent years.

As mentioned elsewhere in these pages, the Farmers Alliance and its successor, the Non-Partisan League, generated a good deal of support in the Enderlin area and inaugurated a lively political period. John Grey, an Enderlin man, was a longtime State Tax Commissioner, running on the League ticket. Charles Bangert was also an active force in the NPL faction during the days of Bill Langer and was a candidate for the Supreme court on that ticket.

There was a period of quiet after the Langer days but, in later years, some of the fervor which was evident in local political action has been transferred to state and national politics. Enderlin has become something of a center of political activity by both parties; a result, many believe, of the evolution of two relatively evenly matched parties.
The Democratic-NPL group in Enderlin and Ransom County has attained considerable state-wide influence. Prior to the Democrat-NPL merger, two Enderlin women Mary Baribeau and Doris Smith, had held the post of Democratic Vice-Chairman, which at that time was the equivalent of Women's Chairman. More recently, one Enderlin woman succeeded another as Florence Olson replaced Florence Swenson as Vice-President of the Democrat-NPL Women.

Agnes Geelan, elected to the North Dakota Senate, was chosen to run for Congress and later served as a member of the Workmen's Compensation Bureau. Art Ford, a moving force in the merger, was the 1958 NPL nominee for governor.

The most notable success story in the history of local politics was that of the late Hjalmar Nygaard. He came to Enderlin in 1944, where he opened a hardware business with his brother-in-law, Carl Bjerke.

Four years later, over his protests, he was endorsed by the Republican Organizing Committee for the North Dakota House of Representatives. He won this election and represented Ransom County in Bismarck for six consecutive terms. A former teacher, his great interest was education. He served on the Education Committee for four sessions, acting as vice-chairman for the 1955 session. Among other duties, he served on the Legislative Research Committee, acted as ROC Floor Leader and as Speaker of the House.

In 1960, he was endorsed for the U. S. House of Representatives and with Don Short as a running mate, defeated the Democratic slate of Ray Vendsel, and Anson Anderson, also a Ransom County native.

In Washington, his first committee assignment was on the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. In 1962, he won re-election to Congress and had served only about six months when a notable career was cut short by a heart attack.

State and national notables converged on Enderlin July 22, 1963, when services were conducted from the white frame First Lutheran Church where he had been a member since coming to Enderlin.

Mrs. Nygaard returned to Enderlin after his death, and continues to make her home here.

The history of political action in Enderlin would seem to illustrate that whenever there is political interest and activity in a community, leadership is developed which inevitably extends its influence beyond local boundaries. The local scene might be termed a case history of the effectiveness of "grass roots" action in a democracy.
Military Service

Since our country was founded, we have taken pride in our citizen soldiers, who have laid down their work when the need arose to fight the country's battles. Few communities, however, including our own, have kept a full record of those of its sons who have served their country. It has proved literally impossible to compile an accurate listing of the men from the Enderlin area who have served in the armed forces.

When North Dakota was settled, many of its pioneers were men who had served on the frontier or in the Civil War, and who came to claim their rights to land in the newly opened west.

The last Civil War veteran in Enderlin and Ransom County was Reuben Beard, grandfather of Mrs. Arnold Fraase, who served in the 16th Massachusetts Regiment which was decimated in the Battle of the Wilderness. He then joined the 11th Massachusetts and at the Spottsylvania Courthouse was wounded severely and narrowly escaped being buried in a common grave with other casualties. He recovered and lived to homestead in Clifton Township; later moved to Enderlin where he died in 1932 at the age of ninety one.

Some of the Enderlin men on their return from World War I. Those identified are: first row, left to right, Dr. Overgard, Bill Young, Earl Olmstead, unknown, Russell Marlow and Everett Nye.
The 1930 team, first of Enderlin’s Junior Legion Champions.
Left to right, front row: Mercer Sty, Lester Knight, Harvey Peterson, Hallis Johannesen, Elroy Hendrickson, Lloyd Bergstrom, Jack Jorgenson, Abbie Peterson, Mascot.
Back row: Perry Sandell, Coach; Wesley Knadel, Duggan Haddican, Harold Kraft, Ray Roessler, Fritz Petrich, Hilary Kloneisky, Dr. Gilbert Hendrickson, Manager.

The 1952 Enderlin Indies — the first Enderlin team to win the State Amateur crown. Left to Right,
front row: Jonnard Utke, Ralph Graalum, Bob Wentland, Lloyd Redmond, mascot, John Foss, Wes Peterson, Jim Peterson, Bob King
Back row: Jim Clark, Dan Kittelson, Kenny Jacobs, Ray Bartholomay, Darrell Redmond, Johnny Janz, Kenneth Kaspari, Pete Redmond, Manager

Early road work in Liberty Township. This picture, taken about 1½ miles south of the West St. Olaf church shows Philip Larson on the engine and Pete Hill, long-time County Commissioner standing behind. Other men are unidentified.
ABOVE: View of Enderlin looking East about 1900-1901

BELOW: View of Enderlin looking West about 1900-1901
Farming in our parents' day took horse power. These four horse-drawn binders were photographed on the Herman Utke farm, north-east of Enderlin, in 1914.

Grain was hauled by horse and wagon for long distances. One load a day, or two, were the most that could be hauled. Seated on this wagon are Henry Trapp and Fred Lindemann.

Gang plows pulled by five horses readied the ground for another crop on the Ufer farm.
When World War I ended, the soldiers of that war organized The American Legion. The Enderlin post was chartered February 3, 1922, with the following members: W. H. Nollman, A. R. Martin, Roy Rasmusson, John L. Roth, Tony Schoedl, F. E. Mau, S. J. Hagen, E. W. Sannes, Alan A. Keene, E. J. Boehnke, Gordon O. Sundby, F. W. Harper, R. J. Simonet, Claude B. Phillips, and Dr. Gilbert Hendrickson.

The post was named for Arthur B. Marschke, a local boy who lost his life near Verdun, late in October, 1918. His wife, the former Esther Robertson, had been notified only that he was missing in action.

In September of 1922, Mrs. Marschke received a photograph of herself and her infant son from a former German soldier, Herman Sult. In an accompanying letter, he told her that her husband, dying from a wound received in that battle, had given the picture to a German soldier with the request that it should be sent to his wife. Marschke’s name and organization, a machine gun company of the 101st Infantry, was written on the folder containing the photograph, together with his wife’s name and address.

The German soldier was severely wounded and passed the photograph to Mr. Sult, with the request that he return it. For some time after the war, German soldiers were forbidden to correspond with foreigners and thus Mrs. Marschke didn’t learn where her husband lost his life until four years later.

The story had a tragic sequel. Mrs. Marschke moved to Webb, Saskatchewan, with her son. In 1933 she went to Gull Lake for dental work. She arrived at the station for the return trip as the train was starting to move, and pulled herself onto the steps just as the crew, unaware that she was there, shut the door. Clinging to the outside of the train in bitterly cold weather, she managed to hang on for about nine miles, when she finally lost her grasp. Her body was found beside the tracks. Her son Leroy, the child Arthur Marschke never saw, is now an engineer with the Boeing Aircraft Company in Seattle, Wash.


Both The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have active women’s auxiliaries who contribute greatly to community activities and the welfare of the town.

The following men, now living in Enderlin, served in the armed forces during the First World War:
World War I Veterans


IN MEMORIAM

Listed below are the men of the Enderlin community who have given their lives in the service of their country.

World War I

Arthur B. Marschke  Son of Mr. and Mrs. August Marschke
Arthur Glaesemann  Son of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrich Glaesemann
Phillip O. Larson  Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Larson

World War II and Later

Norman S. Anderson  Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jens Anderson
Ford H. Browne  Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Browne
Milton L. Graalum  Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Graalum
Martin M. Miller  Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller
Allen L. Morsch  Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Morsch
Maurice A. Strand  Son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Strand
Gordon Utke  Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Utke
Vernon A. Salzwedel  Son of Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Salzwedel
Sanford Gyldenvand  Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sverre Gyldenvand
Jerome Erbstoesser  Son of Mr. and Mrs. August Erbstoesser
Family Histories

Jacob Wolters

Jacob Wolters was the third child of Joseph and Cornelia Wolters, born in Waut��eugh, Germany, in May, 1870. His mother died when he was nine and her death strengthened the father's wish to bring his family to America.

A bachelor friend who had gone to Alexandria, Minn., wrote Jacob's father of the free land lakes, forest and game. With only a bare living from his four acres in Germany and with his oldest son almost old enough for military service, the father, one of only 12 survivors of the battle of Metz to return to Waut��eugh, decided that the new world offered the only opportunity for them and embarked on the long trip to Alexandria. During the voyage, when their food was dark bread and cheese, he read the children the letters written by his friend to keep their spirits high.

The first year they lived with the friend in his crowded cabin. The daughter cooked and the father and sons cleared five acres of land in return for their keep.

The next year they sawed lumber for a modest home of their own, and broke land to plant corn and small grain. Jacob was "farmed out" to a childless Norwegian couple in return for board, room, underwear, mittens, and a pair of shoes which were too small and gave him a permanently crippled toe.

At 17 he went to St. Paul, where he found work in the winters driving a brewery wagon and a coal-delivery wagon. He used to tell that he delivered the first load of coal to Jim Hill's home. A coal dealer who failed gave him a start in business, for he received a team and wagon as payment for wages he was owed.

Jacob then went to Duluth where, for $85 a month plus board for himself and his team, he did draying in the summer and worked in the woods in the winter. By carefully saving over the next five years, he amassed $1,000. He decided he could now make a start toward a farm of his own. In 1893, he shipped his team to Grand Forks and worked in the threshing fields in Dakota, running separators and renting out his team.

He worked for Bill Manning and Julius Benson at Sheldon and decided to make his home in this area. In 1896 he bought his first half section in Ransom county on a half-crop payment plan. He broke the land in 1897, returned to Minnesota for the winter, and seeded his first crop in 1898.

He shipped two carloads of wood he had cut the year before to build the first home. That winter he married Mary Hermes at Belle River and brought her to the three-room house where their first four daughters were born.

His first half section was paid for in two years. As his family increased, he purchased more land each two years, until he owned 460 acres in Ransom county. A new home was built in 1904 to house the rapidly growing family which was at number 14.

Jacob developed his own strain of Hereford cattle and the herd grew to 500 head. The needs of his business led him to become involved in grain dealing and banking, but he always felt himself to be primarily a farmer.

He believed in hard work, reasonable hours of labor, and good food for family and help alike. During the years when all the children were at home and several men were employed on the farm, 100 pounds of flour was used in a week.

As his boys grew older, the land and equipment were divided among them, and they shared labor and equipment. The practice is continued to this day.

Jacob died in 1943, and Mrs. Wolters lived until 1964. All but one of his children live in this area, proof that North Dakota fulfilled his expectations of opportunity and a good life. The children are: Mrs. Joe Dworsak, Sheldon; Mrs. Verne Stock, Fargo; Mrs. Frances Hadley, Lisbon; Mrs. Harold Alison, Lisbon; Frank, Lisbon; Ida, Fargo; Mrs. John Beauforge, Lisbon; Mrs. George Coffey, Florida; John, Lisbon; Edward, Enderlin; Marvin, deceased; Mrs. B. A. Cruden, Lisbon; Vernon, Enderlin; and Howard, deceased.

A member of the Catholic church at Sheldon, he was much interested in sponsoring the St. Aloysious School in Lisbon where all his children attended school.

Johannes Transgrud

Johannes Hanson Transgrud came here from Norway in 1874, with his wife Bertha Maria Christianson and three small children— one girl, Bertha and two boys, Harold and Jacob. One little boy died while on the boat, so he was buried in the ocean, and the second boy died right after they landed. They lived near Kindred until 1881 when Johannes went out seeking land, and took a homestead which was in Liberty Township, SE 1/4 Section 28-136-55. The only property and means of farming consisted of a yoke of oxen, a walking plow and a seeder, 5 or 6 feet wide, which broadcasted the grain. When harvest time came, the grain was cut with a sickle and tied with straw.

There were eight more children born to this union. They were Harold, Josie (Mrs. Alfred Sjorbotten), Jacob, Bernard, Anna (Mrs. Charles Christianson), Hans, Clara (Mrs. Henry Severson), and Eddie who died when only nine months old. (Note that Harold and Jacob were named after the boys that died).

With the exception of Harold and Josie, who were born at Kindred, the rest of the children were born on the homestead. Of the
eleven children, only three are still living: Hans, who lives in Minneapolis and Bernhard and Anna, both living in Enderlin. Mrs. Johannes Transgrud died at a very young age of 47. Her husband never remarried but lived with his children on the farm until he died May 17, 1911.

It was at this time that Bernhard bought the farm. In spite of hard times, raising a family of eight children, losing the farm, etc., he bought it back and it still remains in the Transgrud name, in the third generation, with Bernell Transgrud as owner. Bernhard retired with his wife and Myron who was still at home in 1952.

Bernhard married Clara Gunderson, April 10, 1912. They were blessed with eight children: Myrtle, (Mrs. Harold Iverson), Evelyn (Mrs. Arnold Svadjan), Cora (Mrs. Harold Vee), Gladys (Mrs. Wallace Hamre), Edna (Mrs. Ray Markel), Marlys (Mrs. Wayne Mullsenburg) and two sons, Bernell and Myron.

Johannes Transgrud was one of the faithful ones who helped build St. Olaf Church and records show that Bernhard was the second child to be baptized there.

The whole family has at one time belonged to West St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

George Card

George W. Card, born in London, England, on April 5, 1850, originally immigrated to Kippen, Ontario, where he was an employee on the railroad before he came to the States.

He married Sarah Iveson October 23, 1879, in Kippen, and they were among the early pioneers of Hill Township, coming in 1880.

They had nine children: William, John, Albert and Charles, all deceased; James of Compton, Calif.; Robert of Fargo; Mrs. Oscar (Fannie) Dagman; Mrs. James (Mary) Wold; and Mrs. George (Ruth) Wadeson.

George and Sarah were members of the Episcopal Church in Kippen, and attended the Moravian Church of Alice when they settled here.

Three of the Card children have made their homes in Enderlin; Charles, who is now living in Montana; Mrs. Oscar (Fannie) Dagman; and Mrs. James (Mary) Wold.

A grandson, Jack Card, still lives on the original homestead.

Knut Green

In the year 1886, at the age of nine years, Knut Green came with his parents, Ole and Ingeborg Gronna, to Moore Township, where they homesteaded on the NW quarter of Section 15.

They came from Nas, Haalingdar, Norway, to Iowa and then to Moore Township.

Ole Gronna had three brothers, Ole K., Asle, and Elling, and four sisters, Mrs. Martinson, Mrs. Andrew Frydenlund, Mrs. Ole Anmundson, and Mrs. Peter Solom. Some came to the new land before Ole and Ingeborg, some later, but all settled in the nearby community.

On this homestead quarter the Ole Gronna family built a sod house and barn. They joined Fillmore Church which was already founded. Knut, at an early age, helped to break the sod with oxen and a walking plow.

His education consisted of attending the one room schoolhouse in the winter and Norwegian parochial school in the summer when he was not needed to help with the farm work.

After some years Knut's father bought the quarter of land just north of the present Moore school site and the family moved into more modern wooden buildings. Along in the years the name "Gronna" was changed to the more American name of Green.

Knut and five brothers and two sisters grew up herding cows, sacking grain, and doing other farm work. The grain was hauled to Buttsville. Of his brothers and sisters, John, Enval, and Christie have passed away. Kasper is living in Lehnbridge, Canada; Gust in Enderlin; Oscar in Washington state; and Gertrude in Texas.

When he was a young man, Knut went to Iowa to seek livelihood. Here he met Amanda Hove, a farm girl. They were married at Northwood, Iowa, on December 17, 1902. They returned to Moore Township where they settled on a farm one mile north of the Moore school.

Here they raised a family of nine children. Freeman, Ernest, and Marvie are still farming in the township. Mrs. Barney Berg is living on a farm in the Nome community. Their other children, Morris and Merrell (twins) live in Fargo, N. D.; Gladys in Santa Ana, Calif.; Stella in Anaheim, Calif.; and Kenneth in Enchant, Alberta, Canada.

Knut served as trustee of Fillmore Church; as township treasurer for twenty years, and as township supervisor for nine years.

After the family was grown, Knut and Amanda moved back to the farm, which is presently farmed by Freeman. They lived here until Knut died December 15, 1949, and Amanda January 26, 1962.

The Pierce Family

Patrick and Mary Cronin Pierce and their family of five children were among the first residents of Enderlin. Both parents were born in Ireland, Patrick at Craig, County Kerry, in 1836, and Mary at Tallow in County Cork, in 1834. As young people they emigrated to Canada, and they were married at Silver Creek, Ontario, about 1890. Soon afterward they came to the United States where they lived first at Ishpenning and later at Michigamme, Mich. Patrick found work with a mining company, but he loved the land and was not happy in his occupation. So in 1878, when their second son, Thomas, was twelve, the family moved westward.

They lived for a time in Barnesville, Minn., where Patrick and Thomas worked with the crews building the Great Northern Railway. Thomas remembered that, as waterboy, he once brought a drink to Jim Hill, visiting on
an inspection tour, and that he received a quarter, a munificent reward in the 70's.

Early in 1879 Patrick came to Dakota Territory and homesteaded near the Maple River in Cass County, on the SE 1/4 of Section 10 in Highland Township. He prepared living quarters and the family came to their new home in October. They traveled by land to Pembina, then up the Red River by steamer, and to Casselton by rail. Thomas started walking in the general direction of the farm, asking directions along the way and sometimes getting a lift. He found his father busy with preparations for winter, and they went to meet the rest of the family.

For the next twelve years the family shared the busy life of the pioneer community. A school was established nearby in 1881. Edmund earned money by working on a farm not far away. Thomas helped break prairie land, using a team of oxen. When asked later about hardships of the early days, Thomas said they had "suffered no hardships." Their house, by pioneer standards, was roomy and comfortable. There was always plenty to eat, and there were neighbors within a few miles with whom they exchanged visits and shared religious and social affairs. (Some of their neighbors were the Healy's, the Keenans, the Cosgroves—obviously the Irish had regathered!)

Thomas remembered taking a loaf of bread of his mother's baking as a gift to a band of Indians traveling along the river, and being told by the squaw who accepted it, "You mother good woman!" He also told of going along in the ox-drawn wagon on a trip to Casselton to buy supplies, and trying to make the storekeeper's gift of a soda cracker last all the way home by taking very small bites—quite a feat when the trip of some twenty miles must have taken several hours.

The eldest son, Edmund, settled in Sheldon where he read law in the office of an attorney. He passed the bar examinations, and as a young attorney he acted for the Soo Line in the purchase of land for right-of-way. He became interested in the development of the new town, and at his urging the elder Pierces and the four children still at home moved to the new settlement. The house which they built, now at 124 Dewey Street, was the first dwelling constructed in the townsite. They had come to America with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Trapp, where her parents lived with him for the rest of their lives. Karl Trapp died in 1905 and they now live in Fargo, where his parents lived with him for the rest of their lives. Karl Trapp died in 1905 and they now live in Fargo.

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Their youngest child, Frank, had died in Minneapolis where he was attending school in 1896. Their older daughter, Charlotte, married B. I. Keating and soon afterward moved to Fargo. The younger daughter, Johanna, married S. T. Wolfe and after living for some years in Kansas, spent the rest of her life in St. Paul. Charlotte died in 1932 and Johanna in 1960. Edmund became a prominent attorney of the Sheldon community and was active in state and local politics, serving for several years in the state legislature. He married Margaret Doran, who was postmistress at Sheldon, and they maintained a home there until his death in 1927.

Thomas Pierce remained a resident of Enderlin the rest of his life. He first operated an elevator, and in 1897 became cashier of the Enderlin State Bank. He remained with the bank until his retirement. He had an interesting sideline, the management of the Wagner and Lowe Manufacturing Company, maker of Lowe hoof nippers, which had a world-wide reputation. He died in 1955, aged 88 years.

Mr. Pierce's wife, Trena Selvig, whom he married in 1900, came to Enderlin from her home in St. Paul, Minn., in 1899, and for a time made her home with her sister, Mrs. Ed Falkenborg, the wife of one of the early Soo Line roadmasters.

Trena Pierce was interested in the religious, civic and social life of Enderlin until her death in 1935. Besides being a busy mother and hostess, she was an active member of the Catholic Church and the Altar Society, and a member of the Clio Club to which she contributed much time and effort in the Club's project, the Public Library.

Two of the Pierce's four children now live in Enderlin: Thomas Jr., and his wife Edna Wahl Pierce and their two sons, Thomas William and Patrick James; and Marie Pierce. Francis Pierce, their oldest child, lives in Winter Haven, Fla. Their two sons, Frank and Jerry Pierce, are practicing law in Orlando, Fla. Katherine Pierce married Jerry Erickson in 1935 and they now live in Fargo, as does their son, Peter, sports reporter for The Fargo Forum.

The Trapp Family

In 1881, at the age of 17, Henry Trapp, his brother, Paul, and sister, Johanna, left their home in Stolp, Pomernia, Germany, for the United States, coming to Chaffee, North Dakota, where they had acquaintances. Johanna married Carl Dehn at Chaffee that year. Paul and Henry found work; Paul in Fargo in a harness maker's shop, Henry on the Luther farm at Chaffee. They saved money and were soon able to bring their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Trapp and their two younger sisters, Ida (Mrs. Biemueller) and Emma (Mrs. Fredrich Holter) to this country.

Paul set up his own harness shop in Big Stone City, South Dakota, and in 1885, when he reached legal age, Henry filed on a homestead in Section 31, Pontiac Township, where his parents lived with him for the rest of their lives. Karl Trapp died in 1905 but Mrs. Trapp lived until just short of her hundredth birthday.

In 1935, Henry married Emma Pett, who had come to America with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Pett, in 1889. Their story
is that of the usual struggle of the pioneers to establish themselves on the Dakota prairies. This they did successfully, establishing a comfortable and meticulously cared for farm home.

The saddest chapter of the story was the death of their two oldest children. Clara and Siegfried, in the scarlet fever epidemic of 1869-70.

Mr. and Mrs. Trapp lived to celebrate 66 years of marriage on that homestead. Their deaths coming only three months apart in 1957. While Mr. Trapp took part in community affairs in his earlier years, holding township and school offices, their greatest interest was their church, and Mr. Trapp served many years of the Trinity congrega­ tion for 44 years.

Of their six surviving children, Emma (Mrs. F. L. Ringwald) lives in Fargo. Amanda (Mrs. Fred Hartson) in Norco, Calif., and Martha in Chicago. Three sons, William, Fred and Otto, farm in the Enderlin community.

Adolph Ihme

Henry Ihme, Sr., came to the United States in 1832 with his parents and settled in Scott County, Minnesota. He was one of the troops sent to Dakota to subdue the Indians at the time of the Sioux rebellion, and served in the 4th Regiment, Co. F during the Civil War.

In 1871 he married Jeanette Engel and in 1878 they came to North Dakota and homesteaded on Section 8 in Watson Township.

Mr. Ihme often told his children that the reason he settled in North Dakota was that the prairies were alive with birds, ducks, geese, and prairie chickens, as the troops marched across this area, and the green grass and fragrant flowers made it the most beautiful country he had ever seen.

Only one of their eight children survives. He is Adolph Ihme, now retired and living in Enderlin.

Mr. Ihme recalls vividly the winter of 1887-88. The snow started early in the winter and accumulated to a great depth. When spring came his father started out to see if the neighbors had survived the winter. At the nearest neighbor, the father had died during the winter. Since there was no way of getting out, his body had been wrapped in a blanket and placed in a snowbank by the house. At the next farm, they had all come through the winter, but had burned the furniture and partitions of the house to keep warm.

The Ihmes had no kerosene and no coffee. His mother made candles, roasted barley for coffee and brewed oat-straw tea. They had milk so they came through the winter fairly well.

Mr. Ihme recalls several severe storms, including the tornado of 1886 that took the Coburn Elevator. The wind was so strong that it twisted the steel rails of the tracks. He also remembers seeing an artesian well

northeast of Alice which went "wild" throwing up mud, rocks, and water that buried trees and formed a lake where the farmstead had been.

Mr. Ihme married Elizabeth Kalles in 1914 and has had a varied career which included farming, county treasurer, general store manager, grain buyer, county auditor, and manager of an Old People's Home. They raised their family of ten children in many towns in North Dakota and Minnesota, returning to Enderlin in 1959 when Mr. Ihme retired. They are members of the Trinity Lutheran congregation.

Eric Gunderson

Eric Gunderson was born at Solar, Norway in 1844. He came to America at the age of 17 with his parents and lived in Wisconsin, Iowa and Chippewa County, Minn., before coming to North Dakota.

He became discouraged with farming prospects in the wooded lands of Minnesota and, in 1878, took a tree claim near Buffalo, N. D. He returned to Minnesota and, selling his tree claim right, he came to Liberty Township in 1890 with $33 as capital. He built a sod shanty and barn and, in 1881, his family joined him.

Working for others and improving his own place, he acquired more land. He built a comfortable farm home where he and his wife, the former Sarah Everson, raised nine children. He served in the North Dakota Legislature and was an early member of St. Olaf Church.

Three of his children still live in this area: Mrs. Earl Hitchcock, Lisbon; Mrs. B. J. Trangsrud, Enderlin; and Ed Gunderson, Lisbon. A grandson, Elmer Gunderson, also farms in Moore Township. George, Charles, Alfred, Lida, Emma, and Ida are deceased.

The Ross Warner Family

Ross Warner was born in Ontario, Canada in 1869. When he was seven his mother died and his father emigrated to the United States, leaving Ross and his sister with their grandparents.

After some years his father purchased a farm east of Sheldon and in 1888, having remarried, brought his son to live with him. Ross worked for other farmers, and when his father's health failed, farmed with his father.

In March of 1896 they moved to a farm north east of Lucca in Clifton Township. Two years later his father died and his step-mother and sister kept house for him. The Northern Pacific Railroad branch line came through in 1900, cutting through his land and for a time it looked as if they would be living near a metropolis, for the townsite of Elizabeth was laid out just a half mile away. For a few years there was a post office, store and elevator on the site.

He helped organize and build the Clifton School, District 83, and was its first clerk.

In 1903 he sold his farm and went to Cana-
The Fernow Family
Herman J. Fernow was born in Germany in 1817. A stone mason by trade, he served in the German Army during the Franco-Prussian War. In 1874 he married Mathilda Trapp and in 1887 they emigrated to Dakota Territory with their five children, where Mrs. Fernow's brothers and parents were already settled in this area. They lived first on a farm near Sheldon. A few years later they moved to the farm in Pontiac Township which was their home for the rest of their lives.

Five more children were born here and most of them have farmed or worked in the Enderlin community at some time. There were five sons; Verner, who died in infancy, Ernest, Carl, Paul, all now dead and Arthur still living north of Enderlin; five daughters; Bertha (Mrs. William Cole) now deceased; Mary (Mrs. Mark Bay) and Annie (Mrs. Charles Cole) of Seattle, Washington; Louise (Mrs. Ed Sullivan) Redding, California, and Lydia (Mrs. Leonard Anderson) of Enderlin. Many grandchildren still live in the community also.

Mr. Fernow met his death accidentally in 1912, when he was thrown from a horse. Mrs. Fernow died in 1918.

William Fernow, a brother of Herman, came from Germany in 1802, with his wife and four children. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Fernow, accompanied them. They came directly to Enderlin, living both in town and on a farm north of the city. A tailor by trade, Mr. Fernow did tailoring for neighbors, who often bought lengths of goods from traveling pack peddlers. He also made overalls for Soo Line workers and for a time was employed on the railroad.

A few years later he bought a farm between Enderlin and Lucca. Three more children were added to the family, bringing the total to seven. Mrs. Fernow died in 1909 and Mr. Fernow in 1929.

Two of their children are still living in Enderlin with their families; Margaret Grace (Mrs. Hanson) and Edwin. They are active in community affairs and the work of the Trinity Lutheran congregation. The others are; Mary (Mrs. Charles Hall), Hattie (Mrs. Gust Janz), Ernest (Lew) all deceased. Ida (Mrs. Zumach) and Gertrude (Mrs. McCormick).

The Anderson Family
About 1885, John Anderson and his wife Jessie settled on the SE 1/4 of Section 10, Pontiac Township, four miles north of Enderlin. Their first concern was to plant 10 acres of trees, for this was a tree claim. Here they raised a family of eight children, experiencing the joys and hardships of pioneer life, when Sheldon and Buffalo were the nearest markets, gradually improving their farm and finding life a little easier.

In 1920 Mrs. Anderson died. Mr. Anderson re-married and moved to Spring Valley, Wisconsin, selling the farm to Fred Timm. He died in 1931. His wife still lives in Spring Valley and a daughter of the second marriage lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Of their children, two are still living in this area. Wilson and Violet went to Bowman, North Dakota, Gerald and Isaac moved to Oregon, Milton to Spring Valley, Wisconsin, where he still farms. Russell ran a variety store in Enderlin before moving to Bremerton, Washington. Two sons, Ernest of Nome and John, near Sheldon, are still farming in this community.

Gaustad Family History
The Rev. Gaustad family moved to Enderlin in the fall of 1906. Arriving in Enderlin, the family were guests in the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Ever Gullickson, who lived on top of the hill northwest of Enderlin.

Mr. Gaustad had purchased the house occupied by the former pastor, the Rev. Jahren. In a few days the family moved into this house and lived there during the lives of the pastor and his wife. In this family were two daughters and one son, who passed away two years after coming to Enderlin. Another son, Victor, was born a year later.

The three children entered grade school here and the two girls and Victor finished high school.

Before coming to Enderlin, Rev. Gaustad was a pioneer pastor in the western part of the state. He traveled extensively from Bismarck as far west as Miles City, Mont., doing pastoral work.

Coming to Enderlin, Mr. Gaustad's parish consisted of four congregations. Offentimes he would also conduct services for congregations in Owego and another south of Enderlin, called the Maple River congregation.

Sundays would find him cruising over the snow in a cutter drawn by two beautiful black horses, at times in very cold weather and over trails marked only by bob sled tracks; there was no black top nor carefully laid out roads in those days.

Even walking in Enderlin in the early days was following a well trod path, since there were no sidewalks except a few high wooden
The Bangert Family

When Charles Bangert came to Sheldon in 1904 at the insistence of Ed Pierce to do some abstracting work, he intended to stay two weeks. Mr. Bangert, who was born at Sabula, Iowa in 1879, had completed a business administration course at Westmar College, and worked as a law clerk and abstractor. The two weeks stretched to six years, during which time he continued reading law and studying through correspondence. In 1906 he passed his bar examinations and was admitted to practice law in North Dakota.

January 1, 1910, Mr. Bangert opened his own law practice in Enderlin which he continued until retirement in 1962. Along the way he has been involved in numberless other ventures. He maintained offices in Fargo, in partnership with his son Harold. He helped organize the Peoples Bank, which later merged with the Enderlin State Bank, to form the Peoples and Enderlin State Bank. He was the first president. He served in the Legislature and as Assistant Attorney General, as well as taking an active role in N.P.L. Party affairs in the 30's. He served as City Attorney for many years and was one of the group who organized farmer-owned businesses in Enderlin such as the Farmers Elevator, of which he was Secretary for 5 years.

Mrs. Bangert, the former Sarah Wallace, whom he married in 1903, has been equally active. A former teacher, she served 12 years on the Enderlin School Board, was one of the group of women who organized Enderlin's first library and still maintains a keen interest in both local and national affairs.

Their children are, Harold, a Fargo attorney, Constance, now Mrs. C. E. Campbell, a teacher in McAllen, Texas, and, still living in Enderlin, Dorothy, Mrs. S. C. Bacheller, wife of the local doctor.

The Opheim Family

Mrs. Nick Opheim (Constance Skog) was born at Ibestad, Norway, April 10, 1883. When she was seventeen she went into Nurses training at the Deaconess Hospital in Oslo.

Many people were seeking more opportunity in the United States and the adventure appealed to her. She first came to Lake Gardin, Minnesota in 1905, where an aunt was living. In the fall of that year she went to Minneapolis, where she worked in the City Hospital, now General Hospital.

In August 1907, she came to Lisbon where she married Nick Opheim, who had come from Norway at the same time she did. Mr. Opheim had started working for the Soo Line and they settled here and raised a family of nine children. Seven are living in Flint, Michigan; Mabel, (Mrs. G. Johnson) Henry, Edwin, John, Kenneth, Helena (Mrs. Hugh Wilson) and Betti (Mrs. E. Hazzard). Alma (Mrs. Fred Bohm) lives in Seattle, Washington. Olaf, the oldest son, is married to the former Mary Ellen Lincoln and makes his home in Enderlin.

Caring for the sick has always been her greatest enjoyment and the doctors of the area relied on her for assistance when the stork was imminent. After Mr. Opheim's death in 1947 she ran a maternity home for eight years and included in her adventures a trip by plane with Dr. Hendrickson, when roads were impassable. She counts as "her" babies, 117 boys and girls now scattered all over the country.

Mrs. Opheim says, "There are many changes in Enderlin—all for the best for town and community. I have many good friends and neighbors and many now have gone to their rest. Enderlin has always been a good home to me."

The Robertson Family

Robert Robertson, a native of Norway and his wife Mary Anne (Houson), born in Denmark, were married at LaCrosse, Wisconsin. About 1883 they migrated to North Dakota, settling on a claim in Harlan Township.

They lived the first years in a sod shanty, as did many of their neighbors. After a time they commenced work on a new frame house, living in the granary that summer while they were building. Before it was completely done, the new house burned down and they were compelled to start all over again. The farm house where they raised their family of fourteen children now stands empty on the Roy Gillund farm.

In 1916 Mr. Robertson retired and moved...
to Enderlin, where he built the house now occupied by Mrs. Helena Westphal. He died in 1922, while Mrs. Robertson lived until 1941.

Of their children, Robert, Sam, Alfred, Henry, Betsy (Mrs. Oscar Anderson) and Minnie (Mrs. Pete Sonateby) all lived in the Enderlin area before moving to Saskatchewan. Andrew, Myrtle (Mrs. Jake Garvin) and Tony live in Portland, Oregon and Henry in Ogden, Utah. Robert and Andrew Melvin died in infancy, the latter believed to be the first child buried in the Enderlin Cemetery, while Mary and Esther are both deceased. Lynn, the only member of the family still living in Enderlin, is married to the former Lena Lewandowski and they have two sons, Carroll and Larry.

Hans Skramstad

Hans Skramstad was born in Harmony, Minnesota in 1864. His first trip to North Dakota was in 1886, when he and his brother accompanied a wagon train to Moorhead, Minnesota, and thence west to the Sheyenne. His brother took a claim but Hans returned to Minnesota. Two years later he came back to N. D. by train, walking from railroad at Gwinner to his brother's home.

He took a homestead and built a sod house where, the next year he brought his bride, Lena Christiansdotter, to live. The Skramstads were charter members of the Trinity Lutheran Church and he was one of the original organizers of Raritan Township.

They had four daughters: Minnie, Hanna, Alma, and Helen; and three sons: Palmer, Melford, and Oscar. All three sons farmed west of Enderlin. Melford, now living in Valley City, had one son, Carlyle. Oscar, who still farms near Nome, had six daughters and one son, LeRoy Skramstad, of Enderlin. C. Palmer Skramstad, now retired, lives in Enderlin. He farmed northwest of Enderlin for many years. A son, Arne, owns the original Skramstad homestead and the sod house is part of their home. Another son, Lester, owns the farm next door. The third son, Merlin, is in business in Enderlin. There are also two daughters in the community: Clarice (Mrs. William Schlecht) and Vivian (Mrs. Simon Bjerke).

Frederich J. Glaesemann

Frederich Julius Glaesemann was born in Germany in 1857, coming to Enderlin in 1882, where he took a homestead on the SE quarter of Sec. 20. A few years later he acquired the farm now owned by Gordon Lund, which was the family home until 1961.

In 1887 he married Hulda Balau. The Glaesemann's were charter members of the Trinity North Congregation. They raised a family of three sons: Carl and Arthur, both deceased, and Otto.

After the death of his wife, he made his home in Enderlin with a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Hulda Glaesemann, and his son Otto farmed the family farm. Almost until the time of his death in 1948, he continued to spend much of his time at the farm in the summer, helping to keep everything hoed and trimmed and weeded.

Otto Glaesemann served in World War I and on his return, married Daisy Bartel at Alice in 1919. In 1961, they retired in Enderlin. They are the parents of five children: June; deceased, Joyce, and Frances (Mrs. Mark Burton) Grafton, Gilford, Great Falls, Mont; and Wilbur, Enderlin.

Gordon W. Mason

Gordon W. Mason was born in Wauke, Iowa in 1883. His father was a contractor, building homes and elevators at Glenwood and Kenmare. While Gordon was working for his father at Kenmare, the late Harry Rice, a Soo Line Conductor, persuaded him to go to work for the Soo Line. He started running out of Enderlin as a brakeman in 1909 and remained in the Soo Line service as a conductor until his death in 1947.

He married Ethel Parsons in 1912 at Sanborn, Minnesota. They have one daughter, Maxine (Mrs. Kenneth Peterson) of Tucson, Arizona and Garrison, Minnesota.

Mrs. Mason, who still makes her home in Enderlin, is an avid horticulturist and a veteran member of the Enderlin Park Board.

Mrs. Jacob (Martha) Kurtz

Mrs. Jacob (Martha) Kurtz is the only surviving child of the Albert Salzwedel family who homestead northeast of Enderlin in the early 80's. Three brothers, Robert, Frank, and Gustave, who lived all of their lives in the area, are now deceased. Martha remembers, as a child, that when they went to Enderlin, the road ran across the section from the Emil Geske farm to the present Erwin Ulke farm. She remembers too, a clerk at the Burtiness store, Otto Redetzke, who was always kind to them and gave them candy. He was the father of Judge Roy Redetzke.

Martha married Jacob Kurtz in 1919 and they farmed until their retirement in 1933, when they moved to Enderlin, where Mr. Kurtz died. The home farm is now owned by their son Alvin. Their other children are Alfred, Fargo; Howard, Enderlin; Leona (Mrs. Lawrence Fernow), Alexandria; and Lucille (Mrs. Larry Elrite) Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

William Fromke

William Fromke and his wife, the former Elena Schmidtke, homestead in Shenford Township in 1880 where they raised a family of ten children, several of whom live in this community. They were charter members of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Their children were Amelia (Jaster), Bertha (Seeig), Pauline (Curtis), Martha (Krueger), Emma (Callahan), Ellen (Monahan), Elsie (Elridge), Lou, Paul, and Alfred. The later two farm in Liberty Township.
The Galbreath Family

In 1882, Wallace Galbreath shipped horses and equipment to Dakota Territory, where he took a homestead 4½ miles west of the present town of Enderlin. That fall he sold his horses and returned to Chatfield, Minnesota for the winter.

In the spring he returned to Ransom County, accompanied by three brothers and three sisters. They unloaded at Browns Valley, Minnesota, driving for miles along the Red River and then striking west. They forced the Sheyenne near the present site of Lisbon, an ordeal which frightened the sisters.

Will and Sam Galbreath settled near Lucca, Lizzie married Dan Conan, who settled near Nome, while her sisters Flora and Kate taught in the rural schools of the area. Another sister, Jane, married Lute Stewart, who was an early day depot agent at Enderlin. Benton took a claim west of his brother Wallace.

With so many of the family living in the area, family gatherings did much to relieve the rigors of pioneer life. However, only two of the family were destined to leave descendants in this community.

Benton Galbreath married Lottie Turner at Buttzville, then the nearest town. Their children were: Archie, Beatrice, (Mrs. Wm. Caldwell) Howard, Mae, (Mrs. J. Warren) Sacramento, Calif., and Helen, (Mrs. Albert Gust) Leonard. The last two are the only children living.


Ward and Lizzie Breum Galbreath raised seven children: Marjorie (Neff), Bismarck; Vivian (Boxrud), Wallace, and Wyman, all of Enderlin; Lois, (Hartigan) Watertown, S. D.; Alta Gram, was an early day Methodist Minister. The two last are the only children living.

The Gram Family

B. F. and Alta Gram settled in the Sheldon area in 1883, where his father, Henry Gram, was an early day Methodist Minister. Alta Gram taught in the old Owego school.

In 1889, Mr. Gram went to work on the Soo Line. He worked as an Engineer for many years, out of both Harvey and Enderlin. He died in Enderlin, in 1950, at the age of 86. Mrs. Gram now 96, makes her home here with her son Fred.

Fred Gram started as a Soo Line fireman after a year of teaching school. He had served with the 1st North Dakota Infantry on the Mexican border and for 18 months in the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I.

He married Alma Jones at Enderlin in 1917. They are members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and have one daughter, Marjorie (Mrs. R. L. Battleson) Buffalo, New York.

Fred Gram is a past master of the Masonic Lodge in Enderlin, and a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers. He retired from the railroad in 1962, after 45 years of service.

Jens Anderson

Jens Anderson was born Jan. 15, 1881, in Sogn, Norway, coming to this country as a young man to find work. He came to Enderlin in 1903 to work on the Soo Line.

In 1914, he married Ragna Husemoe, who was born on a homestead in Ransom County in 1888, and whose mother died when she was nine, leaving three young children.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson lived all their married life in Enderlin, raising a family of five sons and one daughter. One of their sons, Norman, died in World War Two Margaret (Mrs. Reuben Boxrud) lives in Fargo, Elmer, in St. Paul and Henry, Vernon and Elwood in Enderlin.

The Foss Family

Gust J. Foss was born in Brandvol, Solar, Norway in 1863. When he was seven, his father brought the family to America by sailing boat, the trip taking thirteen weeks. The family settled in London, Minnesota, where Gust grew up.

In 1897, he came to the Enderlin area, working for Ole Christianson and Major Buttz for a time. He homesteaded in Moore Township, later trading that land for a farm four miles west of Enderlin where he spent the rest of his life.

In 1900, he married Emma Carlson, who had emigrated from Sweden to Texas in 1884. She had worked in Mankato and St. Paul, Minnesota before coming to work at the new Hilton Hotel in Enderlin. Their only child, Edwin Foss was raised on the farm in Moore Township.

Edwin married Gladys Campbell of Enderlin in 1926. He worked briefly on the west coast and they lived for some years at Tappan, North Dakota before coming back to the farm near Enderlin. They moved into Enderlin in 1944, where Edwin worked for the Soo Line until retirement.

The Fosses have four children: John, Merle, Mary Lou and Nancy (Mrs. Douglas Lindemann).

Frank Kellerman

Frank Kellerman was born in Highland Township in 1884, one of the sons of a pioneer family. Another brother, Emil, still lives at Leonard and a brother William, now deceased, was also a long-time resident of the community.

Frank Kellerman married Emma Manske in
The Benson Family
Julius Benson was born in Sweden in 1848. He had worked as a foreman on a farm in Germany and as a railroad man in Norway before coming to the United States. In 1885 he came to Sheldon, working at various jobs until 1891 when he returned to Sweden for a visit. On his return, he purchased the first railroad ticket from Minneapolis to Enderlin, telling the agent he wanted to go as far west as the Soo Line ran.

He worked around Enderlin and in Fargo until 1896, when he bought the Taylor farm in Liberty Township where he lived until his death.

In 1899 he married Caroline Anderson and their family numbered two sons: William and Carl (deceased) and two daughters: Venda (Mrs. Lee) and Alma (Mrs. L. C. Sorlien).

Mr. Benson was an organizer and Vice-President of the Sheldon State Bank and President of the Sheldon Farmers Elevator for some years. The family were members of the First Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Sorlien and Mrs. Lee both live in Enderlin and a grandson Robert Lee, and his wife, the former Janice Fraedrich, still live on the family farm.

H. A. Johnson
H. A. Johnson came from Norway in 1905, coming first to Fillmore County and then to Enderlin, in 1907, where he worked on the Edward Storli farm. He married Hanna Baardson in 1910. His wife makes her home in Enderlin.

Gus Luther
Gust Luther was born in Germany in 1876, coming to America when a young boy. He came to the Casselton area and then to Eldred Township, northeast of Enderlin, in 1892.

In November 1901, he married Augusta Eckeburg. They had twin daughters who died in infancy and two sons, Edwin and Harold, who took over their father's farming interests on his retirement.

Mrs. Luther died in 1938. A former member of St. John's Lutheran Church, he transferred membership to Trinity Lutheran in Enderlin in his later years. His death occurred in 1965 at the age of 89 years.

John Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Martinus Johnson and son, John, came from Taten, Norway, to Fillmore County in 1879. The following year, Mr. Johnson came to Valley City in charge of a car of cattle. He found work near Hastings and walked each weekend to the home of relatives near Nome, where he lived for a homestead. Having built a sod house, he sent for his wife and son in 1881. Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson worked out on farms the first summers and lived on their own farm in winter. They lost a son, Peter, in infancy and later adopted a daughter, Dena.

Early church services were held in the homes. Confirmation instructions were given at Daly, a settlement north of the present site of Kathryn, and John walked the eight miles to attend. The first Ladies Aid was organized at the Johnson home. A few years later the St. Peter's Lutheran Church was built. John married Hansine Libak in June, 1911, and they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1961. Dena married Herman Johnson and now lives in Fargo.

The Johnsons got their mail at Hackett, a post office south of the present town of Nome, but in the early days, Valley City was the nearest town and many times in the winter they made the trip on foot. One time Mr. Johnson bought 100 pounds of potatoes and carried it home, not daring to set it down to rest for fear he couldn't lift it to his shoulders again.

John Johnsons have five children: Martin, who farms the home farm; Helen (Mrs. Alvin Johnson) Valley City; Hope (Mrs. Don Kock) Scappoose, Ore.; Jeanette (Mrs. Maynard Lindemann) Enderlin; and Pearl (Mrs. Ralph Oehlke), both of Enderlin.

The Oehlke Family
Freidrich and Augusta Oehlke lived in Ferskau, Germany, where he was a carpenter and contractor. Though they were fairly comfortable financially, among their friends and neighbors there was much talk of the free land in America. Early in 1881, they offered their home for sale and sailed up the Elbe to Hamburg, where they waited for the necessary papers and the boat that would take them to America, hoping for opportunities for their children. It was sad-hearted jour-
ne of ten children. Three sons grew to manhood in the Enderlin community: Fred, of Enderlin; Frank, Minneapolis; and Herman Jr., who lived at Devils Lake and died in 1964.

Fred G. Oehlke attended the NDSU and took over management of the family estate on the death of his father. His share of the property was the home farm and he operated it until 1921, when a serious illness caused him to quit farming.

He went to work in the Peoples and Enderlin State Bank, and remained there for 33 years, as cashier and president, until retirement in 1954.

Fred has been active in all phases of community life, serving as the treasurer of Trinity Church for 33 years, as a council member for 21 years. He was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club, Corn Show chairman for ten years, President and Secretary of the Farmers Elevator for a combined total of 46 years, a member of the city council and a member of the Enderlin School board for 37 years.

He married Margaret Smith in 1913. They raised a family of three: Lynn and Lucille, (Mrs. Melford Tysland) both deceased, and Ralph of Enderlin, the fourth generation to farm the Oehlke homestead.

Gustav Oehlke, the other son of Friedrich Oehlke lived for many years on the farm just across the road from the city. He married Hattie Walters of Lucca and this marriage ended in divorce. The son, Richard, farms in the Enderlin community.

Some years later he married Anna O'Leary, a widow with one son, Arthur. When her sister died, the Oehlkes took her three children, Jess, Jeanette (Mrs. Wade Bailey) Washington, and Clara (Mrs. Enochson) Enderlin, into their home and raised them as their own.

The Fraedrich Family

William Fraedrich Sr. was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and although he was a farmer with a large family, he served in the Civil War. Shortly after he came back to the farm from the war, his wife died, leaving him with eleven children.

In 1880, his son, William Jr., came to North Dakota with some neighbors. The next year, his father loaded his children and all his possessions into three covered wagons and set out from Wausau for Dakota Territory.

The trip took six weeks and because of high water that spring, many bridges were washed out, one collapsing as the last wagon passed over it. He took a homestead four miles east and two miles north of Enderlin.

Four of his children moved to Canada; August, Emil, Herman and Anna (Miller). Garrett and Alvina (Behnke) settled at Harvey, North Dakota; Marie (Retzlaf) at Cooperstown and Augusta (Frohm) at Salem, Oregon. Three sons, William, Julius and Albert, remained in this community.

William Fraedrich homesteaded five miles
east of Enderlin, on the farm now owned by Leon Heuer. He was active in many community affairs, serving as director of the State Bank of Sheldon, of the Peoples Bank of Enderlin and as President of the Peoples and Enderlin State Bank; served on the board of the Anselm Farmers Elevator, the Sheldon Farmers Elevator and was a charted member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

He married Ana Oeihke in 1882 and their three daughters were; Alvina Lindemann, Ida Kaatz and Pauline Heuer, all of whom live in Enderlin.

Albert Friedrich married Martha Lonz. He remained on the home farm and of their nine children, some still live in this community. The children were Irvin, Theodore and Anna (Michalski) all deceased; Lydia Rife in Oregon, Amelia (Ulness); Tacoma Wash.; Or­ien, who recently moved to the west coast, Loren and Marvin, of Enderlin.

Julius Friedrich married Bertha Danelt. They had four children; Albert and Emil, who moved to the west coast; Emma (Mrs. Peter Buttke) who spent much of her life here and now lives in Grove City, Minnesota, and Emilie (Mrs. R. T. Petrich) now deceased.

The Shelver Family

The first of the Shelvers to come to North Dakota was Peter Shelver, who filed a homestead in Section 24, Liberty Township, in 1880. His grandparents had come to Norway from Germany and had accumulated large holdings of timberlands, but hard times and bad investments had dissipated the family holdings of timberlands, but hard times and bad investments had dissipated the family holdings and the future looked very bleak. He set out for America and the promise it held, never to look back with regret.

Peter first found work on the railroads in Wisconsin, living frugally and saving all his money. In 1881, he brought his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Shelver, to this country. They filed on the quarter adjoining his and built a house on the line between the quarters so that each had a room on his land, thus fulfilling the homestead law. Two other sons, Martin and Jacob, who had emigrated to Wisconsin in 1879, now joined them and filed on the remaining quarters of the section. Eventually, two more of Johan Shelver's sons, Iver and Nils, took farms in the community. Thorval, the remaining son, settled at Devils Lake.

PETER SHELVER married Martha Gullickson and they raised a family of ten children. His early years made a mark on him and he always paid cash and avoided bills. He was handy at fixing things and careful in his care of livestock. He prided himself that his was one of the rare farms that had never had a mortgage.

When the Soo Line came through, it cut across his original homestead. The payment for the right of way was $100 an acre, a generous sum for those days.

Of their ten children, only one son, Oscar, still lives in Enderlin. Married to the former Dorothy Campbell, he farmed, was a grain buyer and has worked for a succession of hardware stores: Bjork and Standal, Borstad's, Luidahl's and Hong's.

The other of Peter Shelver's children are Jean, Minneapolis; Ida (Mrs. L. Schneider) Winterhaven, Fla.; Helen (Mrs. A. Swanson), Moorhead; Florence (Mrs. K. Cunningham), Camerilla, Calif.; Edna (Mrs. B. Landsem), Ketchikan, Alaska; Mildred (Mrs. Earl Gordon) (Moorhead; Edward, Vancouver, Wash.; and Milton, Chicago. One son died in infancy.

JACOB SHELVER married Hulda Olson, daughter of Hans Olson, another early settler in Liberty Township. They raised a family of thirteen children on the homestead where they lived until their deaths.

All the Shelver family were loyal members of the West St. Olaf Church and Jacob built the original church. Six of their children still live in the Enderlin and Thorval on the family homestead; Nevelle; Minnie; Mrs. F. Anderson; Alma (Mrs. Ing­vold Moe); and Ina. William is at Staples, Minn.; Glen is at Dunseith, N. D; Ruth, Henry, Louis, and Philip are now deceased.

NILS SHELVER married Olive Anderson. He had attended Luther College but came back to Ransom County to farm. He retained his interest in education and was very active in school and civic affairs. Of their nine children: Norton, Lawrence, Ray, Ernest, Sidney, Lester, Pearl, Ethel and Ruby, only one daughter, Ethel (Mrs. N. H. Severson) still lives in the Enderlin area.

MARTIN SHELVER married Anna Hanson. They lived on the homestead in Liberty Township until he retired, moving into Enderlin where he died in 1927. Of their five children, Walter and Esther are deceased; Agnes, Myrille, and Alice no longer live in the area.

IVER SHELVER married Bertha Christianson, daughter of another Liberty pioneer, Ole Christianson. Their children are no longer living in the Enderlin area. Dorothy is deceased, Gladys (Mrs. Morris Aasheim) in Iowa; Clifford, Billings, Mont.; and Merlin, Minneapolis, Minn.

Ole Christianson

Ole Christianson was born January 20, 1848, near Kongsvinger Norway. He came to America and settled near Mona, Mitchell County, Iowa. There in 1878, he married Belle Thorson, who died in 1884. Three children were born to them: Charles B., Bertha (Shelver) and Josephine C. (Mrs. O. C. Olson). All are now deceased. In the fall of 1881 he and his family moved to Ransom County, Dakota. He purchased a half section of land in Liberty Township and the following spring moved onto the place for permanent residence. He had ten head of cattle and six horses, but by 1900 he owned 1500 acres of land; 1500 acres he cropped, and raised stock on the rest.

On December 9, 1886 Ole married Miss Christina Golberg and to this union Alfred,
Hjalmer Benson

Hjalmer Benson was born March 6, 1880, in Skane, Sweden. He came to the United States about in 1882 with his parents and an older sister, Dena. They first settled near Wheatland and about five years later they moved to where Mr. Benson, his wife, and son Kenneth now live. They brought a 14 foot by 20 foot building to use as a house with them. They brought their possessions and belongings in ox drawn wagons. His father, a former sailor in Sweden, bought 80 acres from a Miss Lundahl, who had homesteaded the land.

Mr. Benson first attended school at a little school about half a mile east of town and finished in Pontiac. His teacher was a Mr. Davis who was teaching to buy an artificial limb. They attended church services in the Railroad depot, not having the churches built at that time.

In 1915 he took over the farming operations from his father, Mr. S. P. Benson, who retired then moved to Enderlin. On June 24, 1916 he married Miss Lillian Widen at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mrs. Benson taught school for a while in Raritan School. Mr. Benson worked for Charles Newton, a building contractor in Sheldon. He continued to farm until 1957, when ill-health forced him to retire. His son Kenneth is still actively engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Benson brought 2 sons and 5 daughters into the world. Kenneth and Everett, Joyce, Marion, Crystal, Mrs. L. D. (Bernice) Rood, and Mrs. D. (Betty) Kostad. The Bensons are members of the Evangelical Free Church in Enderlin and he has been a trustee in the same church.

The Wold Family

James O. Wold was born in Bergen, Norway, in 1842. He worked out by the year in Norway until he was of age and then set out for America and the opportunities it offered, coming first to Dane County, Wisconsin, where a cousin was living. He moved to Minnesota, where he farmed until the spring of 1882, when he sold out and came to Dakota Territory. He spent a month in Cass County and then filed on a homestead in Liberty Township.

His assets consisted of seven head of cattle and three horses but no cash, so he and his two sons worked out by the day to get started on their claim. He married Orine Anderson in 1863 and they were the parents of eight children: Andrew, Maria, John, Annie, Christian and James.

James J. Wold married Mary Card, of Alice, N. D. in 1910. They have one son Iveson, who now lives in Compton, California. Jim Wold farmed for many years and worked for Harper’s Grocery department and for Pete Berg. He sold his farm to the Dagman family, who farm the original Wold homestead. His wife, Mary, still lives in Enderlin.

The Arneson Family

Martin Arneson came to Liberty Township in 1862, having migrated from Norway the year before and spent the first months in Wisconsin. He was a charter member of the West St. Olaf Church. A carpenter and cabinet maker, he helped Jacob Sheiever to build the church and enclosed the cemetery at his own expense. His daughter, Martha, later Mrs. Theodore Bjork, was the first child baptized in the church. His wife died in 1885, and Martha took over the care of the household.

In 1901, he moved to Enderlin and followed his trade until his health failed. He spent the last years of his life in the Bjork home.

In addition to Mrs. Bjork, there were five children. Harold and Clara died as small children. Henry is a dentist in Lake City,
Minnesota. Ella (Dawson) lives in Chicago and Minnie (Allison) in Sturgis, S. D.

Theodore Bjork was born in Mona, Iowa and clerked in a store before coming to Enderlin in 1903. He was employed by the Chamberlain-Wallace company when he first arrived, the firm at that time operating a hardware store as well as a lumber yard.

He married Martha Arneson in 1905 and the next year, he and Mr. Standal bought the hardware store and the business operated in the same spot until his death in 1944.

The Bjork children were: Arnold, who died in 1926, Margaret (Vieg), Claremont, Calif ornia; Kenneth of Northfield, Minn., now on sabbatical leave in Nairobi, Kenya, Africa; Harold, Kenosha, Wisconsin. Mrs. Bjork continues to make her home in Enderlin.

Iver Neros

Iver Neros was born in Romsdalen, Norway and came to Enderlin with his wife, the former Synove Strand, whom he married in Minneapolis in 1903. A tailor by trade, he went into business with Ed Qyoen. When their shop burned, they opened their own shop, since they were busy making suits for conductors and brakemen on the thriving Soo Line.

Mr. Neros used to tell that as he walked home along the tracks to his house on the outskirts of town, he carried a club, because the wolves were so tame and fearless that they would walk along beside him.

He was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church and the Sons of Norway Lodge. He died after a long illness in 1933. Mrs. Neros died in 1924.

There were five children in their family: Klaire, now of Minneapolis and four sons: Irwin and Allen of Enderlin, Jerome, Minneapolis, and Berdon, Glenwood, Minnesota.

Herman Bohm

Herman Bohm was born in Germany in 1852 and came to this country at the age of about 18. He settled at St. Charles, Minnesota, coming to the Enderlin area about 1880, where he settled in Highland Township.

He married Ida Lindemann at Fargo in 1884. They raised a family of two sons and four daughters, most of whom spent most of their lives in the Enderlin community. They are: Max, Alma, and Cecelia (Mrs. Henkel), all deceased. Margaret (Mrs. Brady), Fred, in Washington and Hartha (Mrs. Frank Sal len) of Enderlin.

Carl Dehn

Carl Reinhard Dehn was born in Grumkow, Stolp, Germany in 1851. In 1878, he came to America with a brother, Frank. He worked at the Dalrymple and Cass farms at Cassel ton and then filed on a homestead half a mile west of Chaffee.

In 1881 he married Mathilda Trapp, who had come from Germany with her brothers, Paul and Henry Trapp.

In 1898, the Dehn family moved to Enderlin where they bought the Malette farm, north of Enderlin, from A. R. Smith. Mr. Smith, who lived at Springfield, New York, often stayed with the family on his yearly trip to North Dakota.

The old Pontiac 100 School stood where the present house now stands, the school being moved north and west of the farm a few years after they bought it.

The Dehn family grew to twelve. They were members of the Salem Evangelical Church north of Enderlin. Mr. Dehn was active in township and school affairs, serving as treasurer and clerk.

Of their children, William, Charles, Alfred, Lily, and Emma, (Mrs. Otto Oeder) are deceased. The surviving children are Fred, Grand Forks; Adelaide (Mrs. Kronk), Black River Falls Wis.; Paul, Arthur, Eugene, and Walter, all of Enderlin.

Ed Fraase

Ed Fraase was born April 23, 1877 in Germany and came to America at 16 years of age when his uncle, Henry Fraase sent him a pass. After living for several years with his uncle at Buffalo, he worked for Wm. Fraedrich for some time and then started farming for himself.

In 1902, he married Augusta Kunst in the Pontiac Church, the first couple married in the church by Reverend Elster. They lived on the old Liest farm for a few years, then bought the N. W. quarter of Section 21 in Liberty Township where they lived for forty-seven years, adding to their holdings from time to time.

Mrs. Fraase was born in Malin, Russia and came with her parents to this area when she was 11 years old. When they first arrived in the Dakotas, the children were farmed out to work for their room and board. Mrs. Fraase stayed with the Adolph Kurtz family at Lucca and often felt lonely so far from her family. She later worked at Sheldon, nearer her home.

While working for William Fraedrich, Ed Fraase experienced a happy moment which affected his entire life. He and William Schmidt were friends and schoolmates in Germany. Mrs. Schmidt emigrated with her family to live with a brother at Stewart, Minnesota when her husband died. The boys went at parting and vowed that one day they would be reunited. Ten years later, Schmidt and his uncle came to Dakota to find work.

By some coincidence they stopped at the Fraedrich farm, and after ten years separation, the boys met at the breakfast table on Sunday morning. The friendship lasted throughout their lives.

Mr. Schmidt married Anna Schmidt, daughter of August Schmidt, in 1902 and began farming on the farm now owned by Kenneth Kellema. The two men bought their first threshing machine, a straw fed steamer, together and their wives helped each other.
during the busy seasons. Occasionally the two
friends would take time from their chores
and make a fishing trip to Minnesota.

Ed Fraase passed away in 1947 while his
wife lived until 1963. There are five surviv­
ing children: Alma, (Mrs. Peter Bunn), Shel­
den; Erwin, and Arnold, Enderlin; Elmer,
Sheldon; and Reuben, Fargo.

William Schmidt died in 1956. His wife
makes her home with her daughter, Mrs.
Evelyn Krueger, at Venlo. Four other chil­
dren survive: Mrs. Julius Bunn, Sheldon; Al­
vin, California; Bert, Idaho; and Melvin, La­
Moore. A son, Victor, of Enderlin, is de­
ceased. His wife Lila and her family live in
Enderlin.

Ole Nygaard

Ole P. Nygaard was born in Norway and
came to America through the aid of uncle,
K. J. Taralseth, a pioneer merchant of the
Warren, Minn., community

In 1893, he married Tilda Myrom at War­
ren. They moved to Thief River Falls, where
they made their home until coming to En­
derlin in 1900.

Mr. Nygaard was a blacksmith on the Soo
Line in the days when all the welding was
done by hand. The repair track where box
cars were fixed had a crew of about ten men.

The Nygaards raised a family of ten chil­
dren; three sons and seven daughters. Two of
the sons, Ole and Peter still live in En­
derlin. Both were baseball players and en­
thusiasts. Both worked for the Soo Line.

Peter Nygaard has also served as Mayor
of the town and is currently an alderman.

The Cavett Family

John Dean Cavett was born in Ohio in 1845.
As a young man he served on the frontier
in the army and knew Bill Cody
and other pioneer figures. In 1872, his par­
ents settled in Mitchell County Iowa, where
he married Sarah Sherman, and farmed un­
til 1904, when the family moved to Moore
Township where he lived until his death in
1928.

Two of his sons, Chauncy and Charles
taught in Ransom County, Chauncy serving
as Ransom County Superintendent for some
time. Harriette, the only daughter, taught
all of her life, as well.

All three sons farmed in Moore Township,
Fred farming the home farm and Charles
settling across the road. This farm is now
owned by his son, Aiden Cavett.

Jeremiah O. Sullivan

In the spring of 1902, Jerry Sullivan, born
in Castle Town Country Cork, Ireland, and
now of Edgerton, Minn., bought a farm in
Pontiac Township from Matilda Haynes and
Mary R. Vance.

His family consisted of six boys and six
 girls. Therefore, he was interested in moving
to the wide open spaces where land was still
a bargain. The boys were Leo, Jerry, Fred,
John, Ed and Peter; and the girls’ names
were Julia (Mrs. Leist, now living in Lis­
bon and who is 93 years old), Henrietta, Rose,
Madge (Mrs. Joe Waldhaim of Enderlin),
Mary and Katyl Mary and Katyl died be­
fore they grew to womanhood. Mr. and Mrs.
Sullivan also raised two grandchildren, Leo
Anderson and Pearl Rigger.

That fall, Fred who was 14, and Leo, who
was 19, were sent ahead of the family to
do the fall plowing. They left home in a
box car with ten horses and some of their
farm machinery with strict instructions not
to get out of the rail car until they reached
Enderlin. The trip proved to be a three-day
journey, so they were forced to disobey their
father’s orders. On arriving in Enderlin,
they had to seek directions to the farm,
which would be the family’s future home.

East of their farm, a widowery by the name of
Oeder and his three sons lived in a sod
house.

Leo and Fred spent the entire fall plowing
the ground, getting it ready for the next
year’s crop. They slept in the granary until
the rest of the family arrived two days be­
fore Christmas.

The family had plenty of help with their
own six boys, so eventually two of the sons
went to Minot to homestead. By this time,
Enderlin was fairly well settled. Fred re­
members breaking lots of sod, including that
where Miller’s Service Station now stands,
and on the Herman Oehlke farm near Lucca.

Being one of the few Irishmen in a strong
German community, the question was raised
if the family felt out-of-place. The answer
was a firm “no” with one exception—“at tow­
ship meetings German was the language of
the day, and so the Irishman felt “on the
outside.”

Fred remembers voting in the Taft-Bryan
election of 1908 as it was his first time to
exercise that privilege. At that time, you
placed an “X” at the top of the ballot and
that indicated your choice for the entire
ticket.

In 1917, Jerry Sullivan sold out and moved
to Enderlin. He died at the age of 88 in 1935.
His wife, née Rosean Meighan, was born in
Yellowstone, Wis., in 1851. She passed away
at 91 years of age in 1942.

Fred left the farm in 1908 to work for
the Joe Wiper Drayline. He also worked a
short time for the Soo Line. In 1913, he
married Ethel Martin and they moved north­
west of Lisbon, where they spent their mar­
ried life farming, until retiring in 1938, when
they moved to Lisbon.

Gerald Buss Family

My father, Herman Buss, lived in Germany
during his childhood until he grew to man­
hood (age 21) coming to America from
Berlin, Germany, in 1884. My grand­
father and grandmother and my mother, An­
ie Moldenhoer, came to this country from
Germany in the year 1872. My mother was
three years of age when she came across.
In 1889 my mother and father were married and shortly thereafter started a farm of their own near Leonard, N. D. From this marriage there were born seven children, of which only five are now living. In 1900 my Dad sold the farm near Leonand and bought another farm south of Sheldon. The first year my dad had the farm near Sheldon was a dry year and all was horse. In the fall of 1900 I started school at age nine in a little one-room school house. Of course there were no school busses at that time, so I was forced to walk two miles to school every day along with my sister. School was difficult for me for the only language I spoke was German and I had to learn English during the first year of school.

The next spring (age 10) I did all of the harvesting with two horses on a three-section drag and walked all day, part of the time barefooted. That year was a plentiful year for my family. In the fall I bucked straw for Bill Friday. Dan Froemke and I threshed the bucking straw. We worked from six in the morning until eight in the evening for what would seem like chicken feed to the young generation of today—13 hours at $1.50.

I worked on my father's farm until I was 15. My wife (Tillie Ihme) and I were married November 4, 1914. During the winter months we lived with my folks and in the spring of 1915 we rented a farm. In the fall we were able to buy some farm land. The agreement was that I put up all the buildings, with a crop payment coming due every fall. The value of land at that time was $30 an acre.

The first year we lived on that farm a son, Clifford, was born. In 1918, a daughter, Inez (Mrs. Merle Schmidt) was born. Everything was going fine until 1926 when our house and all of our belongings were lost in a fire when our cook stove exploded. That winter we were able to buy some farm land. The agreement was that I put up all the buildings, with a crop payment coming due every fall. The value of land at that time was $30 an acre.

I worked on two different shifts, making $380. How were we to know that a cold freezing winter was ahead of us. That winter we cut green wood to keep from freezing.

From the year 1927 to 1930 we had some good years. In 1928 I rented my farm out for two years and in 1930 I sold it to my son, Clifford Buss.

Thus ends my story of how life was in general for me and my family. We now live in Enderlin in a home of our own, purchased from J. G. (Buster) Martin. My wife and I are proud of our home and of the friendly community of Enderlin.

The Severson Family

The Hans Severson family was another of the families coming to this area from Northern Iowa in the early 1900's, to settle in Liberty Township. He and his wife, the former Gena Knutson, raised four children; a son, Nehmie, and daughters Hilda, Wilma and Norma.

The Seversons were members of the West St. Olaf Church and Mr. Severson was a member of the Liberty School Board and the Farmers Elevator Board. Mr. Severson died October 24, 1954.


The Hoffman Family

Ernest Hoffman, one of Enderlin’s early butchers was apprenticed to a butcher in Hamburg, Germany as a young boy, where his first job was delivering meat with a dog drawn cart. After learning his trade he went to sea to see the world. After making fifty-three trips and never getting off the Atlantic, he jumped ship in New York and applied for citizenship.

Deciding it was safer to go to sea in the Pacific, where German ships were fewer, he began working his way westward. At Wycott, Minn. fate intervened and he acquired a wife. In 1908 the family came to Enderlin, where he purchased a butcher shop from James Walsh. He operated the shop until 1919, when he sold out, deciding to move to Montana. Somehow they found it impossible to leave, and discarded the western plains for a farm just north of Enderlin where the family of five children grew up; Theodore Erna, Marguerite, Helen, and Ernest Jr. The second son, Richard, died at the age of six.

In 1942, the family sold the farm and moved to Richville, Minn., where Mr. Hoffman died in 1950, at the age of 81. His wife is still living and active, keeping house for her son Theodore.

His daughter, Mrs. Noble Doeling (Helen) in another section has contributed a wonderful picture of an early day German-trained butcher and his shop.

The Pribbenow Family

John Pribbenow and his wife, the former Ida Iverson, were another of the families to come to this area through the means of the Ransom County Immigration Association, purchasing a half section of land in Liberty Township, all virgin prairie, from them in 1906.

Mr. Pribbenow arranged for Charlie Christianson to break some of the sod that year and in 1906 they and their sons, Harold and Lloyd started for North Dakota. He loaded two emigrant cars at their home in Nora Springs, Minnesota, with household goods machinery, livestock and supplies and bailed them to Butteville, North Dakota.

Good neighbors met them with teams and wagons and assisted in building a 18x24 foot
The Erbstoesser Family

The farm in Watson Township where Edward Erbstoesser lives was the family homestead, settled about 1879. The hollow where the first sod shanty stood is still visible. After some years, the family moved to Wisconsin, where they operated a meat market.

About 1885, they moved back and bought the farm again. Three sons; Theodore, August and Charlie bought farms in the neighborhood.

August Erbstoesser married Ida Moldenhauer in 1905 and brought her to his parents farm, where she still lives with her son Edward. They had twelve children, five of whom died in infancy. Two sons: Edward and Frank, farmed in Watson Township. Another son, Gus, was a contractor in Enderlin until his death.

Mrs. Erbstoesser is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. She remembers that it was built in 1887 by Adolph Massani, a local carpenter. When the church was dedicated he stood at the door with the key in his hand, and handed it to the deacons and told them it was all paid for. Everything in the church was handmade - altar, pulpit, etc. Although it has been remodeled, the handmade parts were left undisturbed.

Mrs. Erbstoesser's parents homesteaded near Chaffee in 1879. She recalls, "My mother and older sister would work in the fields and I would take care of the younger children. Mother would peel potatoes and I would put them on the stove before noon. When they came from the field the potatoes would be done and she would go to the cellar and get a crock of milk, skim off the cream, and put it on the table. We would have our potatoes and sour cream and we were happy with it."

Theodore Erbstoesser married Minnie Gersonde in 1895, the same year his brother August was married. He bought a farm across the Maple River from his parents farm and here they raised their family of ten children, one baby dying in infancy. There were six daughters: Ella, Ann, Selma, Margaret, Lillian and Marie; and three sons, Walter, Theodore and John.

In 1988 the farm was sold and the family moved to Enderlin. Only one member still lives in Enderlin, John Erbstoesser has been Police Chief for the past twenty years. Married to the former Alice Groth, they have two daughters, Carol and Connie (Mrs. Bartholomay).

Eberhart Fausett

A small area on the Minnesota-Iowa border, including the towns of Mona and St. Ansgar in Iowa, and Lyle in Minnesota, furnished a large number of the early settlers of Liberty and Moore Townships.

Among these settlers were Eberhart Fausett and his wife, the former Oline Golberg, who homesteaded in Liberty Township in 1892 and lived there until death.

Mr. Fausett was particularly interested in the welfare of the community and in civic affairs and served in several school and township offices, helped organize the Moore and Liberty Telephone Company, the West St. Olaf church and the Citizens State Bank. He took particular pride in being the first president of the Ransom County Farmer's Alliance.

The Fausetts had three children: Rosine, Olaf (Andy) and Nora, who now lives in San Diego, Calif.

Joseph Kapaun

Joseph Kapaun was born in Portage, Wisconsin, in 1883. As a young man, he farmed with his father in an area where all the farm land had to be cleared from timber and much of the haying was done by hand, with scythes, and cocked in piles which were carried on poles to the stack.

In 1903, he moved to the Alice vicinity and purchased a half section of land in Clifton Township, living the first years in a one-room cabin.

He married Ida Wavra in 1916, at Alice. They are members of St. Henry's Catholic Church and Mr. Kapaun has served on the school and township boards.

The Kapauns have three daughters: Mildred Kindler, Lisbon; Lorraine McKinnon, Colorado and Florence McMahon, Alice.

The Roe Family

Mr. Paul Roe, who now lives in Enderlin, was born in 1886 in a log house which still stands on section eight of Preston Township. He was one of six children born to Peter J. and Bertha Roe who came from Norway to Fillmore County Minnesota in the 1870's. They stayed there over the winter and then came to the Valley City area because they knew families who had settled there. The journey from Minnesota took about two weeks by covered wagon because there were so few bridges for crossing. The Roe family came through St. Paul which was called Seven Corners and then crossed the Red River at Moorhead. The family consisted of the mother and father and two very small children.
who had been born in Norway. A son, Theodore, was born in the Aus home in 1880 but the rest of the children were born in the log house where the family lived until 1900.

Paul Roe was married to Theresa Nielsen, who was born in Redby, Sweden. She came to America in 1914 and they were married in 1924. They had one daughter, Phyllis, who is now Mrs. Maurice Langland. She still lives in the home built by her father. Paul Roe farmed from 1906 until 1957. In 1902, he earned fifty cents a day working for his uncle. Paul Roe built his home completely by himself and when he was digging the foundation, he unearthed thirty-four Indian skeletons which he very carefully re-buried in another area on his farm.

Mr. Roe has many vivid memories of life in the early days. They were days when Standing Rock was eight feet high. He says that about the year 1900, a road crew of Italians was helping to build a spur on the railroad from Fargo to Marion and they dynamited the rock to see what was beneath it. The small stone which stands today is all that remains.

When Mr. Shaw's parents came to Canada from Scotland in the early eighteen sixty's, they had three children and thirteen cents. From Scotland in the early eighteen sixty's, the Shaw's.
Mr. Carl Darelius attended school in Enderlin when there were just four rooms in the whole school. He has clerked in many of the stores in our city and has also worked as a carpenter. He went to work when he was fourteen; delivering, splitting wood and doing chores for people. When he was clerk­ing, he worked twelve hours a day and re­ceived forty or fifty dollars a month. Carl has lived in the same home in Enderlin since 1893. In 1903, he attended Aker's Business College in Fargo and for many years was employed by Chamberlain-Wallace Lumber Company in Alice. He is now retired.

The Torbenson Family

John Torbenson came with his parents to the United States in 1847, from Lillermaskene, Norway. The family settled in Muskegon, Wisconsin. In 1856 he moved to Minnesota, taking a claim in McLeod County, living on this farm until 1864, when he enlisted in Company C, Hatch’s Independent Battalion of Minnesota Cavalry. They were quartered at Pomme de Terre until 1865, then moved to Fort Abercrombie, and to Fort Wadsworth, Wisconsin. In 1856 he moved to Minnesota, and was graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Dentistry. He married Carrie Enerson in 1868 and they raised a family of nine children. In 1882 they moved to North Dakota, living first south of Valley City and then coming to Moore Township in 1900.

Their son, Oscar, married Mary Syverson. Their son, Richard, who has farmed on their farm in Moore Township since his parents retired; Donovan, of Paynesville, Minnesota; Cora (Mrs. Arnold Petrich), of Grand Forks; Mil­dred, Spokane, and Osman of Renton, Washing­ton. Mr. Torbenson died in 1965. His wife makes her home with her daughter, Cora.

Fred Maley

It was a hot July day in 1888 when Fred Maley arrived in Enderlin. He was twenty two and eager to learn a new language and trade. When he left Kristainsund, Norway, his trip cost $38 and took eleven days, by way of England, to Montreal.

During his first years, he worked on a farm for $3 dollars a day, and did carpenter work. In 1904, he went to work for the Soo Line as a machinist, a job he held until his retirement in 1945.

In 1904 he married Sena Olson, who had come here from Egersund, Norway. They had three children: Olaf, Enderlin; Beatrice (Mrs. Floyd Ludtke) of Enderlin; and Glen, Long Island, N. Y.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Maley were able to re­visit their native land, Mrs. Maley making the trip with Olaf and Beatrice in 1908 and Mr. Maley in 1947.

Mr. Maley is a member of First Lutheran Church and has been a worker in other community activities, serving on the city council during the time that the Enderlin city hall was built.

The George Nelson Family

Doctor George A. Nelson, a well known Enderlin dentist, practiced dentistry in Enderlin for forty one years. He was born at Kasson, Minnesota, and was graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Dentistry. He came to Enderlin in 1869 and married the former Mary Klingbeil in 1899. There were five sons born to this family: Lawrence, Enderlin; George, J., Enderlin; Paul, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Robert, Vancouver, Wash.; and Ross, Harleyville, S. C.

Dr. Nelson served the community in various official capacities. He was mayor from 1911 to 1914, and it was during his administration that the present water and sewage system was installed. He was also an alderman for several terms and a member of the school board for a number of years.

Dr. Nelson was a member of Liberty Lodge No. 49 A.F. & A.M., of which he was a past Worship Master, and of Chapter 19, Royal Arch Masons, of Which he was High Priest. He had been a Worthy Patron of the Order of Eastern Star and was Associate Patron at the time of his death in February, 1947. He was also the first president of the local Kiwanis club.

During the Golden Jubilee Celebration, Dr. Nelson served on the Pageant committee and the program committee.

The Scheie Family

Nels Anderson was born in Fjaerland, Sogn, Norway in 1883. He came to America in 1903, at the same time as his brother, Jens Anderson. Like so many Scandinavians, he was bothered by duplication of names. Because there was another Nels Anderson living in Enderlin, he changed his name, in 1922, to Nels Scheie.

In 1907, Anna Berge came from his home town in Norway and they were married. They raised a family of seven children: Andrew, Bernard and Orrin, all of Enderlin; Sigrid, (Blanchard), Mabel (Walters), Helen (Hill), and Norma (Olson).

The Scheies were members of Zion Lutheran Church until its disbanding, and now attend First Lutheran. He is a long-time Soo Line employee.

John Carlson

John Carlson was born at Fergus Falls and came to Enderlin in 1905 from Glenwood, as a Soo Line engineer.

In 1908, he married Maude Furtney, daughter of Joe Furtney, who was an engineer on the Soo Line when the railroad was built into Enderlin and who worked on trains 107 and 108 until his retirement.

John Carlson was a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, of the Masonic Lodge in Enderlin and of El Zagal Temple and Scottish Rites Masons in Fargo. He lost his life in a wreck at Venlo, November 4, 1943. His wife now lives at White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

The Carlsons had four children; Lloyd, a
The Henderson Family
Charles and Lucy Benway Henderson migrated from Newark, New York, to Fargo, in 1887. In 1889, they homesteaded the farm south of Enderlin. They lived on this farm until 1929.

The Hendersons were the parents of three sons. Edgar married Clara Nord. They farmed on the place now owned by Leo Fernow until his death in 1941. They had four children, two of whom died in infancy; Loren, who farms south of Enderlin, and Lucille (Redmond) of Enderlin, with whom Mrs. Henderson made her home until her death.

Perry married Rikka Helgeson. Both are now deceased. They had two children: Helen, of Auburn, Washington; and Robert, who lives in Enderlin.

The third son, Ernest, died while he was a student at SDSU.

Martin and Matia Thoreson
(Parents of Goldie Olson)

Goldie Thoreson, her mother, Matia and her two sisters, Ragnhild and Camilla, arrived in the United States in 1907 after a stormy overseas crossing. Her father, Martin Thoreson, arrived in 1906, intrigued by the tales of a great and wonderful America, as related by his two brothers, Pete and Carl Sunby, who had made the voyage prior to Mr. Thoreson's great adventure.

The Thoresons' first home in Enderlin was in the residence now occupied by Lydia Geske. Martin started to work for the Soo Line at their treating plant in 1906. Eventually he worked into the machinist's trade and in time became a skilled worker in that craft.

Martin obtained his citizen's papers in 1910. He passed away in 1929.

Goldie Olson, the eldest daughter, was 21 years of age at her time of arrival in North Dakota. She had previously had two years of nurse's training in Norway, and at the time of her departure from the "old Country" was engaged to a ship's captain. Goldie remained in Enderlin for a time and eventually went to Chicago where she was employed as a seamstress with Hart, Schaffner and Marx. She returned to Enderlin in 1909 and was married to Emanuel Engstrom Peterson that same year. Mr. Peterson was employed in the Soo Line roundhouse at Enderlin. He passed away in 1916. Three children were born to this union, Edith, Ervin and Gladys.

In 1922, Goldie remarried, to George Olson, and they moved to Liberty Township. Mr. Olson died in May, 1935. Goldie continued to reside on the farm until 1941, when she moved to Enderlin since her son Ervin entered military service at that time.

Mr. Olson and Goldie were the parents of one child, Ramona. During the first year of their marriage, Mr. Olson was a representative in the North Dakota state legislature, representing the 14th legislative district. He was a member of the Nonpartisan League.

In later years Goldie was very active in politics. She was instrumental in helping to organize the "Inger Bronson," an Inner Mission church organization, affiliated with the First Lutheran church.

In reminiscing, Goldie recalls that the family savings were allotted to the tender care of the "Thorson" Bank.

She also notes that "back in those days" the more affluent and important males in the community were Mayor Ole Golberg, Banker Thorson, Doctor Overgard, the Storekeeper Harper, and a Third Ward Alderman—Bert Epker.

F. P. Stowell

My father and mother (Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Stowell) and three children, Rachel, Susan and Edythe, arrived in Tower City on March 12, 1883, from Conway, Iowa. They came on the Northern Pacific. The train was two days late because of bad storms. They were disappointed to see snow three or four feet deep on the prairie, as they had left the green fields of early spring in Iowa. My father hired a livery man with a sleigh to take the family to J. P. Liddle farm, twenty miles to the southwest.

They stayed there a few weeks until they could get into their own house. This five room house had been built on the northeast corner of Section 9, Township 137 (Raritan) in the fall of 1882. It was our home for twenty years. Section 9 was known as "railroad" land. It belonged to my father's aunt, Rachel Stowell Smith. (Mrs. Porter Smith) of Springfield, New York.

My father broke the sod of about 25 acres that summer, and sowed it to wheat and barley. A garden was planted. They were well pleased with the wonderful growth of vegetables on the new soil. A small barn and granary were built.

During the next seven years, three daughters were born in this home: Bessie, Helen and Ruth. All six daughters attended school No. 1, District No. 83. They later attended the State Normal School at Valley City and four graduated. The six sisters all became teachers.

My mother was one of the charter members of the Binghamton Presbyterian church started June 16, 1883.

My father was an officer in the school district and a member of the township board for nearly twenty years. How happy everyone was in 1891 when the Soo Line railroad was completed to Enderlin. Lucca was started. Enderlin became the big town where people could go to trade.

My father rented the farm in 1903, and we moved to Valley City. He died in May, 1911. My mother died in 1940. All six daughters are still living.
Two of the Stowell daughters have lived in Enderlin. Edythe taught here and Mrs. Susan Vance is a long time resident.

An early day teacher in the schools of the area, Susan Vance was supervisor of C.W.A. work during the depression years, worked in the Red Cross during World War I, and initiated the hot lunch program in the Enderlin schools. In addition to this she has done and still continues to do upholstery and tailoring.

Her son, Cyril, now lives in Milwaukee. Her daughter, Harriet (Kapaun) lives at Bemidji, Minn., and Arnold (Esther) Gilmer, Bemidji, Minn., and her granddaughter, Susan, were recognized as the first three generation family at Valley City State College.

The Loomis Family

Walter Loomis came to Buffalo, N. D., in 1891 from Prairie du Chien, Wis. He established Enderlin's first harness shop in the spring of 1892. In 1901 he sold the harness shop and became a grain dealer, owning elevators here until he retired in 1931.

In 1898 he married Hattie Klingbiel and to their family three daughters were born: Mrs. Martin (Wilma) Peterson, Chicago; Mrs. Arnold (Esther) Gilmer, Bemidji, Minn., and Ruth, Escondido, Calif.

Through the years, Mr. Loomis was involved in every facet of community life, filling city offices from village marshall to mayor. An avid baseball player, he managed several early ball teams and, in later years, insisted that they never lost a game while he was at the helm.

Mrs. Loomis was a charter member of the Methodist Church and was an active member of the Eastern Star, and Mr. Loomis was also active in the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Loomis died in 1960 and Mrs. Loomis remained in her home here until 1963 when she moved to Bemidji, passing away there in 1965.

August Pett

Mr. and Mrs. August Pett came to North Dakota in 1899 when their family was partially grown. A son, Otto, had preceded them and was working as a mission pastor of the Iowa Synod in this area, organizing churches at Litchville, Ashley, Fessenden, and other North Dakota communities. They bought a farm in Pontiac Township which is now owned by a grandson, Otto Trapp.

Most of their children soon married and left the area. Ernest served various pastorates in Kansas; Ann married Rev. Brun and followed him to Colorado; August, married August Kottke and they farmed in Pontiac Township before moving to St. Paul. Only Emma (Mrs. Henry Trapp) and Richard, the youngest son, remained in the Enderlin community.

Mr. Pett died in 1895 and Richard took over the farm. He married Matilda Ashbrenner and their children, Emma (Mrs. Seimer Larson), Esther (Mrs. Sherwood Brady), and Arnold were all raised and educated in

Enderlin. Except for short residences in Minneapolis and Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Pett made their home here until their death. Mr. Pett died shortly after their 50th wedding anniversary in 1961 and Mrs. Pett died in 1963.

Matthes Family

August Matthes, Sr., and his brother, William first came to Wisconsin from Germany, but lured by the prospect of free homesteads moved on west to Dakota. They came to Lamoure county where William took up a homestead, but August was not impressed with the area and finally settled in Pontiac Township. He married a girl from the Lebus family and a son, Edwin, was two when his mother died. Mr. Matthes later married Augusta Stange, a widow with four children.

To the second marriage, eight children were born.

During their years on the farm they acquired three sections of land as well as property in Enderlin. Mr. Matthes was active in the Trinity Church and served in Township and school board offices.

He purchased one of the first automobiles in the township, but on his first time at the wheel, found it did not respond to "Whoa", as the horses did. He kept on going until it hit a large wood pile which finally stopped it. Though he owned several cars after that, he never again took the wheel himself.

When his sons were old enough to take over the farm he and his wife retired to Enderlin, where Mrs. Matthes died in 1926. Mr. Matthes died in the farm home of his son William in 1937.

Of their children, August is still living in Fargo, a daughter in Seattle, Washington and Edward lives in Enderlin.

Nels Olson

Nels Olson and his wife, Banta Tykanson and son, Richard, came from Malmo, Sweden, where he was assistant to the veterinarian to the king, to Dakota Territory in the spring of 1880. They had to ferry across a flooded Red River at Fargo to homestead on what is now the Eldon Piper farm, east of Enderlin. Nels walked to Casselton and worked in a feed mill for a time.

On this farm were born Emma (died in infancy), Hannah, Nels, Anna and Oscar C. All these children attended Enderlin school. Nels renting a house in Enderlin during the cold weather where the children "batched."

Nels moved to North Dakota to homestead on what is now the Eldon Piper farm, east of Enderlin. Nels walked to Casselton and worked in a feed mill for a time.

About 1898 Nels moved his family to a farm near the Sheyenne River south and a little east of Lisbon. There a son, Johnnie, was born. While farming along the Sheyenne River, Nels cased a spring, which was rather amusing to the Indians because the river
was right there, but on seeing the water come from the well they, too, began using it. For this favor the Indians began bringing food to the Olson family.

Of Nels Olson’s children, only three are still living: Nels, and Tena Olson Elijah, of Lisbon and Anna Olson Abbott in Oregon. A grandson, Raymond, is sheriff of Ransom County. One son, Oscar, was a long time resident of the Enderlin community.

Oscar C. Olson and Josephine C. Christian­son were married in Enderlin April, 1912, the wedding taking place at the old Stowell house, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Barin­ben. They settled in Moore Township, SE 1/4 Section 12-136-56, and lived in what is now a granary until their home was completed. Oscar was active in community affairs, serving on the township board for several years. They retired from Farming in 1944 and moved to Enderlin at which time their son, Dale, bought the farm. Oscar served on the city council for a few years. Josephine passed away May 24, 1965, and Oscar on February 14, 1966. To this union was born a son, Dale C. November 11, 1919. He married Florence Sveum and they have two sons, Terry Dale, Fargo, and Kurt David, Enderlin, who farms with his father.

The Beard Family

Reuben Beard was born in Castle Downing­ton, England in 1841. Orphaned at an early age, he was cared for by an older sister and apprenticed to a shoemaker as a very young boy. When he was 12 he came to the United States, living in New York, Portland, Maine and Massachusetts. During the Civil War he served in the 16th and 18th Massachusetts Regiments, and was seriously wounded during one of the last battles of the war.

He married Jennie Bratt and with their son, Adelbert, they came to Clifton Township in 1881 and filed on a homestead in the SW ¼ of Section 29 and the NW ¼ of Section 32. His wife died in 1886 and in 1889 he married Alice Warner, a widow with one daughter, Nellie, whose former husband, John War­ner had settled near Sheldon in 1888 and later moved to Clifton Township.

In 1904 the Beards moved to Enderlin, where he built houses in Beards addition and sold them. Several of these are still occupied. At the time of his death in 1932, he was the only remaining Civil War Veteran in Ransom County.

Mrs. Beards daughter Nellie married George Cowan and their daughter Inez (Mrs. Arnold Fraase) still lives in Enderlin.

The Anton Svedjan Family

Anton Svedjan was born in Lavanger, Nor­way in 1872 and came to Enderlin in 1901. He worked for Charles Urhammer, in Liberty Township and for other farmers in the area until 1909, when he married Alice Warner, a widow with one daughter, Nellie, whose former husband, John War­ner had settled near Sheldon in 1888 and later moved to Clifton Township.

In 1904 the Beards moved to Enderlin, where he built houses in Beards addition and sold them. Several of these are still occupied. At the time of his death in 1932, he was the only remaining Civil War Veteran in Ransom County.

Mrs. Beards daughter Nellie married George Cowan and their daughter Inez (Mrs. Arnold Fraase) still lives in Enderlin.

They farmed in Liberty Township until Mr. Svedjan’s death in 1935. Mrs. Svedjan moved to Enderlin and lived here until her death in 1962. Both were active members of the West St. Olaf Congregation.

There are four children, three living in the Enderlin community; Arnold, Gjerdis (Mrs. Ernest Green) Hazel (Mrs. F. W. Petrich) and Ralph, of Fargo.

The Gullickson Family

Ever Gullickson came to Dakota Territory, from Mona, Iowa, in a caravan of covered wagons. At Buffalo, North Dakota he located on a quarter south of the village and built a small house and barn and broke some sod.

He returned home that fall and in February, 1880 brought his bride Agnes to North Dakota, living with friends until spring, when they moved to their claim. His mother Randel, brothers and sisters joined him and filed on adjoining land.

He married Florence Sveum and they have two sons, Terry Dale, Fargo, and Kurt David, Enderlin, who farms with his father.

Fred Kelm

Fred Kelm was born to parents of German descent in a covered wagon somewhere in Cass County. The family was en route to the Enderlin vicinity to homestead. The year was 1882. They settled on land located two miles east and five and a half miles south of Enderlin.

While he was a very young boy his father died, leaving a young widow with five small
children. Fred was raised by some other old settlers, Mr. and Mrs. Schellberg. They lived in the same vicinity.

In 1903 Elise Lade of Germany came to live with her aunt and uncle, the Schellbergs. She came alone and was the only from her family ever to come to America.

Elise and Fred were married in 1904. At this time he purchased the tract of land which became home to the family for 58 years, until the land was bought by their son, Erich, and they moved into Enderlin.

The first home the Kelm's had was a two-room house which is still on the farm site. It became a garage when the present home was built in 1918.

Eight children were born to this couple. They, as many of the pioneer families at that time, shared sorrow with joy in raising their family.

Their first child, a little girl named Irma, died from the dread killer, polio, on her third birthday. She was ill three days. The doctor was called and came with horse and buggy, but at that time there was nothing they could do for that disease. Emma, Mrs. Paul Bordt of Enderlin, was second, then a set of twins. The girl, Mrs. Arthur (Irene) Johnson, lives in Palmar, Alaska, the little boy died at birth. The first son born was Ernest, who now lives in Fargo, then Ernest of Milnor, N. D., Ervin, who died at the age of twelve years from diabetes and complications, and Leslie of Anchorage, Alaska.

The Kelm's were charter members of the Anselm Lutheran church of which Rev. O. H. Schaible is present pastor.

They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1955 and had Fred lived until January, 1965, they would have had their sixtieth anniversary. He passed away November 7, 1964.

Mrs. Kelm is still living in Enderlin with a daughter, Mrs. Bordt.

Mrs. Hilda Larson
The daughter of Mary Hagen and John Lee, she came to North Dakota in a covered wagon train from Fillmore County, Minnesota. Nine families came together. They were a fairly prosperous group, for all of them had horses.

Some families had a few chickens, some a pig or two. The Lee's had two sheep, and from them her mother got wool which she corded, spun and knit into stockings, which she sold in Valley City.

They brought little furniture; just a trunk, kettles, pans, tools and a small camp stove. They settled in Nelson Township, Barnes County. They stayed at Oppenruds until they had sodded up a stable. Along side of it they built a small shanty to cook in but the first winter they slept in the stable with the livestock. Their chairs were tree stumps, a slab from a big log made a table top and the bed frames were made of the same construction, covered with ticks filled with hay.

They built a two story sod house. In winters they often had parties, with dancing downstairs and cards upstairs. They had a plank floor. In the houses with dirt floors, wet sacks were placed on the floor to keep down the dust. One night at the height of the merriment, the ceiling came down. No one was seriously hurt except the fiddler, whose bow was broken.

The first time she came to Enderlin was with her first boy friend. They both worked for Gullick Strand near Lucea. His name was Nels Rud and he had just come over from Norway. He asked countless questions, for he was trying to learn English. The first thing he had to learn was to talk to the horses, for in the old country they had different sounds for "giddap" and "whoa"; and these horses paid no attention to him.

They worked from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. in summer. A man got $10.00 a month and a girl $1.00 per week. On Sunday, he hitched up a horse to the sulky and they drove to Enderlin, where they had ice cream in a little restaurant where Gesellin's bookkeeping service is now.

Her first teacher was Clara Butterfield, an aunt of Mrs. George Adams. There were about ten pupils and they had two terms a year of about three months. In the spring they used to go to the Sheyenne River to wade at recess. Once she was standing on a rock when she noticed the other children were getting farther and farther away. Her rock was a huge turtle, which were numerous along the rivers.

In the winter of 1884 a terrible diphtheria epidemic came. The Stonhoffs lost two children; the Barstads lost three. Three of the Lee children had it. There was no doctor near, but her mother saw a wagon passing far off on the prairie. She jumped on a horse and rode to intercept him, asking that he bring medicine.

He brought cranberries and brandy. The cranberries were cooked and the tart juice was one thing they could get down. She dipped a stick wrapped with cloth into the brandy and used it to swab out their throats. All of them recovered.

In 1901, she married Emil Everson. Their three children were; Joe, of St. Paul, Minnesota, Ernest of Carson City, Nevada and Mabel. Mrs. Carl Hulet, who lived in Enderlin until Mr. Hulet retired a few years ago. All of the Hulet children, Charlotte (Mrs. Vernon Shorter, Fergus Falls, Minnesota) Ardell (Mrs. Holte, Seattle, Washington) Howard, Charles and Robert were raised in Enderlin.

Hilda's husband died while her children were small and in 1919 she married Leonard Larson. During the thirties, Mr. Larson, who was a Soo Line employee, became much worried about bank closings. He determined to take his savings to Minneapolis, where he thought the banks were safe. He drew out his money but never reached a Minneapolis bank. Despite efforts of the Soo Line and law enforcement officials to find him, no trace was ever found, and she believes he was robbed and disposed of in some way.
Mrs. Larson for many years operated a rooming house and is still active and alert. She was 88 on November 4, 1955.

Saun der J. Saunders

Saunders J. Saunders was born October 9, 1886, in Valley City, N. D., the son of A. M. Saunders and Charlotte Johansen Saunders, who came to Valley City in 1884. They came from Norway in 1882 to Milis City, Iowa. A. M. Saunders was the first photographer in Valley City.

Saun was a graduate of Valley City high school and from Valley City State Teachers College in 1906. After graduation he taught in Lidgerwood. On June 16, 1908, he married Clara Pierce of Valley City, and in September of that year they came to Enderlin where he taught seventh and eighth grades and athletics in the city schools until the end of the school year in 1916.

In the fall of 1916, Mr. Saunders became principal of Moore Consolidated School located in Moore township west of Enderlin.

In June of 1917 the Saunders family returned to Enderlin where Mr. Saunders entered the service of the Soo Line railroad, working as clerk in the office of G. S. Baxter, superintendent of this division of the Soo Line, until his death in December of 1934.

When the railroads organized an agricultural department, Mr. Saunders was one of the first members chosen for the agricultural department of the Soo Line. This department was established to interest farmers in purebred stock and better seed grains, potatoes, and other agricultural products. This committee traveled over the state in special trains and with the help of local committees held meetings in the towns to show what could be done to raise the standards of farming.

Mr. Saunders was interested in young people. He was a South master, taught Sunday school, and was a leader in organizations to benefit youth. He was a member of the Board of Education, the Kiwanis Club, Masonic Lodge and the Methodist Church.

There were four children in the Saunders family, Frank, Robert, Mildred and John. Mrs. Saunders moved to Fargo, N. D. in July, 1938. Mrs. Saunders, who is a former North Dakota "Mother of the Year," now lives in Fargo.

The Fetcher Family

E. A. Fetcher spent his boyhood on an 80 acre "stump" farm near Owatonna, Minnesota. With three boys and a girl in their family his parents realized that there was not enough work or income to raise them there. So, in 1880, they loaded their possessions into an emigrant car, moved the rest of their possessions to Buffalo.

Edward Fetcher lived on this farm until his marriage to Anna Kraft in 1891, when they moved to a nearby farm. During this time, the people petitioned for a post office and one was established near the site of the present town of Alice. It was named "Peterson" after a local man and Mr. Fetcher was the first postmaster. The only pay was the fees received for money orders and such services.

In 1898 the family moved to Enderlin, where Mr. Fetcher ran a dray and livery barn. Three daughters were raised in this home; Rose (Mrs. Harry Paulson) Ella, and Violet (Mrs. Reuben Teichman). A fourth daughter, Sadie, died at the age of six months.

Mrs. Fetcher died in 1917 and Mr. Fetcher lived in his home here until 1955, when he went to live with his daughter Rose. His death came in 1956.

The Olous Austad Family

Olous Austad, the son of Lars and Ranghilde Austad, was born on a farm near Hylla, Norway. He married Martha Kjerstan Hellem and they emigrated to America in 1886, coming first to Jackson, Minnesota and then to Enderlin, where they took a homestead. Times were difficult and they had to borrow money from the bank at Lisbon, but improvement of the homestead slowly progressed. Then, one night, tragedy struck, in the form of horses thieves, who stole their horses. This was the end of farming for them.

The family moved into Enderlin. Mr. Austad started an ice business and continued this work until his death about 1917.

The Austads had seven children: Mrs. E. W. Landt, Pasco, Washington; Leo, deceased; Anna (South) Lee, S. D.; Chris, Los Angeles; Carl, Nampa, Idaho; Ralph, Boise, Idaho; and Maude (Christianson) Spokane, Washington.

Rena Austad Landt, who is retired from the Red Cross, entered the primary department of the Enderlin school in its first year and was one of the four first graduates. She is the only living member of the class of 1906, of which she was Senior class president.

Emil Utke

Emil Utke farmed near Alice for some years; later purchasing a farm near Fargo where the family lived for some time. Their family consisted of eight children; Paul and Arnold, Fargo; Agnes, (Mrs. A. J. Kapuan) and Edith, (Mrs. Robert Card), both formerly of Alice and now living in Fargo; Howard, who formerly lived at Enderlin and who died this spring; Hans and an infant, both deceased; and Violet, (Mrs. Ray Fritz) of Enderlin.
The Dagman Family

The first of the Dagman family to come to the United States were John and Christine Dagman, who sailed from Sweden in 1881, bringing with them their children: Carl, Gustav, and Erich Oscar. They came first to Casselton, where they had friends; then purchasing horses, a wagon and lumber, set out for their homestead in Liberty Township, located where the Richard Wolfs now live. That first night they slept on the open prairie, then proceeded to build a small shanty and started breaking the sod.

On this homestead they raised eleven sons and three daughters. The first school was built on the corner of their land where the Richard Wolfs now live. That fall he worked on the Langer farm and remembers cutting bands on the early steam powered threshing rigs and the first self-feeding machines. His wife, the former Myrtle Forrest, died in 1951. Robert lived in Enderlin for some time before moving to the Sheyene Manor in Valley City. His daughter, Hazel (Mrs. C. E. Ondahl) lives at Sheldon and a grandson, Harold Froemke is in business in Enderlin.

CHARLES UFER married Carrie Rischow and they farmed in Watson Township for many years. Charles and his wife had no children of their own, but raised several foster children. An adopted daughter, Lucille, lives in Minot and two foster daughters live in the community: Mrs. Ralph Schatzke and Mrs. Eldon Schatzke.

Among the vivid memories of the early days, he remembers the winter of 1906-07 when the snow was so heavy that chicken barns and lean-tos were broken by the weight of the snow. Between Christmas and New Year a heavy rainstorm made a crust of ice over the snow. The Maple River was completely covered and you could walk or drive anywhere, looking down on houses from the high drifts.

Mrs. Ufer died in 1948 and he has made his home in Enderlin since then. Always interested in community affairs, he served as Secretary of the Watson School and Town Boards for 46 years and as the Secretary of the St. Peter’s Congregation for 28 years. After moving to Enderlin he served two terms as Ransom County Commissioner.

LENA UFER married Ernest Fernow and they farmed west of Enderlin for many years. After his death she moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico, where a daughter lives. Of the five Fernow children, Alma, Laura, Cecelia and Leo, two remained in the Enderlin area. Cecelia (Mrs. Sterling Oliphant) lived in Sheldon and Enderlin and now lives in West Fargo. Leo farms west of Enderlin.

ANNIE UFER married Manfred Hamre and they farmed in Watson Township. After his death she taught school for several years. Now retired, she still lives on the farm, near her son, Glenn. A daughter, Mrs. Marvin Utke, also lives north and east of Enderlin.

Hans Libak

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Libak came to this area from Hamar, Hedmarken, Norway, with their three daughters, Anna, Laura and Hansine. They homesteaded in Preston Township, living with neighbors until their sod house was built.

Mr. Libak was a carpenter by trade and did much work for neighbors. He helped move a building in for a school and helped to build the Preston Church. He also acted
as the song leader until they were able to purchase an organ.

Mrs. Libak was also active in the work of the church as well as caring for her family and helping with field work when needed. Two more daughters were born to them, Lillie and Hilda who died in infancy.

In the early years Lisbon and Fort Ransom were the trading centers. With the coming of the railroad Lucca, Enderlin and Nome were closer.

Their daughters were all educated at Concordia College, except Anna who was not well enough to stay away from home. Mr. and Mrs. Libak are now deceased as are their daughters, Anna and Laura (Mrs. P. J. Mykland). Lillia (Mrs. James Meeker) lives at Aberdeen, S. D. and Hansine (Mrs. John Johnson) is at Nome.

The Jaster Family

Ferdinand Jaster came to the United States sometime between 1865 and 1870 from Ham­mer, Sandkrug, Germany, crossing the ocean in a sailboat. During the voyage they were becalmed for many days with the hot sun beating down on them. They took the sails down and made a shelter over the boat. The wind finally began to blow again and they were able to land in the southern part of the United States, many miles off course. They were then transported to a port of entry in New York.

He found work in Rochester, Minnesota, saving money to bring his wife and children to the U. S. Finally, having earned the amount needed, he sent for his family in 1870. His employer was to send money to Ellis Island so they would have it on arrival. The family arrived to find there was no money for them. Louise Jaster wrote her husband, but when the letter arrived, the employer tore it up and Ferdinand did not receive it. Weeks passed and Louise Jaster was stranded on Ellis Island with her family of three girls: Sophia, Pauline and Alvina, and three boys: Ferdinand, August and Gustave. She finally asked someone how she could be sure her letter would reach her husband and was told to send a special delivery letter. Ferdinand received the letter and was finally able to get his employer to send the money to his family.

The family lived at Rochester for nine years before moving to North Dakota. They came in wagons with all of their possessions. It was the job of the boys to drive the livestock behind the wagons. When they reached Wahpeton the river was flooding and horses and livestock were wading in deep water. The wagons were too heavy to pull through the mud so they unloaded bags of feed at the railroad station to be shipped to a town near where they intended to homestead. Before it was shipped, mules found it and ate some. The rest got wet in the rain and by the time the Jasters picked up the feed at Kindred it was ruined.

Ferdinand and Louise Jaster bought 180 acres of land in Shenford Township from the government for $377 on September 16, 1881 and built a sod house and barn just north of the present building site. In 1885, Gustave Jaster, who was then 21, bought the land from his parents for $625.

In 1886, he married Eliza Nohr. She had come to the Anselm community from Greenleaf, Wisconsin to stay with her brothers, who had homesteaded land near the Jaster farm. Gust and Eliza had five boys and a girl, William and Walter of Enderlin and Levi, of Sheldon. Two boys died at birth and a daughter died when she was four. They adopted a baby girl who died two weeks after they brought her home and also raised a young girl, Mary Feldman.

Gust farmed until 1923, when he retired and died in 1935. His sons, Walter and Levi farmed the land until 1945, when Levi bought the farm.

All of the Jaster sons live in this community. William Jaster, a retired rural mail carrier, married Minnie Doeling. Their two daughters are: Sharon (Mrs. Ken Urbach) West Fargo and Coral (Mrs. Francis Gibson) of Twin Valley, Minn. Walter married Anna Frydenlund an now is retired in Enderlin. Levi married Frances Ludtke and still farms the home farm. Their three children are Gene, of Greensboro, Pa.; LaHayne (Mrs. Robert Reimer) Carrington and Priscilla (Mrs. Stephen Groth) of Enderlin.

LeClaire Family

Benjamin LeClaire was born in Lake Crystal, Minnesota, in 1884. He came to Enderlin in 1905 and has maintained his home here ever since, although as a Soo Line conductor, he has worked on many divisions of the railroad.

He is a life member of the Masonic Lodge in Enderlin, a member of the K. T. No. 8 at Lisbon and El Zagel Temple of Fargo. An avid sportsman, he is a long-time member of the N. D. Wild Life Federation.

In 1910, he married Jennie Hughes of Mankato. Jane, as she is more familiarly known, was the daughter of a Welsh Presbyterian music director and had studied voice under her father, under Mrs. Friederic Snyder and Oscar Siegel. She has taught voice and public school music at Lake Crystal, in the Jamestown schools and Jamestown Academy.

During her years in Enderlin, she has given much time and talent to musical activities of the community, teaching voice and conducting choruses in the public schools, directing choirs in the Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran churches. A member of First Lutheran church, she served as organist for twenty years and was awarded a Life Membership in the American Lutheran Church Women.

She has been a member of Harmony Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star for 55 years and its organist for 30 years, receiving a Life Membership pin and guard in 1961.

A member of the Clio Club since coming to Enderlin, she was one of the women who
organized the first library and worked diligently in its support over the years. She was North Dakota's delegate-at-large to the General Federation of Womens Clubs 1939 convention in Atlantic City.

Active in Red Cross and other community activities, her talent has enriched the cultural life of the town. At the Mankato Centennial and the Centennial of the Welsh Presbyterian church she was cited for giving so generously of her talent in the service of her church and community.

Now retired, Mr. and Mrs. LeClaire maintain their home in Enderlin. They have two children: Benjamin Jr. of Minneapolis and Jean (Mrs. D. J. Aune) of Brainard. A daughter, Lorraine, died in 1919.

**Lewis Larson**

When Lewis Larson got off the train at Enderlin April 14th, 1904, he found a ten foot snowbank in front of the depot. If he had had enough money to buy a ticket back to southern Minnesota he probably wouldn't be here today.

Born in St. Ansgar, Iowa in 1883, he lived at Lyle Minnesota before coming to Enderlin, seeking work in an area where many acquaintances had settled. In 1910 he went to work for the Soo Line and worked as a brakeman and conductor until a broken hip forced his retirement in 1922.

During his years in Enderlin he has been active in the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, the Order of Railway Conductors and the First Lutheran Church. He served as Enderlin's mayor from 1938 to 1942.

Mrs. Larson, the former Selma Nottestad, married him in 1916 and their two daughters were raised and educated here and at Concordia College. They are Doris (Kauschagen) of Buffalo, New York, and Marlys, (Unkenholz) of Washington, D. C.

**The Utke Family**

August Utke was a tailor by trade in his native Germany. Many of his friends and relatives had left for America and, in 1881, he and his wife, the former Augusta Salzwedel, joined the emigration. They had tickets to somewhere in Pennsylvania, where he planned to work as a tailor. Through some error, they were landed at Buffalo, then sent to Duluth. Here they decided to buy tickets to Casselton, where they knew they would find some of their relatives and acquaintances. With their five boys and two girls, they stayed for a short time at the Wm. Krueger house, then moved to their new farm.

With the help of their relatives and friends, a house could be built and broke a few acres of land. The crop was good that year, so the new house was filled with oats, and the new bride could not move into her home until November when the oats were sold.

In 1896, August Utke built a house and barn on the land now farmed by his son Elmer, since he was to be married to Susanna Wolsky. The crop was good that year and Mr. Utke was noted for his energy. He would start for Caselton at 4 a. m. and return at 10 p. m., carrying fifty pounds of flour, covering the distance in a fast walking trot.

**Fred Utke**

Fred Utke was nine years old when his parents came from Germany. In 1896, they built a house and barn on the land now farmed by his son Elmer, since he was to be married to Susanna Wolsky. The crop was good that year, so the new house was filled with oats, and the new bride could not move into her home until November when the oats were sold.

Fred and Susanna Utke raised a family of 11 children: five sons, Otto, Arizona; Martin, deceased; Herbert, Oriska; Ervin and Elmer, Enderlin; and six daughters: Alma and Olga, (Mrs. S. Jochim) both now dead; Emma, (Mrs. Walter Fraase) Buffalo; Caroline, (Mrs. T. K. Herbener) Wisconsin; Ella, (Mrs. Elmer Geske) Enderlin, and Leona, (Mrs. Leroy Butkewich) Lucca.

Fred and his family were all faithful members of the Pontiac congregation of Trinity Lutheran, where he served on the council for more than forty years.

**William Utke**

William Utke married Minnie Fritz on Jan. 31, 1907. They farmed in Pontiac Township all of their lives, where they raised a family of ten children. Like his brother Fred, the William Utke family were active members of the Trinity congregation. He also served on school and township boards.

Their children were: sons Albert, Marvin, Lawrence, Reinhold, Eroy and Dallas; daughters, Palma, Martha, Louise, Myrtle and Lella. Only Marvin now lives in the Enderlin area and still farms his parents' land. Reinhold operated a business in Enderlin for several years and now teaches in the Moonhead, Minnesota schools.

**Frank Utke**

Frank Utke married Anna Westphal, daughter of a pioneer Highland township family. Mr. and Mrs. Utke farmed in Eldred Township as long as they lived. Three children still live in the Enderlin area: Reuben, Clara, (Mrs. Verner Lindenmann) and Lillian, (Mrs. Edwin Luther). The Frank Utke family were members of the Salem Evangelical Church which later merged with the EUB Church.

**Herman Utke**

Herman Utke married Mathilda Burrow. Their farm north east of Enderlin is owned by one of the two living sons of the family: Fred W. Utke. Another son, Ernest, also farms north of Enderlin. Their other children were Anna, Emil, Hulda, (Mrs. Otto Hanson) and Elizabeth, (Mrs. Jess Campbell). Like the
Andrew Jerdee

Andrew Jerdee and his wife Ingeborg Leidal came to Enderlin in 1897 from Madison, Wisconsin. He had lived there since coming from Norway. He found work on the Soo Line at a time when the working day was 10 hours, and the working week was six and sometimes seven, days. His starting wages were 14 cents an hour.

Mr. Jerdee loved gardening, often propagating and crossing fruit trees and won a number of awards from the Agricultural College for his work with fruit trees.

The Jerdees were members of the First Lutheran Church and he was an active member of the Sons of Norway Lodge. Mr. Jerdee was proficient on the accordion and violin. His children and grandchildren inherited his interest in music.

His wife died in 1927 and he in 1940. The Jerdees had five children. Engel, now of Annandale, Minn., and Edward, (deceased), Mrs. William Fischer, Madison, Wisconsin; Mrs. Peter Nygaard and Mrs. George Jankowski, both in Enderlin.

Fred Carter

Fred Carter's parents came to this country from London, England, in 1896 with two sons and settled in Owego Township. Six more sons were born in this country.

The first job Mr. Carter had was working on the section crew for $1.00 a day. He walked six miles to work each morning and home again at night.

A son, Percy Carter, lost his life in World War I and for him the Sheldon American Legion Post is named. His mother was Ransom County's first Gold Star mother.

Mr. Carter died in 1924 and his wife in 1956.

Fred Carter married Hattie Zittelman and they have made their home in Enderlin since 1925. He owned a barber shop and is now semi-retired.

George Solom

George Solom is one of the members of the community who helped to put on the 1941 Fiftieth Anniversary celebration. The son of Peter Solom and his wife, who came to Moore Township in 1881 from Fillmore County, Minnesota, he still farms the original homestead in addition to other holdings. He credits his good health and long life to good fortune and the bracing North Dakota climate.

The Soloms lost two of their children in the diphtheria epidemic of 1894. Only George and a sister, Mrs. S. W. Thorpe, former Enderlin resident, survived.

Mr. Solom was a Federal Marshall during World War I, and served in many church and township positions. He remembers helping to lay out the park in Enderlin. He is a member of the Ransom County Welfare Board and still operates his own farm.

Nora Huseby

Nora Huseby was born in Oslo, Norway, January 6, 1879 and came to America with her parents, Eliot and Inger Anderson and her sister. They arrived in Buttzville in May, 1892, where they met two brothers who had come a few years earlier.

Her father was a carpenter and interior decorator and her mother was a dress maker. The couple had decided to try farming in this country. They settled on the SE quarter of Section 11 in Preston Township.

In the fall of 1893 she moved to Enderlin with the Pete Burtness family, where Mr. Burtness started a store. She did the housework for them and her brother, August Elofson, who worked in the store.

Christmas Eve in 1893 her brother and she borrowed a cutter from Mr. Burtness and started for home, about ten miles west of Enderlin. It had snowed all day and about five o'clock, when they got up on the prairie, it started to storm. The storm intensified and darkness came and they lost. There was nothing to do but keep on driving, hoping to find some farmstead. After some time they saw a light and came to a farm. She doesn't remember the name of the people, but it was the farm where Lorne Lund is now living. They had about four miles left to go and got home about 1 o'clock in the morning. After being in a storm for eight hours, walking much of the time to keep warm, they were very glad to get home.

March 17, 1899, she married Ole Huseby. He was born in Norway in 1862 and came to this country in 1890 with his parents. They came by sail boat and were at sea six weeks and landed at Quebec, Canada. After living in Fillmore County, Minn., he came to Preston Township, Dakota Territory in the 1880's. He passed away in 1939. He was a great nature lover and planted many fruit trees and he lived to enjoy the fruit.

Together they raised a family of ten children, the eldest of whom passed away at the age of eight. It was in February and it was bitterly cold. He became very sick and they took him to Enderlin with horses and sled. They heated stones to take along to keep him warm. He was operated on for appendicitis immediately, but died the next day.

Their daughter, Evelyn (Mrs. Walter Zaske) died in 1938. The remaining children are: Inez (Mrs. August Zaske), Leonard; Helene (Mrs. Lars Birkild), West Fargo; Walter, Fargo; Alfred, James, Edgar, Marvin and Vernon, all in the Nome vicinity.

Mrs. Huseby has lived in the Enderlin vicinity for seventy-four years and on her farm for sixty-seven years. She has seen hail storms, tornadoes, blizzards and droughts (who can forget the 30's?). They have seen good days and bad, she says, but the good outnumber the bad, and she can look back on many good years in this good land, and has many fond memories from over the years of the wonderful friends and neighbors who
have made living here so pleasant.
She thanks God for all the years He has let her live in this vicinity.

Jerry Martin

In the early 1880's a group of of French Canadians, from Goderich, Ontario, left their birthplace and came west to the Dakotas. Jerry Martin homesteaded two and one-half miles northwest of Enderlin-to-be in Pontiac Township. Some of the others in the group settled around Casselton, among them an Irish girl named Nellie O'Neill. In 1884 Jerry and Nellie were married and moved to his farm. To this couple three children were born: William in 1886, Ethel in 1888, and Morgan in 1891.

Nine days after Morgan's birth, Nellie O'Neill Martin passed away, and was buried in Casselton. A kindly neighbor woman, who had a baby at this time, took little Morgan and nursed him.

After her wife's death, Jerry Martin solicited the aid of his sister, Mary, who later became Mrs. Mike Motschenbucker. Mary came to the prairie farm home and was housekeeper for the family for several years.

The family was Catholic. Ethel's formal education came to an abrupt end, when one day she was given a tongue-lashing due to a misunderstanding between the teacher and herself. She was deeply hurt, and refused to go to school. She then took up the duties of housekeeper on a full-time basis.


Ethel (Mrs. Fred Sullivan of Lisbon, N. D.) had two children: Fred Sullivan, Jr., Enderlin, and Mary (Mrs. Tom Cavanaugh) Lisbon, N. D.

Morgan Martin was married to Emilene Bransack and they had one son, Vernon.

Axel Johnson

Axel Johnson was born in Langeland, Denmark in 1885. Feeling that there was no future in Denmark, with wages 1 krone, or 25 cents a day, he came to this country at the age of 15, to St. Ansgar, Iowa, where an uncle, Hans Godfredson, was farming and worked there several years.

When his uncle, Mr. Godfredson, moved to Lucca in 1903, he came with him and in 1908 bought a farm in Pontiac Township.

He married Martha Hanson at Lyle, Minn., in 1912. The Johnsons had four daughters: Evelyn (Wolters), Lisbon; Marion (Wadeson), Alice; Bernice (Griffen), Long Beach, Calif.; Carol (Ness) Moorhead; and three sons, Alton and Vernon, who farm north of Enderlin, and Howard of Kindred.

The Johnsons retired in 1944, moving to Fargo for ten years and then returning to Enderlin where they now live. Long time members of the Congregational Church at Lucca, they are now members of the Methodist Church in Enderlin.

August Freitag

August Freitag came to Sheldon in the summer of 1892, from Brandenburg, Germany. He was accompanied by his mother, Ernes- tine, his wife, Anna, her mother, Grandma Splatzstasser and three children, Elizabeth, Ernest and Gustave.

They worked for the Erbstoesser family in Watson Township. Here Grandma Splatz- stasser died. There were 32 steps over the snowbank to the granary where she laid until they could get to the cemetery to dig a grave.

Martha and Clara were born here. The family then moved to the Dorrance farm north of Sheldon where three more children were born: Emma, Edward and Agnes. Mrs. Frei-
tag used to tell that she walked to Sheldon with butter and eggs for groceries. She also recalled that her friends in Germany quit writing to her because they thought she was lying about their success in the new land—no one could acquire livestock in such a short time.

They lived on a farm north of Enderlin, where Henry was born, before buying the farm four miles east of town which remained in the family until 1963.

Four of the children remained in the Enderlin community. Elizabeth (Mrs. Quast), Martha (Mrs. Langland), Emma (Mrs. Ted Fraedrich), and Gustav are now deceased.

Henry, Soo Line engineer, is married to the former Ida Johnson. They have four sons: Maynard, and Dale, Malta, Mont.; Karl, Port Huenini, Calif.; and Dennis, at home.

Hans T. Olson
Hans T. Olson and his wife Karen came to Mona, Iowa, from Norway before moving to Dakota Territory in 1881. They homesteaded in Section 20 of Liberty Township on the farm now owned by a great grandson, Milton Shelver. Here they lived most of their lives, moving to Enderlin in 1922 upon retirement.

All of their six children are now deceased, but many of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren are in the community. Two daughters-in-law, Inga Olson, wife of their son Oscar, and Goldie Olson, wife of their son George, also make their homes here.

The other children were Fred, Hulda (Mrs. Jacob Shelver), Jennie (Mrs. John Kaber), and Annie (Mrs. Alex Olson).

August Trapp
In 1882, just a year after his brothers, Henry and Paul, immigrated to North Dakota, August Trapp, his wife and two small sons, Emil and Hugo, decided to try their fortune in the new land also.

When they landed in New York, a friendly stranger offered his help, paid their way, and got them started to North Dakota. In a short time the friendly stranger disappeared and with him all their spare cash. They had no money for food for the long trip, and had to rely on the kindness of fellow travelers, who gave children an occasional sandwich, until their brothers met them at Fargo.

August found work as a gardener and choorman on the Watson bonanza farm near Chaffee. In 1890 they moved to a farm in Pontiac Township where they lived four years before buying a farm northwest of Lucca where they spent the rest of their lives, August living to the age of 93.

Six more children were born to them in this country: two infants who died at birth, Otto, Bertha, Emma, and Martha.

Emil, deceased, was a long time N.P. employee at Lucca. His wife, Augusta, (Janz) lives at Lucca with a son, Herbert Trapp.

Hugo, deceased, worked for the Soo Line in Enderlin. His daughters, Emma (Creswell), and Wilma (Mathi), live in Enderlin; Dorothy (Myhre) in Superior, Wia; a son, Lorenz, and a daughter Eleanor (Boeder) in Great Falls, Mont.

Otto, now deceased, was an Enderlin city employee. A daughter, Delores lives in Moorhead, Minn.

Martha (Mrs. Rudolph Koslofsy) died this spring in Valley City.

Emma (Mrs. Albert Janz) lives in Pontiac Township with her sons, Glen and Arnold and daughter, Amanda. Alma (Mrs. Clarence Gross) and a son, Walter, also farm north of Enderlin.

The Golz Family
Herman M. Golz, born in 1848, and his wife, the former Wilhelmina Utke, born in 1853, were married in Germany and came with their family to Pontiac Township in Dakota Territory in 1882.

The Golz family had ten children, two of whom died in infancy. Two sons, Olof and Helmut, and a daughter Olga are also deceased. A daughter, Lydia (Nohr), lives in Minneapolis. The remaining children live in the Enderlin community.

The family were members of the Salem Evangelical Church. Mrs. Golz died in 1941 and Mr. Golz in 1941, at the age of 93.

The only remaining son, Walter, farms with his family northeast of Enderlin.

Anna married Charles Heacox in 1909. Mr. Heacox was a farmer and carpenter and they lived two miles south of Enderlin. She recalls that for two years, from 1946 to 1948, she walked to the Methodist Church every Sunday and did not miss a worship service for twenty months, when illness forced her to miss. Since her husband's death, she has lived in Enderlin.

She has two sons: Gordon, of Lisbon and Lloyd, of Bremerton, Washington.

Martha Golz Wendlandt, lives on a farm in Pontiac Township with her son, Vernon, Helena Golz married Herman Westphal in 1905 and they farm in Highland Township until his death in 1926. She and her sons, Merlin and Edwin, operated the farm until 1925, when Merlin was killed in an accident.

She moved to Enderlin and in partnership with a brother-in-law, Arthur Westphal, opened the Enderlin Implement shop. The business was sold after his death in 1957.

She is a member of the EUB church and served as a delegate to their annual conference five times. She is also a past president of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

The Johnson Family
Lewis (Lars) Johnson was born in Norway in 1853 and homesteaded in Moore Township in 1885, a half mile south of the present Dale Olson farm. A few years later, he purchased
the farm now owned by his grandson, James Johnson.

In 1892, he married Oline Svensdahl. To them were born six sons and two daughters: Palmer, Eddie, Charles and Gerhard, now dead; Theodore and Raymond, both of Enderlin. Alma (Mrs. Arthur Fernow), Enderlin; and Mabel (Moll), Barnesville, Minn.

They were long-time members of the West St. Olaf Church. Mrs. Johnson died in 1930 and Mr. Johnson about ten years later. They spent their last years with their daughter Mabel and son Palmer.

Erick Rognaldson

Erick Rognaldson was born in Fillmore County, Minnesota, in 1859. He married Christine Helgeson at Lanesboro, Minnesota in 1882 and that spring they came to a homestead in Moore Township. This was to be their home for the rest of their lives.

The Rognaldsons were charter members of the Fillmore Church and she was the first president of its Ladies Aid. Their children numbered nine: Martin, Enderlin; Harley, Great Falls, Montana; Elder, Fargo; Clara Rosberg), Seattle, Washington; Rikka (Catheline), deceased; Ida (Matthews), Minneapolis; Elvina (Frydenlund), Enderlin; Gertrude, deceased; and Alice (Gledt) of Seattle.

Mr. Rognaldson died in 1922 and his wife in 1937. The homestead is now owned and farmed by his son, Palmer.

Ole Moe

Ole I. Moe was born in Rengebua, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, in 1872. He first came to the Enderlin area in 1891 to work on the Wallace Galbreath farm.

He married Inanda Nord at the old Lutheran parsonage south of Enderlin in 1897, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Jehovah. The Moes were members of the West S. Olaf Church and farmed in Liberty Township until retiring to Enderlin, where they were cared for by their daughter, Mathilda (Mrs. Orrin Knutson) until their deaths. Mr. Moe died in 1946 and Mrs. Moe in 1952.

Their only son, Ingvald Moe, still farms in Liberty Township.

The Flatt Family

Johnathan Lloyd (Mike) Flatt was born on the farm he still operates five miles east of Enderlin. His parents came to the area before 1880, from Canada, as did those of his wife, the former Reo Lillecrop, whose parents settled in the Jenksville settlement. The Flatts purchased a homesteader's pre-emption rights to the Flatt farm in 1882.

Mike attended NDSU, served in the army during World War I and worked in the Farmer's State Bank in Sheldon for four years before taking over the farm in 1924. He has farmed continuously since then. During these years he served twelve years in the North Dakota Senate, from 1929 to 1931.

The location of the farm has insured a wealth of experience with motorists in the ditch, out of gas, inebriated or lost.

The Flatts have five children. John Roger, Douglas Willard, Betty (Mrs. Charles Corwin), Nancy and William James, who farms in partnership with his father.

The Klingbeil Family

Julius Klingbeil and Amelia Krueger came to America with a group of relatives from Germany in 1882. The Petrichs, Krafts, Utzes and Bleses came on to Dakota Territory while the Klingelis stopped in Detroit, Michigan until 1893.

He was trained as a carpenter and carriage maker and built many early homes and business places about the town. After some years, he went to work for the Soo Line, where an accident in the yards cost him his life.

His widow helped to support her family by taking in boarders and doing practical nursing, and became something of a local institution. She was always available when help was needed.

There were six Klingbeil children: Hattie, Mary, Anna, Ida, Alvina and Fred. Two daughters, Hattie (Mrs. Walter Loomis) now deceased, and Mary (Mrs. G. A. Nelson), who lives with a son, George, have spent their entire lives in this community.

The Munt Family

John Munt was born in England, in 1857, and, in 1875, emigrated to America where he was employed by the Pillsbury mills in Minneapolis. The demand of the newly settled country for mills to grind its wheat lured him westward; first to Litchfield, Minnesota, where he married Margaret Meisenberg, then to Fort Ransom and later Lisbon, where he owned a feed mill.

In 1901, he purchased the Wisner mill, located near the stockyards in Enderlin. This mill was destroyed by fire in 1906, but Mr. Munt established a new mill, located in the block where the Fred Menge now stands. He operated this until his death in 1923.

Mrs. Munt continued to make Enderlin her home, living with a daughter, Angeline, until her death in 1948. At that time, Angeline moved to Los Angeles. Three sons are also dead: Raymond, Ralph, and Vernon, who died in February of this year. The only member of the family now living in Enderlin is Mary (Mrs. B. H. Lindeman).

The Nord Family

Charles A. Nord was born in 1850 in Brandvold, Solar, Norway. He married Bertha Engen in May, 1887 and migrated to America to settle on a farm in Moore Township. With them came three children: Arne, Jennie and Charles. Three more children, Calmer, Bertha and Alfred, were born in America.

They experienced all the trials common to those pioneers who came with little money or property to establish themselves in a new country.
They helped organize and build the present
West St. Olaf Church, of which Mr. Nord served
as a trustee for a number of years. The
Nord home was a center of community ac-
tivity; the first Luther League was organized
in this home as was the first community base-
ball team. Another community contribution
was a yearly July 4th celebration at the Nord
farm.
They lived to celebrate their Golden Wed-
ding on March 13, 1923, at which all of their
family were present. Mrs. Nord died on Dec.
14, 1927, and Mr. Nord on May 27, 1940.
Of the children of the family, Jennie (Mrs.
George Peterson), Bertha (Mrs. Norman Pet-
erson), Calmer and Arne are deceased.
Arne Nord married Ruth Beck and spent
his life in the Enderlin community, moving
into Enderlin upon retirement. His son Lyle,
is the third generation to farm the Nord
homestead. Their two daughters are: DeLois
(Mrs. Wm. Carlson), Fort Collins, Colorado;
and Hilma (Hill), both of Lisbon and Alma (Mrs. Leslie Legg)
who makes her home in Enderlin.
Charles Nord married Ella Green and they
still make their home on a farm in Moore
Township.
Alfred Nord married Isabel Walsh. They
farmed for many years in Moore Township
before retiring to Enderlin. Their children are:
Blythe (Mrs. Vic Hanson), Carrington;
Mavis (Mrs. Phil Hager) Wilmar, Minnesota;
Alfred Jr., and James, both of Enderlin; Jerome,
Dilworth, Minn.; and Kent, Wahpeton, N. D.

The Dvergsten Family
Peter Dvergsten was born in Norway in 1866.
He came first to Kindred and then moved
to McLeod, where he married Magda
Sagvold in 1890. They moved to Enderlin in
1910, where he worked for the Soo Line as a
car inspector until retirement. Both are now
deceased.
The Dvergstens raised two children, Arnold,
who died May 29, 1925, and Hilma (Hill), both
of Enderlin, and an adopted daughter, Marie,
(Mrs. James Sullivan), Redding, California.
They were members of the old Zion Lutheran
Church.

The Albert Larson Family
Albert E. Larson was born in 1866, in Al-
amakee County, Iowa. He spent some time
as a young man working in a logging camp,
but after his marriage to Karen Monserud,
in 1891, he started to farm.
In 1903, the Larsons purchased a farm from
the Ransom County Immigration Association.
This was the old Peter Austad homestead,
which he named "Center Farm" in memory of
his home township in Iowa, and because it
was halfway between Sheldon and Ender-
lin.
Here they raised their family of three sons
and four daughters. They are: Alf N., of
Enderlin; Philip, who died in World War I,
Sedmer, of Vancouver, Washington; Alice
(Mrs. Elmer Langland), Detroit Lakes, Min-
nesota; Luella (Mrs. Glen Cole), deceased;
Emilie (Mrs. Bert Steeland) Eugene, Oregon;
and Hilma (Mrs. Frank Helmer) of Fargo.
The Larsons were members of the West
St. Olaf Church and Mr. Larson served on
school and township boards during his days
on the farm. They retired to Enderlin in
1932, where they spent the rest of their lives.
Alf Larson operated the family farm after
his father's retirement. He now lives in
Enderlin, and his sons John and Chester oper-
ate the farm. Alf has served as Ransom
County Commissioner and has been active
in the Soil Conservation activities in North
Dakota.

The Engen Family
Arne Engen and his wife, Maria Smestad,
both born in Norway, came to this area,
where they were pioneer farmers, in 1877.
Mr. Engen and Ole Christianson were
brothers. Ole added "son to his father's
name; Arne took the name of the farm in
Norway from which he came.
Both Mr. and Mrs. Engen are deceased.
They had three daughters: Mollie (Mrs. Ed
Gunderson) and Inga (Mrs. Peter Risdahl),
both of Lisbon and Anna (Mrs. Leslie Legg)
who makes her home in Enderlin.

The Syverson Family
Thore and Karina Syverson were married
at Lanesboro, Minnesota in 1879. The follow-
ing spring, they came to Dakota Territory, ar-
iving in Moore Township in June 12, 1880,
to take the first claim in the township. Some
reminiscences of those first days may be
found elsewhere in these pages.
The Syversons had three children: Albert,
Mary (Torbenson) and Millie (Nelson) Breck-
enridge, Minn., Tore Syverson died in 1941
and Karina in 1949. They made their home
in Enderlin in their later years.
Their son Albert married Inga Braaten and
farmed in Moore Township all of his life.
Their sons, Alfred and Clarence, now farm
the Syverson land. Their daughters are Ber-
tha (Berger) of Fort Ransom and Lillian
(Hackney) of Breckenridge, with whom Mrs.
Syverson makes her home since the death of
her husband in 1944.

The John Larson Family
John Larson and his wife, Anna, came to
this area in 1903. His brother, Joseph and
family came at the same time and bought
the adjoining farm, both brothers having
formerly lived at Fairfield, Iowa.
As a former Iowan, Mr. Larson grew lots
of corn in which the whole family turned
out to pull, by hand, the mustard and wild
oats left between the rows. A skilled corn
husker, he picked his corn by hand.
He died in 1923, but his wife, now 88, is
still living on the farm. Mrs. Larson recalls
the days of the horse thief, when, having
purchased groceries in Sheldon one Saturday
night, they came out to find their horse and
buggy musing. Nearly a month later, the sheriff called from Nortonville to say that a horse had been found that fitted the description of their animal. When Mr. Larson walked into the barn, she recognized his voice and whimmed, proving the guilt of the couple who had taken her. They had used the rig to pick up sacks of seed grain laid along the edge of the fields by farmers while seeding, and sold them to the elevator there.

The Larsons had two children: Clarence, and Ethel (Mrs. Alfred Froemke) with whom Mrs. Larson makes her home.

The Kraft Family

Augusta and Ferdinand Kraft came to America at the urging of her brother, Wilhelm Krueger. This one man was responsible for populating much of the area north of Enderlin. He settled at Chaffee in the late ’70’s and wrote such glowing letters of the promise of America that his relatives, friends and neighbors packed up and started for the promised land. Mrs. Bleese and Mrs. Petrich were also his sisters; Mrs. Lindemann was a sister of Mr. Petrich; Mrs. Klingbell, a cousin of Henry Bleese.

Most of them stayed at the Krueger farm at Chaffee—campaing out and sleeping in the granary—until they could locate claims farther west, for the land near Chaffee was already settled.

The Krafts had four children when they arrived in America in 1882: Anna (Fetcher), Henry, Millie (Krueger), and Minnie (Ernst). They stayed at the Krueger home until they could move to their claim north of Enderlin.

Ferdinand and Augusta Kraft had seven more children were born on this farm: Frank, Ida (Gardner), Ferdinand, Emil, Carl, Fred and Emma (Mrs. Herschel Dillon). Mrs. Dillon, widow of a long-time Soo Line employee, is the only one of the children still living.

Originally members of the Salem Evangelical Church, of which Mr. and Mrs. Kraft later joined the Methodist Church in Enderlin. Mr. Kraft died in 1894 while his wife lived until 1930.

Henry Kraft, the oldest son, took over the home farm. In 1903, he married Anna Dennis and they lived on the homestead until they retired in 1941.

Henry served as Sunday School Superintendent of the Methodist Church for 25 years, as a clerk of Pontiac Township and school board director. A member of the I.O.O.F. Lodge for 35 years, he held all offices. Mr. Kraft died in 1961 and Mrs. Kraft in 1962.

A son, Edward, still farms the homestead. Their children are: Vera (Mrs. Elsenpeter), Minneapolis; Mrs. Klingbell, a cousin of Henry Bleese; Freda (Mrs. Reman Stangler), Alice; Fred (Mrs. Frank Elsenpeter), Anaheim, Calif.; Arnold, Grand Forks, N. D.; Walter, Fullerton, Calif.; and Emilie (Sinclair) Puyallup, Wash.

The Larsons had two children: Clarence, and Ethel (Mrs. Alfred Froemke) with whom Mrs. Larson makes her home.

The Petrich Family

Freidrich Petrich and his wife, the former Anna Kueger, came from Zotten, Prussia to Chaffee, to the home of her brother, William, in 1882. The Petrichs had five children, two of whom had died in Germany. Accompanying them were a daughter, later to become Mrs. Matthesenbacher, and two sons, Herman and Reinhold.

They filed on the homestead a mile north of the present site of Enderlin, among others from their home community who had settled here. Mrs. Petrich died in 1913 and Mr. Petrich in 1921.

Their two sons continued to farm in the Enderlin community as long as they lived. Herman Petrich served as the treasurer of Pontiac Township for fifty years. The Herman Petrich farm is now owned by Eidon Schatzke. His children were: Otto and Hugo, now dead; Gertrude (Mrs. Matt Elsenpeter), Enderlin; Theodore, Onamia, Minnesota; Margaret (Mrs. Roman Stangler), Alice; Fred (Mrs. Frank Elsenpeter), Minneapolis; Mrs. Casper Peterson, McLeod, N. D.; and Kurt, in California.

Reinhold Petrich married Amelia Fraedrich. They farmed the Petrich homestead until his death in 1934. The farm is now operated by his son, Fredrich (Fritz). Other children are: Vera (Kersten), Anaheim, Calif.; Arnold, Grand Forks, N. D.; Walter, Fullerton, Calif.; and Emilie (Sinclair) Puyallup, Wash.

The Wadeson Family

John Wadeson was born in Engleton, Yorkshire, England in 1837. There he married Ane McCalfe in 1841. They came with their family to the United States in 1880, settling in Eldred Township, near the present town of Alice. Their youngest child, Lillie was the first white child born in the township. A few years later, they bought land half a mile west of the site of Alice, in Clifton Township. The Peterson post office was located on their farm.

The Wadesons raised a family of nine: Harry, John, William, James, Ben, Robert, Jane Ann, Margaret and Lillie. Four of their sons took homesteads in the community and established families whose descendants are still living in this community. Mrs. Wadeson died in 1908 and Mr. Wadeson in 1912.
James Wadeson, born in 1866, married Augusta Johnson, who had come to Casselton from her native Sweden. They homesteaded in Clifton Township on the farm now operated by Albert L. Leidahl. They raised six children: Walter, formerly of Lucca but now retired and living in Fargo; Harry, a long-time legislator from Cass County's 11th District and a Clifton Township farmer; Francis, who also farms near Alice, Marnie (Pommerer), Valley City; Marjorie (Mercer), Seattle; and Oscar, now retired and living in Enderlin, who during his years of farming had a long record of service on AAA, ASC and other farm community programs.

Robert Wadeson had two sons: George, who was killed in a tragic accident at the crossing of the Northern Pacific railroad and U.S. 16 near Casselton, and William (Booster) who farmed near Alice until his death in 1955.

Ben Wadeson’s only son Wesley, who operated his father’s farm, lost his life in an automobile accident in 1963. None of his four daughters: Hazel, Delia, Daisy and Rhoda now live in this area.

William Wadeson worked as a young man as a cook on the Dalrymple farm at Casselton.

In 1883, he bought the farm in Clifton Township known as Grove Hill farm, now owned by his son John Charles. He married Emma Johnson at Casselton in 1901. To them were born eight children, four of whom died in infancy. Three daughters; Anne, Carrie, and Louise have left the area. His son, John Charles and his wife, Rhea, still live on the family farm.

Petri and Ingrid Austad

In order to earn his passage from Norway to America, Mr. Austad repaired and maintained the sailing masts on the ship on which he came. He was sixteen. The journey took over three months and the year was 1865. He came to Cresco, Iowa, where he worked as a cabinet maker and carpenter and where he met and married Ingri Holien who had also come from Norway. In 1868, they left Iowa and came to Dakota Territory where they lived until they retired to the village of Alice. Five other of their eight children live in the community—Joe, Gus, Julius, Mary (Mrs. Joe Schmidt), and Selma (Mrs. Fred Mikula).

Espen P. Groth

Espen P. Groth was a native of Norway and born November 30, 1866. He came to America as a young child. Bertha Reveling had come from Sweden during her early years. Espen of Mona, Iowa and Bertha of Adams, Minn., were married on Thanksgiving Day November 27, 1887 in Mona, Iowa. Espen worked as a blacksmith and a butcher at Lyle, Minn. During the spring of 1898 they moved to the farm home four miles west, three miles south and one mile west of Enderlin. The farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gilmur Rovold. Upon arriving, the family, which included five children at that time, fell in love with the Fillmore Lutheran Church in Moore Township. Espen was active on the telephone board, Farmers Elevator and Farmers store. Fourteen children were born to them and nine grew to adulthood in this community. They would be remembered as Archie, Perrie, Earlie, Abbie, Orrie, Harvie, Rubie, Endie and Bessie. Five of the sons at one time farmed in the area. Those surviving at this time are Perrie at Fairbault, Minn., Earlie at Lisbon, N. D., Orrie of Tacoma, Washington, Abbie of St. Paul, Minn., and Endie at Brainerd, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Groth spent their remaining years in the Enderlin area until their deaths. Mrs. Groth passed away in 1942 and Mr. Groth in 1950.

The Frank Hartl Family

Frank Hartl is the oldest son of Julius and Amelia Hartl, who emigrated from Michaelsdorf, Czechoslovakia, and were married at Casselton in 1887. They took a homestead the same year in Clifton Township, where they lived until they retired to the village of Alice. Five other of their eight children live in the community—Joe, Gus, Julius, Mary (Mrs. Joe Schmidt), and Selma (Mrs. Fred Mikula).

Frank Hartl was born in 1888, and married Christine Schmidt at Waterville, Minnesota, in 1915. He brought her to the family farm in Clifton Township where their seven children were raised. They were active members of St. Henry’s Catholic Church and Mr. Hartl served as clerk of the Clifton School district for 40 years. Mrs. Hartl died in 1964, and Mr. Hartl still resides on the home farm.

Three sons, Harold, Francis and Clarence, still live in the Alice community. Their daughters are Loretta (Mrs. Jim Pfeiffer), Buffalo; Dorothy (Mrs. Franklin Liebenow), Chaffee; Beatrice (Mrs. Leonard Kirchoff), Valley City; and Marlene (Mrs. Alveri Schlagel), Lucca.

Albert Leidahl

Albert L. Leidahl was born at Albert Lea, Minn., in 1881 and lived in Milbank and Lyle, Minn., while growing up. This is his account:
"In 1902, an old friend, O. O. Golberg, came back from Enderlin. He was an agent for the Ransom County Immigration Association, and he sold me 280 acres of land just northeast of Enderlin for $16 an acre.

"In the spring of 1903, I brought an immigrant car with horses, seed, and machinery to Enderlin, the trip taking three days. I first stayed at the Hans Fretland home for $3 a week board and room. There were three young women living there also. Two had just come from Norway. One was named Sena and she did housework for Mrs. Fretland until Fred Maley came along and married her.

"The next year I batched in a small house where D. B. Grice now has his home. In 1905 I went back to Lyle and was married, bringing my wife to live in a house southeast of town owned by Don Murphy. In 1910 I built a new home on the farm—we were so close to town we were soon able to have electric lights.

"I was a member of the Sons of Norway Lodge. We used to hold meetings above the old Sathers Harness Shop.

"My wife died in 1952—our two sons both live in Enderlin where Kenneth still farms the home farm, and Emmett works for the Soo Line."

The Geske Family

Gottlieb and Caroline Geske immigrated to Marathon County, Wisconsin, from Germany in 1867. Their sons were to look westward when they grew old enough to start out on their own.

August Geske, Sr., was the first to come to North Dakota. In 1888, in the Pontiac Church, he married Pauline Kunst, daughter of a family who had migrated from Lutske, Russia. Their funds depleted, they stopped in St. Louis, where she and her sisters, Louise (Mrs. Christian Wolsky), Caroline (Mrs. Gottlieb Spitzer), and Augusta (Mrs. Edward Fraase), first found work in a factory, making cigars. By next year the family had accumulated enough to complete the trip to Dakota, settling near Sheldon.

Mr. Geske bought the farm in Pontiac Township where his son Emil still lives, and they raised their family. The children are Otto, deceased; Emil, Enderlin; August, a Lutheran pastor in Iowa; Frieda (Mrs. Borchert), Streeter, N. D.; Alma (Mrs. Otto Fritz), Amnandale, Minn.; Emma (Mrs. John Wegner), Wymore, Neb.; and Martha (Mrs. Whitaker), Atascadero, Calif.

Mr. Geske died in 1930 and his wife in 1958. Gottlieb Geske followed his brother, August, to North Dakota in 1899, bringing with him his bride, the former Mathilda Dehn. The first summer he farmed with his brother, then rented the Gust Oehlke farm adjoining Enderlin, which he farmed for five years.

He purchased several farms in the Enderlin community, the one where the family lived for most of their years being the present Clinton Leibenow farm. He retired in 1946 and moved to Enderlin.

A member of Trinity Lutheran Church, he acted as custodian for many years. After his death, his wife continued to make her home in Enderlin with a daughter, Lydia.

Other children include Arthur, Minneapolis, Minn.; Elmer, Enderlin; Edna (Mrs. Finger); and Viola (Mrs. Bielke), St. Paul, Minn.

The last of the Geske brothers to come to Enderlin was Emil, who arrived in 1901 with his wife, the former Hanna Bude, and their family. They purchased a farm in Pontiac Township which he farmed until retiring to Enderlin, when his son August took over the farm. It is now operated by his grandson, Robert Geske.

Mrs. Geske died in 1944 and Mr. Geske in 1955. Their children are Francis (Mrs. Stelter), Wisc.; Ada, Enderlin; Mollie, a former Enderlin teacher, deceased; and August, of Enderlin.

The Torfin Family

Dan Torfin was born in Waukon, Iowa in 1856. He was orphaned at twelve and came to Dakota Territory when he was twenty in a covered wagon train with a group of relatives who settled near the present site of Sheldon. Too young to file for a homestead, he worked the first summer on the Dalrymples' farm near Casselton.

That winter he lived with Knute Grusland near Casselton before moving to Jenksville, nine miles away. When they got there, there were ten ahead of them and only fifty pounds of flour in stock, so they were forced to go on to Buffalo for supplies.

When he reached 21, he took a preemption claim in Green Township where he lived until he retired from farming. He married Julia Mickels at Casselton in 1884 and brought her to the claim shanty.

Mr. Torfin served on the township and school boards, as a director of the Moorhead and Liberty Telephone Company and one term in the North Dakota Legislature. He died in 1931.

Dan and Julia Torfin had a family of ten children: Edwin, Anna Albert, Dora, Clara Julia, Alma, Henry Roy, Mabel and Walter. Two of the children still make their home in the area. They are Mabel (Mrs. Clark C. Howell) of Sheldon and Roy, who farms the family homestead.

Roy married Elfred Gaarder, who was raised and educated in Enderlin. They have one daughter, Mrs. Paul Speikermeyer.

Thomas Baribeau

Thomas Baribeau started his Soo Line career as a call boy in 1904. It was during this time that, coming through the alley where the Grand Theater now stands, in the early morning, he heard an explosion in the Post Office, and saw two masked men leap on hors-
es and ride out of town, never to be apprehended.

In 1906, he started working as a brakeman and worked for the Soo Line for 54 years as a brakeman and conductor. In the first years, there were no work laws and men often worked 30 hours at a stretch.

In 1913, he married Mary Byrnes, a native of Prince Edward Island, Canada, who had come to Enderlin to teach. She recalls that in these days, the Brotherhood dances were gala affairs, with formal dress and men were not allowed to attend without a girl. Girls were sometimes in short supply and a girl would be lifted out of a window to bring another fellow in. Since Mary was small, this procedure fell to her.

Mary Baribeau was an active Democratic party worker for many years, serving as N. D. Women's Chairman during the time of Governor John Moses. She served on the Ransom County Welfare Board for many years also.

The Baribeaus have two sons: William, of Valley City and Robert, of Lusk, Wyoming. They are members of the Catholic Church and continue to make their home in Enderlin since his retirement.

The Baribeau-Robarge family came to North Dakota from Connecticut, in 1891, where Mr. Baribeau was a watchmaker. They took a homestead of Bottineau. Five months later, the father died of a ruptured appendix. The widow, Malvina, married Charles Robarge, a pioneer engineer and thresherman in this area, and in 1894 they established a permanent home here, where he operated threshing rigs for many years. He made their home in Enderlin. He died May 20, 1966. He was a veteran of World War I, a member of the American Legion post in Enderlin and of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

The solution they reached was to build a house in Enderlin, where seven of the eight children graduated from high school, the oldest son attending school in Wisconsin. The children were George, Reynold, Albert, Ed, Will, Elsie, Ella and Peter. The house was built in 1896 and is now the Leonard Peterson home. Here they spent their winters, going home each weekend to replenish their supplies, sometimes by buggy, sometimes by bicycle and sometimes via Soo Line.

Most of the children were also able to finish college. The family produced three doctors, a pharmacist, a geologist and a teacher. Albert Shunk, who worked for the United States Geological Survey and was later head of the United States Land Office in Billings, wrote a delightful history of his family and neighborhood, which gives a wealth of detail about pioneer life in the area. It has been a valuable reference while working on this history.

Eisie Shunk (Mrs. Herman Scheel) taught rural school before her marriage, going back to teaching for some years during World War II. She and her husband are now retired and make their home in Enderlin.

The Kaber Family

Albert and John Kaber and their sister Susan (Brandthover) came to Dakota Territory from Oil City, Pennsylvania, in 1881, and took claims in Moore Township. Susan later moved to Lisbon. During those first years, when equipment was scanty and grain had to be hauled to Tower City to market, more income was made from trapping the mink and muskrat that abound in the sloughs than from farming.

When the town of Enderlin was built, Albert Kaber traded part of his land for the land which now makes up Kaber's Addition to the city. He operated an early day restaurant for a time, returning to the farm when it was destroyed by fire. He moved back into town in 1900 and served as an alderman for many years. He also donated to the city the land on the water-tower hill which is used for recreational purposes.

Albert Kaber married Emma Wick and they raised a family of four sons: Ellis, Walter, Howard and Lewis. Only Ellis, of Enderlin, is now living.

Ellis Kaber married Theresa Jacobs, whose parents came to Enderlin from Clara City, Minnesota. They farmed in Moore Township before moving to Enderlin. Their children are: Mae (Mrs. Lester Langland) and Robert, of Enderlin; Dorothy (Mrs. Lloyd Brown), of Fargo; Jean (Mrs. Richard Loomer), of Minneapolis; and George who owns a restaurant in Enderlin.

John Kaber and his wife the former Jennie Olson farmed in Moore Township until 1930 when they moved into Enderlin. Both are now dead. They had one adopted son, Russell, who lives in Wadena, Minnesota.

The Zittelmann Family

Fred Zittelmann and his wife, the former Albertina Repp were married in Berlin, Germany, and came to this community in 1882.
They settled in Casey Township where they farmed for the rest of their lives. Among the most vivid memories they had of the pioneer days were two emergency operations performed on the kitchen table by Dr. Wyrens, of Sheldon. Both occurred at a time when the roads were blocked so badly with snow that the farm could not be reached by team and he had to make part of the journey on foot.

The Zittelmanns had four children: Fred, deceased; Alvina (Mrs. Lew Froemke), of Glen-dale, Cal.; Albert, who farmed the family land until his retirement and who now lives in Fargo, and Hattie (Mrs. Fred Carter) of Enderlin.

Mrs. Zittelman died in 1930 and her husband in 1936. They were members of the Trinity Lutheran congregation at Ansebo.

The Sanness Family

Tom Sanness was born in Norway. Before coming to Sheldon, in 1884, he had been, among other things, an agent for the White Star Steamship Line, making several crossings with them and visiting a number of European capitals as their representative. When the urge to travel brought him to Dakota Territory, he found work in the Goodman store in Sheldon and there met Annie McLean, of Nova Scotian ancestry, who made her home with them. They married and moved to Enderlin when Goodman and Sanness opened the first store in the town.

They had three children: Homer, who died in 1908; Ada and Earl, who might be termed Enderlin's first citizens, for they still own and live above that original store building on Railway Street.

Mrs. Sanness died when her children were small. Mr. Sanness purchased the Goodman interest in the store and operated it for sometime, later selling it to his brother, Leif, who in turn sold it to E. H. Bruhn.

Earl and Ada Sanness have been part of the Enderlin scene for its entire history. Earl was the first city mail carrier, resigning to serve in the army during World War I. After the war he worked for a time as a clerk at the depot, then went into the post office. He was appointed Postmaster when C. C. Chamberlain resigned and held that position for 12 years. Ada also worked for many years in the post office.

Earl is a charter member of the Enderlin Legion post and has served on the Enderlin Park Board since 1939.

The Underwood Family

Fred Underwood was born on a farm in Cass County, Michigan, the area from where so many of the early Sheldon pioneers came. He came to Sheldon in 1883. That spring he helped to break sod near the present site of Enderlin, where great accumulations of buffalo bones had to be removed.

He turned his hand to many activities, as a hardware clerk, a store owner, an implement dealer, a rural school teacher, and in 1896, moved from Sheldon to Enderlin to become cashier of the Enderlin State Bank. The next year he opened a real estate and business service office which he owned for the rest of his life.

He was an intensely political and civic-minded man, who is credited with initiating the organization of the city and of the Enderlin Special School District 22. He served on the school board, the park board, in the North Dakota Legislature, and a record 42 years as Police Magistrate of the city.

In later years, he recalled that he and his wife-to-be, Marie Shurlock, sat in a buggy near the south edge of town and watched the rails being laid down the hill into Enderlin, one fall day in 1891.

Mr. and Mrs. Underwood were the parents of four children: Lt. Col. Joe Underwood, Veon, Wayne, and Wanda, who was the only member of the family to remain in Enderlin.

Wanda Underwood and Charles Cable, a railway mail clerk, were married in 1918. They made their home in Enderlin until her death in 1957. The Cables were very active in the Methodist Church and a fellow member remarked, in speaking of him, that he had never heard him say a mean word or lose his temper over anything. He spent his last years at the Odd Fellows Home at Devils Lake. He died in 1964.

There are three Cable children: Ruth (Mrs. Maynard Klier), Babee, N. D.; Dean, of Phoenix, Arizona, and Kent, who is the local editor.

COL. W. F. McILVAIN was a Civil War veteran who came to Enderlin from Cassopolis, Michigan. He farmed in Liberty Township very successfully and was a federal inspector of homestead land. He became the first Commandant of the Odd Fellow's Home at Lisbon when it was established.

He returned to Enderlin in 1904 and lived here until his death; always active in public affairs, and with a particular interest in the school system. He served as a member of the Enderlin school board for a number of years. The McIlvain home is now the J. Roy Peterson Funeral Home.

C. H. POTTER, founder of the Ransom County Independent, in 1895, was involved in most civic affairs during his days in Enderlin and a number of business ventures. He sold his paper, operated a laundry, served as Postmaster, took over the paper again and merged it with the Enderlin Headlight, to become the Enderlin Independent. His was a very personal style of journalism and there was never any doubt as to where the editor stood. He left Enderlin to establish a newspaper at Makoti, North Dakota, where he died.
Several pioneer families who no longer have descendants living in the community must be briefly mentioned in these pages for the part they had in its development.

C. C. CHAMBERLAIN, a native of Maine and a graduate of Maine State College, came to Enderlin in the spring of 1882, as a manager of the first lumber yard. He later became a partner in the Chamberlain-Wallace yard, with which he was connected until his death.

He was the first president of the city council, a member of the first school board and an Enderlin postmaster. His name was connected with almost every movement to improve conditions in the community. Both he and his wife were faithful and devout members of the Methodist Church. He is notable that every recollection of them, by people still living in the town who know them, recalls them in the same terms of affection and respect for their kindness, courtesy and character.

DR. OLAF SHERPING, a pioneer physician and surgeon, who was educated in Norway, also found time to participate in the affairs of the community. He was a councilman in the first city government, although he ministered to a wide area during the formative years of the town. He built the first hospital on the site of the Trinity Lutheran parking lot. He left Enderlin to move to Fergus Falls.

HERMAN SHIRLEY, Enderlin's pioneer druggist, came here from Sheldon where he had been employed at Hiff's Drug Store. He had also served as Register of Deeds for Ransom County.

In 1888, he opened a store in Enderlin, in partnership with Mr. Hoff, later buying him out and operating the store for more than fifty years. He was a vocal and loyal Republican and always involved in local political maneuverings. He was deeply interested in Masonry; a charter member of the local chapter, of the Eastern Star and the Knights Templar at Lisbon.

Mrs. Shirley was a former teacher in the Enderlin schools. They had two children, one of whom died as a young child. A son, Keith, survives them.

The family histories in the foregoing pages have, of necessity, been kept very brief. The committee is aware that not all the pioneer families are represented in these pages. Some have not responded to the invitation or submitted information and time has not permitted contacting everyone.

The decision to set 1910 as a cut-off date for pioneer histories has meant also that many families and businesses which have played a part in the development of the town are not included. Names like Theodore Peterson, O. A. Onstad, Fritz Truck Line, Helen Lehman are only a few.

It is not a matter of wishing to exclude anyone, but rather a problem of compressing into a few pages, seventy five years of history. We ask forgiveness for our sins of omission.

"Remembrance of Things Past . . ."

Snow Plowing on the Soo Line

(The Soo Line story mentions the problems of keeping the line open in the severe winters. Even after the big rotary plows came into use there were years when the North Dakota weather made operation of the trains a constant battle, Erwin Fraase has given a graphic account of the weather of 1940.)

My most exciting work on the Soo Line started in 1946 when I was picked to fire the rotary snow plow. The hardest trip we made was in 1949 when all of the road from Drake and west to Sanish, Max and Bismarck was blocked, some cuts having as much as 30 feet of snow.

We left Enderlin on the 14th of January and Drake on the 15th. We were six days making the trip from Drake to Max because of the stormy weather.

We were forced to stay near the water tank at Russo, N. D. We would plow for one or two hours, then go back to keep the road open to the tank.

In February we had warm weather which resulted in a heavy layer of ice on all the cuts with 8 to 12 feet of snow underneath. Then more snow drifted in on top of the ice.

Our worst cut was at Butte, N. D. where it was from 18 to 24 feet deep.

A ton and a quarter of dynamite was used to break up the ice and snow. Then you could plow about ten feet, and then the section men would break down snow from the top so the plow could reach it. It took seven days to come through this cut.

On this trip the boiler started to leak so badly you could not keep a fire going in the front end of the fire box. We had to knock the fire out of the plow and go into the box and cork the stay bolts to stop the leaking. The weather was so bad we could not get a boiler maker to come out so Rip Dablow, the traveling engineer, and I crawled in the fire box and did the job. The first time for both of us.

At one time we ran out of food. All of the small towns along the way were out of food also. Luckily, we had some supplies with us. When they were opened one had bread and wieners so we lived on bread and wieners for five days until Mr. Toy, the road master at Drake had a farmer butcher a steer so we could get some meat.

On one trip on the Flaxton line, the cuts
were full of snow while the hillsides were dry. Sparks from the rotary set the grass on fire, and it burned as if it had oil on it. We had fifty men fighting the fire while we plowed snow below.

After 1950 the Soo Line started to back slope the cuts. This has reduced the drifting and the winters have not, as a rule, been so severe.

—Erwin Fraase

An Early Butcher Shop

The sound of his colorful language and hearty laughter became as familiar as the heavy meat wagon and the shod hooves of the matched bays as they made their numberless trips from the farms to the old slaughter house, located on the river by the gravel pit.

Remember the old butcher shops? The floors were covered with fresh sawdust every morning. There were big barrels and tubs of herring and sauerkraut and huge dill pickles which could be speared with a deft movement of the butcher's long cutting knife.

And those knives! No warrior in those days of feudalism had a more varied assortment of keen edges. The long cutting knife in the hands of the oldtime butcher could flash just as fast and cut as thin as the modern day machine. The housewife who wanted cold cuts for a special occasion thought nothing of bringing down her platters and instructing, "Fill them up." And filled up they were, with an assortment impossible to duplicate in this day of packaged and cellophaned conformity.

There were paper thin slices of dried beef and fat chunks of liverwurst; there were pickled tongues and head cheeses, spiced and sour; there were slices of summer sausage and hard dry goteburg; there were bolognas and vienners and hams, spices and onions and garlics and there were no fillers of bran and mashes and water to add extra weight.

The tasks of mixing and curing were never delegated to an assistant—so no one learned the secrets. Sausage making was a ritual. No cook had a larger assortment of pans, kettles and spices. Fires were laid under the huge cooking vats, tubs were cleaned, meat was ground by hand (and woe to him who paused to rest an aching back). There would be no dramatic entrance for this master—he had been here since early morning, lifting, cutting, cleaning, bossing, boasting and cussing. Now he was ready; a clean apron on and sleeves rolled up to expose muscles that years of hard work had produced.

A pan of pork, a tub of beef, a very little veal, perhaps. Then came the onions or garlic so carefully prepared by a tearful boy; the spices—nothing measured by our unimaginative standardizations. The air was full of panting and grunting; kneading a couple of hundred pounds of meat is not easy, and there were always complaints about the poor quality of the spices nowadays. Finally there came the signal, "DER." It was tasting time.

Little pats were fried or cooked and everyone tasted. More of this was added, just a pinch of that or maybe half a handful of the rubbed spice from the square can.

Now came the stuffing. Cranks were turned, sausages were curling off the snouts of machines, knots were carefully tied with precise, pre-cut strings, rings were plumped into pans, ready to be strung from poles of the smoke house or plumped into vats of simmering (never boiling) water.

Then came the golden hour—sampling time. Somehow every merchant and salesman in town (and a few vagrants) found it convenient to be on hand. The good housewife saw fit to bake a batch of fresh bread on sausage making day. Thick slices of fresh bread were cut with a knife large enough to quarter a beef; there was a crock of country fresh butter and your choice of fresh sausages served from the flat side of the knives. Some might have brought a bit of the grape, or would you believe schnaps or a keg of beer?

It has been said that there were always more of the boys out in back sampling than there were customers out in front! There was, however, a pride in perfection and a love of good living.

Life in a Parsonage in the Early 1900's

Let us take a glimpse into an early 20th century parsonage. This is a place, as a rule, that has all the eyes of the parish fixed upon it, since its occupants are usually expected to live the nearly perfect life; many forget the family living there are also only human beings.

The pastor's family too had problems, perhaps more serious than those of others because the solution of these had to be so much more perfect. Life in his home was not always so peaceful since arguments and bickerings did occur and the children, like others, often resorted to hair pulling and tugs of war in spite of the fact that there was usually very strict and the children were taught early the difference between right and wrong. These children, too, were expected to set examples for others, and "the poor minister's wife had to be a paragon of greatest virtue and upbringing. She always had to stand ready to receive guests and welcome them, in spite of the fact that there were no modern conveniences. In those days, all the food had to be prepared and cooked from nature's raw state. She not only had to be the perfect hostess, but was also expected to accept the presidency of the Ladies Aid, teach Sunday school, perhaps be its superintendent and, if she were musical, was expected to direct the choir and play the church organ.

The pastor and his wife were often asked to be counselors and comforters to people who came to them with their problems, and troublades. These people looked for help and
A little girl, whom many will remember, was one of Enderlin's most loyal citizens.

Born in Enderlin, of Japanese parents, Misao Mitsuya, or "Minnie" as she was known to her friends, made a real place for herself in Enderlin. Her parents operated a small laundry here.

Throughout her school years from first grade on, Minnie developed character that made her a staunch defender of what she felt was right. She was a loyal American and a devout Christian.

In October, 1938, when her stepfather died, her mother decided to return to Japan. Minnie was heartbroken to leave America and Enderlin.

She was in the eighth grade when she left her mother and two younger sisters for Japan. There was such promise for her to continue to lead her class and to graduate with honors; but with unbelievable stoicism she accepted what was to be.

It was a sad morning for Minnie as the westbound Soo Line passenger train pulled away from the station early that morning in October, 1938.

Touching, indeed, were Minnie's letters from Japan, some of which described in detail memories of her life in Enderlin such as a Christmas program in which she had a part at the Methodist church, or a basketball game during which she would cheer lustily for her team. Underlying all was aching longing to be back in Enderlin.

By January, 1941, Minnie had almost completed Japanese grade school and was seeking transfer to an American high school. In her letters to friends in Enderlin, she expressed her yearning for America and indicated that, somehow, she would make her way back. Some of her letters contained a warning to America of what was to come, which shows the keen insight Minnie had of what was going on in Japan.

Enderlin, N. Dak.

Dear Miss Selvig:

America be on the wake! I am very alarmed of America's safety. Preserve, save and do not waste products. Do not use so much coal, iron and such things. You will need them later. Forest products in America are scarce so you must save, plant and take care of young trees. Save on coal and oil. Take good care of clothes and do not be extravagant. Run and play and build up a strong body.

Are America's boys willing to die for their country? Will they keep true to their own dear country? Do they keep faith in their own country? Over here the soldiers are glad to give their life for their country. Ask the boys and if they say "No" teach them that if they are no willing to give their lives for their country, the country will be in ruins in 100 years or so. If this doesn't reach you it may be taken by censors and I shall be imprisoned or something but that is nothing to what might happen to the U. S. A. I would gladly give my life for America.

Your sincere pupil,

Minnie Mitsuya

Aksio, Japan

January 1, 1941

(Enderlin Independent—Jan. 1, 1942)

Minnie died on February 22, 1941. Her classmates in Enderlin showed their high regard for her when they presented a plaque to the school in her memory. The plaque reads: "Minnie Mitsuya—whose high ideals were an inspiration."

Minnie would be proud to know that she is remembered for her loyalty to Enderlin.

—Effie Selvig

First School

A fringe of trees along the Maple river with only the early morning mirage and the ever changing sunsets to break the monotony of the broad prairie, was the setting for the tiny frame schoolhouse where Mrs. F. E. Kindred, then Miss Anna Dershimer, taught
the first pupils in the community now known as Enderlin. This was in 1883—48 years ago.

Of the eight or ten boys and girls who attended this first seat of learning, not one could speak English. They came from the sod shanties scattered over the new land. Their background was the culture of countries beyond the sea. But they were bright students, quickly learning the strange words taught them by means of pictures and phonetic methods. One boy showed marked ability at drawing, and Mrs. Kindred still has one of his sketches—an eagle with a serpent in its grasp, just above the ground.

To reach her boarding place, the teacher had to wade the shallow river. Here there were always large flocks of wild ducks, many of them remaining through the winter. There were open places for them to feed and swim. The buffalo no longer roamed the plains feeding on bunch grass, but their bones lay everywhere—bleaching in the sun. Often the children brought buffalo horns to school, presenting them to the teacher and the next year the bones were collected and shipped east to be used for commercial purposes.

The pasque flower, prairie rose and many other wild flowers grew in abundance. The dandelion had not made its appearance. The schoolhouse was made beautiful by wild blossoms gathered by childish hands.

Perhaps the most dreaded foe in those early days was the prairie fire that swept the land clean of every living thing that lay in its path. Mrs. Kindred remembers taking the three little children of the family with whom she boarded onto a plowed field and remaining there with them through the night, while others fought the flames that threatened to destroy both buildings and crops.

—From "Quarter Sections and Wide Horizons," 1931.

Helmy Johnson

This brief excerpt from the Memoirs of Mrs. Anton Peterson tells briefly and succinctly of her courtship and marriage. Mrs. Peterson is still living in the Sheyenne Manor in Valley City.

1900—In January I went to Jenny’s (Darelius) and stayed there for three weeks. Anny was there too—so had fun—took picture of us three. Then Uncle Gust and Anton come to Valley City to get me, so went with them. Then Anton and I got engaged. The first of February, Beata Austad, (Mrs. W. W. Shaw) a teacher come and wanted to stay and wanted room and board, so, we had room together. She stayed four months. We had lots of fun. We sewed blouses and things so we should be dressed alike. Went to 17th of May celebration together and was real fun. Then they were asking me what time we wanted to have the wedding. I said if we was going to get married in the summer I wanted it the 23rd of June. So started to prepare for that. I sewed for myself and Mrs. Peterson. I made my Wedding dress—white organdy and lace for trimmings—and made something for trimmings in the rooms. Clara Lee come to help us one week before, and Jenny come and helped three days before. She baked the Wedding cake—fruit cake—four of them, twelve inches high. Clara Lee and Anny Darelius was my bridesmaids and Uncle Gust and Olaf Peterson was Anton’s best man.

The Wedding was 2 o’clock in Fillmore Church—we was the first couple that was married in the new Church. Come home and had dinner—we had two big tables, one on the porch. They got a big canvas tent, south side of porch, and day before, Uncle and Anton went down in the Valley and cut some small trees and branches for walls around the tent—we had one long table in there. Had good waitresses so it went fine in the afternoon. We had lemonade, wedding cake and cookies in the evening—we were up in the new granary. They had decorated there with branches and leaves all, so it smelled so fresh and nice. It was two rooms, one 18x20, and one 18x16. It was good music. 1 organ, 2 violins—all was dancing. Then we had midnight lunch, sandwiches, buns, cake and cookies of different kinds, and coffee. Day after, we was all tired out.

REX LINDEMANN

This little incident that happened in about 1891 when Sheldon still was our nearest trading point. My father, Carl Lindemann, Norman Schoebinger our hired hand, Leo, my brother and myself decided to drive to Sheldon. The time was shortly before Christmas. We had a wagon with a double box and had load of about 35 bushels of wheat, probably a dozen of dressed chickens, and also some dressed turkeys.

Since roads were rather direct, river crossings were made wherever we fund shallow water and low river banks leading to the river. We found what we thought was such a place. It was that we referred to as the beaver dam. Here the road followed along the river bank, was about 25 feet above the water, which was frozen over.

As we proceeded along this river bank we found the road was icy and also slanted slightly toward the river. This caused our wagon to start sliding and when it neared the river bank edge it tipped sending all of the wheat, turkeys, chickens, my father, brother and myself down the river bank onto the ice.

We were fortunate that the hired hand jumped off and kept the wagon box from following us down the river bank. We also were fortunate to have several bushel baskets which the chickens and turkeys were packed in. These baskets we used in trying to recover as much of the wheat as we could, and after several hours of scratching and scraping, managed to scrape up most of the wheat.

None of us were severely harmed by the
incident and managed to make the trip to Sheldon to market our products and buy such things as we could afford returning home, though a lot later than we expected.

DISTRICT 115

As you drive along the hard surface road to Alice, all that you pass beside some fine farmsteads, are two cemeteries. There were two churches and two schools along this road at one time. One of these was District 115, about a mile and a half north of Highway 46, where thirty children and grownups used to attend at one time. There were no grades in the late nineties, when I first attended. You started on the chart and progressed by readers from one on up.

The pupils included the second generation of the first settlers in this district. There were two Lindemanns, four Benson, five Bleeses, two from A. Fraedrichs, four from J. Fraedrich, four Pattersons, two Meilis, two Marschkes, two Schultzes, two Utkes, and two Hohensees. The Hohensees were grown ups just over from Germany. They started in the first reader and by the end of the term they were in the fourth reader. They came to school to learn the English language, as did many of the early settlers.

In the early 1900's the school was graded and after that there was a nine months term of school. The first class to finish the 8th grade was in 1906, and the last class in 1943, when the school was closed and the children sent to Enderlin. The school served two generations, for a member of the 1943 class, Hubert Bleese, was a son of a member of the 1906 class, Adolph Bleese.

Some of the local teachers in the district were Josie Geelan, Rose Fetcher, Margaret Toring, Millie Marschke, Molly Geske and Pearl Johnson.

A Pioneer Story

The claim shanty where I was born was built like most of them at that time, 83 years ago. They first dug in a side hill and put boards over the dugout for protection while building the house. It was usually attached to the dugout which was later used as a root cellar. Snakes often crawled in here and hung down from the ceiling (this was terrible!).

The first few summers of my life were spent running around in the tall grass and beautiful flowers. My mother, Anna Oehlke Fraedrich told me she would look for a white head bobbing up and down in the tall grass, and then she would know where I was.

The grass was very bountiful where we lived and my father, William Fraedrich, would care for neighbor's cattle in summer. This also meant a little extra money. There were no fences and often at night the cattle would start moving against the wind when the mosquitoes were bad. Some cattle had bells and they should be easier to locate at night, but it wasn't easy to get up and find them and get them back home. My father finally built a fence of willow branches to keep the cattle in. This worked fine until the following spring when the fence took roots and began to grow. Then the cattle ate the fence.

We lived five miles east of Enderlin and two and a half miles north of Sheldon. The farm now belongs to my nephew, Leon Heuer. Relatives and friends always stopped on their way to Sheldon and when they came back. My father had four brothers and two sisters living along the Maple north of us. It seems like we always had company.

My father did threshing for many farmers. This meant that we needed to prepare for 25 to 30 men for meals and a place to sleep. It was an exciting time for me for it meant a trip to town for groceries. A pig or beef was butchered, lard rendered. Dishes and kettles were marked. Usually a notch was put in with an iron file. Neighbors borrowed these from one another during the time they fed the men. Even then you didn't always get your own dishes back. I remember one lady who had only one large cooking pan. She used to cook coffee in it and then clean it and use it for frying or cooking the rest of the meal. When my father saw this, he offered to cook for the men while he was there to do the threshing, for he wanted them to have good meals.

Breakfast consisted of fried potatoes, boiled eggs, bacon, cooked cereal, cookies or coffee cake, with lots of coffee. Pies were either custard, currant, or a dried fruit grape, but which looked like a huge raisin. Then there were the dried fruits like apples and prunes. The farmers had chickens, eggs, milk, cream, butter and cottage cheese. Wheat could be taken to a mill and ground for flour, at first at Lisbon and later at Enderlin. We never canned any vegetables. Root vegetables kept well until spring in the root cellar. Sauer kraut, dill pickles were put up in large crocks or barrels. For meat we had only to go to the smoke house, where hams, bacon, sausage and smoked fish kept very well. We sometimes roasted barley to mix with the coffee beans. Coffee was 12 pounds for $1.00. It was called Arbuckle Brand and had a picture of an angel floating on the paper bag it came in, which I often wondered about.

To seat the men in threshing time we brought in saw horses and long planks for table and chairs. Boxes outside held pails of water and soap for the men. We always locked the door until everything was ready and the food was on the table. The men stormed in like a mob.

Many of these men came back to work each year. One of them who returned for many years was Black George Walker. He used all his money for liquor and would come back in the spring looking ragged and thin. My father did not pay him one year until he was ready to leave. He took him to Sheldon and bought a suit, shoes and other clothes and
gave him the money left over. He was grateful that anyone should care to do this for him. He told my father that he was well educated in law, but started to drink and could not keep his position. He wrote to his brother and told him he had an accident and could not work. Since this was not true he could not return to his home.

My mother made the lye we used to make soap. For this we filled three large salt barrels with wood ashes. The tilted barrels were set on a container. The ashes were kept moist. It took a couple of months. Lard and cracklings were mixed with the lye solution and cooked in huge kettles. It made a soft, sudsy soap that cleaned almost anything.

In the winter and again in the spring, the men in the neighborhood would go to the Sheyenne to fish. One time they got a wagon box full of fish. They would sooner go fishing than to a party. They did not enjoy so much the trips to the Sheyenne to cut the supply of wood for the year, for it was cold hard work and often they did not get home until long after dark.

One stormy night we were sitting around the stove, enjoying the warmth and comfort of a good fire. Father said that the wood was very good that year. Someone looked up and discovered smoke around the stovepipe. We discovered that the roof was on fire. There was a storm outside and we could not locate a shovel or other implement. My father crawled on the roof and tore the burning shingles from the roof with his bare hands. Mother tried to help, but the wind blew her off of the roof. He got the fire out before it did too much damage.

I attended school in Highland Township when I could, but my mother was often ill and then it was up to me to do the housework. My sisters, Ida (Mrs. Kaatz) and Pauline, (Mrs. Heuer) and I always walked to school. It was two and a half miles. During the cold weather the school was closed. There were always 20 or 30 pupils.

What a joyous time was Christmas—visiting and having company, candy, cookies and apples—just about everything we could wish for. There was always the tree. Father got a large branch from a boxelder and they would wind green fringed paper around the branches. Sometimes we found a little of this paper and that meant that Santa was working and we had better not disturb him. The tree was decorated with apples, candy and cookies. What a wonderful time it was! One year I got two presents—a pair of overshoes and a religious booklet.

I was confirmed by Pastor Dieter when I was 13. The first church I remember going to was at Sheldon. It was while singing in the choir that I met my husband, Robert. I remember the ones who sang in the choir: They were Pauline Kunst (Mrs. Aug. Geske), Carolyn Kunst (Mrs. Spitzer), Augusta Kunst (Mrs. Fraase), Amelia Finger (Mrs. Peterson), Minnie Kaatz, Tilla Finger (Kaatz)

William Finger, Gust Hohme, Albert Fraderich, Carl Schroeder, R. T. Petrich, Emma Kaatz (Finger) and Robert Lindemann, and it was directed by Mrs. Dieter. The first choir, however was directed by Henry Fraase. He had two mules which were always decorated with red tassels on the bridles. He used to start early in the evening to gather his choir.

Robert and I were married in 1901. Like all weddings, there were many guests for dinner and lunch in the evening. The Enderlin Coronet Band played in the afternoon. Robert and I lived with his parents on the farm now owned by our son, Karl Lindemann. Robert's mother and father were very good to me. She loved the outdoors and was always planting flowers and trees. Whenever she saw someone driving down the road, a half mile away, she would put on the coffee pot and have everything ready when they came. Each afternoon when possible there was milk with coffee and suger in it and bread and butter for the children when they came from school.

For Grandma Lindemann, Saturday evenings was a time to prepare for the church services on Sunday. She put on a clean apron, put a shawl around her shoulders and sat by the west window where the rays of the setting sun made it easier to read her Bible.

Robert's most loved pastime, next to amusing his children was hunting. One afternoon, I cleaned 30 ducks. I don't think anyone had more patience with his children than my husband. He had some of the children with him always, whether going to town on business, to the river to fish or hunt, or to inspect the fields. One year there wasn't much snow, he hauled water on a hill to make an ice slide for them and their homemade sleds.

Robert died March 31, 1933.

I can't call any of this time difficult or a hardship. Some evenings we were very tired, but many evenings Robert would play the violin and we would sing and really enjoy ourselves. All but one of our children live in North Dakota. They are Verner, Karl, Reuben, Maynard, Doris (Utke), Agnes (Geske), Esther (Brun), all of Enderlin, Willis in Floridia, Kenneth in West Fargo and Alice (Peterson) at Arthur.

Mrs. OSCAR TORBENSON

The First Ten Years of Pioneer Life
Moore Township

As I'm sitting here tonight, I'm looking far back over the early days of my life and thinking how much life has changed in this, our pioneer country.

My father and mother, Thore and Karina Syversen, were the first to settle in Moore Township. They both came to America at the age of 22, from different parts of Norway in 1875 and both found work in Fillmore County, Lanesboro, Minnesota. During this time they met and were married there, July 21, 1879. Here they made their home until the spring of 1880, when they decided to go
west and find a new home. They put all their belongings together and started out in a covered wagon to a land of greater opportunity. They had three horses and two cows which were chased along the way. They left Lanesboro, Minnesota May 10, 1880, in company with three other families, Haaken Smed, Mass Oprud, and Ole Boreson.

They planned to go to Valley City, Dakota. It must have been a hard trip as there was just a rough, narrow wagon trail, and very few bridges. They came through Moorhead and Fargo which were at that time, very small. Then on June 5, 1880, they reached Valley City, their destination. From there they drove south along the Sheyenne River. There were a few settlers here and there along the river and some on the prairies of Barnes County. Mother and father stopped with folks they knew and father did some breaking to earn some money. During this time they lived in their covered wagon. After this, father went south to Ransom County, Moore Township to look for land. He wanted to get a homestead and tree claim side by side so he had to go quite a distance from the others to get this land. I remember his telling of an experience he had at this time. While walking around looking for land he had left his horses and wagon on top of a hill and was nearly lost. Because everything looked alike it was very hard to find the hill and was nearly lost.

Everything was indeed a happy occasion when on October 20, 1880, they moved into their new home—a humble sod house, to be sure, but it was a home in a land where the future looked bright. The house with only the bare necessities—a stove, a few kitchen utensils, home made table and benches and a bed with a straw tick in it. All was well and happiness reigned.

The first Christmas in their new home was never to be forgotten. On Christmas Eve, in festive mood, mother and father dressed up in their wedding clothes and everything was as cozy as it could be. During the course of the evening father took out some papers on the land and as he was looking at them, made the astounding discovery that they had made the mistake of building on the tree claim instead of the homestead. I don't think we can ever imagine the feeling they must have had. There was nothing to do but face the facts and plan to build on the homestead in the near future.

After Christmas there came a great deal of snow. I remember how they told about one morning they awoke and were waiting for daybreak, but it never came. They had no clock so they had no idea what time it might be, but they got up, lit the lamp and found that the windows were entirely covered with snow. They opened the door and saw before them—snow like a wall. They took a board, pushed it up into the snow but found no light until standing on a bench and reaching farther, finally pushed away snow and saw—light. The snow had almost covered the house! Now the only thing to do was to dig snow into the house in order to get out. Father made a tunnel from the house to the barn. Now the well was quite a distance from the buildings and was shallow so it froze, making it necessary to melt snow all winter for the stock. That all seems almost incredible to us now, but that was all a part of pioneer life!

Later in the winter they ran out of flour and groceries, so father went on skis to Valley City taking butter they had made and got what they needed. He skis, pulled it. He pulled a load of straw home every day from a neighbor, Ole Baarsdal, who lived ten miles north. Once they had to empty their straw tick to keep the stock alive. The snow laid till the seventeenth of April. Now the ground was black since the fall fire, but soon green grass waved over the prairies. What a wonderful sight it must have been to see after the long hard winter—that first lonesome winter alone on the prairies—now their worries were over! Life was good!

Father bought his first seed wheat and potatoes at Valley City at a dollar a bushel. When he had finished his spring's work he took his team and wagon and went to Valley City to get work. He hauled stone for the foundation of the First National Bank.
which is still standing. Mother was left at the homestead to take care of everything at home.

That spring, the year of 1881, brought more people into the country. These neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Peter Solom and George, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vie and family, Mr. and Mrs. Erick Rognaldson, Mr. and Mrs. Edd Storlie, and W. H. Moore. Soloms stayed with us while their sod house and stable was being built on the adjoining quarter. How wonderful it was to have neighbors who could share our joys and sorrows. Mrs. Vie (Martha, as she was called by everyone) was our pioneer nurse and doctor. She had a big family of her own but she was never too busy to help a friend in time of need. How much she meant to everyone.

Father's first crop was cut with a scythe and tied by hand, then stacked. The grain was threshed by John Halverson, who had a small machine run by horse power. He got over a hundred bushels that first year, which he later hauled to Valley City.

A branch of the Northern Pacific came southwest from Fargo up through this country in 1881 so we soon got Lisbon and Buttzville. Now we could get mail once in awhile. Driving straight across country, Lisbon was ten miles and Buttzville seven.

On the fourth of July, mother and Mrs. Solom wanted to go and celebrate. The men were too busy with their work to go, so mother and Mrs. Solom took father's team and wagon, and with their babies, Marie and George, were off for Lisbon. When they were on top of the hill north of Lisbon they saw that it was very steep, so mother took the children and walked down the hill while Mrs. Solom drove down. There was no bridge across the river at this time but they were able to drive across safely. Lisbon had only twelve small shanties. They looked around awhile—there was not much of a celebration at that time—then went home. That was their first trip to Lisbon.

The new country was changing rapidly. It was now dotted with sod houses, log cabins, and some lumber houses. Now winter was approaching and wood and logs had to be hauled for fuel and building. So father went down by the Sheyenne river for wood and on his way back a snow storm broke. He got as far as Vanloses, neighbors who lived four miles south of our place. They moved into the new house May 12, 1882, even though it was not entirely finished. There were only blankets for doors as yet so when a snow storm came up, mother took me and went over to Soloms and stayed until the storm was over.

The new house was 12 x 24 and had two rooms. Below the house was a buffalo ring where the soil was soft. Mother had some boxelder seeds that she planted there. They grew large and gave a great deal of comfort to the family. We sat in the shade and had our lunch out there many a time. After this, father and Mr. Storelee went to the sand hills and got some cotton wood and other trees. These were planted around the place. Trees were truly beautiful and appreciated on the bare prairie. Our tree claim was a ten acre piece on the other quarter.

In 1883 there were many children who were of school age so the people decided to build a school house. It was to be built on section 27, northwest quarter, the northwest corner. One night, just before it was going to be built, all the lumber was hauled a half mile south by someone, who knows who, so it was built there. It was called Moore school, Moore Township. W. W. Moore was the first Clerk, Peter Vie, Treasurer, and father and Joseph Simmons were two of the first Directors.

Farming was going on in good shape and more improvements were being made every year. Granaries and other buildings were built and life became a little more prosperous, but everyone worked hard from early morning till late at night.

The fall of 1884, was very important to us. My brother, Sigvart Albert was born. Mother and father were so happy over their first son. He was baptized by Rev. Bothne in Hans Miller's home which was about ten miles north.

By this time, more and more people had settled in the surrounding country. They were a devout Christian people and wanted to establish a congregation of their own. So in January, 1885, they organized a congregation. Rev. C. Hill, came through the country from Fort Ransom and was our first Minister. A committee was appointed consisting of Peter Vie, Peter Solom and father. The first meeting was held at our home and there they wrote the first congregation of our church. They named it Fillmore Church because most of the people had come from Fillmore County, Minnesota. There were fifty members to start with, and services were held alternately in one of two school houses, one over by Soloms and one by Ole Petersons, farther west. Andrew Nelson was our
song leader or "kloker" as we called him.

The cemetery was given by Knute Neste in 1886 and the first person buried there was Mrs. Andrew Nelson and baby in 1888. The first baby to be baptized was Mathilda Solom and first born, Jenny Storelee.

My only sister was born September 4, 1888, and that was another happy occasion. She was named Millie Teoline and baptized by Rev. Hill in the Solom school house.

In the winter of 1888 we had that outstanding snow storm in which so many children lost their lives going to and coming from school. There weren't any tragedies in our neighborhood however, but there were many narrow escapes and harrowing experiences.

It was such a lovely morning and I had been ready to start for school, but I was watching my baby sister and waiting for mother to come in from the stable. All at once the wind and snow seemed to hit and it became so bitterly cold that no one could go out, so I was glad to be home that day.

Many of the children arrived at school before the storm, the Vies boys, Emma, Helmer, and Olof Nelson and the Hess boys. Olof Golberg was our teacher and he had all he could do to keep the school house warm for the children to stay all night. It was fun at first—they told stories, sang songs, and told stories—but night came on with its black stormy darkness adding fear and homesickness to cold and hunger and no food to be had. With the blizzard raging without, and within, only little security we can imagine the fear and anxiety that clutched in the hearts of all the children and parents worrying at home. The afternoon of the next day the children were taken to Vies who took care of them until the storm was over.

That same fall diphtheria broke out in the community and ten children died in our neighborhood. That was the first great sorrow to come to our community. The people didn't know what sickness their children had and didn't know just what to do. Soloms lost two children, Frydenlunds two, Martinsons three, Even Nilsons one, Andres Browns one and Nils Browns one. What hardship! They made coffins out of boards for their children themselves. A carpenter named Helmer Peterson made many coffins in the early pioneer days.

But, as always, life then had also its great happiness. People were truly neighborly and people would get into their lumber wagons, or whatever they had to ride in, and visit each other. Everyone was alike then and they found company and comfort with each other in times of sorrow and joy. Can we ever over-estimate the value of true friends? It is one of the great beauties of life.

Our first community Christmas celebration was at Soloms. They had built a new frame house, which was one of the first to be built in our neighborhood so they invited everyone over to help them celebrate Christmas. That was a Christmas Eve never to be forgotten by those who were there. Mrs. Solom had taken in a dry tree and trimmed it so it looked just beautiful, especially beautiful to us children. I remember how she took all of us children in by the tree and we all joined hands and walked around the tree singing "Her Kolver Dine Amie Smaa." All my life I will remember the great thrill of that moment and how happy we all were.

The next spring many people began to tear down their sod houses and build new frame houses. Roads were also being laid along section lines. It seemed hard to have to go on them at first because we were used to traveling straight across country and it took so much longer to go the new roads. The Lisbon and Buttsville roads had such deep ruts as a result of hauling so many big loads of grain over them. All the wheat was hauled in sacks then and there really were some heavy loads hauled.

Father had a very narrow escape while digging a well on this land. Everyone dug their own wells with a spade and the dirt was carried up by buckets which were on a pulley. He had gotten down 18 feet when suddenly as he put his spade into a corner to take out the next spade full of dirt, the water just spurted out with such force that he hardly had time to get away in time. If the bucket had not reached the bottom of the well at just that moment he would surely have drowned, but he was able to climb the rope to safety above. The water came up 14 feet all at once and we always had the most abundant supply of water. Besides supplying water for all the cattle, water for steam engines, for threshing rigs was gotten from there and no matter how much was taken out, the same amount seemed to be in the well.

There are so many other things that I remember and could write about too, but the first ten years really were the hardest and that is when the courage and determination of our pioneer fathers and mothers was truly tested, that courage and determination to succeed and their sincere trust and faith in God without which they could never have accomplished what they did.
in the middle of the Atlantic when coming from Europe, all green and all moving. Not a tree, building or anything else in sight!"

The two hills are still there, 11 miles straight north of Highway 46, on the Cass-Barnes County line in the NW¼ of Section 7, Clifton Township. This was the view that greeted Joseph Bayliss when he came from the east in the summer of 1879. Mr. Bayliss spent several days tramping around carrying a spade and digging in here and there to test the soil on the many quarter sections of land up for homesteads. The quarter finally decided on was the SW¼ of Section 10, Clifton Township. After filing on the homestead and going back to Ohio to work over the winter, the spring of 1880 found Joseph Bayliss and his two sons, Will and Ben, back in Tower City, headed back to the land. This time they bought a team of horses and other livestock, and lumber to build a cabin with a lean-to on it as a temporary shelter for the livestock.

The cabin was built by April 27, 1880, but the shelter for the livestock was not finished. That night a terrific late blizzard came up suddenly across the prairie. The horses were sure to be lost if left out, and there was only one thing to do—bring them into the shelter with the family for the night. The storm lasted only one day, and the family resumed work after it was over.

The first job was to pick up the buffalo bones which covered the prairies as far as you could see. The ravines leading into the Maple River yielded many wagon loads of them and were the first source of ready cash. Bones were bought at all the railroad stations and shipped East to be processed, the price being $3.00 per ton. The income does not sound big after hauling them 12 miles to the station, but at that time a farm hand got only $10.00 per month as wages and the day work after it was over.

Travel in winter was done on a pair of snowshoes. This winter, 1880-81, found two claim shanties in the 13 miles between the Bayliss homestead and Tower City. Winter travel consisted of a trip on foot about once every two weeks, if the weather was good, to Tower City to pick up some needed food and the mail.

Winter passed uneventfully except for the loss of one of the horses, leaving only one. More power was needed to break up the sod, so a yoke of oxen was purchased the next spring. A hundred acres of prairie sod was broken and worked down for crop the first three years.

The summer of 1880 was mostly spent getting ready for the following winter. Hay had to be cut and stacked, and fire breaks had to be plowed around the buildings and hay stacks. A well was dug and fuel and food provided. In those days the first blizzard of the week long variety moved in, and there was only one thing to do—that was to go in after them. It was not as much fun as it sounds. A big problem was breaking sharp plow lays in the tough prairie sod and roots, but Mr. Bayliss, being an excellent blacksmith, soon bought a forge and sharpened his own lays as well as for many of the neighbors. Blacksmithing and horse shoeing provided extra revenue until the town of Alice was founded in 1880.

In the spring of 1881 work was started on a new barn as Mrs. Bayliss and the other three children were coming to North Dakota from Ohio. Also coming with them was a man named Henry Toumline who had filed on the SE¼ of Section 10, joining the Bayliss land. One day a number of people were seen coming in that direction across the prairie. It was decided on the spot that it was a band of Indians coming to run the livestock, and whatever else they could get off the place. Imagine the surprise in the midst of a defense maneuver to find the band of Indians were the Ohio neighbors and other members of the Bayliss family. The winter of 1881-82 saw the family all together under one roof, the house having an upstairs reached by a ladder for extra sleeping room.

Hay for the livestock was stacked away from the barn on a hill. At that time you kept a ball of binder twine or washline rope in the house so that, in case of a blizzard, you tied one end to the door knob and took the other end with you when you headed for the barn so if you missed you could just follow the line back. Without a line you would likely be found next spring. A blizzard of the week long variety moved in once. The hay in the barn was soon used up. As for the stack away from the barn on the hill, it might as well have been on the moon. It was then remembered that all the bed ticks (improvised mattresses) were filled with prairie hay. This was stuffed into bags and carried along the rope line to the barn to keep the animals alive until the stacks of hay could be reached. After that, at least one hay stack was built close to the barn each fall. The barn had a bucket well so that water could be reached.

The spring of 1882 saw another big event on May 28. A son was born at Tower City to the Joseph Bayliss family.
Bayliss, father of Art and Sidney Bayliss. Four years later, in 1886, a new daughter, Edith Bayliss was born. This completed Joseph’s family of nine children. In 1886 the eldest son, William, started on a farm of his own on the NE 1/4 of Section 32, Clifton Township. William Bayliss lived on this place until 1934, when he moved to Enderlin.

One of the towns of the Eighties was the town of Bailey, located on the Sheyenne River, about three miles northwest of the present town of Kathryn, consisting of a water and steam powered flour and feed mill and a general store. The settlers for many miles around would bring their wheat to the mill and have it ground into flour.

Mr. Bayliss made this 20-mile trip many times, usually in the fall, with both oxen and horses. It was a big two-day trip with an overnight stay with friends along the way. One winter, mice ruined a large part of the winter supply of flour. The prairie was under snow so no hauling could be done by the team. Grandfather got out the snow shoes, took a bushel of wheat on his back, and made the two-day trip to the mill on foot. The mill at Bailey was destroyed by fire about 1916.

Because of the 10 miles to market, hauling was a big job. The coming of the Soo Line to Enderlin in 1891 saw a flour mill being built there. The foundation of the steam engine is still there.

This mill used steam power entirely and was fired with flax straw bought from the farmers. This provided the farm boys with winter income as quite a little flax was raised on the farm. A big change in trade came in 1900 with the Casselton Branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad. This brought the town of Alice four miles away from our farm. The town of Alice grew fast, at one time having four grain elevators, three hotels, two general stores, three implement houses and threshing machine dealers. Among other farm items, the town sold four to six car-loads of binder twine a year. Freight coming into town to be unloaded was commonly three to six cars a day.

Little machinery was used to start with, mostly a walking plow and a large wooden roller to roll down the new sod. This consisted of three oak rollers each about two feet in diameter and four feet long. The first year or two, grain was cut with a hand cradle or scythe. Then came the reaper, the hand tie binder, a Woods wire tie binder and then the six-foot binder. Horse pulled hay mowers go back to the Eighties and hay rakes dumped by hand. The big changes came in threshing machinery. I have no account of threshing being done by horse-power, although it was not uncommon. Steam threshing engines were in use right after the Civil War. Case built them for farm engines use in 1869, so portable engines were here as soon as there was any grain to thresh. In the Eighties bundles were shocked and then stacked. The stacks often as not stood over winter. Threshing at that time was a year around business if you had a rig. Rigs were few and a big investment. A big problem in later years was rats getting into stacks kit over winter.

By the time the boys were ten years old they had threshing jobs; cutting bands and bucking straw. Blowers and self-feeders did not come into use extensively before 1895 to 1900. The portable engines started to be replaced with traction (self-propelled) around 1890. The grain stacking was pretty well out of the picture by 1910. The last grain stacked on the farm was in 1912. The same year Joseph Bayliss retired from the farm. His youngest son, George Bayliss, having married Othelia Stimm of Winona, Minn., November 1, 1905, rented the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bayliss moved to Fargo and returned in the fall of 1906. Mrs. Bayliss passed away in July, 1911. Joseph Bayliss made his home with his son, William, in Enderlin, until he passed away in April, 1923, at the age of 86 years.

William, married Mary Ivison of Kipping, Ontario, in 1890. They had three children; William, deceased; Edwin, Roseberg, Wash.; and Mabel (Mrs. Roswell Warner) of Enderlin. His first wife died and in 1903, he married Altha Warner. Their son, Ralph, makes his home in Enderlin. The land first homesteaded by William Bayliss is now farmed by a grandson.

George Bayliss’ oldest son, Art L. Bayliss, now lives in Enderlin and Sidney in Fargo. Mr. and Mrs. George Bayliss retired to Alice when Art came home from the service in the spring of 1943. They moved to Enderlin November 21, 1946. Othelia Bayliss passed away November 3, 1953, and George Bayliss passed away December 26, 1953, both at Enderlin. The homestead on the farm still stands, the first building in Clifton Township. It stood there alone in the spring of 1880.

Art Bayliss
JUBILEE COMMITTEES

The following are the committees who have done preliminary work on the 75th Jubilee. Since the time that they were taken, members may have been added or shifted to other committees. Some new committees may have been activated.

STEERING COMMITTEE
Back Row, Left to right: Ozzie Sveum, Wayne Wilson, Peter Nygaard
Front Row: Stephen Groth, Marge Martin, Margaret Cummings, Effie Nelson, Toralf Johansen
Co-Chairmen for the Jubilee are Stephen Groth and Toralf Johansen
Not on picture: Bernard Berglund and Daryl Geeslin

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Back Row, Left to Right: Arley Watne, E. N. Kittelson, Adolph Tschida, Daryl Geeslin
Front Row: Curt Haga, Henry Erickson, Chairman
Not on picture: George Miller

REUNION COMMITTEE
Back Row, Left to Right: Wilson Sly, M. C. Olufson, Robert Peterson, Chairman
Front Row: Mrs. Wilson Sly, Rose Fritz, Alice Schwandt, Hazel Petrich
Not on picture: Bob Geske, Darlene Kaspari, Ralph Oehlke, LaRue Bearman, James Combs, John Janz, Evelyn Jordheim

BUTTON COMMITTEE
Roger Schimming, Jerome Kionecky and Harold Olson, Co-chairmen
RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE
Left to Right: Dwight Meier, C. A. Tollefson, O. H. Schaible, Chairman; C. A. Johnson, Father A.A.A. Schmirler.
Not on picture: Edward Gullickson

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE
Melissa Deike, chairman; Mildred Henderson
Not on picture: Doris Hanson, Mrs. Olaf Maley

JUBILEE BOOK COMMITTEE
Back Row, Left to Right: E. H. Kraft, Florence Olson, Earl Sanness
Front Row: Helen Shaw, Betty Glaesemann, Lois Trapp, co-chairman; Lillian Roehm
Not on picture: Agnes Geike, Mrs. Ed Matthes, Viola Hagen, Kent Cable, Lola Peterson, Effie Selvig, Father A.A.A. Schmirler, Co-chairman

BEARD COMMITTEE
Back Row, Left to Right: Marvin Bartle, Merlin Skramstad, Ralph Oehlke, co-chairman; Maynard Lindemann
Front Row: Lester Skramstad, Fritz Petrich, Wallace Galbreath, Jerome Martin, co-chairman
Not on picture: Bryan Thorpe, Norbert Laber, Don Chesley
PARADE COMMITTEE
Back Row, Left to Right: John Thorson, Robert Ludtke, Hubert Bleese
Front Row: Dr. J. Brackin, Norman Galkowski, Vivan Skramstad and Otto Trapp, co-chairmen

HOUSING COMMITTEE
Left to Right: Mrs. Jerry Johnson, Al Ziegenhagen, co-chairman; Barbara Ron- nigan, Evelyn Jordheim
Not on picture: Mrs. Haarsager, co-chairman

PAGEANT COMMITTEE
Left to Right: Paul Rice, Dale Streyle, Bunny Tschida, chairman; Marilyn Wilson, Glennis Thorson

PROMOTIONS AND PUBLICITY
Back Row: Left to Right: Kent Cable, Ozzie Sveum, Don Speikermeier
Front Row: Bob Bayler, Pearl Bjerke, Duane Erickson, Chairman
POLICE, PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION
Left to Right: Duane Finzel, Peter Nygaard, John Erbstoesser, Paul Bothwell
Erbstoesser and Finzel, co-chairmen

FOOD COMMITTEE
Back Row, Left to Right: Ruth Cox, Betty Krom, Chairman
Front Row: Jerry Schons, George Kaber, Bill Golkowski
Not on picture: Mike Vercheuk

SOO LINE COMMITTEE
Back Row, Left to Right: James Welton, chairman; Duane Steinhaus, Cal Rust
Front Row: Courtney Brazel, Fred Gram

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE
Back Row, Left to Right: Helen Lehman, Hal Kemmer, Carl Bjerke and Wayne Wilson, co-chairmen; Roger Schimming, Quentin Olson
Front Row: Otto Trapp, Hubert Bleese, John Thorson, Chuck Lehman, Leroy Skranstad
Not on picture: Gary Haskins, John Janz, Tom Pierce, Gordon Brown, Matt Schiecht, Darrell Redmond
This very early threshing scene shows an Ames Portable steam engine on the Bleese farm, north-east of Enderlin in 1890.

An early innovation, this binder was drawn by a Moline Universal and steered from the binder. Note the huge wheels filled with cement. Taken about 1918, Art Dehn is pictured at the controls.
The following business and professional people of the Enderlin Community have contributed to the sponsorship of the 75th Anniversary Jubilee Book. We thank them for their support.

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Merlin's Leather Goods Store—Merlin and Vivian Skramstad
Quality Cleaners—Stan and Betty King
Friendly Tavern—Lloyd Koetz
George's Diner—George and Betty Kaber
Abbie's—Abbie and Pauline Peterson
Gwen's Beauty Shop—Gwen Klosner
Cox Market—George and Ruth Cox
Al's Hardware—Al and Ruth Hong
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Dr. Allan and Judy Olson
Mertz Gift and Jewelry—Mertice C. Johanneson
John and Glennis Thorson
Soo Line Railroad—J. A. Weltin, Supt. Western Division
Enderlin Timber Company—George Lund
Geeslin Bookkeeping Service—Darryl Geeslin
B Plastics—Bob Bailer, Al Meade
Dr. and Mrs. S. C. Bacheller
American Family Insurance—Clarence Gulland
Morry's—Morry and Carole Wavra
Sandhills Veterinary Service—Dr. Larry Hovland, Dr. Darrell Johnson
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White System—Harlan and (Dolly) Fraedrich
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9050
Wills Construction—Forrest (Frosty) Wills
Hilton Hotel and Cafe—Roy and Inga Haarsager
Clarice's Beauty Shop—Clarice Roessler
City Bakery and Bill's Sunflow Candy—Bill and Norma Golkowski
Fritz Truck Line—Ray and Vi Fritz
Grand Theatre—Helen Lehman
Bayman's Standard Service—Harlan Bayman
Albert Erickson Barber Shop—1927-1966
Otter Tail Power Company—Walter Hanson, Mgr.
Tschida's Clothing—Adolph and Bunny Tschida
Tri County Lanes—Otto Trapp, Mgr.
J and L Service—Bud and Don Jordet
Home Gas Company—Pershing Sims, Mgr.
Pfaff Sheet Metal Co.—Bill Pfaff
Coast to Coast Store
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